Young Harris College has been granted institutional membership in the prestigious National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), joining an elite group of music schools around the country who have been recognized for excellence in music education. The College had been an associate member since 2003.

On June 25, 2009, Young Harris College received official notification from the NASM Commission on Accreditation that it had been named an accredited institutional member of the Association. In addition to institutional membership, NASM voted to grant plan approval for the College’s new bachelor of arts in music degree.

“Young Harris College has offered a first-rate music program for many decades. Earning the NASM stamp of approval on our new four-year bachelor’s degree in music and achieving full institutional membership as a four-year college further solidifies our efforts to offer the very best liberal arts education to today’s students,” said Young Harris College President Cathy Cox.

NASM accreditation means that Young Harris College meets national educational standards established by member institutions.

“This achievement gives students the security of knowing we have an approved and accredited degree program and we’re ready to hit the ground running as a four-year college,” said Department of Music Chair Edwin “Sandy” Calloway, D.M.A. “The peer review team was very impressed with the College’s master plan. They made special mention of our vision and what we’re accomplishing.”
Dear Friends of the Arts,

This is an exciting time for the Division of Fine Arts at Young Harris College. We have new faculty members, many new students and outstanding productions, concerts and exhibitions in our art, music and theatre departments. One major change finds me assuming the role of dean of fine arts while our friend Dr. Keith DeFoor has been promoted to the position of associate vice president for academic affairs. Keith’s knowledge of curricula and accreditation and his keen organizational abilities are perfect qualifications for his new position. We appreciate his efforts on our behalf. Although this promotion means that Keith no longer serves as a full-time member of our music department, he continues to work with us on major projects and as professor of piano. I know you will join me in congratulating Keith on his promotion and wish him the best in his new position.

Ted Whisenhunt has joined the Division of Fine Arts as chair of the art department. Ted comes to us from Judson College in Alabama. He is an accomplished sculptor who has done some amazing work for exhibitions across the southern states. Under Ted’s direction, we are now in the process of growing our art department by adding new spaces for their work. If all goes according to plan, the art department will be housed in the old Young Harris Elementary School, now named the YHC Annex, at the beginning of the 2010-2011 academic year. This move will allow our students to participate in what Ted calls dirty art, including sculpture, ceramics, the welding that goes with many art projects and all sorts of exciting things that can’t be done in the art space in Clegg Fine Arts Building. It will also allow our art faculty to teach three-dimensional art. Our plans call for the eventual renovation and preservation of the YHC Annex in keeping with the “green” trend of recycling and reusing rather than demolishing structures. In addition to his credentials as an academic administrator and professor, Ted is an accomplished bluegrass banjo player and singer. You may be able to catch “Cornbread Ted” and his band “the Butter Beans” performing in the area soon. Also in the art department, Renée Boutwell now serves as an adjunct professor and teaches art appreciation and art history.

We welcome several new faculty and staff members to our music department and the return of some dear friends. Dr. Leigh Miller joins us as instructor of music theory and professor of clarinet. She earned her doctor of musical arts degree in clarinet performance from The Ohio State University. Leigh is an excellent teacher and performer and is an exciting addition to our faculty. Leigh is married to Kevin Miller who is the lab director for the YHC Division of Mathematics and Science. Richard Knepf moves from adjunct professor of guitar to instructor of guitar and music history. We welcome Richard to full-time faculty status as he finishes work on his doctor of musical arts degree. We also welcome Anita Guiss as staff accompanist. Anita is a former U.S. Air Force officer with degrees from the University of Georgia and Texas Tech. She is an excellent musician who also plays flute in our College/Community Concert Band. I know you will join me in welcoming back to YHC our dear friend Professor Emeritus Mary Ann Fox as professor of piano and staff accompanist. Mary Ann was a professor in our music department for many years with her husband Bill Fox, who continues to serve as conductor and music director for Mountain Community Chorus.

There are several new faces in the theatre department. Rob Fulton joins the theatre faculty as associate professor of scenic and lighting design. He comes to us from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. Rob also serves as a director of theatrical productions having recently served as director for Dancing at Lughnasad. Our new technical director, Rob Sturges, comes from Gwinnett County Public Schools. Kari Beth Rust is our new costume shop supervisor from Illinois State University. We also welcome Barbara Honaker and George Koller as adjunct professors of dance.

As you can see, we are growing and adding new programs for our students on a regular basis. We continue to add new degree programs, new minors and new faces. As Friends of the Arts, you are very important to us. Please join us when you can and stop by to visit any time.

Benny P. Ferguson, Ph.D.
Dean, Division of Fine Arts
The Division of Fine Arts and the YHC art department faculty and students served as hosts for the fall state conference of the Georgia Art Educators Association (GAEA) on Nov. 12-14, 2009. The primary purpose of GAEA is to promote, maintain and achieve the highest quality of instruction possible in art education throughout Georgia. Hundreds of art teachers from public and private elementary, middle and high schools as well as public and private colleges and universities attended sessions and workshops on the Young Harris campus. YHC art faculty members Ted Whisenhunt and Dawn Dickins coordinated many class sessions and worked with art educators from across the state.

While art teachers from all over Georgia were on campus, more than 100 classical guitarists and their teachers came to YHC for the Second Annual North Georgia Guitar Summit. The summit serves as an educational workshop for students of high school and college-level music programs as well as an opportunity for classical guitar music fans to experience concerts and classes presented by outstanding artists. The Young Harris College Guitar Ensemble kicked off the event with a special concert. Additional events during the summit included a lecture-recital on the ancestors of the guitar, a recital by the popular Georgia Guitar Quartet and a master class by world-renowned guitar instructor John Sutherland. YHC Instructor of Guitar and Music History Richard Knepp was instrumental in organizing and planning the successful event.

Michael Collings, of Western Carolina University, receives instruction from John Sutherland during a master class in Young Harris College’s Susan B. Harris Chapel as part of the North Georgia Guitar Summit.

Theatre Young Harris will present an exciting new lineup of performances for the 2010-2011 season. For the first time, the season will be comprised of a four-show Mainstage Series, a four-show Studio Series and a variety of additional late-night, improv-style performances, offering audiences a wide range of both classic and contemporary theatre and musical theatre productions.

The Mainstage Series opens in September with Kander and Ebb’s Tony Award-winning hit Cabaret, Sept. 23-26 and Sept. 30-Oct. 2. Next, Theatre Young Harris will present its children’s show, Lilly’s Purple Plastic Purse, Oct. 19-23. In February, the group will present Shakespeare’s classic comedy A Midsummer Night’s Dream, Feb. 17-20 and 24-26. The Mainstage Series will close with the Rodgers and Hammerstein groundbreaking Broadway favorite Carousel, April 7-10.

Theatre Young Harris will also introduce the Studio Series, a collection of four productions showcasing student direction. This series will open its inaugural season in November with the renowned innovative drama Waiting for Godot, Nov. 5-6. Later that month, the group will present a One Act Play Festival, Nov. 19-20. In April, the Studio Series will present the one-act tragedy Miss Julie, April 1-2, and the series finale YHC Musical Revue, April 29-30. All Studio Series productions will take place in Dobbs Theatre.

Season tickets and show details will be available soon. Tickets may be purchased through the YHC Box Office, located in the lobby of Goolsby Center, in person or by phone at (706) 379-4307 or online at www.yhc.edu/tickets.

The Young Harris College Choir gave two performances of its annual spring concert Feb. 26-27. The unforgettable 1940s big-band tribute “An Evening at the U.S.O.” included familiar musical favorites and featured great costumes. The 60-voice choir is directed by Jeff Bauman, director of choral and vocal activities and associate professor of music at Young Harris College.
Your support enables the Division of Fine Arts at Young Harris College to continue offering quality programming that benefits student development and enhances the local cultural landscape. Students are offered creative and performing opportunities in Art, Music, Musical Theatre and Theatre. Your gift helps promote awareness of arts programming as well as the exploration of new endeavors and learning experiences. Most importantly, Friends of the Arts supports Young Harris College’s goals to enable students to grow and learn in an environment of uncompromised artistic and academic freedom and integrity.

For membership information, contact Jennifer McAfee at (706) 379-5138 or jmcafee@yhc.edu.

Young Harris College has received a beautiful original oil painting titled “Helton Creek Falls” from Diane Lesko, Ph.D., former adjunct instructor of art history at Young Harris College. Prior to her time at YHC, Dr. Lesko served as executive director of Savannah’s Telfair Museum of Art, where she established the 64,000-square-foot Jepson Center devoted to contemporary art.

The painting, created by Savannah artist June Stratton, depicts the well-known falls in nearby Union County located in a rhododendron grove inside the Chattahoochee National Forest. The Honolulu-born artist’s oil paintings have been exhibited in shows and galleries across the United States, and her work has been featured in the Savannah Morning News, Deep Magazine, Fusion, Travelhost and other art publications.

Pictured above, sophomore art major Corey Hendrix (center) of Waycross, Ga., won Best of Show for his bailing wire piece “Rupert the Rhino” at the opening reception on April 15 where he was congratulated by Ted Whisenhunt (left), chair of the art department and associate professor of art, and YHC President Cathy Cox (right). The exhibit featured a variety of outstanding artwork by YHC students and was on display through the end of April.

Young Harris College
Hosts Student Juried Art Exhibition at Campus Gate Art Gallery

Pictured above, sophomore art major Corey Hendrix (center) of Waycross, Ga., won Best of Show for his bailing wire piece “Rupert the Rhino” at the opening reception on April 15 where he was congratulated by Ted Whisenhunt (left), chair of the art department and associate professor of art, and YHC President Cathy Cox (right). The exhibit featured a variety of outstanding artwork by YHC students and was on display through the end of April.

PLATINUM
Cathy Cox and Mark Dehler
Keith and Cynthia DeFoor
Benny and Betty Ferguson
William and Betsy Gustin
Ron and Judy Ingle
Institute for Continuing Learning
John and Linda Kniess
Diane Lesko

GOLD
Bob, ’57 and Barbara Bone
Frank, ’61 and Clara Erwin
Steve and Parrish Judd
Men on the Move

SILVER
Eddie Collins
Gary, ’68 and Linda, ’68 Dye
Hank, ’62 and Amy, ’62 Huckaby
Sadie P. Little
Gary and Jenny Young, ’77 Medford
Rob, ’75 and Vickie Murray
David and Deborah Steed
Dean and Ruth Tweddle

BRONZE
Carl and Billie Barber
Guy and Flora Barber
Jeffrey and Diane Bauman
Norm and Jan Bennett
Edwin and Karen Calloway
Scott and Krystin Dean
James and Nancy Miller, ’76 Elwood
Ralph and Flö Evans
David and Louisa Franklin
Ted and Maureen Gustafson
Steve and Barbara Harvey
Chuck and Barbara Honaker
Ken and Sandy Johnson
Janice Moore
Arthur and Jean Nethery
Susan G. Phillips
Michael and Adele Pizycki
Ron and Debbie Roach
Bill and Connie Scott
Francis and Diane Simonsen
Larry and Frances Smith
Hong and Sunnie Son
Sue A. Sorice
Susan E. Wyman

FRIEND
Jo Bearse
Ki Curtis
M. Laura Evans, ’61
David and Susan Fann
Richard and Catherine Fiser
Joy E. Graham, ’55
Raymond A. Groth
George Houdeshel
Jacquelyn Collins Hutson, ’57 John, ’56 and Patti Kay
George A. Koller
Lynne C. Nation
Ted and Eloise Whisenhunt
Art and Tess Wieland
Donald and Joyce Wyckoff

IN HONOR
Paul and Nancy Teryl
Given by Anonymous
Given by Institute for Continuing Learning

IN MEMORY
Dr. Douglas R. Sasser
Given by John, ’56 and Patti Kay