







CONTENTS

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Kurt Momand, '77

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8 COMMENCEMENT 2018

The festivities featured words of inspiration from speaker Dr. Danny Morrison, symbolic spiritual services, and special awards for students and friends of the College.

10 The Start of Something

New YHC President Dr. Drew L. Van Horn is embracing the College's rich history while focusing on YHC's current needs and diligently planning for what's to come.

16 The Hometown Hero

Family and friends of the late Zell B. Miller, '51, recount his legacy of transformational leadership—a legacy rooted in Young Harris.

ZI FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION

Alumni Board President Elect Phil DeMore, '63, and his daughters, Leslie Frierson, '91, and Laura Williams, '96, reflect on the YHC connections they've made through the years.

24 THE SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY

Mountain Lion pride runs in the family for YHC trustee Richard "Dick" Burrell, '47, and his daughter, Pamela Russo, '81— and it's only grown through the years.

26 INVESTED IN THE FUTURE

New Board of Trustees Chair Kurt Momand, '77, aims to ensure that a new generation of students can achieve their academic pursuits and find a home at YHC.

28 MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS

YHC is adding breadth and refinement to its academic offerings with four new bachelor's degrees that will prepare students for successful careers in in-demand fields.

34 Today's trailblazers

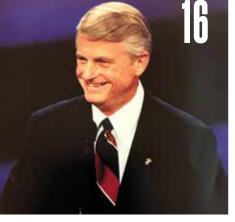
Two students and one recent graduate ruminate on how they are being educated, inspired and empowered to help shape YHC for future generations.

46 A GIVING HEART

O.V. Lewis worked and taught at the College for nearly half a century and is still devoting his life to bettering the College and its students.









ECHOES VOLUME 19, ISSUE 2 SPRING 2019

48 Friends and family

YHC's extensive family includes dedicated supporters like Mary Broadrick who are playing a vital part in the school's ever-evolving story.

55 A TALE OF TWO GENERATIONS

Two generations of student-athletes shared the court and classroom—even though their homes are around 4,500 miles apart.

58 ALUMNI WEEKEND 2018

The mountains called members of the YHC family home to the Enchanted Valley for a fun lineup of gatherings and events.

DEPARTMENTS

- 4 FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 5 IN THE KNOW
- **40** FACULTY VIEWPOINT
- **42** INQUIRING MINDS
- **45** MOUNTAIN LION LUMINARY
- 50 GIVING
- **52** ATHLETICS
- **62** CLASS NOTES
- **67** THE LAST WORD

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ON THE COVER

PHOTO BY BROOKE HANNA SWANSON, '09

New YHC President Drew L. Van Horn, Ph.D., was photographed on the steps of Sharp Hall overlooking Susan B. Harris Chapel—two structures located in the heart of campus that embody YHC's rich history.





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Embracing Each Era

Young Harris College President Drew L. Van Horn, Ph.D., is embracing the College's rich history while focusing on YHC's current needs and diligently planning for what's to come. This edition of Echoes highlights the people and moments that embody the past, present, and future of YHC. We recently sat down with Dr. Van Horn to get his take on these three eras.

past

- Q: What is something from your past that you're bringing to your role as YHC president?
- **A:** One of the things that I bring with me is my athletic experience. Growing up in a small community, sports were what drove me as a youth. From athletics I learned a simple but important philosophy. Discipline, not desire, determines your destiny. Having desires is easy for us as humans, but it's also easy for organizations to have desires. On the other hand, it's very difficult to focus on the disciplines that can make our desires a reality. In many cases, people will lower their desires rather than increase the discipline needed to accomplish their bigger desires. The reality is that instilling discipline in ourselves, or in an organization, is not easy. Sometimes it requires letting go of something or foregoing something, and this can be uncomfortable. I believe that my experience in helping executives and organizations reach

their desires will be beneficial for YHC as we set our course for the next 10 years. I will do my best to motivate our YHC team and family to discipline ourselves so that YHC can become the institution that we desire for it to be.

present

- Q: Do you have any sort of mantra that you follow—or a daily goal that you aspire to when you wake up?
- A: Besides "discipline, not desire, determines your destiny," there's another mantra that I try to follow every day: "The story you tell yourself is the story you live by." My experience has helped me to understand that life experiences shape a narrative that people repeat to themselves. Depending on the narrative, the story they repeat impacts how they live their lives and how they view themselves. Many times, the narrative a person has written about themselves focuses on their weaknesses rather than their strengths. A number of years ago, I resolved to write down the narrative that I was living under. I then made a commitment to take steps during the next six months that would rewrite a certain part of my life narrative. At the six-month point, I revisited my narrative and revised it based on what I had learned over the previous six months. This required me to be brutally honest with myself and to take control of those areas of my life that I had surrendered to victim mindset. While the process was not always comfortable, the narrative I now repeat to myself is completely different from the narrative that I told myself years ago.

future

- Q: What's your top priority as you work to shape the future of YHC?
- **A:** The higher education industry is facing disruption and will continue to face new disruptions. My job is to lead the College through the disruption we're facing and make sure we adapt where we must. To that end, my top priority is to establish an environment whereby YHC can be financially viable and educationally relevant. To be successful, the College cannot focus on what is best for us; we must focus on what our students and their future employers need and want. This will require us to be innovative and flexible. If we narrow what we do, and how we do it. we will become obsolete. We, the YHC team, are working to position the College so that it has multiple options available to be financially and educationally viable. We are seeking permission to offer master's degrees and programs that are completely online. While we remain committed to a strong liberal arts core, we're adding professional programs that we believe are needed in the workforce and desired by students and their families. By increasing the breadth of our programs and program delivery methods, we are giving YHC greater opportunity for relevance in the higher education market.



YHC WELCOMES

Dr. Jason Pierce as Provost

Jason Pierce, Ph.D., brings 19 years of experience in higher education to YHC.

Dr. Pierce comes to YHC from Tusculum College where he served in several roles including provost, vice president of academic affairs, Title IX coordinator, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) liaison, and professor of English.

"We're so excited to welcome Jason into the YHC family," said YHC President Drew L. Van Horn, Ph.D. "I'm confident that he is the best fit for our College as we continue to look at ways to strengthen and expand our academic programs. His expertise and commitment to enhancing student success will be vital for providing the excellence that YHC is known for."

Dr. Pierce earned his bachelor of arts and master of arts degrees in English from the University of Maine, his master of letters in Scottish literature from the University of Saint Andrews, and his doctorate in English from the University of South Carolina.

He is widely published academically and has presented nationally on a variety of topics, including programs that support first-year student experience and college honors programs models.

Dr. Pierce and his wife, Joanna Pierce, Ph.D., have two sons.

YHC Recognizes Longtime Faculty Members

Three YHC employees were recognized for their service of 30 years to the College. "It is an honor to recognize these faculty members for their dedication to YHC and our efforts in providing the best quality education possible," said former YHC Vice President for Finance and Operations and Chief Financial Officer Brooks Seay, Ed.D. "They each have impacted the lives of students for generations and continue to do so."

Those honored included Professor of Biology and Biology Department Chair Paul Arnold, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry and the Scott B. Appleby Chair of Science Margaret Forrester, Ph.D., and Associate Professor of Kinesiology and Sport Studies Jim Thomas.



Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Keith DeFoor, previous Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Benny Ferguson, Jim Thomas, Dr. Paul Arnold, Dr. Margaret Forrester and Dr. Brooks Seay

Board of Trustees Welcomes New Members

Meaghan Derrick Fine serves as first vice president of enterprise risk services for SunTrust Bank in Atlanta, where she previously served as vice president of capital and funding. Prior to joining SunTrust, she worked in macroeconomic research at Comerica Incorporated in Dallas, Texas.

Fine earned her B.B.A. in economics from Millsaps College and her M.B.A. in global business from Georgia Institute of Technology. She serves as a volunteer for Junior Achievement of Georgia.

Fine and her husband, Dan, recently welcomed their first child, Catherine Diane Fine, who made an early debut on July 4.

She serves on the finance and student affairs committees for YHC's Board of Trustees.

Martha Logan, '74, serves as senior vice president of RAM Partners, LLC, an Atlanta-based asset management firm. She is known in the apartment industry as an innovator and as a successful implementer of new ideas.

Logan served as executive vice president of Post Properties for 10 years. She holds the Certified Property Manager designation from the Institute of Real Estate Management and is a licensed real estate agent. Logan serves on the board of the Atlanta Apartment Association and the Georgia Apartment Association.

She serves on the properties and student affairs committees for YHC's Board of Trustees.





YHC INTRODUCES

New Academic Divisions

YHC recently restructured the academic divisions so that departments are now housed across three divisions—Arts and Humanities, Professional Studies, and Mathematics, Science, and Technology.

"This structure is needed as we move into the future," said Provost Jason Pierce, Ph.D. "We're an institution that's already been evolving for the last generation, but we need to continue to change—and this is the system that makes us more nimble and better prepared for new opportunities and programs."

A committee formed by YHC President Drew L. Van Horn, Ph.D., conceived this reorganization as a way to streamline departmental supervision by allowing deans to become full-time administrators instead of splitting time in the classroom.

Dr. Pierce noted that all three divisions have distinctive responsibilities. For instance, Arts and Humanities generates most of the College's credits, while Professional Studies will see a lot of program growth and development of strategic initiatives.

"We're trying to expand the reach of Young Harris to serve the people of North Georgia and Western North Carolina, and this is the structure that allows us to do that," said Dr. Pierce.

DIVISION OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES

Dean: Dr. Mark Rollins

DEPARTMENTS:

Art
Communication
Studies
Creative Writing
English
Graphic Design
History

Music
Music Education
Musical Theatre
Religious Studies
Spanish
Theatre

DIVISION OF

MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Dean: Dr. Linda Jones

DEPARTMENTS:

Accounting Biology

Chemistry

Economics

Environmental Science

Mathematics Psychology DIVISION OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES

Dean: Dr. Todd Jones

DEPARTMENTS:

Business and Public Policy

Education

Management Interdisciplinary Studies

Interdisciplinary Studies
Organizational Leadership

Outdoor Leadership

Biology Graduates Receive Accolades at Georgia Academy of Science



Several students presented research at the annual Georgia Academy of Science at the University of West Georgia in 2018, and four senior biology majors received top accolades for their presentations.

Sarah Gossett, of Tunnel Hill, won the Best Undergraduate
Paper Award in Biology for her talk "Comparison of Spotted Bass
Populations Among Three North Georgia Reservoirs." Yazmin
Ramos, of Chatsworth, won the Best Undergraduate Paper Award in
Biomedical Sciences for her research on "Effects of Turf Bead Extract
on AHR Activity in Human Liver Cells in the Presence and Absence
of Resveratrol and Quercetin." Arielle Charles, of New Port Richey,
Fla., and Rachel Lepine, of Ontario, Canada, received one of the Best
Poster Awards in Biomedical Science for their research on "Effects of
Exposure to Lead (Pb) and Other Divalent Cations on Neuromasts of
the Posterior Lateral Line in Embryonic Zebrafish."

"These are amazing feats," said Professor of Biology and Biology Department Chair Paul Arnold, Ph.D. "I wish I could keep these students forever, but I know it's time for them to fly from the YHC nest—and I wish these wonderful people all the success in the world."

New Mission Statement

YHC's Board of Trustees recently approved a new mission statement:

"In a world of continual change, Young Harris College educates students in the liberal arts and professional programs, serves both the region and the world, and empowers its graduates to create and define service, successes and meaning throughout their lives."

"The administration and board believe that the adopted mission statement reflects the College's offerings, its service and its distinctiveness," said YHC President Drew L. Van Horn, Ph.D.

The board also approved the addition of one new value—Innovation—to the current list that includes Truth, The Liberal Arts, Heritage, Community and Citizenship. The Innovation value states that YHC is "open to new methods and ideas" and "open to using a variety of learning platforms to deliver educational programs."

YHC EXPANDS Academic Offerings

YHC now offers a bachelor of arts degree in history in addition to the already established bachelor of science in history. Both programs allow students to develop the skills and knowledge associated with a liberal arts degree, while providing them with the analytical skills necessary to compete in a global economy.

Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs Keith DeFoor, Ph.D., noted that it's common for colleges and universities to offer both options to students.

"Our B.A. emphasizes skill sets associated with the humanities and prepares students to pursue further education at the graduate level and enter law school," explained Dr. DeFoor. "The B.S. serves students who are interested in pursuing careers in business, education and other professional areas—even M.B.A. programs."





yhc inducts inaugural class into Golden Key International Honour Society

YHC recently inducted its first cohort of students into the Golden Key International Honour Society, the world's largest collegiate honor society.

Membership is by invitation only and applies to the top 15 percent of college and university sophomores, juniors and seniors based solely on their academic achievements.

"I'm excited to have this outlet to step up and step out through Golden Key's leadership and service opportunities," said the society's secretary, sophomore business and public policy major Samuel Gaston, of Lilburn. "Having Golden Key on campus at Young Harris will continue to allow current and future students to make a difference in this world."

With a mission to provide numerous service opportunities for YHC students while recognizing academic excellence, the Golden Key chapter at YHC is now part of a network of more than 400 colleges and universities from across eight countries.

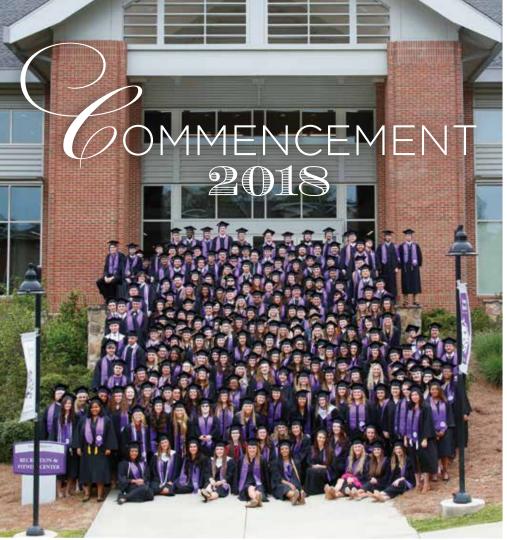
"Golden Key allows students at Young Harris to connect with other scholars across the globe, which is an incredibly unique experience," said sophomore psychology major Ashley Marchman, of Clayton. "This opportunity makes me feel like I'm a part of something much bigger, making my time here at YHC even more special."

FOUR YHC STUDENTS NAMED Finalists for Prestigious Writing Contest

Senior English major Alejandro Lemus-Gomez, of Young Harris, senior outdoor leadership major Paxton Spessard, of Cumming, Cortney Esco, '18, of Royston, and Joshua Sharpe, '18, of Pooler, were named finalists in the Agnes Scott Writers' Festival Contest at Agnes Scott College.

Participants submitted works across many platforms including poetry, nonfiction, fiction and drama. This is the fifth year in a row that YHC students have been selected as finalists.

"After revising my poems to bits, sitting down with my professors and going to poetry conferences to refine my craft, it's an incredible feeling to have the hard work pay off," said Lemus-Gomez.







Check out a special message from the Class of 2018—including words of wisdom for current and incoming YHC students.









gathered outside for a group photo.

President Dr. Drew L. Van Horn
presented Brantley Barrow, '74, with
the Young Harris College Medallion.

Representatives from the Class of
1968 marched with the graduates in
recognition of the 50th anniversary
of their own graduation. Many
graduates took a moment to thank
professors. The Class of 2018
was congratulated by a long line of
faculty members.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Graduates

Thanks YHC for all you've given to me! Now it's time to get ready for my next Poland! Julia Falgout

adventure as a missionary in



Of all the things that Young Harris College has given me, these friends are my favorite. Each of these girls has such a special place in my [purple] heart! Kelley Bryson



I am officially a college graduate! I graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.S. in psychology and a minor in history. I will miss YHC and all of my friends and the wonderful faculty that have supported me along the way. Next stop, Mercer University to pursue my doctorate degree. Just call me Dr. Hardy (in 5 years)! Lindsey Hardy

"Risk and progress are complementary variables. You have got to take some risks to get some progress." These were the words of former president of the Carolina Panthers Danny Morrison, Ph.D., who addressed 261 graduates during Young Harris College's Commencement ceremony on May 5 in the Recreation and Fitness Center.

Members of the Class of 2018 were also encouraged to "be who you are, do it in your own style and learn from others" by Dr. Morrison, who received an honorary doctor of humane letters from YHC President Drew L. Van Horn, Ph.D., during the ceremony.

The Young Harris College Medallion, the highest honor bestowed by YHC to alumni and friends who have made extraordinary contributions, was awarded to Brantley Barrow, '74, who has been instrumental in shaping the landscape of YHC for more than a decade including serving as the chair of the Board of Trustees from 2013 to 2018.

Since joining the Board of Trustees in 2004, Barrow has assisted on various assignments such as reviewing the College's enrollment and mission, which began the first discussions about becoming a four-year institution, and building new housing that would complement the existing campus community.

Dr. Van Horn presented the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award to Kenneth Boykin, Jr., of Columbus, Ga., and the Mary Mildred Sullivan Award to Madison Barnes, of Blairsville. Created nearly a century ago to honor the service leadership of their namesakes, the awards are given annually by the Algernon Sydney Sullivan Foundation to individuals whose nobility of character and dedication to service sets them apart as examples for others.

The Dr. Charles R. Clegg Outstanding Scholar Award, which recognizes graduating seniors

with the overall highest grade point average, was presented to Taylor Bilicki, of Blairsville, and Sarah Gossett, of Tunnel Hill.

Jada Williams, of Snellville, was presented the Zell B. Miller Leadership Award for significant contributions to campus life at YHC as an outstanding leader and role model.

Michael Livingston, of Suwanee, and Lauren Gregory, of Flowery Branch, received the Young Harris Spirit Award for demonstrating personal integrity, friendliness and engagement with the campus community.

"In this class, there are tremendous voices." wonderful actors, talented athletes, activists, innovative thinkers, counselors and leaders," said Dr. Van Horn in a final charge to the graduates. "You are capable of many things and you can accomplish what you set your mind to. While uncertainty can be scary, do not let fear gain a foothold in your life. Remember that the people you will serve and the world that you will tend belong to something bigger than any human."

Representatives from the Class of 1968 participated in the ceremony in celebration of the 50th anniversary of their own YHC graduation.

After walking across the stage and turning their tassels, the Class of 2018 recessed through a line of faculty members who applauded, hugged and congratulated them. The graduates then met with family and friends, posing for photos and savoring the moment before beginning new adventures as YHC alumni.

©

View more photos of the Commencement festivities at flickr.com/youngharriscollege.



Watch the event.



GRADUATES ENJOY SYMBOLIC SPIRITUAL SERVICES

Graduates gathered at the top of Brasstown Bald for the annual Vespers Service on May 3. Many students participated in the seven-mile hike up Bald Mountain before joining others to share in a meal. Following a sermon titled "This I Believe," graduates released environmentally friendly balloons into the foggy sky over the Enchanted Valley.

On the eve of the Commencement ceremony, seniors gathered to share in worship during the annual Baccalaureate Service on May 4. Rev. Dr. Kimberly Russaw, an ordained clergywoman in the African Methodist Episcopal Church, delivered an inspirational message to the students. The ceremony also included a senior class prayer, the ceremonial presentation of purple stoles to the graduates by special mentors and the distribution of a Bible to each senior as a reminder of the College's spiritual heritage.





F SOMETHING

BY MADDY ELLEDGE, '16 | PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE HANNA SWANSON, '09

ON OCT. 16, 2017, Drew L. Van Horn, Ph.D., officially became the 23rd president of Young Harris College. But his connections with the College go back much further than that.

While serving as president of Brevard College in Brevard, N.C., Dr. Van Horn was instrumental in its transition from a two-year to a four-year, baccalaureate degree-granting institution in 1995.

In the early 2000s, YHC was preparing to take the same step. That's when Dr. Van Horn received phone calls from the late former U.S. Senator and Georgia Governor Zell Miller, '51, and Brantley Barrow, '74, on behalf of YHC's Board of Trustees asking him to share his experiences.

The query made sense considering Brevard is a small, private, residential liberal arts college founded three decades before

YHC. Dr. Van Horn said the two schools shared a "symbiotic relationship with a Methodist connection and being mountain turf schools."

In fact, a team from YHC had already visited Brevard to learn about their Wilderness Leadership and Experiential Education program when the College's outdoor leadership program was being shaped.

A few years later, Dr. Van Horn was selected by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) to serve as visiting president at YHC. He spent three days on campus engaging with former president Cathy Cox, trustees and other members of the community. He continued to follow the College's progress, having no idea that less than

10 years later he would be back in the

Enchanted Valley in a much larger capacity.

"I was in Iowa when a friend of mine who has a house in Hiawassee called me and said, 'Drew, they're looking for a president at Young Harris College, and I think you ought to apply," Dr. Van Horn recalled. "I knew that YHC still had the values and the commitment to what it was deemed to do, but there was also the sense that the





institution understood that it had to evolve in some way and was ready to do that. That's what really attracted me to apply."

When Dr. Van Horn and his wife, Camille, came to campus for his interview, they both described YHC as a "comfortable place" where they felt right at home. Camille traveled the long and windy road up Bell Mountain that day and savored the magnificent views.

"From the beauty of the surrounding area to the family atmosphere, I just knew that we wanted to make this our new home," she said.

The pair was also wowed by the

meticulously cared for facilities and grounds at YHC—from the historic structures like Susan B. Harris Chapel to the new, state-ofthe-art Rollins Campus Center.

What stood out the most, however, were their interactions with the campus community.

"There's sometimes an arrogance you can sense when you go to a private school. That was not the case at YHC," said Dr. Van Horn. "Everyone—from the students, faculty and staff to the members of the Board of Trustees—gave a sense of 'we are confident in who we are, but we're also humble enough to realize we don't have to brag.'

That was really impressive to me."

Raised in the foothills of the North Carolina mountains in Valdese, N.C., Dr. Van Horn is proud of the Appalachian heritage that YHC has also embraced.

"I had to work hard growing up as a student, both physically and educationally. All of those things become ingrained into who you are as a person," he explained. "That's what I like about Young Harris—I can be who I am and it's exactly what fits in with what the institution is and what YHC says it wants in a leader."

When Dr. Van Horn first took on the role of president, he tasked himself with





LEFT TO RIGHT Dr. Van Horn and his wife, Camille, often walk their two labs, Hector and Apollo, around campus. Dr. Van Horn spent some quality time on the lawn with students on the day of his inauguration as YHC's 23rd president. The Van Horns pose in front of their home on the YHC campus.

learning as much about the College's history as possible. He quickly saw an underlying mantra emerge: "You can."

That theme started with circuit-riding Methodist minister Artemas Lester, who came through town back in the 1880s and decided the area needed an institution to provide the first—and only—educational opportunity for residents in the isolated Blue Ridge Mountains.

"When you look at the past, Young Harris College has always had a strong history of saying 'you can.' You can be educated; you can be successful; you can do these things. That's what it was here to do from the very beginning," said Dr. Van Horn.

He also discerned that YHC has a long history of being adaptable, noting the College's transformations from a secondary school, to a four-year college, to a junior college, to a four-year institution again—based on what was best for the College at the time.

Most recently, in the ongoing tradition of working with high school students, YHC's Early College enrollment has grown significantly. Young Harris Early College offers high school students a quality academic start on a pathway toward a degree while earning both high school and college credits, and enrollment moved from 185 in 2017 to more than 400 in 2018.

Early College will likely provide a pipeline of students who choose to attend YHC due to their quality experiences as dual-enrolled

students. Pipelines such as these will enable the College to expand its programs.

Dr. Van Horn called YHC a "go-getter" institution equipped with everything needed to be successful in the future, and he aims to honor the College's strong foundations moving forward.

"We are doing something that the institution has always done: starting something else," he said. "If we stay true to that 'you can' philosophy that this institution has always had, our eyes will be open to the innovative things we have to do to make sure young people and adult learners can be successful."

Dr. Van Horn said it's important for YHC to fit into the mold these students need to prosper—not the other way around. This concept, he said, simply boils down to keeping the student at the forefront of each decision.

"It's not about who we are but about those future students we will serve," he said. "And as long as we keep them in our mindset, this institution will always be viable and beloved."

As parents of two children, Julia, 25, and Jack, 23, the Van Horns strived to instill some valuable life lessons: stay true to yourself, be well-rounded and find success by leading from your own unique strengths. They hope to, by example, encourage YHC students to subscribe to this same outlook.

"I am uncomfortable when I can't be who I am—when I feel like I have to be worried about my Southern twang that might make someone uncomfortable," he explained. "The reality at YHC is that the community here can be who they are, and we are here as a community to say that's okay. We are all here to learn, and everybody can be successful."

In addition to keeping a student-centered focus, Dr. Van Horn's plans for the future include eliminating as many barriers as possible that could potentially keep YHC from thriving.

"I want YHC to become whatever it needs to become, and that truly takes humility. Even though there is comfort in the old ways of doing things, there is no future in that," said Dr. Van Horn. "That's why we're intentionally hiring folks who have been at comprehensive institutions and understand this notion."

Dr. Van Horn immediately began to investigate ways to broaden the College's academic offerings to better serve students, as well as the communities of North Georgia and the surrounding regions.

Within months of his arrival, the College was preparing to offer its first-ever master's degree, the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT), which will also be YHC's first-ever program offered via a synchronous online class. [Read more about the MAT on page 31.]

"The fact that we welcomed a MAT program and four new majors in 2018 is a testament to the strides for the future of the College," said Dr. Van Horn.

His recipe for success includes building



strong partnerships with local schools, community colleges, state institutions and community organizations. This is evident in his creation of the Commission on the Future of Young Harris College this year, which connects campus leaders with the greater community at large, including educational leaders, government entities and business owners. [Learn more about the Commission in sidebar on the right.]

"Removing those barriers of what we can and can't do, instilling the concept of adaptability, and building partnerships—those are the three big areas that I am trying to focus on," said Dr. Van Horn.

While he commits himself daily to these tasks, Camille is also forging her own role at the College by focusing all of her energy on goals that will benefit YHC.

"I know we want more students to come here and stay here, and we want to engage with our community and have strong connections with the surrounding areas," said Camille. "We want to keep a sense of community among faculty, staff, students—everybody. I think that's my role: to maintain the community. It's very important to me."

Dr. Van Horn said that his wife is already bringing things to his attention that he may never have realized, because her involvement with the YHC family gives her a totally different perspective.

"By working as a team, we can really understand what we are walking into and what we might need to do to be successful," he said. "This has been a longstanding philosophy of our marriage: sharing information, hearing that information and then talking about what possibly needs to be done."

When Dr. Van Horn is away from the office, the pair enjoys exploring the area surrounding campus and remaining active by hiking, golfing and playing tennis. Dr. Van Horn grew up as a trout fisherman, so he's also discovering the best local spots to fish.

"We are just really down-to-earth people," he said. "I wash the cars, she plants her tomatoes. We're the kind of people who always look around for a new project or something to fix. It's a great way for us to get to spend time together."

Since joining the Mountain Lion family, the Van Horns have made every effort to build intentional relationships with students. This is second nature for them as parents who were highly involved in their own children's academic experiences.

"We enjoyed our kids so much as

YHC PRESIDENT DR. VAN HORN CREATES NEW COMMISSION

OF YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE

Dr. Van Horn aims to strengthen connections between the campus community and the community surrounding the campus. In Jan. 2018, he appointed the Commission on the Future of Young Harris College to ensure that YHC is meeting the needs of students and businesses in the region throughout the next decade.

The group, chaired by Rosemary Royston, '89, vice president for planning and special projects, held focus groups and listening sessions throughout the spring to gain insights from faculty, staff, students, alumni, local educational leaders, government entities, and businesses located in North Georgia and Western North Carolina.

The Commission includes **8** YHC faculty and staff members, **1** YHC Alumni Board President (Charlotte McCloskey, '64), **1** Board of Trustees member (Carol Chastain, '84), and **5** community members (BRMEMC Director of Economic Development Erik Brinke, Bank of the Ozarks Market President Jason Karnes, Towns County Chamber President Candace Lee, former Union County Chamber President Al Harper and Young Harris City Council member Dr. John Kelley).

The Commission hosted 3 listening sessions with local leaders including government officials, school officials, and health care and business owners. These groups were asked 2 questions: "What does the next 10 years look like for your organization? In what ways could YHC possibly assist you in these goals?" Additionally, 1 listening session was held on campus with YHC's Student Government Association.

The group collected 4 key findings: YHC should offer high-demand undergraduate and graduate degrees; YHC should increase the number of internships and experiential learning activities—especially for students in the adjacent four counties; YHC should enter a comprehensive campaign to fund facilities and programs that are needed for its growth; and YHC should be a regional facilitator for education and economic development.

DR. VAN HORN'S

YHC trustee Brantley Barrow, '74, said Dr. Van Horn's "experience at Brevard College, another private, residential liberal arts college affiliated with The United Methodist Church, and extensive fundraising expertise" allowed him to rise to the top of over 100 candidates who applied for the position. Take a quick look at the noteworthy past of the president who will take YHC into the future.

Earned **3** degrees between **1978** and **2002**: B.A. at Elon College, M.Ed. from Campbell University, and Ph.D. from the University of South Carolina

Named member of Elon University Athletic Hall of Fame and 2-time Academic All-American in basketball

Served for nearly 10 years in various studentand development-related roles at Elon University

Spent **9** years as president of Brevard College

Held 2 previous vice president roles—vice president of university advancement at lowa Wesleyan University and vice president of institutional advancement at Lenoir-Rhyne University

Helped increase Brevard's first-year student enrollment by 50%, improved student retention by 40%, led the college's first capital campaign that raised \$19 million, and created 3 new academic programs

Initiated Brevard's transition from National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) to National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) **Division II** athletics, securing the college's membership in the South Atlantic Conference

Brings **30+** years of experience in higher education to YHC

Named 23rd president of YHC in 2017



they were growing up, and we were always involved with their friends and activities," said Camille. "Our kids are mostly gone from the nest, but it's like 'Look! We have more now!' It's just thrilling and a pleasant surprise when a student wants to chat or connect with me. It makes me feel grateful and humbled. I love it."

It's not uncommon to see the Van Horns eating in Grace Rollins Dining Hall with students, working out in the Recreation and Fitness Center, inviting students to their home for dinner, attending fine arts and athletics events, and walking their two labs, Hector and Apollo, around campus.

Dr. Van Horn pointed out that being invested in the lives of students and building rapport with them on a daily basis also provides a learning opportunity for the Van Horns as they strive to make a positive impact on the trajectory of the lives of every student.

"We are so blessed because by engaging with students, we get to see a beautiful side of them. We know these students come from all different backgrounds and bring all kinds of gifts with them," he said. "We know that when we invest our time, we benefit. The more we talk to them, they become more comfortable to talk back, or invite us to their church, or eat with us. And we learn from them."

Dr. Van Horn said he is also focused on creating connections with faculty and staff, because each of them helps shape the experience of each student and contributes to the familial environment that the Van Horns so quickly experienced for themselves.

"I want students to feel that we're part of a group here that made sure their transition into the next phase of life was comfortable and warm and nurturing. I hope they feel prepared and empowered, and that they were cared for," said Camille. "Part of it is the education and part of it is the culture—the friends, faculty members, mentorships—and hopefully we can be part of that. To make sure students feel and know that they are important and loved."

Dr. Van Horn said his greatest hope during his tenure is that the students who come through the doors of YHC will feel like they personally know him and his wife—and that, in the future, those same students will remember them as a genuine, encouraging couple with integrity.

"If those three words could be associated with Camille and me, we would feel good and we would feel proud," he said. "I want students to know we genuinely care about them, that we want to help and encourage them to pursue their purpose. We want to be the ones who look at them—and the institution as a whole—and say, 'You can do this' when they need to hear it the most."

YHC FAMILY Clelcolnes DR. VAN HORN

Young Harris College students, faculty, staff, alumni, trustees and friends officially welcomed Dr. Van Horn as president during an Inauguration Ceremony held on April 20 during Alumni Weekend. Several members of the YHC community brought greetings to Dr. Van Horn during the ceremony. Here's a sampling of the warm words shared during the event.

"Dr. Van Horn, you have joined an institution with an impressive history and a legacy of leadership. We gather today not just to remember Young Harris College's history but, more importantly, to look to its future. Young Harris, under your able leadership, is poised to continue that trajectory of profound influence in the lives of students and in the broader higher education community. In celebrating your inauguration, we acknowledge YHC's storied past, strong present and your ability to forge a path to a future worthy of the legacy you have inherited."

DR. SUSANNA L. BAXTER

GEORGIA INDEPENDENT COLLEGE Association president

"This is a college that's full of heritage and tradition—but perhaps our greatest times lie ahead of us. I look forward to you leading us into those greatest times."

BUDDY CARTER. '77

YHC TRUSTEE AND CONGRESSMAN

"President Van Horn, we look forward to working with you to create an environment of respect and community which seeks to graduate students who learn the importance of service and dedication beyond the walls of Young Harris College. We are grateful for your steadfast commitment to the traditions of the College, our region and a liberal arts education. We believe in your ability to move us forward and are excited to offer our support and expertise to make your vision a reality."

TAMMY GIBSON

ASSISTANT VICE PRESIDENT FOR Enrollment Management Technology, Registrar and Staff Forum President

"The board has challenged Dr. Van Horn to concentrate on future career and professional opportunities and to shape our courses, curriculum, and majors to prepare our students for the future work and professional world. However, at the same time, we will not desert our liberal arts history and will

ensure the basics of critical thinking and analysis are still instilled in our students. Our students can truly go anywhere from here, but the future is going to require rapid change to adapt to the new realities of college education—and we feel Dr. Van Horn is the one to lead us through this evolution."

BRANTLEY BARROW, '74

YHC TRUSTFF

"YHC is more than a college. It is a community. It is a family. So you may as well pull up a chair because you're never going to want to leave... Dr. Van Horn, since the moment we met, I knew you'd be a great fit. From the first time you stepped on campus, you have made YHC your home. You have embraced our culture. I'm very excited for what the future holds for YHC with you in charge."

ELLI FLAIG, '18

STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

View more photos of the Inauguration Ceremony at flickr.com/youngharriscollege.

Watch the event—including Dr. Van Horn's inspirational message to the Young Harris family.



CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT Barrow officially introduced Dr. Van Horn as president and presented him with the Young Harris College Medallion.

Dr. Van Horn and his wife, Camille, posed with students.

Dr. Van Horn addressed the crowd.

Alumni, trustees and friends were on hand to welcome Dr. Van Horn.

Charles Lipham, '66, chatted with Dr. Van Horn during a reception held on the Campus Plaza after the ceremony.

Flaig shared some words of wisdom with the new president.







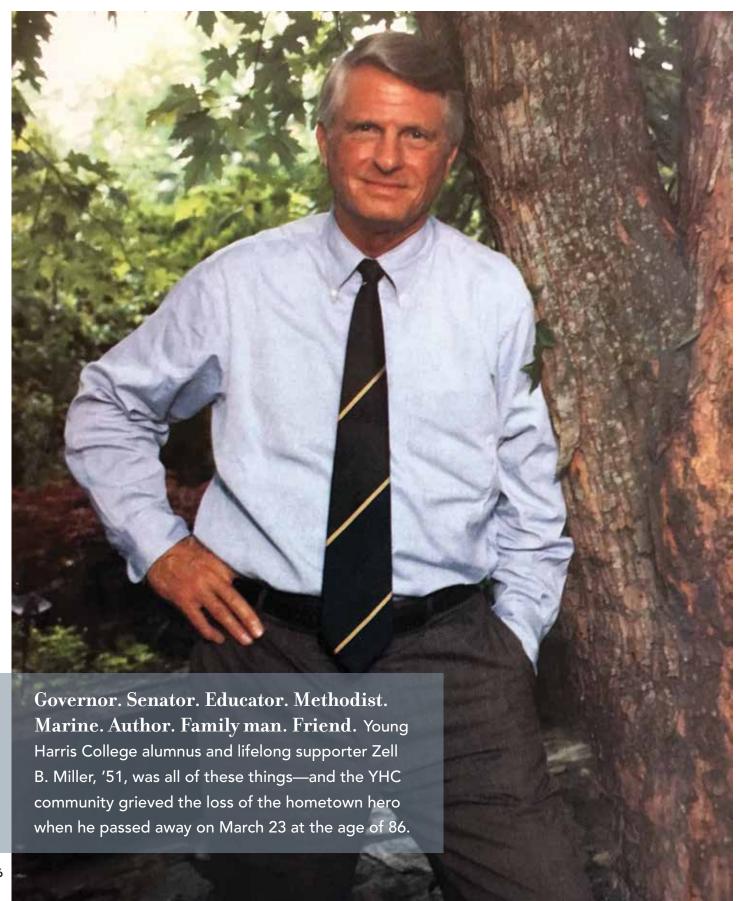






The HOMETOWN HETO

BY JAIME LEVINS | PHOTOS COURTESY OF ZELL AND SHIRLEY MILLER LIBRARY



Close friend and YHC trustee Rev. Dr. Don Harp, '61, said one of the many things he recalled Miller saying was, "Always remember who you are and where you came from."

While Miller's storied career in politics led him far from the Enchanted Valley, he never forgot his upbringing in Young Harris or the College that provided a solid foundation for his success.

"During his lifetime, Zell's body would travel the world, but his heart and soul always remained in Young Harris," said his son and former Chief Judge of the Enotah Judicial Circuit Murphy Miller, '74. "He came from a family of teachers, and although he would carry many titles and honorifics, he considered himself a teacher like his parents."

Miller's beginning was a humble one. He was born on Feb. 24, 1932, during the Great Depression, to parents who met while serving on the YHC faculty. His father, Stephen Grady Miller, served as dean and taught history, while his mother, Birdie Bryan, taught art.

Miller's father passed away just 17 days after his birth, so Birdie was left alone to raise an infant and 6-year-old daughter, Jane. She spent weeks hauling hundreds of smooth rocks out of a nearby creek to build the Miller family home on a plot of land near the College. The house had no electricity or running water.

"In certain places, her handprints are still visible in the concrete," wrote Miller. "She wanted to remain in Young Harris so that my sister and I would know who our father was and who my father's

people were. She was afraid that if we went back to her home state of South Carolina, we may never get back to Young Harris or know our father's heritage."

Politics were important to both of Miller's parents. His father served a term in the state Senate, while his mother served on the city council for a quarter century and worked the polls on Election Day—usually accompanied by her young son.

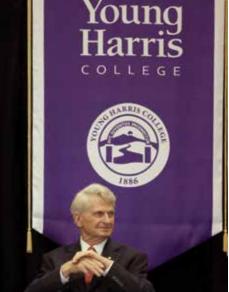
"I would huddle up over in the corner, and I would watch them count out the votes," Miller recalled in a 2006 interview with the Atlanta-Journal Constitution. "That's where it all began. I loved the political process. I loved trying to figure out how to get a program through and how to get enough votes to pass something. I loved that competitive angle of it—how can we carry this county and this one?"

Miller graduated from the Young Harris Academy in 1949 and Young Harris Junior College in 1951. He was a Phi Chi champion debater, captain of the baseball and basketball teams, and Enotah yearbook editor, among other involvements—and his classmates aptly named him "Most Popular."

Miller went on to study at Emory University in Atlanta. In his book, "Corps Values: Everything You Need to Know I Learned in the Marines," Miller said he found himself "lonely, miserable and depressed" as he had a hard time adjusting to life outside of his hometown. He decided to drop out and enroll in the Marines in 1953 at the age of 21.

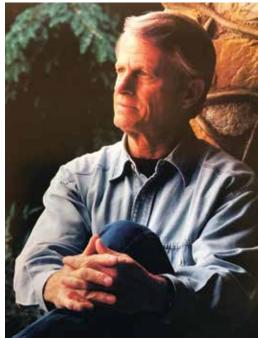
Around that same time, Miller began dating Shirley Carver, '54.







CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Miller shone on campus during his student days. In 2011, YHC awarded Miller an honorary doctor of public service degree. While Miller's career required a lot of travel, he always called Young Harris home. Allie Matulia, '12, of Fayetteville, posed with her family and Miller after receiving the Zell B. Miller Leadership Award during Commencement.





While she didn't attend YHC with Miller, they shared mutual friends and she was often on campus when he came home for visits.

One fateful Fourth of July, Miller went to Shirley's hometown of Andrews, N.C., and asked if he could come back to see her. When he returned the following Saturday morning, Shirley's father told her it was time to run an errand at Nantahala Lake.

"His first experience with me included my little brother and an old farm truck going to change out the salt licks for the cows," laughed Shirley. "So I thought, Tll never see him again." Miller was undeterred by the chores and asked Shirley to a square dance. They were married on Jan. 15, 1954.

This meant Miller served in the Marines as a newlywed—an experience he credited with teaching him the values necessary for a successful life. He served in an artillery regiment stationed at Camp Lejeune in Jacksonville, N.C., before he was sent to Naval Journalism School north of Chicago.

Upon his return south, Miller wrote for the base paper, The Globe, and edited the regimental newspaper, The Cannoneer. He received the Good Conduct and Expert Rifleman's medals and rose to the rank of sergeant before receiving an honorable discharge in 1956.

The young father of two sons, Murphy and Matt, then studied at the University of Georgia (UGA), where he earned a bachelor's degree in political science in 1957 and a master's degree in history in 1958. He continued taking classes to pursue his doctorate while

serving as a teaching assistant and tutor to UGA football players.

The Millers didn't intend to leave Athens—but then YHC president Dr. Charles Clegg, '27, reached out to offer Miller a position teaching history and political science in his hometown.

Miller also served as faculty advisor for the Enotah Echoes student newspaper and started the College's baseball program in 1960, coaching the team to three winning seasons.

"Everyone wanted to take his class and be known by him," said Rev. Dr. Harp. "For those of us who played baseball, he was our coach, our counselor and the most knowledgeable person about baseball that any of us had ever known."

The Millers frequently drove the team to away games—Shirley kept score, counted pitches and made notes for her husband—and fed the players dinner when late-night practices ran past normal dining hall hours.

"We lived in a little framed house near where the post office sits today. Our porch stayed full of baseball players," Shirley recalled. "All of the players were so dear to us. We followed many of their lives since leaving YHC."

Miller's return to Young Harris to teach and coach in 1958 also marked the beginning of his political career. Shirley recalled how her husband didn't actually run for mayor of Young Harris, but was elected to the position while they were away attending a UGA football game.

Two years later, at age 28, the married father of two *did* decide to run for office and won a seat in the state Senate. YHC administrators allowed Miller to take off the winter quarter to serve in the Senate as long as he taught extra classes during the other quarters.

He was elected to two terms from 1961 until 1964. A myriad of political positions soon followed, including director of the Georgia Board of Probation, deputy director of the Georgia Department of Corrections, executive secretary to the governor of Georgia, executive director of the Democratic Party of Georgia and member of the State Board of Pardons and Paroles. He was also a delegate to the 1972 Democratic National Convention.

Later, Jimmy Carter appointed Miller to the Board of Pardons and Paroles, a position from which he resigned to run for Lieutenant Governor. In 1974, he won by almost 300,000 votes. His tenure lasted 16 years—the longest term of any Lieutenant Governor in the state's history.

In 1990, Miller was elected Governor of Georgia. He was a strong advocate of education and is credited with making enormous improvements in the educational system of the state.

The HOPE (Helping Outstanding Pupils Educationally) Scholarship program is funded by the lottery at more than \$1 billion per year and supports Pre-K programs, the HOPE Career Grant for technical schools, and the HOPE Scholarship for traditional colleges and universities that has provided 1.8 million Georgia students—and counting—with the opportunity to attend college.

"I would invite valedictorians to the Governor's Mansion, and I was disappointed that so many of them planned to attend college elsewhere, which meant that they might end up leaving Georgia for good," said Miller of how the idea for HOPE was formed. "I wanted a merit-based way to keep young scholars in the state, and I was inspired by the G.I. Bill, which paid my way and taught me the valuable lesson that when you give something, you get something in return."

After serving two terms as Governor, Miller accepted adjunct teaching positions at the University of Georgia, Emory University and Young Harris College.

But political life soon called him back. In 2000, Sen. Paul Coverdell died, and Gov. Roy Barnes appointed Miller to the vacant seat. Miller won a special election that November and remained in Washington, D.C., to complete Coverdell's original term.

Throughout his career in politics and academia, Miller was also an accomplished author. He published numerous books, including "The Mountains within Me," "Great Georgians," "They Heard Georgia Singing," "The Miracle of Brasstown Valley" and "Purt Nigh Gone: The Old Mountain Ways."

While Miller's professional pursuits kept him busy, he always made time to come back—and give back—to his first alma mater. In 1988, Miller was appointed to the College's Board of Trustees and provided his leadership and wisdom to help the College grow throughout the next three decades.

A sports enthusiast since his youth, Miller never lost his Mountain Lion pride. He recruited baseball legends and close friends Mickey Mantle and Hank Aaron to help him raise funds for YHC's baseball stadium that bears his name.

"The team used to play on an old, rocky field, and I wanted them to have a first-class field," said Miller, who was also a fixture in the bleachers during basketball games as a season ticket holder when the sport returned to YHC in 2010.

During his tenure as distinguished visiting professor at YHC, Miller made a lasting impression on many future alumni—including his grandson, Bryan Miller, '11.

"Zell was a teacher at heart," said Bryan. "That title meant more to him than any other he obtained throughout his career. Whether he was at his home or yours, in the state Capitol, or in Washington, D.C., Zell was a constant learner and gifted teacher. Our family and those who were closest to him were blessed to graduate from 'Zell Miller University."

A Long-lasting Legacy

Miller's far-reaching impact on Young Harris College has been celebrated throughout the decades.

- Miller was awarded the Young Harris College Medallion, the highest honor bestowed by the College, in 1978 and 1997
- In 2008, Miller received the Distinguished Alumni Award for Lifetime Career Achievement for demonstrating great success in his career following a successful foundation laid by the College.
- In 2011, YHC awarded Miller an honorary doctor of public service degree and established the Zell B. Miller Leadership Award that's presented to a graduating senior who has made significant contributions to campus life as an outstanding leader and role model.
- In 2013, Miller was an inaugural inductee into YHC's Athletics Hall of Fame.
- The 40,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art Zell and Shirley Miller Library opened in 2014. One prominently displayed permanent exhibit showcases the Millers' inspiring story, including their legacy of public service to the state of Georgia and the nation.
- An endowed chair for government and public affairs, a lecture series, and several scholarship funds have been created at YHC honoring Miller and his family.

Remembering Zell Miller

During a memorial service held on campus on March 26, Zell Miller was eulogized by close family and friends including his son and former Chief Judge of the Enotah Judicial Circuit Murphy Miller, '74, former campaign advisor Paul Begala, Chancellor of the University System of Georgia Steve Wrigley, Ph.D., and Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church Pastor Rev. David Tinsley. Remarks touched on Miller's wit and wisdom, his life as a public servant, his love for family and baseball, and his legacy of transformational leadership—a legacy rooted in Young Harris.

Watch the memorial service.



Miller helped design YHCs innovative business and public policy major, which prepares students for an ever-changing and fast-moving economic world through a curriculum that stresses critical thinking, reasoning and strong communication skills.

From 2006 to 2007, Miller chaired the trustee committee that studied the College's future and the possibility of transforming from a two-year to a four-year college. His guidance led the board to a unanimous vote to begin awarding baccalaureate degrees.

Miller delivered the Commencement address during a milestone ceremony in 2011 in which 40 graduating seniors were awarded the College's first bachelor's degrees in nearly a century—including his grandson, Bryan.

In his remarks, Miller addressed the graduates on the theme of perseverance and encouraged them to overcome adversity and challenges in their future endeavors by "rejecting rejections" and following the advice of Sir Winston Churchill to "never give up."

Miller also reflected on his time as a YHC student: "Burned in my brain are six letters: YHC – IOU. I am not the only one who feels this way. There are many. Perhaps you do, or will someday. For many of us, it is where we discovered ourselves, where we realized the value of work, the significance of God, the pursuit of excellence and the thrill that will stay with you always of having an exceptional teacher."

YHC certainly owes Miller a debt of gratitude for his abundant contributions to the campus and the city that meant so much to him. He left an indelible mark—and the hometown hero's legacy will surely continue to inspire generations of the Young Harris family for years to come.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP The 40,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art Zell and Shirley Miller Library opened in 2014. Miller rose to the rank of sergeant before receiving an honorable discharge in 1956. Miller raised funds for YHC's baseball stadium that bears his name. Miller and alumna Shirley Carver Miller, '54, were married in 1954—and were married for 64 years. Miller served in many roles at YHC including teaching, coaching and even serving as Director of Alumni Affairs.













From Generation to Generation

BY KRYSTIN DEAN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE HANNA SWANSON, '09

The Young Harris College community is all about connections. Some people are led to YHC because of them, and others make lasting ones once they arrive. Many members of the Young Harris family, like Phil DeMore, '63, do both—and then ensure that cycle continues.

Born and raised in Detroit, Mich., DeMore first heard about YHC from his grandparents who lived in Clarkesville and knew former YHC President Dr. Charles Clegg, '27, through church.

DeMore went to Piedmont College for one quarter before transferring to YHC. The first time he laid eyes on campus, he was holding his suitcase ready to move into Peel Hall—and the Enchanted Valley looked like a winter wonderland.

"There was snow all over the place. And the first real thing I can remember is slipping on the ice and falling. Here I am, the guy who was so used to the snow but was not used to the mountains," he said with a laugh.

DeMore's graduating class in high school had over 700 students, more than YHC's total enrollment at that time. He soon realized he

was the "only Yankee on campus except for some basketball players."

He formed friendships quickly once he started singing in the choir, joined the Ministerial Association and got a job at the library. He also attended vespers several times each week in addition to the two required chapel services.

"One of my fondest memories is hearing the carillons every night playing songs you could hear all across the valley—the old songs we used to always sing," he said. "It was a very holy place—a place you felt you were kind of set apart."

His other recollections are equally idyllic—crowding into the post office to pick up letters from home, singing "Going to Kansas City" during basketball games, doing "the Twist" during dances, looking forward to Sunday supper each week.





LEFT TO RIGHT The two generations of proud YHC alumni were all smiles. DeMore's love for his alma mater also spread to his wife of 54 years, Lu.

DeMore always knew he wanted to go into ministry, but he thought he would do that in Michigan. He moved back north briefly before realizing he had made a new home in Georgia.

He earned his bachelor's degree in history from the University of North Georgia, master of divinity degree from the Candler School of Theology at Emory University and doctor of ministry degree from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio.

DeMore served as a minister in the North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church for 40 years from 1964 through 2004. During that time, he served as district superintendent twice and pastored many fellow YHC alumni.

One of DeMore's objectives was always remembering "the worth of every individual"—something he said the faculty and staff at YHC have been doing for decades.

"I've always gotten the feeling that they try to make everybody feel important," he said. "I think students still sense the warmth of the student body, the way you're able to find groups and become part of a little family."

Words of Wisdom

We asked Phil DeMore and his daughters to share advice for current YHC students who are shaping their own futures. Here's what they had to say.

"Every day is important, and you are experiencing some of the best days of your life as a student at YHC. Enjoy the surroundings and the spirit. The time will pass so quickly, and the memories will grow stronger every day."

PHIL DEMORE

"Embrace every moment. Soak up all that Young Harris has to offer. Step out of your comfort zone. Don't overlook any possibilities. The future is big. Don't limit yourself."

LESLIE FRIERSON

"I think my dad had everything right. Enjoy this time in your life, make friends, share joy and say encouraging things to people. This is one of those phases and stages which is preparing you for something else."

LAURA WILLIAMS

DeMore's description of the College led his brother, Gary, '68, a fellow retired Methodist minister, to trek south to attend YHC. His love for his alma mater also spread to his wife of 54 years, Lu, and their two daughters, Leslie Frierson, '91, and Laura Williams, '96.

"My dad told me that YHC was such a special place and didn't want me to overlook it," said Frierson. "Young Harris just felt right. Leaving home for the first time, it was nice to have a place that felt comfortable and warm."

While Williams also grew up hearing tales about YHC from her father, she became more intrigued by the College during trips there to visit Frierson.

"I looked up to my sister, and I watched her love for the small campus and the friendships she made shape the person she grew up to be," said Williams. "When the time came to apply for colleges, Young Harris was really the only school I had in mind."

DeMore will never forget dropping off both of his daughters to begin their collegiate careers. "I cried all the way home," he said. "My little girls had grown up in the blink of an eye."

He wrote an article for Williams in the church newsletter the week she started college that was filled with words of wisdom including, first and foremost, to enjoy that time in her life.

"He wanted me to make friends, share joy and say encouraging things to people," said Williams. "He also told me to call collect whenever I needed to, which now makes me laugh."

Frierson recalled receiving similar advice. "He mainly just encouraged me to love it like he did," she said. "He's always encouraged me to look for the good in everything."

The sisters followed their dad's advice and, in doing so, created a long list of memories that, while very different from his own, are still just as cherished.

Frierson's favorites include climbing out of the windows of Appleby Center to hang banners during "sign day" and drinking Cherry Cokes at Dave's Little Store. Williams reminisced about latenight trips to Huddle House and evenings spent around a bonfire with friends. They also became part of the same sisterhood at YHC by pledging Alpha Iota sorority.

An offer from a friend, Todd Williams, '96, to tutor her in math led Williams to discover a different kind of lifelong bond. "I made a D in math, but came away with a fantastic husband," she said with a smile. The pair married in 2000 surrounded by YHC alumni.

"Our YHC friends are still some of the dearest friends Todd and I have," she said. "When I graduated, I knew I was going to be okay in life because I had a great group of friends and an idea in mind of what I wanted to do in the future."

Williams initially considered becoming a child psychologist, but taking an education class at YHC that allowed her to volunteer at an elementary school made her realize she wanted to help children in a school setting.

"I found myself looking forward to the days I would get to go and work with those kindergarteners," said Williams, who earned her bachelor's degree in special education from the University of Georgia and master's degree in behavior disorders from Brenau University.

Williams has worked in education for 19 years, teaching students with autism, behavior disorders, learning disabilities and other health impairments. She recently completed her first year as a special education coordinator for Hall County Schools, where she strives to "ensure that all students are given a chance to live the most successful, independent life possible."

Unlike her sister, Frierson had "no idea" what she wanted to do when she got to YHC—but the small class sizes allowed her to get to know professors who helped her figure that out. She earned her bachelor's degree in early childhood education and master's degree in education from the University of Georgia and an educational specialist degree from Brenau University.

"I love it when students I taught tell me they are going to YHC after graduation," said Frierson, who serves as the principal at Centennial Arts Academy in Gainesville, Ga., where she works to ensure the staff is developing an environment that best meets students' needs.

"What motivates me is knowing that what I'm doing directly impacts the future of my students. That sets the bar high," she said. "I like a challenge, and each day certainly presents one—or 50."

The sisters come from a family full of educators including their mom, Lu, who worked as a paraprofessional for years. Frierson said their service-oriented parents had a pronounced impact on their career paths.

"Our mom and dad provided us with an example that allowed us to see that there was great value in helping others," she said. "Working in education gives us an opportunity to work to help students reach their potential. I don't think that's a coincidence."

Williams' two children, Philip, 10, and Max, 8, both attend school where their aunt "Leelee" works. Frierson recently took them on a family field trip to O. Wayne Rollins Planetarium followed by peanut butter and chocolate milkshakes at Gibson's.

"Who knows, maybe someday Philip will be in the Class of 2030 and Max will be in the Class of 2032," said DeMore. "To talk about this possibility says a lot about how I feel about this school. I love my children and grandchildren, and I want the best for them. I know what Young Harris can mean to someone, and I will continue to be a cheerleader for this College."

DeMore joined YHC's Alumni Board in 2012 and will begin serving as president in 2019. He said that "the people on the board are people who love the school" and want to encourage fellow alumni to stay connected and involved with their alma mater.

The DeMores have also given financial support to YHC through the years. "It's just an opportunity to give back," said DeMore, who

Profound Professors

The alumni trio traded notes about the educators who made the biggest mark on their time spent in the classroom at YHC.

"Zell Miller was without a doubt one of the best teachers I ever had. He instilled in me a love for history. He just made it come to life."

PHIL DEMORE

"Rev. Fred Whitley had such an impact on me. He brought so much energy into everything. Dr. Paul Arnold's passion and compassion for others and nature made a mark on me. And Lynne Nation helped me to not hate math. She did a great job of making it entertaining."

LESLIE FRIERSON

"Hands down the professor that made the biggest impact not only on my student days at YHC, but also on my entire life, was Dr. David Franklin. School had always been more of a social event for me. Then I developed a huge interest in history and found everything that Dr. Franklin taught to be profound. Studying for his class became easy because just listening to what he said made sense to me. I started making 100s on tests and As in my classes. It was the first time in my life that I realized I was capable of more."

LAURA WILLIAMS

lives by Luke 12:48: "From everyone to whom much has been given, much will be required."

"We have the responsibility to leave something for the future generations," he said. "Now, I don't have enough money to be a Winship or a Rollins—but I do have some dollars that I can give to help somebody along the way."

Frierson said she likes seeing that YHC is "staying relevant" for future generations and reaching out to students who are the first in their family to attend college.

"I think that's what has inspired me to be so committed to the Class Scholarship Challenge," she said. "I have seen firsthand the positive impact scholarships are making for students."

Several youth from Williams' community have chosen YHC, and she always enjoys hearing about what's new. "I'm most impressed by the residence halls," she said. "I never would have thought kids would have the privilege of air conditioning in their rooms!"

"It seems so different but still has the same feel as years ago," added Frierson, who enjoys witnessing new developments—"who would have ever thought YHC would get a Starbucks?"— incorporated alongside familiar landmarks like Cupid's Falls and the Chapel.

DeMore pointed out that there will always be one connection that all generations of the extensive YHC community share: the incomparable mountain setting.

"Every time I return to campus and see it in the distance, from the Hiawassee side, I get a feeling like no other," he said. "It is a place of beauty and peace. I am once again 18 years old with the world in front of me. It is a place filled with memories and endless possibilities. It's kind of my happy place."

The SPIRIT of COMMUNITY

BY KRYSTIN DEAN

Clayton native Richard "Dick" Burrell, '47, was drawn to attend Young Harris College's registration day in 1945 for two reasons: "reputation and proximity." This pragmatic approach actually emanated from a combined love for family and education that guided Burrell's path.

"My father had passed, and I didn't want to be too far from my mother, should she need me," he explained. "I was simply looking for a solid foundation for acquiring an education degree at a senior institution."

The only problem was that when he arrived, he was told there were no more spots. World War II had just ended, and an influx of war veterans was securing spots at colleges and universities across the nation.

The College's registrar told him that the only person who could make an exception to admit a new student was the president—so the second person Burrell met with was J. Worth Sharp.

"I told President Sharp that I had limited funds and I would need assistance, but I would very much like to go to school," recalled Burrell. "He told me, 'We'll find some way to assist you' and he instructed the registrar's office to find a way to enroll me."

They did just that, and Burrell found himself bunking in a basement apartment in Peel Hall with three roommates. He quickly realized that laundry was the "bane of every student's existence" and that, while laundry and dry cleaning service was included in the cost of tuition, "it wasn't very good."

So Burrell promptly contacted a company in Murphy, N.C., and offered to be their representative at YHC. They agreed—provided the College didn't allow any other cleaners to service the campus.

The young entrepreneur, again, scheduled a meeting with President Sharp. Not only did he agree to this arrangement, but Sharp was also persuaded to provide Burrell a room in Appleby Center to offer the laundry service to female students.

Burrell added that Appleby's dorm mother, "Mamaw Sharp"—who was also President Sharp's mother—was "not too thrilled with my presence." However, he persevered.

"I ran the business out of my dorm room and Appleby Center for the full two years I attended YHC," he said. "That is how I earned money for my tuition."

Burrell combined his gift as a skilled orator with a go-getter attitude in his roles as business manager of the Enotah yearbook and president of the Young Harris Debate Society—"the precursor to the fraternity, which I truly enjoyed," he said.

In the classroom, he loved studying language with Hilda McCurdy. "She was a wonderful person—a great teacher and a truly special individual," said Burrell. "I remember how dedicated she was to all of her students."

While he made many good friends at YHC, Burrell said his most meaningful friendship was with the late former Georgia Governor and U.S. Senator Zell Miller, '51, who attended the Young Harris Academy during Burrell's time at YHC.

"I have treasured Zell and Shirley's friendship over the years," said Burrell, who joined YHC's Board of Trustees in 2011 and served alongside his longtime friend.

Burrell served on the board's athletics and academic affairs committees before becoming an emeritus trustee in 2017. He was also instrumental in restructuring YHC's Alumni Association to align with the goals of the College and the Board of Trustees.

Education has always been important to Burrell, who earned an education degree from Piedmont College after he graduated from YHC. He was a teacher and coach for a brief time before being drafted by the U.S. Army to serve in Japan during the Korean War in 1950

Burrell married his wife, Nancy, in 1954 when he returned to the U.S., and the couple moved to the Washington, D.C., area where he began working as a manager for Household Finance.

Burrell soon moved to government relations, where he stayed for the bulk of his 40-year career. He was responsible for doing that work at the state level for the Southeastern U.S. on behalf of Household International, now HSBC.

Following his retirement in 1993, Burrell served as a consultant to the Georgia Financial Services Association until 2003. Over the years, he has also served on the board of directors of Eagle Bancshares, Tucker Federal Bank, Stone Mountain Memorial Association and Consumer Credit Counseling Service of Atlanta.

Burrell said he was "very pleased" that two of his three children, Pamela Russo, '81, and Steve Burrell, '76, followed in his footsteps to attend YHC, along with two of his nephews, Michael Burrell, '71, and Everett Burrell, '76. "They all formed many friendships that have lasted through the years," said Burrell.

Russo said that even through she and her brother attended YHC five years apart, they share a lot of the same friends and have often attended Alumni Weekends together. She credited the College's remote location with fostering a familial atmosphere.

"You had to make your own fun. The College was small enough that you could get to know everyone on campus—and know them well," said Russo, who noted that everyone spent weekends on campus because "no one wanted to go home."

Russo was eager to attend college after completing her high school courses by the end of 11th grade. Her parents said she could start college early—and they gave her two colleges to choose between.

"After visiting both, I knew I wanted to be at YHC," said Russo, who had "plenty of exposure" to YHC through visits to campus with her family through the years.

"It gave me a good feeling to see Susan B. Harris Chapel or Dave's Little Store—places that I had heard so much about," she said. "But it was also stimulating to see the growth on campus, when new dorms



or academic buildings were built, all signs of progress."

Russo stayed busy as an active member of the Phi Delta sorority, Political Science Club, YHC Choir and Theatre Young Harris troupe. She made a lot of memories in Appleby Center, where her room became "the place to meet before meals."

Russo's Phi Delta sisterhood filled her time outside of the classroom—competing in intramural games, taping up signs on the front of Appleby Center, practicing for the skit competition, playing backgammon before dinner—and account for some of her "most precious memories" at YHC.

"To this day, some of these women are my closest friends," said Russo, who regularly meets up with former classmates for "girls' weekends" and class reunions. "Sometimes we will just run up to campus to have a look around. It's amazing to see the growth, the new buildings and infrastructure, not to mention all of the activities."

Russo studied at Emory University and briefly worked in the banking industry before obtaining her master's degree in international business from the University of South Carolina, concentrating in marketing with a German language focus.

"I feel I developed a larger worldview during my time at YHC," said Russo, who recalled how Dr. David Roebuck's enlightening class discussions often spilled over into Political Science Club meetings. "He was clearly enthusiastic about what was happening in our world and how his students could better understand it all," she said.

Russo also recalled receiving encouragement from longtime math professor and tennis coach Dr. Bob Nichols after she earned a C in calculus during her first year at YHC.

"I wasn't sure I could survive Calculus II without retaking

Richard "Dick" Burrell, '47, said he was "very pleased" that two of his three children, Pamela Russo, '81, and Steve Burrell, '76, followed in his footsteps to attend YHC.

Calculus I, but Coach Nichols really encouraged me to try and helped me along the way," she recalled. "I ended up with an A on the final, thanks to his belief in me."

Russo's love for YHC stayed strong when she moved to New Jersey to work in the pharma industry and married her husband, Ray, who she described as "a Rutgers man" who understands remaining loyal to one's alma mater.

"He forced me to attend every Rutgers sporting event he could," said Russo with a laugh. "Now that we live in Johns Creek, my brother has hooked him into various YHC events and outings."

The Russos have also expressed their dedication to YHC through a gift of stock, which Russo called "a great way to donate a greater amount, as any growth in value is tax-free."

"I know how important it is to help students in any way we can," said Russo. "YHC is such a special place that allowed me to develop and mature as an individual, and I want to help encourage it to continue and to grow, so other young people can have a safe place to discover who they are."

Burrell also expresses his Mountain Lion pride by regularly contributing to the Class Scholarship Challenge, Department of Athletics, and Young Harris Fund that meets the College's most important needs and priorities.

Burrell recalled the pride he felt when his alma mater became a four-year institution in 2007—"what that means to the community and to the future of the College"—and he's confident that the "Young Harris spirit" lives on for new generations of students.

"The spirit of community that has passed down from year to year has remained steadfast, even up to now," said Burrell. "I believe the quality of education has been steadily enhanced through the years and will only continue."

Russo added that she is confident that the College's next steps will be the right ones thanks to administrators and supporters who share the same goals.

"They have been thoughtful about their growth and where they choose to develop new emphases, looking toward where our world will need leaders in the future," she said.

Words of Wisdom

We asked Dick Burrell and his daughter, Pamela Russo, to share advice for current YHC students who are shaping their own futures. Here's what they had to say.

"Take advantage of the opportunities you have at Young Harris to accelerate your own growth and build on your own strengths."

DICK BURRELL

"Enjoy your time here; it is idyllic. Always plan with an eye toward marrying your strengths with careers that will be needed in the coming years. If you can find that pivotal point where your strengths and interests intersect with a career that will be in high demand, you'll be both happy in your profession and have a sense of security for you and your family."

PAMELA RUSSO

INVESTED in FUTURE

BY KRYSTIN DEAN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE HANNA SWANSON, '09

Sometimes a seemingly small decision can have an immeasurable impact on a person's life. For Kurt Momand, '77, it all started with a simple offer to help pick up a high school friend who was attending a choir summer camp. He headed two hours north to the Enchanted Valley from his hometown of Atlanta, looked around and immediately decided to book a campus tour.

"After that visit, I knew it was the school I wanted to attend," said Momand. Remembering what made Young Harris College the only choice for him 43 years ago helps shape Momand's priorities as he looks to YHC's future as the new Board of Trustees chair.

"Continuing to provide a first-class education while maintaining the character and feel of the Young Harris experience is number one," he said. "For me, it was truly the total experience—attending what was, and still is, a beautiful campus; talented professors you had interactions with both inside and outside of the classroom; and classmates who became lifelong friends."

Many of those friendships were forged through Momand's involvement as sports director of the Upsilon Delta Sigma fraternity and a member of the InterGreek Council. His fraternity brothers still often gather outside of bigger YHC events like Homecoming and Alumni Weekend.

"Being in a fraternity was all about being part of a team, taking responsibility, raising money for various causes—and a great group of guys who would do anything for you," said Momand.

His time spent in the classroom also made an impression, especially when he was under the tutelage of O.V. Lewis, who taught business and served as registrar, and Dr. Bob Nichols, who taught math and served as director of academic advising.

"O.V. demanded the best from his students and kept expectations high, even if it was sometimes painful. Bob emphasized life lessons and always giving it your best," said Momand. "These two, like many others at YHC, knew you, pushed you and had a genuine interest in wanting you to succeed.

You knew they cared."

When Momand came to YHC, he already had his sights set on working in the investment world. After studying business at YHC, he obtained a finance degree from Georgia State University (GSU) and subsequently his Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation.

"I found that Young Harris prepared me quite well as I competed very effectively in the classroom setting at GSU," said Momand, who has worked in the investment field for nearly four decades.

He currently serves as a partner with the Atlanta-based firm Montag & Caldwell, which he joined in 2003 after being affiliated for more than 12 years with Trusco Capital Management as a Managing Director and Senior Portfolio Manager serving institutional clients.

It's safe to say that Momand knows a good investment when he sees it—but he set aside his professional prowess when it came time for his daughter, Heather Brunone, '08, to choose a college. He knew she was "ready for her own adventure" after hearing so much about his days at YHC—so he simply recommended that she attend a Visitation Day like he had.

"The kids went one way and the parents went another for the morning. When we met back up for lunch, she said, 'Dad, I really like this school.' I said, 'You mean you want to go here?' She said yes, and we never visited another school," Momand said. "I like to think she saw all the things that attracted me and so many others since then to Young Harris."

Brunone also recalled how that visit completely changed her initial plans to attend a big school far from home. "Hearing







FROM TOP Momand is YHC's new Board of Trustees chair. ■ Momand shared a laugh with fellow YHC trustee Rev. Dr. Don Harp, '61. ■ Momand enjoyed a snow day on campus.

YHC being described by students who so passionately loved the College and its history made me feel like I was seeing the campus and all of its opportunities for the first time," she said.

Momand's goals for his daughter at YHC were simple. "I remember hoping she had as full of an experience as I did," he said. "And I told her to have fun."

Brunone described her academic experience as "both challenging and meaningful" and said the campus became the "perfect backdrop" for a growing network of friends and supporters that quickly turned into an extended family.

Brunone followed in her father's footsteps by obtaining a business degree from YHC that propelled her forward to earn a bachelor's degree in international affairs and modern languages from Georgia Institute of Technology and an MAT in reading, language and literacy education from GSU. She taught high school Spanish for four years before embarking on a new career path as a Program Coordinator at Ultimate Software in Atlanta.

"Explaining the depth of experience offered at YHC is a difficult task," said Brunone, who serves on YHC's Young Alumni Council. "The connection between alumni is instantaneous, as we are part of a family unlike any other. We share the mountains that hold some of our most wonderful memories. We share a home."

Momand has always aimed to ensure that a new generation of students can achieve their academic pursuits and find that feeling of home at YHC. He's part of a group of alumni who founded a golf tournament in 1996 to raise funds for student scholarships—which was named the Clay Dotson Open in 2005.

"It has been very successful over the years, and we appreciate all those who support and play in it," said Momand, who has participated in every single tournament since its inception, along with another event co-founder, Paul Butler, '77, of Sugar Hill. "Over the years, we have been fortunate to have students join us and play from time to time, which is always fun."

He noted that there are several ways for alumni to support their alma mater, from giving to initiatives like the Clay Dotson Open and Local Scholarship Campaign, to attending YHC events on campus and throughout the state, to establishing connections that can lead to professional opportunities for students.

"It would be wonderful to see increased participation by all alumni in increasing their support of the school—and increasing support of our students through scholarships and internships," said Momand. "There are so many things we can do to make a difference in students' lives."

Momand was encouraged to join the Board of Trustees in 2008 by his good friend, Congressman Earl "Buddy" Carter, '77, of Pooler, who was also his roommate at YHC.

"It has been a labor of love and a privilege to serve," said Momand. "It's just so exciting to help in providing and improving the experience for students who come to Young Harris. It's also great to have the opportunity to work with a very exceptional and dedicated group of fellow trustees."

Momand said that coming back to campus "brings back a lot of great memories" of his own student days—and his involvement with the Board of Trustees allows him to play an active role in the evolution of the College.

He joined the board the same year YHC officially received accreditation as a four-year institution, which generated tremendous growth—including a larger student body, NCAA Division II status, new academic programs, and state-of-the-art facilities.

"Even with all the growth, the campus still retains its feeling of home," said Momand. "It makes me proud that we can reach more students and provide them with a greater choice of courses and sports options—all while maintaining the Young Harris experience. I hope it is a place alumni and students are as proud as ever to call theirs."

Momand is often called upon to describe what sets YHC apart from other schools, and—along with the beautiful setting—he always highlights the "dedicated and impressive faculty and staff" who are invested in the success of each student.

"Young Harris has always been an institution dedicated to seeing students succeed academically, socially and, ultimately, professionally," said Momand. "It is a wonderful environment to develop the whole student as they make their way through the college years."

Momand knows that fortifying this longstanding legacy of educating, inspiring and empowering students means being nimble enough to meet the changing needs of students who want to be both challenged and supported on their educational journeys.

"We are always looking for ways to elevate the overall student experience," he said. "I hope and believe it will always be a time students will remember as some of the best years of their lives."

YHC President Drew L. Van Horn, Ph.D., said Momand's love for the core values of the College, along with his keen understanding of finance and investments, perfectly position him to help further YHC's vision for the future.

"Kurt understands that the alumni of the '70s and '80s are the future leaders and donors that will keep YHC a strong and respected institution," said Dr. Van Horn. "I look forward to working with Kurt during this next phase in the life of YHC."



LEFT Momand helped found the Clay Dotson Open golf tournament in 1996 to raise funds for student scholarships and has participated in every single tournament.



"We want to provide students with more specific choices in areas in which they may be interested," explained Assistant Professor of Business and Public Policy Nathan Gray, Ph.D. "We hope students will see the value in these new majors by adding specificity and allowing them to move from education to profession more smoothly."

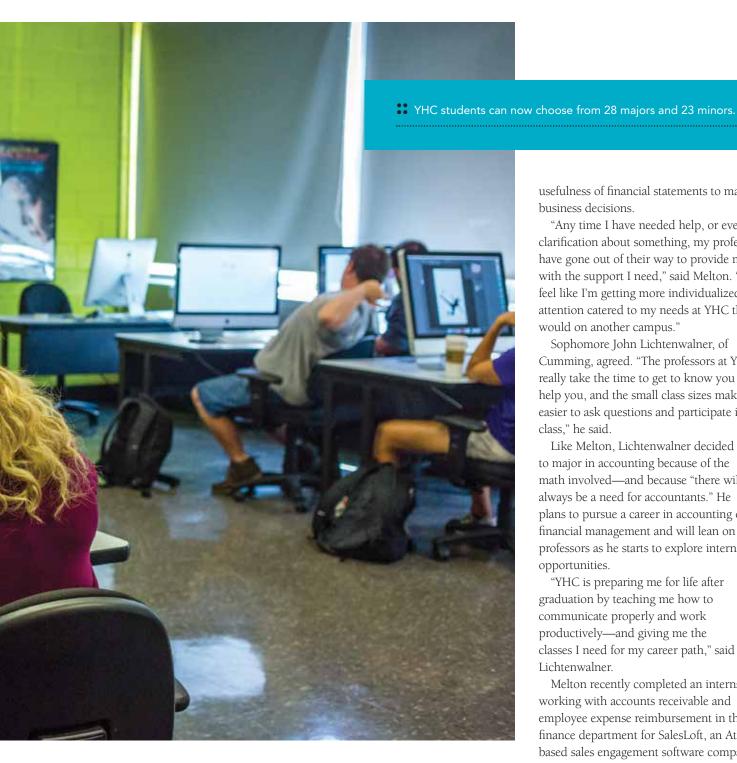
The College already offers a degree in business and public policy, an innovative program that combines traditional business courses with courses in ethics and in public policy formulation and analysis. That major offers three tracks: economics, management and public policy.

The Department of Business and Public Policy now allows students to specialize in one of five distinctive areas encompassed in this field of study. Students already within the department can easily double major, while non-business students can enrich their education by adding a minor.

According to Dr. Gray, labor statistics drove the decision to add these degrees, as

data indicates future growth in management and analytical business careers. Over the next eight years, the U.S. Bureau of Labor and Statistics projects an 8-percent growth in these areas

"Economics is the most popular major at many colleges and universities across the country," said Assistant Professor of Business and Public Policy Whitney Buser, Ph.D., who noted that economics not only prepares students for many career paths—corporate jobs, government and nonprofit work,



even ministry—but is also an excellent preparatory degree for law school and MBA programs.

"Any student who likes asking questions and thinking about the world we live in is a great candidate for the economics major," added Dr. Buser, who noted that mathematics and philosophy majors are excellent candidates for double majoring in economics.

MacKenzie Melton, a junior from Macon, is one of those students. Earning AP credit

in high school landed her in Calculus II as a freshman, and she quickly settled on a math major. Then a Managerial Accounting course made Melton realize she could hone her passion for "working with numbers" by double majoring in accounting.

The **accounting** program helps students understand the mechanics of professional accounting with regard to public accounting, for-profit industry, and nonprofit organizations, incorporating the usefulness of financial statements to make business decisions

"Any time I have needed help, or even clarification about something, my professors have gone out of their way to provide me with the support I need," said Melton. "I feel like I'm getting more individualized attention catered to my needs at YHC than I would on another campus."

Sophomore John Lichtenwalner, of Cumming, agreed. "The professors at YHC really take the time to get to know you and help you, and the small class sizes make it easier to ask questions and participate in class." he said.

Like Melton, Lichtenwalner decided to major in accounting because of the math involved—and because "there will always be a need for accountants." He plans to pursue a career in accounting or financial management and will lean on his professors as he starts to explore internship opportunities.

"YHC is preparing me for life after graduation by teaching me how to communicate properly and work productively—and giving me the classes I need for my career path," said Lichtenwalner.

Melton recently completed an internship working with accounts receivable and employee expense reimbursement in the finance department for SalesLoft, an Atlantabased sales engagement software company. She's also gaining valuable experience on campus as a math tutor in YHC's Academic Success Center, treasurer for Dorcas Society and secretary for YHC's Student Government

"YHC is not only providing me with knowledge, but also connections that will prepare me to succeed once I graduate," said Melton. "I've participated in numerous workshops, including one on résumé building, that have pushed me to go ahead and prepare for my future—and I've met

numerous faculty, staff and alumni who will be good resources when I begin applying for jobs."

Senior John Bogenschutz, of Powder Springs, came to YHC as a business and public policy major but decided to double major in economics because, he explained, "I want to help better market myself for jobs when I get out of school."

The **economics** degree teaches students how to apply economic principles to current issues and policy problems—and how to apply macroeconomics theory to explain and predict events in the aggregate economy, including roles played by fiscal and monetary policies.

Bogenschutz originally considered transferring to pursue a degree in risk

management, but a conversation with "knowledgeable and extremely kind professors" like Dr. Buser changed that plan.

"I decided to stay at YHC when I realized I could pursue my career field without that specific degree," explained Bogenschutz, who hopes to work for a large company like Porsche or Chick-fil-A. "YHC is preparing me for the workforce by allowing me to learn a lot in the classroom but also encouraging me to join organizations and pursue internship opportunities."

He completed an internship at Chickfil-A's Blairsville location and accepted a supervisor position there during the summer. Bogenschutz also serves as secretary for Phi Sigma Kappa, an organization that he said has taught him "life lessons in management, leadership and even finances."

Junior Marcia Hall, of Clarkesville, said her involvement outside the classroom as a resident assistant has taught her about the importance of teamwork, time management and conflict resolution—skills that are all crucial to becoming a successful manager and coworker.

"I have learned how important it is to be a source of positivity and honesty, while still personally adapting to change," she said. "I am able to communicate effectively, encourage efficiently and provide quality service through personal support."

Hall said her "goals have transformed" since her freshman year, as she considered

MANY PEOPLE IN FOR-PROFIT AND NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF LIBERAL ARTS TRAINING TO HELP STUDENTS BECOME BETTER DECISION MAKERS.

DR. NATHAN GRAY



pursuing majors ranging from education to communication studies before realizing that YHC's new management degree was the perfect fit for her.

Management majors learn to describe the legal, social, ethical and economic environments of business in a global context. These future leaders develop skills in conflict resolution, employee supervision, business writing, oral communication and critical thinking.

"I instantly fell in love with the idea of serving others by leading teams, planning events, organizing details, and directing programs to empower and encourage groups of individuals with a passion for service and success," said Hall.

She completed a real estate internship in her hometown and earned her real estate license this summer. Hall also has a dream to open her own business in the future.





YHC to Begin Offering First-Ever MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM

2019 marks a major milestone in Young Harris College's history when future educators have the opportunity to take part in the College's first-ever master's degree program.

This summer, YHC earned approval from the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the Georgia Professional Standards Commission to add the Master of Arts in Teaching: Secondary Education with concentrations in biology, English, history and mathematics.

The one-year, 42-credit-hour program will officially launch in June, though the first cohort consisting of three students began in February. Graduate students will begin the MAT program during the summer term to prepare them for teaching the following fall.

Professor of Education Karynne Kleine, Ed.D., said the College's top goals when putting the MAT together were to make it accessible, affordable and progressive while also enhancing the reputation of YHC's Teacher Preparation Program.

"We will continue our tradition of preparing teachers as highly regarded educational leaders who contribute to the social and economic success of Georgia's young people and citizenry," said Dr. Kleine. "We also aim to engage collaboratively and professionally to become an influential model that elevates both the profession and narratives regarding teacher preparation."

The College's Department of Education currently offers baccalaureate degree programs to serve traditional on-campus students. The MAT will provide an opportunity for a Georgia educator teaching English, history, math or science under a nonrenewable certificate to become qualified for a renewable certificate in just one year of study.

Dr. Kleine pointed out that the U.S. is currently experiencing a teacher shortage, and that school systems are looking beyond traditional four-year degree students to "career changers" who are entering the teaching field from other professions. "Our MAT will allow folks, such as career changers with a content area background, to become certified teachers," she said.

The College was also approved to begin offering more than 49 percent of the program online. The MAT will be offered on-site and via distance education using Cisco's Webex videoconferencing platform. While the curriculum is new, it is fully informed by the Interstate New Teacher Assessment and Support Consortium standards with a focus on teachers working effectively with diverse learners.

Dr. Kleine described the ideal candidate for this program as a "self-regulated learner with a growth mindset who is open-minded and willing to work hard to improve the educational outcomes for all of Georgia's youth."

The College's education faculty have a great deal of expertise in preparing intentional, reflective, professional educators and are committed to offering a first-class program that includes a high level of engagement between faculty and students.

"Students will experience a great deal of support and scaffolding through dialoguebased, experiential curriculum along with expectations for their continuous improvement," said Dr. Kleine.

The program is a perfect fit for YHC considering the Georgia Department of Labor projects that the region surrounding the campus is likely to need nearly 150 new teachers per year, every year through 2024.

"Perhaps most noteworthy is that tuition for the MAT will be just \$9,000, making it one of the most affordable teacher certification programs not just in Georgia, but nationwide," said Provost Jason Pierce, Ph.D. "Once the MAT is up and running, we look forward to adding other graduate degree programs to continue serving North Georgia and regions beyond."

Learn more about YHC's MAT program at yhc.edu/mat.

I HAVE LEARNED HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO BE A SOURCE OF POSITIVITY AND HONESTY, WHILE STILL PERSONALLY ADAPTING TO CHANGE.

MARCIA HALL

"My goal is to find a way to love and serve others by implementing my passion for faith, family, fashion and food," she explained.

Hall feels prepared for these pursuits thanks to professors who are "encouraging and truthful in their conversations about academia and life outside of the classroom"—like Business and Public Policy Department Chair and Assistant Professor of Business and Public Policy Todd Jones, Ph.D.

"He is so personable and puts forth the extra effort to turn education into what he calls 'edutainment' by making the material relatable and personal to each student," said Hall, who also looks forward to taking upper-level courses with her advisor, Professor of Business and Public Policy John Van Vliet, Ph.D., who has been a "constant source of support."

"YHC has been preparing me for success since day one," said Hall. "I've been encouraged by numerous faculty and staff members, and I believe that has allowed me to really grasp the confidence I need to reach my goals in life. I believe that passionate Young Harris professionals are the reason why students are so successful after graduation."

The process of adding these three new degree programs included the adoption of a new paradigm for all of the major programs in the Department of Business and Public Policy. Students are required to take a "pre-core" group of courses along with a business and public policy core—in addition to the College's general core.

This means that students who major in management, accounting, or economics will all take courses in ethics, public policy, and math before diving into courses specific to their chosen field.

"Many people in for-profit and nonprofit organizations understand the importance of liberal arts training to help students become better decision makers," Dr. Gray explained. "This approach allows us to better support the liberal arts, which members of our department deem of great importance."

Around a dozen courses have been or will soon be added to the catalog to accommodate these new accounting, economics and management majors, including capstone courses that are focused on preparing students for graduate school and successful careers.

Strategic Management was designed to focus on case studies that will incorporate a hands-on classroom experience, while "Econometrics" will give students statistical and software training that can be directly added to a résumé and increase competitiveness in the job market.

"Managers, accountants, economists, and policy analysts are detailed-oriented and pay careful attention to data analysis, trends, and critical decision-making processes," said Dr. Gray. "Members of society ask people in these types of jobs to make major decisions affecting employers, employees and consumers. We intend to help our students be the best decision makers possible."

The College is committed to adding experiential learning opportunities for business-minded students, and the new majors will open doors for internships as students complete coursework that makes them prime candidates for these experiences.

Through Future Business Leaders of America—Phi Beta Lambda, students can participate in philanthropy, attend state and national conferences, and compete in advertising and speech competitions. Students will also be eligible to participate in Omicron Delta Epsilon, an international honor society in the field of economics.

Hands-on experience is at the core of the College's new bachelor of arts degree in **graphic design**. Students are prepared for successful careers in

the area of visual communication by concentrating on creating competitive portfolios, participating in various regional and national design internship programs, and working with clients in a "signature experience."

"The signature experience is all about putting design students together with real clients so the students can have a professional working experience while they're still in school instead of after they graduate," explained Associate Professor of Art Stan Anderson, '73. "Many of these experiences also turn into amazing internships that mature into full-time jobs."

YHC students gain experience on campus with projects like designing all of the Theatre Young Harris posters—and some have already started working with clients such as the Atlanta Jewish Music Festival and the Atlanta Track Club's Peachtree Road Race. There are also plans in place for students to work with NBCUniversal and CNN during this academic year.

Anderson said YHC's goal is to ensure all graduates have an impressive portfolio for graduate school and countless career paths in the fields of design, web, broadcast, film, animation, advertising, marketing and more.

"This program is for students who want to live a full life of creativity that is steeped in their own creative voices—students who want to work as interpreters, storytellers, and creatives for clients in designing work that is both fresh and innovative," Anderson explained.

The curriculum uses the latest Mac software programs in the College's state-of-the-art digital lab with new courses focused on typography, illustration, video design, branding, advertising principles and more—enhancing YHC's catalog for all students who can take these courses as electives to enrich their respective degree programs.

Graphic design majors have the



opportunity to create sequential comic art, use high-tech camera and video editing equipment, and work with regional and national clients in rebranding initiatives as well as new strategy and marketing campaigns.

During the Professional Practices course, seniors develop their portfolios and take field trips to design houses in the region. Students discuss the "business of design" including budgetary concerns, planning for internships and job interviews, and maneuvering through a new career.

The standalone course educates students with all of the necessary information for surviving the first few years of employment post-graduation—the ABCs of preparing for a job, keeping a job, being promoted and perhaps even moving on to seek a better position elsewhere.

Associate Professor of Art and Art Department Chair Ted Whisenhunt noted that the College has offered introductory digital arts courses ever since the bachelor's degree in art was created—and the decision to add the graphic design degree was largely based on the fact that many graduates have gone on to careers in this competitive and lucrative field.

"We felt that we could really strengthen student digital and design portfolios if we added more focused courses specifically in graphic design and offer another option for those students who are interested in pursuing this as a career," Whisenhunt explained.

The graphic design degree enriches the Art Department by helping YHC attract and retain talented students who are interested in the applied arts rather than the traditional arts.

"Our new courses benefit all art majors because they get to take more in-depth digital and design courses and interact with additional faculty and students," added Whisenhunt.

Sophomore Jack Owen, of Gainesville, Ga., chose to major in graphic design because he was "very intrigued by the idea of a profession with an endless amount of diverse opportunities." He originally planned to study biology and pursue a career in the medical field—but one class with Anderson changed all of that.

"His digital arts course was an absolutely amazing experience," said Owen. "I enjoyed the work I did inside of class just as much as the work I did outside of it, which is the ideal experience, I think, that anyone would look for in a college course."

Owen plans to head to graduate school to work toward his goal of working for an Atlanta-based film production company. His mentor has a lot of firsthand knowledge to impart, as Anderson's extensive résumé includes work with companies like CNN, NBC News, Twentieth Century Fox Films and New Line Cinema.

"I'm confident that I will credit YHC for the majority of any success I have in my future," Owen said. "The people I have met—and will meet—at YHC and my experiences here will greatly influence what's to come. This is accomplished by the overwhelming amount of support by the YHC faculty and staff, and the wonderful small college community that allows personal relationships with the teachers."

I think change is vital, and we are moving in the right direction, and it's good. Luckily, there are also still strong traditions, and because of that, the YHC culture hasn't changed.



BY MADDY ELLEDGE, '16

From shared fond memories of time-honored traditions that can only be found in the Enchanted Valley to varied hopes and dreams for the future, two students and one recent graduate recently sat down to ruminate on the many ways Young Harris College has impacted their lives—and how they are each being educated, inspired and empowered to help shape YHC for future generations.









Elli Flaig, '18, of Odessa, Fla., never imagined herself at a small liberal arts college in the North Georgia mountains. The College had just reached more than 1,000 students when the women's lacrosse coaching staff reached out to Flaig to see if she wanted to visit campus for a clinic. Her interest in playing lacrosse for an NCAA Division II school was piqued, and she made the nine-hour drive north

"I kept thinking there's no way I can go to a school that tiny," she recalled with a smile. "I came for the clinic and fell in love immediately with YHC. Between my future teammates and the campus, I knew I found my home."

She said she soon learned that a "tiny" campus translated into a close-knit community where "everyone is a name and a face." Flaig found comfort in knowing she could talk to anyone, not just her lacrosse teammates, wherever she went on campus.

"I don't think I could have made so many relationships at a large university," she said. "You know everyone. Professors know who you are. It's truly special."

When she came to YHC four years ago, she decided to join a few clubs and "see what happened." And a *lot* happened given the long list of activities she participated in outside of her responsibilities as a student-athlete.

Flaig spent her spare time involved in YHC's Student Government Association (SGA), Campus Activities Board and Phi Beta Lambda business club, while also volunteering as a Spanish-English translator at Hayesville Elementary School in Hayesville, N.C.

By senior year, Flaig was named president of SGA, a title that came with ex-officio membership in YHC's Board of Trustees. She had the opportunity to attend board meetings and speak on behalf of the student body, and she didn't take that responsibility lightly. She thought a lot about her top priority: emphasizing the importance of making internships available to students.

"I went around during the meetings and talked about how we need work experience," she said. "I want to get the board involved because they care about the school already, so my whole message to them was that they could help us get internships. Trustee Pam Rollins, who is a leading force here at YHC, helped me so much. And I found out that all of the board members are so willing to help."

Flaig said she is excited to see how the College grows under the leadership of YHC President Drew L. Van Horn, Ph.D., including adding new majors, facilities and organizations.

"I think change is vital, and we are moving in the right direction, and it's good," she said. "Luckily, there are also still strong traditions, and because of that, the YHC culture hasn't changed."

She already looks forward to coming back to YHC years from now during Alumni Weekend, Homecoming and other events and checking on the progress of campus—including how residence life has evolved for future generations.

"I want to come back and see if The Towers are considered the 'old dorms' by current students," she said, then added with a laugh, "Will Manget Hall still be here? That's the real question."

Flaig is confident that YHC's path will be paved, in large part, by students who come to YHC and instantly become so invested in the College—just like she did.

"The students who have that 'want-to-make-a-difference' attitude will do just that," she said. "And it's not complaining to get your way—it's making your voice heard while also understanding all sides. One thing that makes YHC special is that people really listen. I love Dr. Van Horn because he listens to everything we have to say. They all really listen."

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Lindsay Adair, Flaig and Diane Turpin enjoyed the views on Bell Mountain. Flaig and Kerry Ostrowski enjoyed a summer day on Lake Chatuge. Flaig enjoyed the holiday spirit on campus. Lummus and Flaig hoisted the Gulf South Conference championship trophy. Members of the women's lacrosse team and Luke the Mountain Lion cheered on the basketball teams. The women's lacrosse team prayed together before a game. Anna Lummus, Ivey Franklin and Flaig prepped for

a lacrosse match.

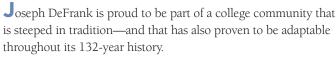












"To ensure traditions stay the same, we just have to live in the present in every moment," he said. "And we have to actively make change in the direction we want to go."

This outlook is what drew the junior from Canton, Ga., to join YHC's SGA—in addition to a long list of roles that have allowed him to explore various facets of campus culture including Greek life, athletics and religious life.

DeFrank serves as a member of Alpha Omega fraternity and a gentleman for Sigma Beta Sigma ("Susan Bs") sorority, founder and president of the Golden Key International Honour Society and Chess Club, and manager of the men's lacrosse team. He's also involved in Inter-Religious Council, Student Inquiry Group for Humanist Thought (SIGHT), Student Advisory Council for the Honors Program and the history honor society Phi Alpha Theta.

"I think YHC is unique in the 'cross pollination' of groups," he said. "You can be involved in sports and still be part of SGA. You get close to all different kinds of people and learn so much."

He described YHC as a place where "demographics are changing," and he said the College's growth reflects that—especially with the recent addition of the first-ever master's in teaching degree program and more online courses.

"We can retain the intimate setting we have with our upper-level and specialty courses while having more of our general education courses



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP DeFrank was surrounded by spirited members of Susan Bs at Purple Out. DeFrank enjoyed sledding and snowball fights on campus with friends. DeFrank and McGehee shared a laugh during Alumni Weekend. DeFrank posed with Dr. Eric Dickman and classmate Erin Tozier after receiving the John Kay Award for Excellence in Comparative Religious Studies during YHC's Honors Ceremony. DeFrank posed with Rebecca McGehee after presenting at YHC's Undergraduate Research Day.



I think YHC is unique in the 'cross pollination' of groups. You can be involved in sports and still be part of SGA. You get close to all different kinds of people and learn so much.

online, which gives students an opportunity for better time management," he said.

DeFrank is a double major in history and religious studies, so it's no surprise that he mentions the College's longstanding track record of adjusting to meet students' needs to drive home his point.

"During World War II, we went from offering college degrees to teaching high school students to fit the needs of the local population when the college-aged students were off fighting in the war," he said. "So this is definitely not the first time the College's demographic has changed."

However, it's one of YHC's defining factors since its founding more than a century ago that made DeFrank decide to attend YHC after speaking with History Department Chair and Associate Professor of History Matthew Byron, Ph.D., during a campus visit.

"He told it to me straight and said, 'Look, you are going to get the help you need here to get where you want to go. You are going to get the one-on-one relationship,'" said DeFrank. "For me, that was huge because I didn't want to just be a number."

DeFrank said Dr. Byron was correct in his initial assessment of the YHC experience—from finding professors that "challenge students to keep going and to raise their own bar" to the "engaging and witty conversations" he enjoys with faculty mentors over lunch in Grace Rollins Dining Hall.

The passion his professors display is mirrored in DeFrank's own studies. He received the John Kay Award for Excellence in Comparative Religious Studies at the 2018 Honors Ceremony

for his Honors Program independent research project titled "Are Comparative Religious Studies 'Good'?"

DeFrank, whose distinctive mark is being made both inside and outside of the classroom, called the culture of YHC a "phenomenon" that's difficult to describe to someone who hasn't experienced it firsthand.

"I can take you to the plaza to listen to Greek cheers or to the Chapel to hear Rev. Blair Tolbert preach right before that. Or we could go to 'late night' on Wednesday for chicken nuggets and mac and cheese. Or you could come to my Thursday morning philosophy lecture with Dr. Eric Dickman," he said. "But, unless you live it, you don't understand how wonderful it is."

Considering how much the campus community means to him, DeFrank's decision to spend his junior year studying abroad in Ireland at Queens University of Belfast highlights his desire to dive deeply into the entire collegiate experience.

It's comforting for him to know that the College's traditions that he has worked hard to keep alive will still be there when he returns for senior year—and years from now when he returns to campus as an alumnus.

"I hope that when I come back and ring the Chapel bell, the Susan Bs will still come running. It's such a little thing, but it's such a unique tradition that makes YHC, well, YHC," said DeFrank, who also shares a singular hope with his fellow students: "Manget Hall still survives! Viva la Manget!"



The much-beloved Manget Hall mentioned by Flaig, Garvin, and DeFrank was built in 1956 with funds from 1895 alumnus and trustee Scott B. Appleby and honors the memory of John Manget.





CLOCKWISE FROM TOP Garvin visited Niagara Falls during a trip to Canada with the Department of Theatre in 2017. ■ Garvin was all smiles in the Rollins Campus Center. ■ The START Orientation Leader got incoming freshmen on their feet. ■ Garvin posed with friends at the Alpha Psi Omega induction ceremony. ■ Garvin got into the Halloween spirit. ■ The theatre major shone onstage in "The Taming of the Shrew."

Many students choose Young Harris College because they want to follow in the footsteps of their family. It was that exact reason, however, that senior theatre major Bakari Garvin did *not* initially want to consider YHC.

The same year that Garvin graduated from high school, his older brother, Ptah, '15, earned the Young Harris Spirit Award during YHC's Commencement after remaining highly involved in SPAT Club, Greek life and as a College Representative; completing impressive internships; and starring in several theatre productions.

The College Park native saw going to college as the first time he could branch out from his brother, but one of their likenesses—a love for theatre—led him to apply to YHC. It wasn't until START Orientation that Garvin realized YHC is where he's meant to be.

"START really solidified my decision to come here," he recalled. "I met so many great people who are still my friends today. I could really see myself being here for four years and thriving. It felt like I found my family."

Dobbs Theatre in Goolsby Center has become a second home for Garvin as he's earned roles in everything from the critically acclaimed play "Almost, Maine" to the Medieval morality play "Everyman." In 2018, he served as the Master of Ceremonies for the annual Valentine's Day Cabaret and won the Theatre Department's "Outstanding Company Member" award for his performance in William Shakespeare's "The Taming of the Shrew."

He has formed meaningful connections with his classmates, as well as the faculty in the Department of Theatre who encourage him both onand offstage.

"I have a genuine relationship with each of my professors," he said. "It is easy to build relationships here. I know my professors. It's not just 'Dr. this' or 'Dr. that' here—they are my friends."

Garvin aspires to one day use what he's learning while pursuing his degree to become a television or film actor—and hopes to show the world that YHC cultivated his talent.

"I can't wait to say I went to a small liberal arts college in the North Georgia mountains and that I was able to come out of it and do such amazing things with my life," said Garvin. "I want people to know you can come to Young Harris and become whatever you want to be when you leave."

When Garvin thinks of the past, present and future of YHC, one word comes to mind: progress. He said he's proud to see that the campus community has become more diverse even in the few short years since his brother was a student.





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"Diversity is crucial to experiencing how different people think," he said. "You learn to compare and analyze each other's life in a nonjudgmental way. We see that we are different in a good way. We really are all the same, but we come from different backgrounds."

When Garvin graduates in 2019, he will take time to reflect not only on how the College has grown but also how he has progressed during the four years he spent here.

"My dad always told us to go into things one way but come out having grown," he said. "From freshman year to now, I know I've grown my craft, my personality, my life. The person I am has grown. I have matured, and that is because of my experiences here."

Those involvements run the gamut—from being a College Representative, to serving as president of the Alpha Psi Omega theatre honor society and a gent for the Gamma Psi sorority, to participating in a trip with the Department of Theatre to Canada in 2017.

Garvin has enjoyed partaking in YHC's rich traditions—from "walking the wall" for good luck the night before final exams start, to Greek cheers on the Campus Plaza every Wednesday, to avoiding stepping on the seal in the center of campus to "ensure" graduating on time.

Garvin hopes that when he eventually visits YHC as an alumnus, he will hear that these longstanding rituals are still taking place even as the College evolves.

"I would love for YHC to expand, from increased diversity to new buildings. But I would love for everything that is here now to be here. I want to say, 'I stood on that stage.' And I hope Manget Hall is still here—maybe renovated though," he said with a laugh. "Even though YHC might change a little as time goes by, the foundation is still the same. And we have had a great foundation laid for us. We need to remember we were placed here to make an impact—and our impact will then impact YHC's future."





FACULTY VIEWPOINT

Constant Connections

BY ROSEMARY ROYSTON, '89

It was May of 1994 when I returned to Young Harris College, no longer a student, but now an employed alumna. Since then, I've served in admissions, institutional research, assessment and planning—all of which have led to my current senior leadership position, where I've been a part of an ongoing team of members who have helped move YHC into its next iteration.

Along the way, I continued my own studies and found my way into a M.F.A. program in writing, and began to do something I never thought I'd do at YHC: teach. For several years, I taught "English Composition" or "Introduction to Creative Writing" each semester in addition to my administrative duties.

To be in the classroom, to stand in the places where some of my most well-loved English faculty—Steve Harvey, Ph.D., Janice Moore and Bettie Sellers—once stood, was daunting at first.

While I still miss Rich Hall with its large paned windows and hardwood floors, its absence is not an impediment, but rather a testament to growth and change—all of which a healthy organization must move through.

As the daughter of a United Methodist minister who was told that my three choices for college were Young Harris, Young Harris or Young Harris, I will admit I was a bit resentful upon my arrival. But once I spent a week in the classroom, that resentment fell behind and instead I found myself questioning everything.

Reading the New Testament from an academic perspective was quite different from what I'd experienced in Sunday school. The questions blossomed and pushed me, sometimes on untrod ground and often in uncomfortable ways—yet the end result was a depth of contemplation I'd not yet put myself to at the young age of 17.

The connections I stumbled upon between my history course with David Franklin, Ph.D., philosophy with John Kay, D.Min., and Dick Aunspaugh's art made me both giddy and dizzy. Who knew everything was so connected? I can still feel the bubble of amazement as I recall those days. At YHC, I was challenged intellectually, spiritually and emotionally.

There was no Internet back then. I was the proud owner of a Brother word processor and typed out my papers on a green screen and then printed them in my room.

My Appleby East suitemates and I watched the same VHS tape, "She's Having a Baby," at least 300 times on the small television in our common room. Now students have the

luxury of viewing movies on their laptops or cell phones, both of which they bring with them.

Landlines are no longer in the residence halls, or the phone we had in Appleby Center that was located in the stairwell surrounded by an orange metal "cage."

But even with these changes—new and updated facilities, around 1,400 students as opposed to the enrollment of 435 I experienced in 1987, and many leaps in technology—there is one thing that has not changed at Young Harris College, and that is the drive to educate, inspire and empower students.

I married a fellow student, Rusty Royston, '88, whose aunt, LaFaye Williams Schmitt, attended YHC in the 1920s when it was known as the Young Harris Academy. I imagine that these themes were also present back then. Asking meaningful questions. Examining. Contemplating. Performing at one's best ability. Devotion to quality scholarship. Growth of the mind, the body, the spirit.

In fact, all of this is encompassed in the freshman class of 2018's First Year Experience program, "Creating a Community of Scholars." The pedagogy, the residence halls, buildings, athletic fields and technology have evolved, but the impetus to educate, challenge and inspire students to reach their full potential has remained constant.

It gives me pleasure to witness the growth of students—the same growth I had and my peers had, but now at a higher level. Since YHC became a baccalaureate degreegranting institution in 2008, I've had the joy of watching our faculty get to finish what they start. No longer do we send our students off to wrap up their college careers elsewhere. Instead, they make the choice to spend four years here.

The College started hosting an Undergraduate Research Day in 2013. During this annual event, I've seen the fleshed-out academic experience come to life. Our YHC graduates are ready to stand up and present; they are ready to make a difference in both academia and in the professional world.

One of the first who comes to mind is Kaycee Cash, '15, a biology major with minors in chemistry and English. I met Kaycee, whose name I'd heard around campus often due to her skills on the basketball court and in the classroom,



when she asked me to work with her on her Honors
Program capstone. Kaycee had already completed her
biology capstone with Sydnee Weaver, '15, centered on
endangered crayfish, but she opted to do the additional
capstone and showcase her scholarly range by writing and
editing poems she crafted in response to her studies and
time at the College.

Then there's Chris Yenney, '17, a passionate outdoor leadership major whose legacy project was to improve Corn Creek. Chris and a team of students restored a section of the creek by removing trash and cutting back privet, phase one of a long-term plan, setting the example by making a difference for all who enjoy the campus.

In 2018, I listened to a presentation by art major Yolanda Evans, '18, called "Staring Down the Barrel" where she took the audience through the rationale behind an art exhibition on racism, detailing how the order of the artwork contributed to the overall experience.

I could go on, but the list would be too long.

Obviously, students are making close connections to their faculty and staff who mentor them through not just research projects, but also residence life, student employment and their future choices regarding either graduate school or entry into the workforce.

Relationships that last a lifetime continue to be made. My first résumé listed the name of my work-study supervisor, Dr. Susan Vardeman, '78, and it was her connection with the Girl Scouts that helped me land my first job out of college. (Note that it was my YHC connection, not a UGA connection, which I turned to). When I enrolled in graduate school years later, I reached out to my longtime mentors and friends Dr. Steve Harvey and Janice Moore.

These relationships between students, faculty and staff continue. The names have changed, the buildings have changed and certainly technology has changed. But the connections—the intellectual, emotional and spiritual push—is alive and well at Young Harris College. The flame of youth being inspired continues to be fanned, and it is an honor to be a part of that.

MY TOP 5:

YHC Mentors

1. Janice Moore

Emeritus Associate Professor of English

The first paper I ever wrote in English composition was for Janice Moore. The theme was to address something that we thought was true as a child, but turned out not to be accurate. My topic: how I thought all dogs were male and all cats were female until I was introduced to the tomcat. This humorous misunderstanding eventually made its way into a poem. It was Janice who welcomed and encouraged me to join the North Carolina Writers' Network.

2. Dr. Steve Harvey Emeritus Professor of English

He was gifted and challenging in the classroom, and pushed us all to think critically and write well. Receiving high marks on Dr. Harvey's papers reinforced my confidence and helped me understand that English would be my major.

3. George "Bud" Dyer

Emeritus Director of Admissions

I worked for Bud Dyer for many years. He trusted us to do our job, provided warm direction and encouraged each of us to grow professionally.

4. Dawn Lamade Former Dean of Library Services

Dawn served as the Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee prior to the College making its transition to a four-year institution. It was a pleasure to have her as a role model, as Dawn was organized, witty and just a joy to work with.

5. Dr. Nathan Eric Dickman Associate Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies and Chair of the Religion and Philosophy Department

Soon after I began teaching, I had the opportunity to co-teach an honors course with Eric called "Existentialism and Poetry." It was truly an honor to teach alongside Eric, as I've admired his intellect, engagement and wit ever since he joined our faculty.



Vice President for Planning and Special Projects and Lecturer of English Rosemary Royston, '89, started working at YHC in 1994 and joined the English faculty in 2011. After graduating from YHC, Royston earned her bachelor's degree in

English from the University of Georgia and her M.F.A. in writing from Spalding University.





DESCRIBE YOUR FAMILY'S HISTORY WITH YHC. My wife, Rita, started working in housekeeping at YHC eight years ago. We have been married for 34 years. We actually met while playing softball at YHC. Rita is loving and kind and always by your side. She's always helping out even without asking. Her uncles, aunts and grandfather all worked at YHC. My brother, Gary, also worked here on maintenance and grounds crew. Unfortunately, he passed away in 2002 from cancer. Rita and I have two daughters who share the same August birthday one year apart—Ashley is 21 and Emily is 20. They both still live here. Ashley took core classes at YHC and the University of North Georgia as she pursues a nursing degree. Rita and I have a 10-minute commute to work from a house we built in the Track Rock area that sits on two acres of land we purchased from Rita's grandfather.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR FAVORITE SPOTS TO VISIT OUTSIDE OF CAMPUS? I like to go to Helton Creek Falls for the beautiful waterfalls, Bell Mountain because of the amazing views, and Cooper's Creek which is back in the woods and far away from everything.

YHC IS KNOWN FOR ITS GORGEOUS FLORAS—AND YOU HELP PICK THE ARRAY OF FLOWERS ON CAMPUS EACH YEAR. WHAT'S THAT PROCESS LIKE? Flower orders need to be put in six months ahead of time. Tulip bulbs are ordered in the summer for fall planting with the tulips blooming in the spring. We put violas on top to give color, as they can withstand cold. This way, we have color during the winter months prior to tulips blooming. Zinnias, angelonias and impatiens are the summer flowers. Angelonias can withstand dry areas, so we use those for the areas that don't have irrigation.

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE EVENT ON CAMPUS? Weekends are actually my favorite time on campus. Previous students come back and mingle and talk with staff and current students. There are still things going on, but there's definitely a calmer, more peaceful atmosphere. It's also easier to get grounds worked on without too many people on campus because there aren't class changes to compete with or big groups of students walking around.

YOU HAVE OFTEN GONE ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY—LIKE SPENDING ALL NIGHT SHOVELING SNOW TO KEEP THE CAMPUS SAFE. WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO GET THE JOB DONE EVEN WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES AREN'T IDEAL? We are here to look out for the students. It's our job to do the best we can and to keep things safe.

THE 2015 EDITION OF THE ENOTAH YEARBOOK IS DEDICATED TO YOU AND RITA. FORMER PHYSICAL PLANT GENERAL MANAGER RUSTY ROYSTON, '88, SAID, "BECAUSE OF WHAT THEY DO, WE WILL REMEMBER OUR EXPERIENCE HERE AS THE TIME WE FOUND OUR YOUNG HARRIS FAMILY." HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE FAMILY YOU HAVE AT YHC? All the faculty and staff always talk to you and do not act like they are better than you. And I have always had pleasant interactions with our students the whole time I've worked here. There is very much a family atmosphere.

WHAT HAS DEFINED YOUR YHC EXPERIENCE? Everybody works together to try to accomplish what needs to get done. It's very important to have folks who work together to accomplish the goals we set.

WHAT DO YOU LOVE MOST ABOUT LIVING AND WORKING IN THE NORTH GEORGIA MOUNTAINS? I'm not a city guy! There's a slower pace here. It's usually a bit cooler than it is going south of here. I just love the mountains. I don't care about the beach. Go out west if you want to see something different!

THIS EDITION OF ECHOES IS ALL ABOUT THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF YHC. WHAT DO YOU THINK BEST DEFINES THESE THREE ERAS? I think of the College's past as a steppingstone and a good, solid foundation. What has been defining our present is establishing ourselves as a four-year College—and all of the new people, majors, buildings, sports and activities that have come with that. I think in the future we can expect even more new degrees that will help more people around here for whatever they need schooling for.

MY TOP 3: SPOTS TO STOP AND LOOK AROUND ON CAMPUS

Larry Brown has dedicated more than three decades to keeping Young Harris College as picturesque as a postcard and, in doing so, has likely seen every view of campus at every time of day at every time of year. These are his three favorite spots to frequent.

1. The "Middle Grounds"

I'm partial to the "middle grounds." The area from Hillgrove through the Campus Plaza is my favorite part of campus. There's so much activity. It's the main part of campus that we try to keep looking the best. It's definitely our high-priority area.



2. Susan B. Harris Chapel

The Chapel is one of my favorite spots because it's our oldest building, so it has a lot of history and has withstood the passage of so much time.



3. Rollins Campus Center

I always like visiting the Rollins Campus Center because it constantly has lots of events and things going on.



MOUNTAIN LION LUMINARY: KAREN WILLIAMS

BY KRYSTIN DEAN | PHOTOGRAPH BY SCOTT DEAN

There's a reason Karen Williams is known as "Mama Karen" to many Young Harris College students. Her office door is always open and her warm smile greets every visitor, no matter if it's someone she's known for years or only just met.

"My job is never boring," she said. "I love not knowing who will walk into the office next—a happy student, a student who needs help, a faculty member with questions, alumni with extraordinary stories, parents, senators, even an Appalachian Trail hiker. Many times I'm challenged to find a fix, know a fact, give directions, make fast decisions or give a hug."

Throughout 11 moves to six different states, Williams worked as a teacher until she and her husband, Gray, moved to Blairsville for his job in poultry research. She had two interviews on the same day in 1996: one with a public school system and the other with YHC's Office of Admissions as a receptionist and switchboard operator.

"It just felt right," said Williams, who arrived on campus just in time to organize orientation for the College Reps. She later worked as an admissions specialist before moving on to administrative assistant for the Office of Academic Affairs in 2006.

"It was the best blessing ever when I accepted a job here. The YHC heart and soul truly inspires me to be a better person," said Williams. "This College touches the lives of others as soon as they step on campus. They feel the love and compassion just as I did 22 years ago."

Williams has often spread that feeling—like a memorable spring break in 2005 when a Swedish student needed an emergency appendectomy and Williams "adopted" him for the week. She still hears from his family each Christmas. "Strong connections are made at YHC," she said with a smile.

Williams has helped out with SPAT Club and Dorcas Society ever since the latter made her an honorary member in 1998. She became the Dorcas advisor last year and called the group "strong and independent—the epitome of humility and unselfish accomplishments."

Williams plans the annual Academic Convocation each fall and the Honors Ceremony each spring, and she's on the Commencement planning committee. Each year, she reflects on how the campus community has grown as well as who is moving on to new adventures.

"The YHC experience is defined by growth for the mind, body and spirit. We all build bridges that we carry with us anywhere we go from here," she said. "As we go into the world, I would like to think we carry a piece of the golden spirit from YHC to always think of others before ourselves."

Two alumnae who did just that are Williams' daughters, Jayme Holcombe, '00, and Tiffany Caponigro, '01, who attended YHC as student-athletes on the tennis team. Williams said she "loved the girls attending YHC as much as they did."

Holcombe recently opened her own physical therapy business in Colorado, while Caponigro works as a risk and compliance consultant in Iowa. Williams visits their families—including her grandchildren, Syanna, 4, and Grayson, 2—as often as possible, along with her "spunky" 95-year-old mother who lives in Virginia.

Williams is quick to point out that she still has relatives nearby. "The faculty and staff at YHC are my dear adopted family," she said. "I just love the people and their dedication to the College. Faculty, staff and students of the past continue to love YHC as much as the present."

As for the future, Williams is ready for whatever comes next. After all, she's had nine supervisors and changed office locations seven times—and she's watched YHC add 50 full-time faculty members since 2006.

"I'm excited about Dr. Van Horn's vision and the possibilities that are ahead. I predict unity and growth within the YHC family," she said. "I've always welcomed change at work and at home. I get tired of the same old thing. We need to keep changing in order to keep growing."

Williams' grandfather,
Rev. Bob Childress, was a
Presbyterian minister who
built six rock churches in
Virginia, many along the Blue
Ridge Parkway. He brought
Christianity to a section of
Appalachia that had none.
The book "A Man Who Moved
A Mountain" describes his
trials and tribulations.



A Giving Heart

BY KELLY CRAWFORD
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MADDY ELLEDGE, '16

"Where is Young Harris?" That's the question O.V. Lewis asked when he was invited to Young Harris College for an interview in 1952 after teaching high school for two years in Wayne and Appling counties in South Georgia.

"I didn't know that there was anything north of Atlanta," Lewis said. "However, when I came across Neal's Gap, I knew I would never return to the flatlands."

Lewis worked at the College for nearly half a century, serving as an instructor of business at Young Harris College for 48 years and registrar for 31 years—ultimately retiring in 2000 with the longest tenure of any previous YHC employee.

"Certainly, the cordial faculty and staff, the glorious history of the College—especially the interaction with the students, and the knowledge that I could become an integral part of it all, were the reasons I came," said Lewis, "but the sheer majesty and grandeur of the mountains were, and still are, the compelling forces that keep me here."

Lewis said that, through the decades, YHC has also been set apart by the frequent face-to-face interactions between faculty and students. From dialoguing with student artists in YHC's gallery to cheering on student-athletes, time spent together outside of the classroom makes a measurable impact.

"I think the whole College is built around that concept of student-faculty involvement and cooperation and recognition," said Lewis. "I've been to eight different colleges and universities in my life, and I've never had the feeling at any of those institutions that I have at Young Harris. A school's wealth and bigness—that doesn't have anything to do with education. It's all about the interactions the student has with the faculty, being able to relate with each other."

Those whose lives have been influenced by Lewis sing his praises. Ron Hinson, '76, YHC's Board of Trustees vice chair and retired EVP, CFO, treasurer, and comptroller of Georgia Power Company, said, "I owe O.V. more than I could ever repay in terms of his impact on my field of study and career."

"O.V. is a unique individual who had a significant influence on my success at YHC and my life in general ever since," added Dorsey Grist, '88, who serves as senior vice president at United Community Bank in Lawrenceville.

Lewis's syllabus was built around the idea of giving students something outside of the textbook. "If you can't use it, you don't think about it," explained Lewis, who always asked students to share career aspirations and regularly customized the curriculum to reflect that—such as adding a unit on stock and bonds that ended up being a huge highlight of the course.

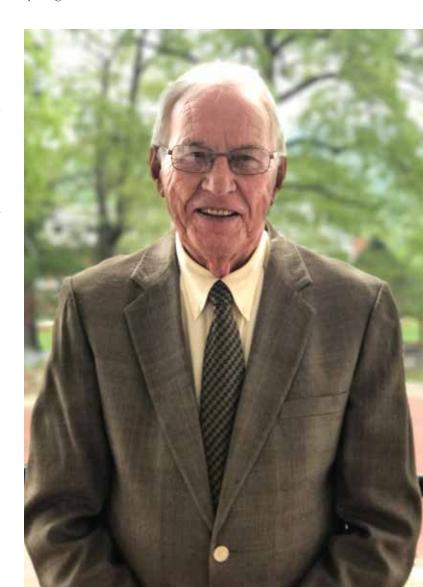
YHC Class Coordinator Rudy Harrell, '71, of Atlanta, said he will never forget the moment he was informed by Lewis that he likely wouldn't pass his accounting course—which meant he also wouldn't be able to graduate.

"Until that moment, I'd been a kid that cared little about debits and credits or much of anything else," recalled Harrell. "But I sure didn't want to embarrass my parents, who were scheduled to arrive one week later to attend my graduation."

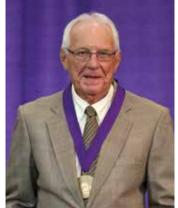
Lewis enlisted a student tutor to help Harrell and also spent hours of his own time sitting on the back steps of his house on campus going over the material that would appear on the final exam. "He probably doubted the material would ever sink into my thick head," joked Harrell.

With Lewis's personal commitment to Harrell's education, he passed the final and walked across the stage to receive his diploma just days later. The experience had a profound impact on Harrell's life.

"O.V. is truly a man of quality and integrity that students should only pray they have the opportunity to call their professor," said Harrell. "It was this man that showed me at 19 that if there is anything you want badly enough—even when the odds are against you—if you work hard enough, then you can accomplish your goal."











LEFT TO RIGHT Lewis served as registrar for 31 years in addition to his teaching duties.
Lewis received the Young Harris College Medallion in 2017.
Lewis's syllabus was built around the idea of giving students something outside of the textbook.
Lewis always enjoys mingling with friends and former students during Alumni Weekend.

More than three decades after he graduated from YHC, Harrell was named the top real estate producer in Atlanta. Out of the blue, he received what he called "a kind but slightly sarcastic letter" from Lewis—who, it turned out, had been following his career for years. Harrell laughed when he read the line: "I knew you would not be president of a bank but that your personality would take you far."

The loyalty of Lewis's students runs deep. Undoubtedly, that's because of his unparalleled commitment to them—both inside and outside of the classroom—that has often lasted well beyond graduation.

"Without any regrets, I have given my entire adult life to Young Harris College," said Lewis. "Today, my former students are some of my best friends, and I take great pride in hearing of their success. What I have received from my students is far greater than what I have given them."

Lewis is also deeply devoted to the surrounding community. He serves on the vestry as an active member of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in Hayesville, N.C., and has served on the Board of Assessors and as a poll manager for Union County.

He has also served as an auditor for various municipalities and small businesses, and he was appointed to the Board of Directors for Southern Acceptance Corp. He's also known to prepare the income tax returns, without fee, for many of the College's faculty and staff members.

Lewis has been retired for 18 years, but his unwavering dedication to the College is still clear. He's generous with his time, talent, and resources as he continues to devote his life to bettering the College and its students.

As a member of the Harry and Harriet Hill Society for Planned Gifts, Lewis has made provisions in his will to support YHC students in perpetuity through the O.V. Lewis Endowed Scholarship.

"My whole life is here and, quite naturally, I will make every effort I can to pay back what the College has contributed to my well-being and my profession," said Lewis. "A gift that you make in dollars and cents adds to a personal satisfaction—it gives you a fulfilling feeling of love and care for the institution—and it's also providing preparation for life for the recipient."

Lewis said that his favorite time spent on campus in recent

Lewis has visited all 50 states and all continents except
Antarctica

years—other than his visits to YHC's Recreation and Fitness Center, where you can find him at 6:15 a.m. five days a week—was at the College's Scholarship Luncheon that allows donors and student recipients to meet and mingle.

"That program made me teary-eyed," said Lewis. "To have the students give their thoughts about what the scholarship meant to them, how it helped them to be able to afford to come to Young Harris—and then to give the donors the opportunity to share their appreciation for the student... I thought that feeling was just tremendous."

Lewis was presented the Young Harris College Medallion, which is the highest honor bestowed by YHC to alumni and friends of the College, during the College's Commencement ceremony in 2017.

Leading up to the event, his former students raised \$70,000 to add to his endowed scholarship fund. This special tribute, together with Lewis's generous bequest, will allow his legacy to live on and benefit Young Harris College for generations to come.

"I think right now that with President Van Horn, the College is on a new route to becoming everything I have ever wanted it to be," said Lewis, who is especially pleased about the addition of an accounting major at YHC.

"Our students should have an employable skill upon graduation—something they can do when they leave here," said Lewis. "Adding accounting back into the curriculum is something we had to do. It was a must, and Dr. Van Horn recognized that."

When YHC's new president reached out to Lewis for his opinions and seal of approval when crafting the new degree program, he decided to get an up-to-date accounting textbook. Just in case.

"I'm 87 years old and my work has already been done here, but as far as going back to be a supply person or something like that?" Lewis smiled. "I've got my suit ready."

Luckily for YHC, Lewis is still in the neighborhood—and his mentoring days are far from over.

Friends and Family

BY KRYSTIN DEAN
PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHARLIE ROUTH

The Young Harris College family is vast and extends beyond students, alumni, faculty and staff to include dedicated supporters like Mary Broadrick who are playing a vital part in the school's ever-evolving story.

Broadrick's fondness for the College began with her father, the late George H. Broadrick, '41, who served with distinction as a member of YHC's Board of Trustees for 14 years and as an emeritus trustee for 29 years.

"My father's love of and loyalty to Young Harris was so important to him," said Broadrick. "He never forgot what he gained from being a student there. He always wanted what was best for the College and the students."

Mr. Broadrick made the most of his student days at YHC, and his outgoing personality made him very popular with his classmates. He served as class president, captain of the basketball team and a champion debater in the Young Harris Debate Society.

He was also a member of the Quill Club, where he became friends with noted poet Byron Herbert Reece, '40, who later taught at YHC.

"They were very good friends," Broadrick explained. "Reece was around five years older than my dad and, I think, a little different than the other students, but they must have bonded over their poetry. No one would believe that my father wrote very beautiful poetry."

Broadrick has a copy of the letter Reece wrote to her parents when she was born, along with several books Reece sent to her father with handwritten notes on the pages that allude to memories they shared at YHC.

One note written in a copy of "Ballad of the Bones" said, "Remembering the days at Young Harris College where, among other things, we conspired to fleece Mr. Rich of money to finance the Quill Club Anthology."

"There's no telling what else they may have been up to," said Broadrick, whose father corresponded with Reece until his untimely death in 1958.

After graduating from YHC, Mr. Broadrick joined the U.S. Army Air Corps and served as a navigator during World War II and the Korean War. He was later stationed at Warner Robbins Air Force Base as a Stat Officer Captain.

He was the recipient of three Purple Hearts and two Distinguished Service Flying Crosses, among other honors. Mr. Broadrick attended Harvard University for training as a statistical officer while in service, and later graduated from Mercer University.

He served as president of First Citizens Bank in Charlotte, N.C., and was highly involved in the community as president of the



Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, a Rotarian and Kiwanis Club member, just to name a few.

Broadrick described her father as a family man and "a true southern gentleman." He enjoyed 65 loving years of marriage with his wife, June, until he passed away in 2011.

"He was, until the day he died, an extremely humble man. He never liked the limelight and was never comfortable with recognition and accolades," said Broadrick. "He would much rather come home to us after work than go out and socialize."

Broadrick was "very shy" as a child and attended a private Christian high school where the small setting allowed her to thrive. "Not everyone is meant to be in a large school or even a university," she said. "Sometimes being a big fish in a small pond is better."

She went on to attend a nearby community college where she discovered she was interested in pursuing a career in law enforcement. "I didn't want to become an officer, just something where I could be a part of police work," she explained.

This led Broadrick to attend business school and, by 1975, she was employing what she learned while working for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department. She served in different bureaus, including five years in the crime lab, before transitioning into human resources. She retired from her role as benefits coordinator in 2003.

Every chapter of her life has had one constant: Young Harris College. She began visiting the campus at a young age with her parents. Her first vivid recollection is from the mid-1960s when she sat on a bench "for what seemed like hours" waiting for her parents

to emerge from an event going on inside Glenn Auditorium.

"I was relegated to the bench because we had a dog I had to watch after," explained Broadrick, who added that subsequent pilgrimages to the Enchanted Valley—including many Alumni Weekends—were much more, well, enchanting. "I grew to love the campus more and more with every visit."

When she married her husband, John Moffitt, in 1999, he fit right into the Young Harris family, forming bonds with her dad's former classmates who regaled the couple with stories of their student days at YHC.

In 2015, they came to the College for the annual YHC Scholarship Luncheon. Broadrick said she was "stunned" by all of the new facilities, including the Rollins Campus Center that now serves as the social and intellectual heart of campus. "They all fit in perfectly with the campus I remembered," she said.

During the event, the couple had the opportunity to get to know some of the students who had benefited from the George H. Broadrick, June T. Broadrick and Mary Broadrick Scholarship that was established by her father in 1991.

"Many of my father's friends and fellow students needed assistance with their tuition, which I believe is what led him to endow a scholarship," said Broadrick. "My father had told me in the past to invest my money in these students, and John and I felt the same way."

That's why they recently created the Broadrick Moffitt Endowed Scholarship for a deserving student majoring in business and public policy who would likely be unable to attend the College without the assistance of the scholarship.

The first recipient was Sam Gaston, a junior from Lilburn, who is involved with YHC's Campus Ministry Team, College Republicans, Equestrian Club and SPAT Club. He is a work-study student for the Office of Student Involvement and works for Chick-fil-A on campus.

Gaston has already completed two internships, one in Atlanta with State Representative Matt Gurtler and another in Washington, D.C., with the Council of State Government, where he primarily wrote about election cyber security.

"He is an exceptional young man," said Broadrick. "He is an example of what is good and right with young men and women. We are so proud of him and what he has already accomplished in his two years at Young Harris. He is a great representative for the College."

In 1996, George Broadrick was awarded the President's Medallion for his outstanding service to YHC.

When former YHC President Cathy Cox asked Broadrick to join the Board of Trustees last year, she said she "realized that this was something I wanted and needed to do." She serves on the distinctive student experience and academic identity committees.

"I feel strongly that the Board of Trustees wants the best for every aspect of this school," she said. "Even though many of us did not attend YHC, we have developed a love for and commitment to this special place."

Broadrick and her husband enjoy attending athletic events at YHC and have taken a particular interest in the golf program by attending some of the team's tournaments and, most notably, donating funds needed to construct a state-of-the-art putting green that's located next to the YHC Athletics offices across the street from campus.

"My husband and I are so proud of Young Harris and its continued commitment to the students," she said. "John has made some good friends and is very eager to support the school. Of course, he is thrilled with the fact that he can play golf while I'm at my board meetings."

The couple can often be found displaying Mountain Lion pride outside of campus visits—from their purple shirts and baseball caps, to the decals on their cars, to Moffitt's golf bag that has already made two trips to Scotland.

"I think, in his day-to-day wardrobe, John is actually representing the College wearing his golf attire more than I do," Broadrick admitted, adding that their YHC gear often provides opportunities to promote Young Harris.

"We talk about YHC a lot," she said. "I'll tell anyone who asks about the beautiful campus nestled in the mountains of Georgia. I say that it's small enough not to feel overwhelmed, with caring and dedicated staff and faculty who want nothing but the best for the students. I talk about the lifelong friendships and memories you will make."

Spoken like a true member of the Young Harris family.

LEFT TO RIGHT Athletics Director Randy Dunn and his wife, Susan, mingled with Mary Broadrick and her husband, John Moffitt.

Broadrick and her parents, June and George, frequented the campus together through the years.

The Broadricks were lifelong supporters of YHC and established the George H. Broadrick, June T. Broadrick and Mary Broadrick Scholarship in 1991.









ANNUAL CLAY DOTSON OPEN Offers Rewarding Challenge for Golfers

The 14th annual Clay Dotson Open golf tournament to benefit student scholarships at Young Harris College was held in May 2018 at Brasstown Valley Resort. Nearly 150 players helped raise more than \$95,000 while enjoying morning and afternoon flights followed by an awards ceremony.

More than 95 percent of YHC students receive some form of financial assistance, and all proceeds from the Clay Dotson Open are used toward scholarships for YHC students.

Prize categories included overall winners for each flight, as well as second and third place for each flight, longest drive and closest to the pin. The tournament also featured the annual Alumni Team Challenge.

"The tournament helps provide our students the financial support they need to grow, learn and succeed at YHC," said Executive Director of Development Mark Dotson, '88. "It's also a great way to bring alumni and friends of the College together for a fun day of golf and fellowship."

The tournament, which was founded in the mid-1990s, was renamed the Clay Dotson Open in 2005 to honor the former history professor, academic dean and interim president's 42 years of service to YHC and his love for golf. Since then, the tournament has raised \$1,246,815 for student scholarships.

"I am thankful for my scholarship because I would not be able to attend YHC without it," senior education major Meghan McQuade, of Hayesville, N.C., said. "The support of the local community has allowed me to get a great education close to home and to grow as an individual."

The 2019 Clay Dotson Open will be held on Monday, May 13. For player registration and sponsorship opportunities, visit **yhc.edu/claydotsonopen** or contact Executive Director of Development Mark Dotson, '88, at (706) 379-5355 or mcdotson@yhc.edu.



YOUR ACT OF GENEROSITY, OUR LONGEVITY

The W. Harry and Harriet Hill Society for Planned Gifts allows Young Harris College to thank and recognize individuals who have provided for some form of a future gift. Through charitable bequests, insurance policies and other forms of planned gifts, Hill Society members create a lasting legacy for many YHC students, faculty and programs that will transform the lives of future generations.

You may become a member of the Hill Society in many ways: making a bequest in a will or living trust, designating the College as a beneficiary in a retirement plan or life insurance policy, establishing a charitable remainder trust or making any other planned gift that provides for the College's future.

Planned gifts are designed to help alumni and friends of YHC meet financial and charitable goals while supporting the College in the long term. If you have already arranged a future gift, we hope you will notify the Office of Advancement of your planned gift. You are among our most important donors, and we would like the opportunity to thank you.

Learn more about planned giving at **yhc.giftlegacy.com**.

YHC BOARD OF TRUSTEES TO MATCH NEW GIFTS AND GIFT INCREASES FOR THE 2018-2019 CLASS SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGE

Alumni from across the generations are rallying together to help deserving students attend their alma mater through the annual Class Scholarship Challenge. This year, YHC's Board of Trustees will match up to \$250,000 for new gifts or gift increases made by March 1, 2019.

This is a great opportunity for new participants to make a first gift go further—and those who gave last year can take advantage of the match by increasing this year's contribution. All gifts raise a class's total giving amount while, most importantly, increasing the amount of scholarships offered to deserving YHC students.

Many alumni were able to attend YHC because someone cared enough to provide them with financial assistance. Now, they have the chance to pay it forward—while also engaging in a friendly competition that promotes unity and spirit within each class.

The challenge, which is organized by Class Coordinators, encourages each class to raise \$1,000 or more each year for scholarships that are awarded each fall to current and incoming YHC students. There is power in numbers. If 100 members of a class give just \$10, the class will reach its goal.

The Class of 1957 was the winner of the Class Scholarship Challenge in 2017-2018.

Accept the Class Scholarship Challenge at classchallenge.yhc.edu. For more information, contact your Class Coordinator or Director of Annual Giving Mackenzie Harkins at (706) 379-5318 or mharkins@yhc.edu.

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE CLASSCHALLENGE.YHC.EDU



4HC Recognizes Those Who Give at Leadership Levels

The 1886 Young Harris Society is Young Harris College's premier annual giving recognition circle for those who give at leadership levels to support the College's mission. Members are committed to helping YHC succeed—and give generously to ensure that it does.

Society members are kept informed of YHC's successes and developments through personal communication from President Drew L. Van Horn, Ph.D., and other College leadership. Members also enjoy several opportunities to engage with the College, including private dinners and special events on campus and around the country.

Those who contribute gifts of \$1,000 or more made during the College's fiscal year (July 1 to June 30) qualify for 1886 Young Harris Society membership. Gifts, which may be made with one payment or via multiple payments, are directed to the College and its various projects and programs. There are several initiatives underway at YHC that gifts from alumni and friends can support:

- Young Harris Fund
- Class Scholarship Challenge
- Local Scholarship Campaign
- Athletics
- Friends of the Arts
- Endowed Scholarships

Learn more about how to join the 1886 Young Harris Society at **yhc.edu/giving** or contact the Office of Advancement at (706) 379-5173 or advancement@vhc.edu.

MOUNTAIN LIONS ROUNDUP

2017-2018 SEASONS

YHC saw 42 student-athletes named to their respective All-Peach Belt (PBC), Gulf South (GSC) and Great Lakes Valley (GLVC) conference teams during the 2017-2018 seasons. + YHC saw 61 student-athletes named to their respective PBC All-Academic teams in 2017-2018. + YHC saw 29 student-athletes named a PBC, GSC or GLVC Player of the Week in 2017-2018. + Four student-athletes were recognized as Player of the Year in their conference: soccer; Bevan Pate, a sophomore from Keller, Texas, for lacrosse; Zach Stephenson, a junior from Peachtree City, for lacrosse; and Hannah Sacristan, a junior g, a junior from Narborough, England, for for lacrosse. King was also named to the United Soccer Coaches NCAA Division II All-America Second Team. + abby Coumes, a senior from Loganville, and David Wallin, 15 award for soccer and golf, respectively. Coumes was also the first YHC women's soccer player to be named to the College Sports Information Directors of America Division II Academic All-America® Women's Soccer Third Team. + tto, a junior from Rome, Italy, was named to the United Soccer Coaches NCAA Division II Men's Soccer Scholar All-America team. + Samantha Hu named the GSC Women's Lacrosse Coach of the Year, while MacConnell was named the GLVC Men's Lacrosse Coach of the Year. + The men's soccer team was named the NCAA Division II Southeast Region Coaching Staff of the Year by the United Soccer Coaches. + Both soccer teams earned the Team Academic Award from the United Soccer Coaches—marking the seventh consecutive year for the men's team and the fourth consecutive year for the women's team. + Baseball earned its first-ever trip to the PBC Tournament in the program's history after winning 15 PBC contests—the most-ever for the Mountain Lions. Michael Livingston, a senior from Suwanee, was named to the All-Southeast Region Second Team by the American Baseball Coaches Association, the National Collegiate Baseball Writers Association (NCBWA) and the Division II Conference Commissioners Association. Livingston was also named the NCBWA Division II Southeast Region Pitcher Adairsville, was designated Hitter of the Week. + s, a freshman from Cumming, was named the YHC's first-ever National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA) All-American in the NCAA era. Harris, who was named to the Third Team, was also recognized as one of eight finalists for the NFCA NCAA Division II Freshman of the Year. + named to their respective Google Cloud Academic All-District® III teams. + YHC's golf teams both received the PBC Team Sportsmanship Award—marking the first time the men's team received the award and the third time for the women's team.







MEN'S SOCCER WINS SECOND REGIONAL TITLE

In Fall 2017, the men's soccer team earned their second NCAA Division II Southeast Regional title in the past four seasons as they defeated No. 13-ranked Lander University 3-2 in double overtime. A header goal made by freshman Seba Andreassen, of Ålesund, Norway, 41 seconds into the second overtime gave the Mountain Lions the win.

Young Harris defeated three ranked teams—Lenoir-Rhyne University, Limestone College and Lander University—to earn the region title. Young Harris advanced to the quarterfinals in the NCAA tournament before losing to No. 2-ranked Lynn University 2-1. The team ended the season with a 14-4-2 record and a No. 12 national ranking.







LACROSSE TEAMS TAKE HOME CONFERENCE TITLES

YHC's women's lacrosse team won the Gulf South Conference (GSC) title in 2018 for the third consecutive year with a perfect 8-0 league ledger. Young Harris won a program-best 14 games and claimed their third GSC Invitational Tournament title as they defeated the University of Alabama in Huntsville 20-6 in the title match.

The men's team, which has played as an independent since the program launched in 2013, won the inaugural Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC) regular season title with a perfect 5-0 league mark. Young Harris, which defeated two nationally ranked teams and won 13 consecutive matches during the season—a program best, advanced to the GLVC Tournament championship before falling to the University of Indianapolis 12-8.

MEN'S BASKETBALL COACH

PETE HERRMANN RETIRES

Pete Herrmann has served as a collegiate head or assistant coach for more than 38 years. In 2009, he was selected as the first men's basketball head coach for the Mountain Lions in four decades since the program was discontinued in 1969.

"To all of the supporters we have at Young Harris from the community and the College, it has been a terrific experience over the last eight seasons," said Herrmann. "The administration, community and other sports teams here have made my stay in the Enchanted Valley really enjoyable."

Herrmann recorded a 114-102 mark at YHC and coached eight players to All-



Peach Belt (PBC) honors, including three who were named to an all-region team. Six of his players were named to the PBC All-Academic Men's Basketball Team, and two were named to the prestigious College Sports Information Directors of America Academic All-America® Division II Men's Basketball Team.

"The biggest thanks goes to the players that restarted the program here," said Herrmann. "We were always in the hunt every year. They earned the respect of everyone in the Peach Belt."

Soon after re-establishing YHC's basketball program, Herrmann led Young Harris to a 22-4 record during the 2011-2012 season and was honored by the Georgia Basketball Coaches Association as their NCAA Division II Coach of the Year.

Before coming to Young Harris, Herrmann coached at the University of Georgia for six seasons and Navy for 12 years. He also coached at Kansas State University, University of Virginia and Western Kentucky University. Prior to his 29 years as a coach at the NCAA Division I level, Herrmann spent 10 years coaching at the high school and NCAA Division III levels.

Herrmann's teams have won 15 regular season or tournament conference championships. Twenty-four teams advanced to the postseason and nine teams advanced to the NCAA tournament—including two in the Elite Eight and one in the final four.

"I'm thankful to Coach Herrmann for his commitment, hard work and dedication to building the men's basketball program here. The professionalism he displayed helped bring respect to the College, alumni and team," said YHC Athletic Director Randy Dunn. "As a coach, I've always felt Pete is one of the best I've ever been associated with during my career. I always felt we were never out of a game when he was coaching. As Pete enters into retirement, I wish him and his wife, Sharon, the very best."





COMPETITIVE CHEERLEADING TEAM FINISHES IN THIRD AT NATIONALS

The competitive cheerleading large coed team came in third place for Division II at the National Cheerleading Association's (NCA) Collegiate Cheer Championship held in Daytona Beach, Fla. It was the sixth consecutive year the Mountain Lions qualified for nationals.

The Mountain Lions, who earned a silver bid to nationals, finished with a score of 92.40 in the preliminaries and advanced to the final round, earning a score of 90.63. Young Harris was the top PBC institution in the competition, outscoring rival Columbus State University by over two points.

BASKETBALL TEAMS LOOK TO NEW LEADERSHIP



MEN'S BASKETBALL: JEREMY CURRIER

Jeremy Currier was selected as the men's basketball head coach after 11 seasons at Pfeiffer University. He led the Falcons to 47 wins with one of the most potent offenses over the past two seasons as Pfeiffer scored 100 points or more in 40 games.

Last season, Currier guided the Falcons to a 21-4 record in their first season as an NCAA Division III institution. They were ranked No. 1 nationally by three different outlets and won two in-season tournaments while averaging a program-best 110 points per game. The team led the NCAA in total

steals, steals per game, forced turnovers and turnover margin while also setting 10 school records.

"From incredible fan support, to high-level academics, to first-class facilities and the ability to recruit at the highest level, everything is in place at Young Harris to build an elite program," said Currier. "My family and I are honored to become a part of the Mountain Lion family, and I look forward to adding to its storied history."



WOMEN'S BASKETBALL: JIM DAVIS

New women's basketball head coach Jim Davis knows what it takes to lead the Mountain Lions to victory after previously serving as an assistant coach at Young Harris College—and helping create the program—from 2011-2013.

His résumé includes four seasons at Tennessee Technological University, 18 highly successful seasons at Clemson University, six years at Roane State Community College, one championship season at Middle Tennessee State University and one year in the WNBA with the Minnesota Lynx.

"My wife, Bobbie, and I are thrilled to be back in the Enchanted Valley," said Davis. "We love the people—they are our kind of people. Obviously, we have some work to do here to bring up our talent level to the rest of the PBC. We think we can get it done and look forward to the challenge."

SOFTBALL AND MEN'S GOLF ADVANCE TO POSTSEASON PLAY

For the third consecutive year, both the men's golf and softball teams earned trips to NCAA Division II postseason play.

The softball team, which finished in fourth place in the PBC and ranked No. 14 in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association NCAA Division II Coaches poll, went 35-21 this season. Young Harris, which was a No. 7 seed from the Southeast region, won the Hickory Regional before advancing to the program's first-ever appearance in the NCAA Division II Southeast Super Regional.

The men's golf team, which landed in third place in the PBC Championship, finished first or tied for first in four tournaments this season. The Mountain Lions were ranked No. 20 in the Bushnell Golfweek Golf Coaches Association of America Division II Coaches Poll and finished in 15th place at the NCAA Division II South/ Southeast Regional.





A Tale of Two GENERATIONS

BY KRYSTIN DEAN | PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE HANNA SWANSON, '09

It seems cliché to say that it was fate that brought the families of Young Harris College basketball teammates Sara Jorgensen, '18, and Eryn Cochran, '18, together. But it's also an apt way to describe the extraordinary tale of two generations of student-athletes who shared the court and classroom—even though their homes are around 4,500 miles apart.

A PICTURE IS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS. This saying took on new meaning for Eryn and Sara one serendipitous day last fall. While scrolling through Instagram, Eryn stopped to study a throwback photo Sara posted with the caption: "Mom was ballin' at Hayesville High School 34 years ago, which is located 15 minutes from my college. Life is crazy."

Sara hails from Stockholm, Sweden, so it was surprising to see her mom wearing a jersey from the same high school Eryn had attended in her hometown of Hayesville, N.C. It was even more unexpected when Eryn spotted a familiar face in the front row of the team photo taken in 1982.

It was her mom.

Eryn said she "freaked out" and called her mom, Sara Cochran, to see if she remembered playing basketball with an international student from Sweden named Lena Jorgensen—and then commented on the post: "Holy cow! My mom's #21!"

Sara said she "really couldn't believe it" when Eryn told her about their moms' shared history. "It just felt like it was even more meant to be that I chose YHC," said Sara, whose college search organically led her to Young Harris as she sought out a way to play basketball overseas.



Sara Jorgensen's Instagram post about her mom, Lena, (#30) playing basketball at Hayesville High School caught her teammate Eryn Cochran's eye when she spotted her mom, Sara, (#21) in the throwback photo.

Mrs. Jorgensen recognized the College's name and was excited at the prospect of her daughter studying in the same part of the U.S. she once did.

"My mom told me about the beautiful scenery and said that a smaller school would fit my personality," recalled Sara, who ultimately chose YHC because it "seemed like a great fit" for her to grow both on the court and in the classroom.

A love of athletics also led Mrs. Jorgensen to study abroad. As a teenager, she played team handball at the semipro level in Sweden until a knee injury sidelined her from the sport.

"Handball had been a huge part of my life, but since it was no longer an option for me, I decided it was time for a change," explained Mrs. Jorgensen, who was offered the opportunity to study in Hayesville through the exchange program Nacel Open Door.

"I wanted to continue to train, and therefore decided to try every sport I could," said Mrs. Jorgensen, who worked as a PE assistant and joined the track, basketball and softball teams.

Mrs. Cochran described Mrs. Jorgensen as an "integral part" of the success of their high school sports teams and vividly recalled her "intense, self-imposed training regiment" for track season.



"As an underclassman, I had many talented teammates to look up to and learn from," said Mrs. Cochran, "but I had not encountered anyone who seemed to love running and training as much as I did."

Mrs. Jorgensen remembered Mrs. Cochran as a "very energetic and happy person"—which closely paralleled Sara's description of Eryn's "positive attitude and drive."

Eryn grew up cheering on the Mountain Lions. Her older sister, Casey Evans, '08, ran cross country at YHC, and the Cochran family often took advantage of the College's family-friendly activities—athletic events, fine arts programming, summer camps, planetarium shows and holiday festivities.

"Long before my girls were thinking of or planning for college, they were blessed to have one of the most beautiful campuses just minutes from home," said Mrs. Cochran. "And this same College, all those years ago, staffed with forward-minded administrators and generous benefactors, was already thinking of them and their futures. That's pretty special."

Eryn started her college basketball career at Columbus State University before transferring to YHC her junior year. Eryn and Sara guarded each other while playing on opposing teams, and standing side by side sparked remarks about the student-athletes' physical resemblance.

"I always heard how I looked like the other #3 on the court," said Eryn, who noted that her first photos with her friend are, ironically, from those matchups before they even officially met.

ONCE IN A BLUE MOON. That's how often someone you cross paths with, thanks to timing and circumstance, later becomes a best friend. That's what happened to Sara and Eryn, whose likenesses became even more noticeable when Eryn became a Mountain Lion—and exchanged her #3 for #10.

"We became extremely close when we realized we did pretty much everything similarly," said Eryn. "We ran about the same pace, we looked for passes and cuts the same way, and we got frustrated over the same things, which allowed us to handle each other well when there were successes and struggles."

Eryn's favorite moment on the court with Sara was the second-to-last play of a home game against Columbus State. Eryn brought the ball down the court and passed to Sara in the corner, who then assisted Briana Bell, '18, of Stone Mountain, with the gamewinning three-pointer to beat CSU in overtime.

"Although Sara and I just did the passing, I think that play showed the skills and decision-making ability of all three of us, and our ability to execute under pressure," Eryn explained.

Sara enjoyed lighter moments when the teammates would "totally goof off to a good song"—and said they could "share all of the ups and downs" that are part of being a student-athlete who aims to succeed both athletically and academically on a daily basis.

Eryn and Sara, both biology majors, eventually became roommates and supported each other while completing labs, finishing papers, and practicing senior capstone presentations.

People want to go where they feel loved and welcome, and that's a true testament to Young Harris and the surrounding counties. It's a place that invites people back, where friendships can be made and connections in the community can last across borders, across oceans, across years.

FRYN COCHRAN

"I feel like I can manage any large project or presentation now because we were able to balance basketball games and practices along with our large workloads for our majors," said Eryn.

Sara, whose nickname on the team was, fittingly, "Sweden," said she found a "home away from home" thanks to the welcoming YHC community, and that studying abroad added an enriching layer to her educational experience.

"Just being in another country has prepared me for the future in many ways," she said, "but the high standards my professors and basketball family set have prepared me for anything I face in life."

Eryn and Sara both want to follow in their parents' footsteps by pursuing careers in the medical field. Sara plans to attend medical school in England and possibly specialize in sports medicine or pediatrics, while Eryn intends to enroll in a speech language pathology program on the West Coast.

"As a kid, I always saw my dad, who was a physician, helping others and making sure everyone he saw was taken care of in the best way possible," Eryn explained. "I knew I had a heart for helping people, and I truly love learning about speech and different languages."

Mrs. Jorgensen is a physiotherapist and runs her own clinic in Sweden. She said Sara has always been interested in learning about the rehabilitation of injuries and how to diagnose them.

"She's had her fair share of them herself, but has also been keen to help her teammates over the years," said Mrs. Jorgensen. "I think she will be a great fit for the profession."

IT'S A SMALL WORLD—especially thanks to social media, which allows students to share their everyday lives with family and friends across the globe.

The Jorgensens logged a lot of screen time on FaceTime, Snapchat and Instagram to keep in touch, and Mrs. Jorgensen got to return to the Enchanted Valley during a couple of visits.

"It's been so much fun for her to go abroad to pursue something she loves," said Mrs. Jorgensen. "I know from my own experience that you grow so much as a person, and I wanted that for Sara. She has grown so much, on and off the court, and it's been an exciting journey to watch."

Sara's parents followed her games online and quickly became familiar with the voice of Tommy Jenkins, who's known for providing colorful play-by-play commentary for YHC's basketball games.

"We just love Mr. Tommy," said Mrs. Jorgensen, who also appreciated receiving greetings from commentators from opposing teams during online broadcasts.

The Cochrans, on the other hand, only had to drive 15 minutes to catch Eryn's home games. While she admitted she was initially "nervous" that the close proximity to home might cost her some independence, that feeling quickly dissipated.

"My parents understood that I needed my space, but I also understand how important it is to see family," said Eryn, who regularly scheduled coffee catch-ups and dinner dates with her family.

Mrs. Cochran said that, as a "two-time YHC mom," she would recommend the College to any student-athlete who embraces a family atmosphere and wants to reach their fullest potential in the classroom and on the court or field.

"Eryn has always gravitated toward individuals and places that are uplifting and promote a positive atmosphere," said Mrs. Cochran. "Her experience at YHC was exactly that—and many lifelong friendships were forged through her academic, social and athletic activities."

The Cochrans and Jorgensens have reunited twice in person, once during a visit in January and again during Commencement in May when Eryn and Sara traded in their jerseys for caps and gowns.

"It was so great to reconnect with Lena through our girls," said Mrs. Cochran, who added that this experience has motivated her to take advantage of social media and the friendships it can renew—sometimes simply by posting a photo.

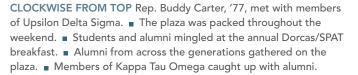
Eryn said her friendship with Sara "speaks volumes" about the interconnectedness that comes from being part of the extensive Young Harris family.

"People want to go where they feel loved and welcome, and that's a true testament to Young Harris and the surrounding counties," said Eryn. "It's a place that invites people back, where friendships can be made and connections in the community can last across borders, across oceans, across years."















YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE Alumni Weekend 2018

PHOTOGRAPHY BY BROOKE HANNA SWANSON, '09



The mountains called members of the Young Harris College family home to the Enchanted Valley during Alumni Weekend 2018, April 20–22.

"This year's Alumni Weekend gave everyone the chance to rediscover what makes YHC so special while also learning about all of the exciting ways the College continues to grow," said YHC Alumni Association President Charlotte McCloskey, '64.

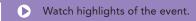
Alumni mingled with current students, faculty, and staff as they reconnected with classmates and mentors from their days at YHC. A committee chaired by Holly Gunter Royston, '01, planned a fun lineup of gatherings and events throughout the weekend.

On Friday, the College community celebrated the inauguration of YHC's 23rd president, Drew L. Van Horn, Ph.D., at Glenn~McGinnis Hall followed by a reception on the Campus Plaza. [See page 15 for a full inauguration recap.]

The highlight of Friday evening was the Half Century Club Dinner and Alumni Awards Ceremony in the Suber Banquet Hall of the Rollins Campus Center. Alumni gathered to reminisce and honor a group of outstanding alumni and friends. Members of the Class of 1968 were also recognized as special guests of the evening in commemoration of their 50th reunion.

On Saturday morning, alumni gathered for the annual Dorcas/SPAT breakfast, a morning coffee with President Van Horn and retired and emeriti faculty and staff, and a College Update presented by McCloskey and Dr. Van Horn.

View more photos of Alumni Weekend 2018 at flickr.com/youngharriscollege.











LEFT TO RIGHT Lunch was served on the patio of the Rollins Campus Center. • Members of the Class of 1975 reunited at the All-Class Social. • Breanna Gleeson, '14, and Zach Chamberlin, '15, were all smiles.

Shaw Carter, 16



Two events during Alumni Weekend were held in remembrance of Shaw Carter, '16.

A service of dedication was held at the Old Well on the lawn that was organized by the Alpha Omega fraternity, Spat Club, and young alumni who dedicated a plaque honoring Shaw's legacy of YHC spirit and service.

The Young Harris community also took part in the Young Harris 5K Run/Walk through campus that was hosted by the Rotaract Club Recreation and Fitness Center. Proceeds of the 5K benefitted the recently established Shaw Carter, '16, Memorial Fund.

Shaw passed away on Aug. 8, 2017, in Athens, Ga., at the age of 24. Born with a congenital heart defect, Shaw led a courageous life of faith, humor, hope and optimism.

He earned a full academic scholarship to YHC and was highly involved on campus as SPAT Club President, Student Government Association Senator, Alumni Ambassador, and member of the Honor Council and Alpha Omega fraternity. He graduated magna cum laude in 2016 and received the Young Harris Spirit award at graduation.

Shaw continued his education at the University of Georgia. He also interned with the Foundation of Athens Regional Medical Center, volunteered for Mended Hearts at Northeast Georgia Medical Center, served as a counselor for Children's Health Care of Atlanta's Camp Independence, worked with the Heart Association and mentored to pediatric cardiology patients.

YHC trustee and Congressman Buddy Carter, '77, celebrated Shaw's life on the House floor. Listen to Rep. Carter's reflection of the inspirational life that Shaw lived.











CLOCKWISE FROM TOP The Class of 1968 gathered for a class photo during their 50th reunion celebration. ■ Children of alumni enjoyed activities provided by members of YHC's SPAGE. ■ Many Greek organizations had tables set up on the lawn. ■ Friends posed together in front of Appleby Center.

Alumni then enjoyed music and children's activities provided by members of YHC's Student Professional Association of Georgia Educators (SPAGE) during a luncheon held on the patio of the Rollins Campus Center.

Alumni who brought their college-bound children to Alumni Weekend were invited to enjoy a legacy tour and information session sponsored by YHC's Office of Admissions.

Many alumni also attended a memorable service in Susan B. Harris Chapel. Saturday drew to a close with the All-Class Social on the Campus Plaza.

Alumni had the opportunity to enjoy cultural events on campus including shows at O. Wayne Rollins Planetarium, the Senior Thesis Exhibition at the Campus Gate Art Gallery and Theatre Young Harris's season finale play "Silent Sky." The YHC baseball team hosted Peach Belt Conference competitors Columbus State University throughout the weekend.

The festivities wrapped up on Sunday morning with a worship service at Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church led by Rev. Thad Haygood, '92.

Save the Date:

YHC alumni have the opportunity to enjoy two big events in 2019.

ALUMNI AWARDS



Emily Clifton, '05, Washington, D.C. Young Alumni Achievement Award Given to an alumnus or alumna who has graduated within the last 15 years and

has excelled in his or her



Candler Johnston Ginn, '77, Cartersville Spirit of Young Harris Award

Given to an alumnus or alumna who is a shining example of faithful service to YHC and dedication to his or her community and family



Rudy Harrell, '71, Atlanta Distinguished Alumni Award for Lifetime Career Achievement

Given to an alumnus or alumna who has demonstrated great success in his or her career following a successful foundation laid by the College



Jerry Nix, Atlanta

Nancy Louise Haynes Stephens Sanderson Robertson Outstanding Friend Award

Given to a friend of YHC who has dedicated his or her time, resources and energy to ensure a successful future for the College



The McCollough Family YHC Family of the Year Award

Given to a family associated with YHC in recognition of their special connection to the College

Alumni Weekend FRIDAY-SUNDAY, JUNE 7-9

- Make plans to attend the Half Century Club Dinner and Alumni Awards Ceremony on Friday evening, where special VIP tables will be available for Class of 1969 members.
- Catch up with classmates during the Alumni Weekend Luncheon and All-Class Social.
- Start planning your **milestone class reunion** by contacting the Office of Alumni Services.
- Contact the Office of Alumni Services at (706) 379-5334 or alumni@yhc.edu to nominate alumni and friends for the 2019 annual alumni awards. Learn more about the awards online at yhc.edu/alumniawards.

All-Alumni Social SATURDAY, JUNE 29

- Join fellow YHC alumni to network and socialize at Sweetwater Brewing Company in Atlanta. The fun begins at 6:30 p.m.
- Enjoy a tour of the brewery, a tasting and dinner.

YHC Alumni Board President-Elect Phil DeMore, '63, on why Alumni Weekend is making the move from April to June in 2019:

"It's all about making sure as many folks as possible can come and enjoy Alumni Weekend. June is the beginning of summer vacation for a lot of people—and it doesn't interfere with the Easter holiday or school events like graduations and proms. We really hope more people can make a spot on their calendars!"

For more information, contact the Office of Alumni Services. (706) 379-5334 | alumni@yhc.edu

YHC hosted A **Weekend in the Enchanted Valley** in Nov. 2018. Alumni had the opportunity to mix and mingle during the Dorcas/SPAT breakfast and tailgate lunch; enjoy reunions and special events for fraternities and sororities and many student organizations.

During **Homecoming** in Feb. 2019, alumni enjoyed a special luncheon for all alumni before cheering on the men's and women's basketball teams as they took on Georgia Southwestern State University. The event included reunions for student-athletes, cheerleaders and pep band members—and plenty of Mountain Lion pride. **Look for full event recaps in the next edition of Echoes.**

CLASS NOTES

Share your news with other Young Harris College alumni and friends.
Send achievements, announcements and photos to: Young Harris College Class Notes
P.O. Box 275 Young Harris, GA 30582 | alumni@yhc.edu | yhc.edu/alumni

ACHIEVEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1970s

Morris Nix, '77, recently portrayed a polygraph examiner on the TV show "Swamp Murders" on Investigation Discovery. Nix currently works with the Cobb County Cold Case Unit for the Cobb County District Attorney's Office.

Barbara Kelly Palermo,

'75, has helped collect more than 55,000 suitcases for foster children with totes 2 tots, an initiative she founded in 2003 through her job with Georgia Cancer Specialists. Palermo got the idea for totes 2 tots after adopting a child through Georgia's Division of Family and Children Services in 2002. "He moved into our home with all of his belongings in garbage bags," explained Palermo, who left the company in 2008. "I'm so proud that Georgia Cancer Specialists took the idea and ran with it. They have made it bigger and better."

1980s

Rev. Brad Whitaker, '81, was called to be the rector of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Chattanooga, Tenn.

1990s



Rev. Catherine Boothe, '99, associate pastor at Northside United Methodist Church in Atlanta, was recently named "Chaplain for the Day" at the Georgia State Senate. During the session, she spoke about the importance of Sabbath and self-care.

Gabe Martin, son of Clay Martin, '93, and Heather Martin, '93, and nephew of Sonya Martin Parker, '90, and Ken Parker, '88, joined YHC's basketball team for the 2018-2019 academic year.

Meghan Rafinski Wade, '96, of Atlanta, was named president of Georgia 811 in 2017 after serving as corporate communications director for 11 years. Wade has participated with and held leadership roles for organizations like the Georgia Utility Coordinating Council, Common Ground Alliance, One Calls of America and Southeastern One Call Systems. "We will

continue our mission to be an industry leader in promoting safety and preventing damages to utility facilities while providing education to our stakeholders," said Wade.

2000s

Brandon Butler, Ph.D., '00, was recently approved for tenure and promoted to associate professor at the Darden School of Education at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Va. Dr. Butler and his wife, Kristen, who is also an educator, have two children, Jackson, 4, and Samuel, 3. Dr. Butler is the son of YHC alumni Frank Butler, '76, and Norma Bass Butler, '78.

Michael Chapman, '01, began working as zoning division manager for Cherokee County in June 2018 after serving as a planner in the Department of Planning and Land Use for 10 years. In 2016, Chapman graduated from Officer Candidate School and was commissioned as second lieutenant in the Georgia State Defense Force (GSDF). The GSDF provides search and rescue, administrative, medical, legal, and training support to the Georgia Department of Defense.



AMY DALTON AIMS TO TAKE AUGUSTA MALL INTO THE FUTURE

Amy Dalton, '12, was featured in The Augusta Chronicle for her accomplishments as the manager of her hometown's 1.2-million-square-foot Augusta Mall. She assumed the role in 2016 after being hired as the mall's marketing coordinator in 2012, shortly after graduating from YHC with a communication studies degree.

In just under two years of Dalton's oversight, the mall has added a K-9 unit to its security team, solar panels on its roof, a drive-through at the Chick-fil-A and a parking app designed to let shoppers plan their visits around the mall's least congested hours. She said she's open to adding nontraditional amenities to the mall property such as fitness clubs, hotels, grocery stores and office buildings.

"The mall of the future is going to be a multifunctional space where one lives, works and plays," she said. "Malls were the centralized location for the community; now we are again because everything you need can be within super-easy walking distance."

Brian K. Creasman, Ed.D., '01, recently co-authored three books published by Rowman and Littlefield: "The Leader Within: Growing and Understanding Teacher Leaders," "Growing Leaders Within: A Process toward Teacher Leadership" and "Can Every School Succeed?: Bending Constructs to Transform an American Icon." All titles are available on Amazon. Dr. Creasman currently serves as school district superintendent for Fleming County Schools in Kentucky.



Celebrated Emeriti Faculty and Administrators Reunite

O.V. Lewis (left), who served as an instructor of business and registrar, and Clay Dotson, Ph.D., (right) who served in many capacities at YHC as a history professor, academic dean and interim president, recently traveled to Tennessee to visit Ray Farley, Ph.D., (center) who served as a history teacher, residence hall director, dean and president of YHC.

Emma Tatum Johnson, '01, of Cartersville, began heading up inside sales for Legacy Turf Farms in June. Johnson and her husband, Brandon, have two children, Andrew and Anne.

Jessica McClure, '01,

began working as a clinical dietician for Vibra Hospital in Redding, Calif., in 2017 after completing a dietetic internship at Napa State Hospital in Napa, Calif., in 2016—the same year she earned her master's degree in nutritional science from California State University, Chico in Chico, Calif.

2010s

Kalie Pritchett Chumley, '15, of Greensboro, N.C., received her juris doctorate from Elon University's School of Law in Dec. 2017





and passed the District of Columbia bar exam in Feb. 2018. She was married to Justin Chumley at Enotah Valley in Blairsville on Oct. 7, 2017. Ashley Starnes Coleman, '16, and Rebecca Fowler, '16, served as bridesmaids.



Elli Flaig, '18, of Atlanta, began working as talent acquisition specialist for Rollins, Inc., in June. She decided to see the world before beginning her new job, and her travels took her to Croatia, Germany, Prague and Morocco.

Anna Lummus, '17, of Atlanta, began working as a junior account executive and account specialist, fraud solutions - financial services for Experian in August.

Bryan Miller, '11, became chairman and CEO of the newly founded Miller Institute for Public Policy in Jan. 2017. The Miller Institute is designed to preserve the legacy of the late former Georgia Gov. and U.S. Sen. Zell Miller,



Members of the Class of 1967 enjoyed a cruise to Canada and New England including (front row, left to right) Toni Todd Britt, '67, Rick Britt, Jimmy Sapp, Jackie Warnock, Larry Warnock, (middle row, left to right) Karen Smith, Ruth Woolley Sapp, '67, Larry Liebau, (back row, left to right) Mike Ginn, '67, Creg Smith, '67, Wynette Ginn and Carolyn Brown Liebau, '67.

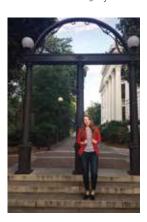
'51, promote bipartisan solutions to critical issues facing Georgia and inspire stakeholders to work together to achieve results.

Stephen Ramsay, '13, published a novel titled "Shadowgrave"—the first in a planned trilogy—in March 2017 that's available on Amazon and at Barnes and Noble. "I credit my English major from Young Harris as having polished my writing skills to give me the confidence to send the book out," he said.

.Stephen Trent Sizemore, '14, of West Yellowstone, Mont., released a coffee table photography book titled "Moving West: A Journey from Georgia to Montana" that features 172 pages of photographs and stories chronicling his first two years living in Montana directly after graduating from YHC. YHC Art Department Chair and Associate Professor of Art Ted Whisenhunt wrote the book's foreword.

Grace Williamson, '16, of Athens, Ga., earned her master of education degree in higher education

administration with a concentration in student affairs from Boston College in May. She began working as a career counselor at the University of Georgia's Career Center in July.





DR. DANE KNUDSEN EARNS DOCTOR OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Dane Knudsen, '13, became YHC's first four-year graduate to complete veterinary school when he earned his doctor of veterinary medicine (DVM) degree with an emphasis in small animal medicine from the University of Georgia's (UGA) College of Veterinary Medicine in May 2017.

Dr. Knudsen, who majored in biology at YHC, was recently named associate veterinarian at Creekside Animal Hospital in Cumming in July. He works there with his wife, Julie, who also recently earned her DVM from UGA. The pair was married on Oct. 7, 2017, in the Day Chapel of the State Botanical Gardens in Athens, Ga.

"A number of my Kappa Sigma fraternity brothers from YHC attended our wedding," said Dr. Knudsen, "and I'm still in contact with many of them on a weekly basis—including providing well care for their dogs and cats."



ENGAGEMENTS, MARRIAGES & BIRTHS

1960s

Betsy Wester, '68, married Jae Emery-Dawe at St. John's Lutheran Church in Atlanta.

1990s

John Vaughn, '97, and his wife, Mary Elizabeth, welcomed Wallace John Vaughn on June 27, 2017. Wallace weighed just over 8 pounds and was 20 inches long. His parents said they plan on him enrolling at YHC in the fall of 2035. John became the assistant principal for the Coweta County School System in Jan. 2018 after serving as an instructional technology coach there for four years.

2000s

Kristen Stephens Sosebee, '07, and her husband, Dustin, welcomed their first son, Rooks Ezra Sosebee, on Nov. 14, 2017.

2010s

Jessica Aderhold, '12, and Robert Taylor, '12, married in Brunswick on March 11, 2017. The pair got acquainted as members of YHC's Alpha Iota sorority and Zeta Pi fraternity.



Ali Neese Hatley, '12, and Kyle Hatley, '11, of Braselton, are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Grace Harper Hatley, on May 2. She was 6 pounds, 8 ounces and 20.25 inches long.



Stephanie Kennedy, '15, married Zach Pagàn on Aug. 26, 2017, at The

Barn at Oak Hill Manor in Newnan. YHC alumnae Kaycee Cash, '15, Sara Beth Tankersley Barger, '15, and Erica Neese Harrison, '14, served in the bridal party. The pair currently resides in Texas.



Emily McCart, '16, and Adam Taylor, '16, of Cumming, were engaged at Inniskillin Winery in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario, Canada, on Dec. 30, 2017. Taylor, a Canada native, proposed in front of his family. The pair met while attending YHC's Fall Fest together with a group of friends. "Adam and I ended up walking through the haunted house and he got scared at the end and ran out," said McCart. "I thought it was so funny and we've been together ever since."



Moore officiated. Caitlin earned her master's degree in family therapy from Mercer University's School of Medicine in May. Corey is a fourth-year student in the M.D. program there, and intends to match into family medicine in 2019.

YHC alumni, and former YHC

campus minister Rev. Dr. Tim



Marjorie Jade Smith, '15, married Brandon Paustian on May 27 at Kingwood Resort Golf Course in Clayton. Jade teaches algebra at North Oconee High School and was recently named the women's head lacrosse coach there.



Victoria Thomas, '17, and Garrett Autry, of Monticello, married at 9 Oaks Farm in Monroe on July 14. Two YHC alumni were in the bridal party including Thomas's college roommate, Taylor Beauchamp, '15, and Phi Alpha Phi "little sister" Lindsay Adair, '18.



Parker Sewell, '17, and Jordan Silvey, '17, of Suwanee, were married in Cleveland, Ga., on May 26. "Parker and I met in the beautiful valley of Young Harris and got engaged on top of Max Patch, so it was only natural for us to get married surrounded by our beloved mountains," the pair

explained. The pair chose YHC Dean of the Chapel and College Minister Rev. Blair Tolbert as their officiant. Many YHC alumni served as bridesmaids and groomsmen including Irenee Payne, '16, Maya Roberson, '15, Rachel Sherrod, '16, and Andrew Sudderth, '17. Ashley Brown, '10, was Matron of Honor, and Grant Rich, '18, was Best Man. Sewell is a project manager for D.N. Langford Construction Company, while Silvey is a program coordinator for SkillsUSA Georgia, a national, nonprofit student organization. The pair are "very thankful" for the astronomy class at YHC that brought them together.



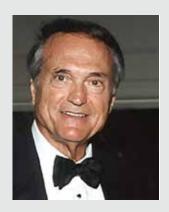


Candace Jane Watts, '15, married Adam Watts in Candace's hometown of San Antonio, Texas, on May 13. Haley Twiggs, '15, who played on YHC's golf team with Watts, served as Maid of Honor. The Watts currently live in Honolulu, Hawaii, where Adam is stationed. Candace recently earned her B.B.A. in marketing from the University of North Georgia in May.



Sydnee Weaver, '15, married Daniel Griffin on June 2 in her hometown of Sylvania. Many YHC alumni and former softball teammates attended the wedding, including her Maid of Honor, Katie-Jo Gentry, '14, and bridesmaid Kacey Miller White, '13. "It's crazy how friends you made so long ago in the Enchanted Valley become lifelong friends who are there for you through all the stages of life," said Weaver.

A Tribute to Three Exceptional Trustees Emeriti



Dr. Sam Coker, '47

YHC Emeritus Trustee Dr. Sam Coker, '47, passed away on Oct. 12, 2017. Dr. Coker joined YHC's Board of Trustees in 1965 and served for 31 years before being elected an emeritus trustee in 2009. He served on the Academic Affairs Committee.

A loyal alumnus, Dr. Coker was presented the Artemas Lester Award by YHC's Alumni Association in 2015 for a lifetime of dedication to the ministry and commitment to Christian service.

Dr. Coker graduated from Emory University's Candler School of Theology. During his 50 years as a Methodist minister, he served many churches in the North Georgia Conference.

A longtime generous supporter of YHC, Dr. Coker created the Gene Allison Coker Scholarship in memory of his wife, whom he met at YHC in 1946. The pair was married for 55 wonderful years.



Robert "Bob" Head, Jr., '59

YHC Emeritus Trustee Robert "Bob" Head, '59, of Blairsville, passed away on June 6. He was elected to YHC's Board of Trustees in 1993 and served on the Executive Committee.

Head married YHC alumna Carol Fleming Head, '58, in 1960, and then went on to serve in the U.S. Army Reserves and Georgia Air National Guard. He was president of Robert L. Head Building Supply, president of Head-Westgate Corporation and co-founder of Union County Bank, which merged into United Community Bank in 1988. He served on the bank's Board of Directors since 1973 and as chairman from 1989 through 2014.

Head was incredibly civic minded and community oriented. He was a member of the Union County Rotary Club, Union County Industrial Authority and the building committee for First United Methodist Church of Union County, among other involvements.

He was a longstanding member of YHC's Board of Associates and received YHC's Distinguished Alumni Award for Lifetime Career Achievement in 2013.



Bishop L. Bevel "Bev" Jones, III

YHC Emeritus Trustee Bishop L. Bevel "Bev" Jones, III, died on March 6 at the age of 91. Bishop Jones was a devoted and faithful member of YHC's Board of Trustees for 43 years after being elected in 1975. He served for 10 years on the development and scholarship committees before being elected an emeritus trustee in 1985.

Bishop Jones graduated from Emory University's Candler School of Theology. He pastored six churches in the North Georgia Conference of The United Methodist Church and was elected bishop in 1984, serving the Western North Carolina Conference until his retirement in 1996, when he returned to Candler as bishop-in-residence.

He gave unselfishly of his time, talents, and resources to YHC, and established two endowed scholarships in memory of his father, Rev. L. Bevel Jones, Jr., and his sister, Kathryn Jones Foster. A strong believer in higher education, Bishop Jones stated, "a college degree will better equip a person for service to society."

Remembering Lillie Mae Green





Lillie Mae Green, who passed away on March 22 at the age of 99, epitomized what it means to be an extraordinary community citizen and friend of YHC. The Gainesville, Ga., native, along with her husband, Frank, and son, Ronnie, '65, created an inspiring legacy of ethical business practices, exceptional customer service, wise financial savings and a lifetime dedicated to hard work.

From humble beginnings in 1950, the Greens owned and operated Green's Grocery Store in Gainesville, which earned both industry awards and customer loyalty.

Following Ronnie's untimely death in 2001, Mr. and Mrs. Green found opportunities to strengthen and support health and education causes in memory of their son. Following Mr. Green's death in 2008, Mrs. Green continued to make gifts on behalf of the family, including several to Ronnie's beloved alma mater.

Mrs. Green made special provisions through her estate to provide support for the Young Harris Fund and further endow the Ronnie Green Endowed Scholarship at YHC. She also recently gave the College a significant gift once again, supporting YHC and its students and further intertwining the Green family's story with that of YHC.

To honor Mrs. Green's commitment to enhancing the student experience, YHC named Enotah Hall's first-floor common area The Green Family Lobby as a lasting tribute to the family's incredible story. Mrs. Green received YHC's Nancy Louise Haynes Stephens Sanderson Robertson Outstanding Friend Award in 2011 and the President's Medallion in 2015.

"She's truly been one of the most extraordinary benefactors in the history of the College. She and her husband, Frank, had a deep love for this place," said Jimmy Owen, vice president for advancement at YHC. "Something else that was remarkable about Lillie Mae was her spirit. I think she inspired so many here at Young Harris and in Gainesville and beyond with the way she lived her life. It truly made an impact, so she will be sorely missed."

IN MEMORIAM

Rev. Hoyt Albion Allen, '52 April 12, 2018

John V. Ard, '61 March 16, 2018

Ancel Bailey, '59 May 3, 2018

Patricia Barlow Friend of YHC Feb. 21, 2018

Sara F. Bond, '**58** July 19, 2018

Bill R. Bradley, '72 March 10, 2018

Larry E. Cart, '62 July 7, 2018

Judith Carter, '47 Jan. 7, 2018 William E. Chambers, '62 May 8, 2018

R. Charles Clark, '65 July 3, 2018

Elizabeth H. Cornelius, '57

Dorian M. Daniel, '81 Jan. 27, 2018

Jan. 27, 2018

Barbara Dayhuff, '58 Jan. 8, 2018

Charles L. Dennis, '57 Jan. 16, 2018

Ronald J. Denton
Friend of YHC
Feb. 19, 2018

Matthew Thomas Donaldson, '15 Jan. 18, 2018 Bobbie Dudley, '48 March 8, 2018

Blanche Flanders Farley Friend of YHC June 28, 2018

Margaret E. Foster, '47 Jan. 28, 2018

Anne Gilmore Friend of YHC May 6, 2018

Margaret Sarah Hicks-Durham, '05 April 29, 2018

Gregory A. Hollis, '69 March 2, 2018

Nancy Housand, '61 Feb. 6, 2018 Ida Kimsey, '42 June 28, 2018

George Koller Retired faculty Jan. 7, 2018

F. Dennis Lalley, '63 May 3, 2018

Elizabeth J. Lashley Friend of YHC March 15, 2018

Paige E. Lavergne, '92 June 14, 2018

Fern M. Lavinder Friend of YHC May 31, 2018

William A. Marrett, Jr., '73 March 12, 2018 Dorothy Maul Friend of YHC Jan. 7, 2018

Patrick M. Mobley, '80 May 2, 2018

Dorothy Allen Pirkle *Friend of YHC* Feb. 4, 2018

Robert R. Stewart Friend of YHC April 11, 2018

Frances Wingfield, '58 April 5, 2018

Barbara Woodall Friend of YHC May 24, 2018

THE LAST WORD

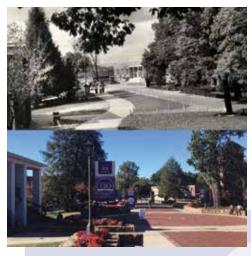
Overheard@YHC: Transformation Tuesdays

Members of the Young Harris College family compared notes on the changing landscape of the 136-year-old campus through #TransformationTuesday posts on social media.



Holly Kemp SO jelly of the macs in the classroom, how awesome!

Chris Strals In the fall of 1995 all students were required to take a class on how to use this new thing called email in the new computer lab. Back then email seemed pointless, ha! That lab was a room full of new Gateways and that was located next to the old dining hall. That was also the room where they used to have the pool tables to take it back to the early '80s!



Eileen Alt So blessed my daughter attends this beautiful college!

Bill Carrier Love relationship since 1974.



Keith Smith Sharp Hall has a renovated front from my days in the early '80s.

Amy Huckaby Not only has the beauty remained but so has the soul! It is still a place that young people leave having grown in so many ways.



Join the conversation

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