



S P R I N G 2 0 0 9

# *Echoes*



YOUNG  
HARRIS  
COLLEGE

# F R O M   T H E   P R E S I D E N T

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Dear YHC Family and Friends:

*W*hat an amazing year we've had at YHC! It's surely one for the history books!

Without question, the highlight of this year has been earning our accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to offer baccalaureate degrees. We are now a four-year college—on paper, at least—and we now must grow, build and flesh out our plans to convert YHC into a world-class liberal arts college.

Faculty hiring is essential to the transformation of the college, as we cannot expect to offer four-year curricula in multiple majors with the same number of faculty members. Accordingly, with the wise planning of our Board of Trustees, a “reserve fund” created a number of years ago from the generous Pitts family gift has enabled us to hire 12 faculty members this year and more than 15 next year, giving us an important jump-start on our four-year transition.

We also knew that growing the enrollment meant we had to have additional facilities to house, feed and educate a larger student body. Given that we ran out of bed space during this past year, our new 200-bed residence hall that will open in August won't come a minute too soon.

The campus center, by design of our campus master plan, will be located where the Dobbs-McEachern Recreation Center is located, and that facility—which served the campus for decades and now has outlived its useful life for our future needs—is expected to come down over the summer, along with Winship Hall. Since we can only seat 270 in the current dining hall, the new campus center will allow the college to expand the dining facilities which is also essential to our growth. The campus center will also include a 21st century library and YHC's first “real” student center with dedicated spaces for student organizations, significant student advising space and offices for student services.

YHC will fulfill a long-unmet need with the new recreation and fitness center that will be constructed adjacent to the new residence hall. It will have three intramural basketball/volleyball courts overlaid with an NCAA regulation competition basketball court with seating for 1,000 as we get ready to enter NCAA Division II athletics and bring basketball back to YHC. The center will also have an incredible fitness and weight room on its main floor with an elevated indoor jogging track surrounding the sports courts, classrooms for yoga/aerobics/dance, locker rooms, office spaces and a healthy-food and juice bar.

Our tennis courts had to be removed in recent weeks to make way for storm water management areas next to Corn Creek. Ultimately, it will be attractively landscaped making it a beautiful part of our campus.

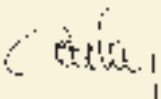
Our Board of Trustees has agreed to construct 12 lighted tennis courts over the summer so our tennis program, which expands this fall with the addition of men's tennis, will have a great home base in a matter of months.

While so many other colleges—and most businesses—are having to lay off or furlough employees, cut programs and budgets, and are hoping literally to stay in business, YHC is growing, hiring, building and planning for our exciting new four-year status. Not many colleges will ever experience this kind of exciting transformation, nor will they have the opportunities we have to build a world-class institution of higher education.

Surely, some YHC historian will look back at this period and wonder how we got so many good things done so quickly. It's nothing short of miraculous—really! But even with such monumental changes, the close-knit campus, our strong United Methodist Church affiliation, small class sizes, a walkable campus and all those things that really make YHC special will not be changing—now or in the future!

Come to see your alma mater over the summer and join in the excitement of our growth!

Warmly,



Cathy Cox  
President



Aerial view of new residence hall to open fall 2009

# Echoes

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## On the Cover

Juliane Rose Peterson from West Palm Beach, Florida and other 2009 graduates

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# TWICE AS MUCH YHC!

## College awarded four-year status

YHC TO OFFER BACHELOR'S DEGREES STARTING FALL '09

"I wish I could stay longer" has long been the lament of many YHC sophomores as they prepared to move on to other institutions. Those days are gone. In December, the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) approved YHC's application to begin offering bachelor's degrees in fall 2009.

SACS approved plans to offer bachelor's degrees in biology, business and public policy, English and music. These subjects represent one major in

each of the college's four academic divisions.

The announcement came at the end of the 2008 SACS Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. "This is a great day in Young Harris College history," said Jerry Nix, chairman of the Board of Trustees. "It is a testimony to the strength of the faculty, staff and students of the college."

SACS staff initially discouraged the college from applying for all four majors at the same time. However, under the leadership of Dr. Ron Roach, associate vice president for academics, and Rosemary Royston '89, vice president for planning, assessment and registration, the team submitted what a SACS official described as "one of the best applications I have ever seen."

"We are pleased to offer our students the opportunity to stay here and earn their bachelor's degree," said President Cathy Cox. "And this is only the beginning. Our strategic plan calls for adding majors on a regular basis over the next few years."



Photo Alicia Calzada

President Cathy Cox (foreground) with Dr. Ron Roach, Dr. Paul Arnold, Dr. John Wells, Rosemary Royston '89, Dr. Mark Rollins and Susan Rogers at the 2008 SACS Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas.

**SACS approved YHC's plans to offer bachelor's degrees in**

- Biology
- Business and Public Policy
- English
- Music



*I want to say congratulations for your work and success for Young Harris College. This college has always had a good name, and I know it is getting better. I look forward to seeing construction of new facilities. Again, congratulations for the four-year college.*

BILL STEWART, MAYOR OF ROYSTON  
AND FORMER CHAIRMAN GEORGIA MOUNTAIN RDC



## THE CURRICULUM

The four-year majors build on existing strengths of the college and are natural extensions of well-established programs. Each major is very flexible and prepares students for a variety of directions and options in terms of career choices and graduate school.

The next round of planned degree applications includes communication studies, history, outdoor education, musical theatre and theatre.

The administration has also filed a letter of intent with the Georgia Professional Standards Commission to begin the process of developing teacher education programs. That two-year process will culminate in launching junior-level teacher education classes in fall 2011.

"We already have people asking about a master's program in education," said President Cox.

"As soon as we get the approval to begin a bachelor's degree program, a graduate program will be right behind it."

The potential market for a master's degree program in education for the north Georgia region is tremendous. Teachers from north Georgia and western North Carolina would all benefit from this convenient location for pursuing a master's degree.

## NEW PLACES AND NEW FACES

The college is in the early stages of an unprecedented building program.

A three-story, 200-bed residence hall will open for the fall 2009 semester. Members of the first junior class get priority space in the new facility. It features:

- 50 four-person, two-bedroom, two-bathroom suites
- Multiple sound-proof music practice rooms
- A 24-hour lobby
- An outdoor amphitheater and patio seating
- Laundry facilities
- Cable and wireless computer connections in all rooms.

A special "topping out" ceremony for the residence hall was held in late February (see side bar on page 6). The project is ahead of schedule and under budget.

The Board of Trustees also approved plans to start construction of a recreation and fitness center (with full-sized basketball and volleyball courts, indoor track and state-of-the-art fitness equipment) and a campus center (with dining facilities, library and student center). More buildings will follow in the next decade as YHC continues to grow.

The college is also adding faculty and staff members at a record pace. A dozen new faculty members were hired for the 2008-2009 school year, and more than a dozen are slated to be brought on board for 2009-2010. Provost Dr. John Wells commented, "We are attracting applications from an incredibly talented, well-qualified, diverse group of candidates for our faculty positions. It is exciting to see how much interest there is in YHC."



*We are so pleased to get this news about the SACS announcement. With this coming on the heels of the alumni solution, what more could we ask for? There's plenty more for all of us to do, but these two accomplishments are certainly two hurdles I'm glad we were able to cross.*

REVEREND DAVID HAYGOOD '60, YHC TRUSTEE





YHC and Hardin Construction Company marked a major milestone with a topping out ceremony at the college's residence hall project in February.

The construction industry has long used topping out to indicate that the final piece of steel for a project is ready to be hoisted into place.

Students, faculty members and staff members were invited to sign the final steel beam before it was installed, thereby becoming part of the history of this new addition to the campus. Local government

and school representatives were on hand to celebrate the event with the college community.



*Young Harris College is a tight-knit community. It's not like a big college where you're just a number. Now that YHC is a four-year college, I'm looking forward to staying to get my bachelor's degree where I know all the students and faculty.*

JORDAN MARSHALL '11, MUSIC MAJOR

*Congratulations...Your work won! So very pleased that your efforts did the job and YHC will now, after all these years, once again be a four-year college. Swell job!*

RICHARD MCGINNIS, YHC TRUSTEE

## MOUNTAIN LIONS MAKE THE JUMP

YHC NCAA Division II—has a nice ring to it, doesn't it?

Another exciting aspect of the transition to a four-year college is the jump from NJCAA to NCAA athletics. Plans are to apply for membership in the NCAA Division II this summer. YHC teams will continue to compete in the NJCAA for the 2009–2010 academic year and then move up in the fall of 2010.

The athletic programs are well known throughout the southeast, and many former Mountain Lions have had successful careers at the next level of collegiate sports. In fact, one baseball blogger lamented the fact that Division I schools in South Carolina are losing a premier source of talent as YHC goes four-year and athletes no longer have to transfer to other schools to complete their degrees.

Searches have been completed for an athletic compliance officer, sports information director and men's tennis coach. Searches will

begin this summer for men's and women's basketball coaches. Look for basketball to return to campus for the 2010–2011 season.

## MAINTAINING THE ATMOSPHERE

The question many have asked is "Will YHC still be YHC once the transition to a four-year school is complete?" The answer to that question is a resounding yes.

"It's important to remember," President Cox said, "that even as we grow and add degrees, our vision is to maintain the traditions and unique environment that make YHC so distinctive. We currently have around 650 students. Our goal is to eventually grow to a total student body of 1,200 to 1,500. We want our students to continue to benefit from small classes and personal interaction with faculty."

A critical component of that atmosphere is the low faculty-to-student ratio which results in small classes, provides the ability to truly get to know professors and allows for one-on-one time with faculty members.



*To me, Young Harris College is a place where I can do more than just teach my students, I can become an important part of their lives. Becoming a 4-year college gives me an even greater opportunity to really make a difference in the lives of our students.*

DR. LEE MARCH, PROFESSOR OF  
POLITICAL SCIENCE,  
DEAN, DIVISION OF SOCIAL AND  
BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

## QEP at YHC

*Congratulations on a job well done. I never even gave a passing thought that SACS would not approve our application, due to the folks who made it happen. Thank you very much from all of us who are graduates.*

REVEREND DR. DON HARP '61, YHC TRUSTEE

Many current students have already indicated they will return next fall to complete their degrees. Sophomore Meg Patterson, a biology major, plans to stay and earn her bachelor's degree here. "The science department is really strong. The one-on-one interaction with the faculty is very important to me, and I know I can get that here." As the number of four-year majors grows, more students will choose to stay at, or even transfer to, YHC.

### A BRIGHT LIGHT IN CHALLENGING TIMES

YHC is a bright spot in the current higher education environment. Many colleges and universities are dealing with budget cuts and program reductions. YHC is growing, hiring, building and flourishing.

"Certainly we are not immune to the current economic environment," said President Cox, "but our Board of Trustees have shown remarkable discipline and foresight in their financial planning

over the years. We are certainly benefiting from their wisdom and restraint."

YHC provides an outstanding opportunity for students in Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Tennessee. For students in those areas, YHC is a close, convenient choice for college. Now, the opportunity to earn a four-year degree makes it an even more attractive option.

"Young Harris College provides one of the best opportunities in private higher education in Georgia," stated President Cox. "We look forward to welcoming our first junior class next fall."

As that first junior class settles in, they will know they are living the dream of many alums who "wished they could stay longer." The reality of offering four-year degrees begins a new chapter in the story of Young Harris College. That story, which began in 1886, is now destined to go on for many more years.

*This is wonderful and thanks to you and your staff for making it happen. I am sure there are smiles on the faces of all the many YHC alumni who have gone on before. I know they yearned for the day that the college might attain this status and receive the recognition to which it is entitled. It is now up to all of us to put our collective shoulders to the wheel to move it forward.*

JONES WEBB, YHC TRUSTEE

Every 10 years, YHC has the opportunity to be reaffirmed by our accrediting agency, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). As stated in the Handbook for Reaffirmation of Accreditation from SACS, this is a "voluntary and self-regulatory mechanism of the higher education community...and provides the basis on which colleges and universities can be assured that accredited institutions have complied with a common set of requirements and standards." This is a peer review process, meaning that faculty and staff from similar institutions come together and examine the academic, administrative and financial components of the institution.

As part of the reaffirmation, each institution is required to implement a course of action that addresses a well-defined topic or issue related to enhancing student learning. This is called the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and is integral to reaffirmation. This activity requires broad-based campus participation, has a clear timeline and assignment of responsibilities and a structure for evaluating the extent to which the goals set for the plan are attained. After much input and discussion by faculty, staff, administration and trustees, the YHC QEP topic is to enhance written and oral communication skills across the curriculum.

We are beginning the reaffirmation process and anticipate the visit from the accrediting group in fall 2010. At that time, the group will be reviewing our QEP and evaluating its acceptability in fulfilling core requirement 2.12 of the reaffirmation requirements. You are invited to follow our progress in planning and implementing the campus QEP at [www.yhc.edu](http://www.yhc.edu). Look for further updates in fall Echoes.



# STRATEGIC PLAN

## MAPS YHC FUTURE

**Y**oung Harris College has embarked on a series of major transitions: from a two-year to a four-year college; from a student body of 650 to one of 1,200 or more; and from an institution with facilities of approximately 420,000 square feet to one of 770,000 square feet.

As the seeds for this transition were planted, the senior administration of YHC recognized the need to develop a comprehensive master plan that would support the college's strategic vision and goals. As a result, the college began working with planners from Shepley Bulfinch of Boston in fall 2007 to develop a transitional road map. The resulting master plan was unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees in April 2008.

The campus master plan addresses the need for growth in many areas including teaching space, faculty office space and support space. It also addresses the residential, dining, academic support and student life needs of the college as it grows over the next few years. The plan includes the office facilities required for a growing administrative and support staff.

Shepley Bulfinch helped the college establish the following planning principles.

### **Young Harris College is:**

- *A primarily residential campus committed to providing a comprehensive liberal arts experience.*
- *A pedestrian-friendly campus connected to the beauty of the Appalachian region.*
- *A campus community committed to sustainability—environmental, social and economic.*
- *A vibrant and visible campus connected to the outside community.*
- *A campus that respects its history as it moves into the 21st century.*
- *A campus in the United Methodist tradition.*

One objective of the master plan was to determine the academic, administrative, housing, athletic, recreation and other campus facilities required to support the four-year programs and the anticipated growth of the student body.

The estimated total cost of building the master plan is almost \$240 million in today's dollars. The master plan includes recommendations and priorities for the construction of new facilities over a 10-year period as funds become available. All of the steps identified in the master plan are geared toward accomplishing our primary objectives: to recruit and retain students.

The Board of Trustees and college

administration have established a sequence for the first phase of activity: a 200-bed residence hall (to open August 2009), a recreation and fitness center (to open 2010), a new campus center including student center, dining hall and library (to open 2011), a tennis complex, a new administration building and an alumni and admissions welcome center.

### **KEY ELEMENTS:**

1. *Undergo a process to successfully obtain reaffirmation by SACS in 2011.*
2. *Expand and improve academic and extra-curricular programs to provide a comprehensive liberal arts experience.*
3. *Provide the infrastructure and human resources necessary to support growth and development.*
4. *Create a campus environment that reflects YHC's heritage and enhances the social and personal development of students.*
5. *Optimize current financial resources and develop new sources of revenue.*



## HERE WE GROW!

In the next few years YHC will add:

- A 200-bed residence hall (August 2009)
- A recreation and fitness center (2010)
- A campus center including student center, dining hall and library (2011)
- A tennis complex
- A new administration building
- An alumni and admissions welcome center



A 200-bed residence hall will open for the fall 2009 semester. The first junior class will have priority in choosing to live in this state-of-the-art facility.

To support these important initiatives, YHC will soon launch a major capital campaign. The revamped advancement department will lead the way to reach out to alumni, friends and foundations to generate the support to make the master plan come alive.

Building on the YHC tradition of strong support from alumni and friends will allow this exciting plan to unfold. Getting approval from SACS to offer four-year degrees is just the first step in the transformation.

Over the next few years, YHC will grow in many significant and exciting ways. Yet, the college will work diligently to retain the small campus and class sizes that have facilitated the growth of strong friendships among students and between students and faculty. As YHC's dedicated Board of Trustees and administration oversee the implementation of this comprehensive master plan, the future looks bright indeed.

This map illustrates growth in the next few years. It is a visual representation of the comprehensive strategic plan.



Existing Buildings      New Buildings

# Joining Together

## UNIFIED ALUMNI ORGANIZATION ANNOUNCED

*It is with great pleasure that representatives of the YHC Board of Trustees and the Young Harris Alumni Foundation (YHAF) announce that an agreement was signed on November 24, 2008 to bring the two alumni organizations together.*

As Young Harris College begins its historic transition to a four-year college, a new, united alumni organization will help guide the college's alumni activities.

The YHC Board of Trustees and the YHAF agreed in November to join together to form the new organization which will become the official alumni organization for YHC.

"A single, unified alumni organization is a tremendous benefit to the entire YHC family. This agreement represents a huge step forward for the future of YHC and demonstrates the willingness of alumni to compromise and work together for the overall good of the college we all love" said President Cathy Cox.

The organization has a governing board made up of 10 representatives appointed by the foundation and 10 members appointed by the YHC Board of Trustees, which met for the first time in May.

Carol Chastain '84, senior vice president and chief compliance officer for United Community Bank, was named by President Cox to head the new board.

The new alumni organization will help plan and implement activities for former students and graduates, working with the Office of Alumni Services and the Office of Advancement. Its goal is to keep alumni informed about activities and progress at YHC and to encourage

them to support their alma mater.

The board plans to evaluate the activities previously sponsored by both organizations as well as develop a wider variety of new activities of interest to all alumni.

Efforts to create the new organization were spearheaded by Reverend Dr. Don Harp '61, Reverend David Haygood '60 and Bob Head '59 representing the college and three foundation representatives: Rufus Brown '60, Dick Burrell '47 and Michele Turner '95.

Top: Michele Turner '95, Bob Head '59, Rufus Brown '60, Reverend David Haygood '60  
Bottom: President Cathy Cox, Dick Burrell '47



### NEW ALUMNI BOARD

Carol Chastain '84  
*President*  
Young Harris, Georgia

Lita Tipton Barnette '85  
Clarkesville, Georgia

Rufus Brown '60  
Gainesville, Georgia

Richard Burrell '47  
Lilburn, Georgia

George Clegg '55  
Dahlonega, Georgia

Jared Downs '96  
Savannah, Georgia

Candler Ginn '77  
Cartersville, Georgia

Ron Hinson '76  
Atlanta, Georgia

Sylvia McCoy Hutchinson '58  
Athens, Georgia

Ceil Jarrett '75  
Berkeley Lake, Georgia

Brian Johnson '94  
Atlanta, Georgia

Bill Johnston '75  
Atlanta, Georgia

Jan Biggers Keith '69  
Atlanta, Georgia

Shirley Miller '54  
Young Harris, Georgia

Robert Murray '75  
Young Harris, Georgia

Ed Nichols '60  
Clarkesville, Georgia

Linda Lee Saye '61  
Atlanta, Georgia

Michele Turner '95  
Athens, Georgia

Jessamy Brown Vining '95  
Gainesville, Georgia

Barbara Marshall Williford '87  
Smyrna, Georgia





# YHC Graduates 171

## BESTOWS FIRST HONORARY BACHELOR'S DEGREES

At the 123rd commencement ceremony on May 9, 171 students received their associate degrees, and the college bestowed its first-ever honorary bachelor's degrees to two long-time supporters, signifying the school's shift to a four-year institution.

"As graduates of Young Harris College, you have been blessed with manifold gifts, and now it is your opportunity to share a giving attitude with the rest of the world...with your professors and your students; with your employers and your employees; with your parents and your children, and with everyone else with whom you come in contact," the keynote speaker Dr. Thomas K. Glenn II told the class of 2009.

Dr. Glenn, who is an emeritus member of the YHC Board of Trustees, was awarded the first honorary degree of bachelor of science from the college.

"Tom Glenn has been a great friend, leader and benefactor to the college over the years, doing things that went somewhat unnoticed but which I continue to hear about," President Cox said.

Fay Clegg Hoag '33, widow of YHC president Charles Clegg, was

awarded the first honorary bachelor of arts degree.

Known as the guardian angel of YHC, Hoag has devoted time and



Jerry W. Nix, President Cox and Dr. Thomas K. Glenn

money to the Charles Clegg Endowed Scholarship, capital campaigns, the annual fund and the arts program.

"Fay has been a wonderful friend and advisor and has shared her insights into the rich history of this institution and what has made it the great place it is today," President Cox said.

Dr. John Wilson Wells, provost and academic dean, was awarded the President's Medallion for his work in strengthening the future of YHC as a four-year institution as well as his leadership as interim president during the 2006-2007 academic year.

"John Wilson Wells, you have been a vibrant force for good at Young

Harris College, and generations to come will benefit from your vision," President Cox said.

Sharing the platform with Dr. Wells and President Cox were Jerry W. Nix, chairman of the YHC Board of Trustees; Reverend Dr. Walter L. Kimbrough, special liaison for outreach and campus ministry; Carol Chastain '84, president of the new unified alumni association; Fay Hoag; Reverend Darris Baker, interim campus minister and pastor of Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church; and Dr. Thomas K. Glenn.

Degrees were awarded within the areas of associate of arts, associate of fine arts and associate of science.

Ten students graduated summa cum laude, the highest honor, indicating a minimum 3.9 GPA. Nineteen students graduated magna cum laude with a minimum 3.7 GPA and 29 students graduated cum laude, achieving a minimum 3.5 GPA.

Forty-nine students wore gold tassels, signifying induction into Phi Theta Kappa, the international honor society for two-year colleges.

More than 50 graduates will return to YHC this fall as juniors.

# Sum of a Father's Dream

## BROGDON CHAIR OF MATHEMATICS ENDOWMENT

*Dr. Joseph Milton Brogdon Jr. and his sister Sarah Campbell Brogdon have donated \$250,000 to Young Harris College to complete an endowment for the Brogdon Chair of Mathematics in memory of their father Joseph Milton Brogdon '31.*

"My sister and I are happy today to complete the endowment of the Brogdon Chair of Mathematics, a dream my father set in motion some 30 years ago," Dr. Joe Brogdon of Macon said.

Brogdon, who passed away in 1996, served as a YHC Board of Trustees member for 25 years and established the mathematics chair in 1968, setting up a trust to fund it. Dr. Robert H. Nichols currently holds the Brogdon Chair of Mathematics.

In 1995, Brogdon received the highest honor awarded by the college, the President's Medallion, in recognition of his high level of commitment to the institution.

"My father felt that his time at Young Harris College was a significant part of his growing into who he was as a person. He believed it was important to give back and focused a lot of his generous giving to YHC because he wanted other young men and women to



Board of Trustees Chairman Jerry Nix, Sarah Campbell Brogdon, Dr. Joseph M. Brogdon and President Cathy Cox.

enjoy the same kind of quality experience," Sarah Brogdon said.

Brogdon frequently attended YHC homecoming events with his wife Hester Campbell Brogdon and his children.

"The YHC homecomings were very happy times for my father. He enjoyed revisiting the campus and seeing his classmates," Dr. Brogdon said.

Through the years, Brogdon worked hard to interest young people from his area in attending YHC, often helping to pay their tuition.

"He truly wanted YHC to do for them

what it had done for him," his son recalled.

Joseph Brogdon came to Young Harris Academy from Uvalda, a small farming community in south Georgia in 1928 at age 15. During the summers, he worked on the college farm to earn his room and board.

At age 18, he received his two-year degree and began teaching mathematics at Watkinsville High School.

When he earned his master's degree at the University of Georgia, he wrote his thesis on the YHC presidents.

Brogdon served as principal of Covington High School, eventually leaving school administration to found a small community bank in his hometown of Uvalda.

Dr. Brogdon and Ms. Brogdon presented the donation at the fall Board of Trustees meeting and told the group, "It's a happy day for the Brogdon family that we now realize our father's dream."



Joseph Milton Brogdon '31



# MEMORIES

## *Give Way to* PROGRESS



**Dobbs-McEachern  
Recreation Center**

Two venerable old buildings on campus are being removed to make way for the new campus center, which will house a new library, dining hall and student center.

The Dobbs-McEachern Recreation Center and Winship Hall both have served students for more than half a century and each has a fascinating history.

Alumni will have an opportunity to purchase a brick from the two buildings by contacting the Office of Alumni Services.

Both facilities were built during a massive building campaign in the 1950s, led by President Dr. Charles Clegg, and Scott Appleby, chairman of the Board of Trustees. Manget Hall, Appleby Annex (now Appleby East), Rich Building and the auditorium were also constructed during that decade. The building campaign also included new water lines and heating plant and refurbishment of the chapel, Sharp Hall, library and dining hall.

The recreation center, completed in 1954, started life as

the Dan MacDougal Memorial Gymnasium, replacing a building referred to by the students as “the old tin can.” The old gym, constructed of boards covered with tar paper and heated by a pot-bellied stove, was so cold and drafty that opposing basketball teams often blamed their losses to the YHC team on the fact that they “froze to death before we could play.”

The MacDougal Gymnasium was named for Dan MacDougal, a member of the Board of Trustees who began the fund-raising effort for the new building but died before it was completed. The building was designed so that a large swimming pool could be installed at a later time.



**Winship Hall**

In 1973, construction began on a classroom and office building with an indoor swimming pool attached at a cost of \$417,000. The pool itself cost only \$40,000. The rest was for the building around the pool.

In 1974, the Board of Trustees passed a resolution naming the complex the

Dobbs-McEachern Recreation Center honoring the loyalty and support of these families throughout the years.

Winship Hall was completed in 1959 and originally was intended to replace Hamby Hall as a residence for boys. The first year it was open, it was a girl’s dormitory so that old Appleby could be torn down and replaced with the present building.

Winship Hall was named for Charles T. Winship, an Atlanta businessman and attorney who began serving on the Board of Trustees in 1927 when he was just 23. He was executive vice chairman from 1940 to 1947 and retired from the board in 1963. He remained a generous supporter of the college until his death in 1983.

# A LEGACY OF *Giving*

## ELIZABETH GARRARD HALL AND CHESTON A. HALL FACULTY FUND AND ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Throughout her lifetime, Elizabeth Garrard Hall '32 maintained a firm belief in the importance of education and a strong commitment to Young Harris College.

The Georgia native and former school teacher made many generous donations to YHC over the years.

Hall passed away in 2004 at the age of 91. Because of her careful planning, Hall's estate made a \$1.1 million donation to YHC in December.

Half of the funds will be used to establish the Elizabeth Garrard Hall and Cheston A. Hall Faculty



Elizabeth Garrard Hall '32

Fund to support faculty scholarship and research, including travel to conferences and symposia.

The balance of the donation will be used for student scholarships through the Elizabeth Garrard Hall and Cheston A. Hall Endowed Scholarship Fund.

The legacy is not the first major gift to YHC from Hall. In 1991, she donated \$500,000 toward the

construction of the Goolsby Center. The Hall-Garrard Wing of Goolsby is named in honor of Hall's husband and several other family members.

Hall was a faithful supporter of YHC and a treasured alumna. She was a recipient of the highest honor awarded by the college, the President's Medallion, given for her outstanding service to YHC.

"My aunt loved Young Harris College and had many happy memories of her time there. She told me that she wanted to leave her money to charities that help children through education," said her nephew, Henry Garrard III of Athens.

She was a frequent visitor to the college campus and was featured in the Fall 2002 issue of *Echoes* celebrating her 70th homecoming by riding in a hot air balloon.

Elizabeth Garrard was born in Wilkes County and attended public school in Washington, Georgia where she was salutatorian of her class.

After graduating from YHC, she attended the University of Georgia where she received her bachelor's degree in Latin in 1934. She began her high school teaching career in Fayetteville where one of her students was Ferrol Sams, who became a physician, humorist and

*My aunt loved Young Harris College and had many happy memories of her time there. She told me that she wanted to leave her money to charities that help children through education.*

HENRY GARRARD III



author of seven books.

She later worked for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service and retired from the General Services Administration.

She married the late Cheston Hall, a chemist with The Coca-Cola Company, in 1953.

When the couple retired, they divided their time between their home in Stone Mountain and Hall's family home in Washington.

She continued to drive back and forth weekly between Stone Mountain and Washington until she was 90.

She was an active member of the Smyrna United Methodist Church in Washington and enjoyed hunting and fishing.

She never had children but doted on her nephew's four children. She enjoyed spending time with the family especially at Christmas and special occasions.

"She loved all children, and she was a very generous donor to charities that benefit children," Garrard said.

Hall exemplified an involved alumna who dedicated much of her life to YHC. Her spirit will live on through her gifts, and we are extremely grateful for her generosity.



Elizabeth Garrard Hall at her 70th YHC homecoming

## From the Planned Giving Office

### CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER

*Thanks to an extension of the Pension Protection Act of 2006, IRA owners age 70-1/2 and older may make tax-free gifts from their IRA to organizations such as YHC. Known as the Charitable IRA Rollover, this tax incentive is available January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2009 and applies to individuals with traditional or Roth IRAs.*



Jennifer McAfee  
Director of  
Development  
and Planned  
Giving

#### HOW DOES THE CHARITABLE IRA ROLLOVER WORK?

*The Charitable IRA Rollover enables qualifying individuals to make donations to organizations such as YHC directly from their IRA without having to include the withdrawal in their adjusted gross income.*

#### WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- *Qualified charitable distributions are excluded from the donor's adjusted gross income.*
- *Charitable IRA Rollover gifts do not count toward the 50 percent charitable giving limit imposed on donors who itemize their deductions.*

#### WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

- *Donors must be 70-1/2 or older when the charitable distribution is made.*
- *The tax benefits apply to Charitable IRA Rollover gifts of up to \$100,000 per person, per year for tax years 2008 and 2009.*
- *The charitable distribution must be transferred directly from a traditional or Roth IRA to a tax-exempt organization such as YHC.*
- *Donors cannot receive any goods or services in return for Charitable IRA Rollover contributions in order to qualify for tax-free treatment.*
- *Distributions from 401(k) plans, 403(b) plans, pension plans and other retirement plans do not qualify for this tax incentive.*

*Donors who designate YHC as the beneficiary of a planned gift, such as a Charitable IRA Rollover contribution, become members of the W. Harry and Harriet Hill Society for Planned Gifts. If you would like more information regarding the various planned giving options available to alumni and friends, please contact Jennifer McAfee in the Office of Advancement at (706) 379-5318 or [jmcafee@yhc.edu](mailto:jmcafee@yhc.edu). If you have already made a planned gift to YHC, we encourage you to inform us so we can include you in the Hill Society and in future planned giving seminars.*

*This overview of the Charitable IRA Rollover provision is designed to provide general guidance and is not a substitute for professional counsel. Nothing in this document should be construed as accounting, tax, legal or other professional advice. Please consult your professional advisors regarding the best way to take advantage of this giving opportunity. Members of the Advancement staff welcome the opportunity to work with your financial or legal advisors to develop a plan that meets your personal goals.*



# Signs of Life

AN INTERVIEW WITH JODY STALLINGS

**D**r. Jody R. Stallings is a new biology professor at YHC. He is a graduate of Murray State University with a B.S. in wildlife biology. He earned an M.A. in tropical conservation and a Ph.D. in forest resources and conservation from the University of Florida. *Echoes* recently set down with Dr. Stallings to talk about his journey to the enchanted valley.



**ECHOES:** As one of the newest members of the faculty, what drew you to Young Harris?

**STALLINGS:** I've been a resident of Union County since 1999, even though I lived overseas for much of the past 30 years. While we were living in Quito, Ecuador, we decided as a family that we needed a home base. We'd been working across the South American continent with really no home in the states. Some friends

of ours, who also lived in Quito, said they had just purchased property in a place called Blairsville, Georgia. Among the criteria they used for selecting a place to live was small, rural and friendly, and surrounded by protected areas (parks). Being a conservation biologist, that was very appealing to me. So in 1997 we purchased some property here and built a house. We visited during holidays. It was our place to go

during that period of time.

**ECHOES:** So you were already familiar with the area and the college before you came to work here.

**STALLINGS:** I was very familiar with the college because both of our sons went to YHC. They both were raised

overseas and attended international American schools in Ecuador and Guatemala which tend to have very small student bodies. They were not used to being in large schools with a class size of hundreds. In fact they were used to having small class sizes of seven to 15 students. YHC was a natural transition into their college careers.

**ECHOES:** Define conservation biology.

**STALLINGS:** Conservation biology is the study of our living planet and the protection of the biological diversity that is found within it. It's an emerging science that has only been around since the late 1980s, and it developed because of the biodiversity crisis we're experiencing on this planet. Conservation biology is a new, integrated science that represents a synthesis of many basic sciences and new approaches for more applied disciplines. This integration of ecology, sociology, agriculture and wildlife management, just to name a few, tries to look for possible solutions to problems around the



globe where we are eroding the fabric of our societies and the natural resource base.

**ECHOES:** That ties in with the sustainability program here at YHC.

**STALLINGS:** That's correct. I currently chair that committee. Southern Appalachia is one of the more biologically rich areas in the continental United States. There are all these different ecosystems coming together in one region. It is a little known fact that we are on the southern tip of an area that has more biological diversity than any other area in the continental United States.

For me as a conservation biologist, this backdrop of scenic beauty and tremendous biodiversity was also another compelling reason to come to Young Harris.

**ECHOES:** You spent some time in the Peace Corps. Tell us about that experience.

**STALLINGS:** Since I was a little boy, I wanted to work in exotic places. My dream was to work in Africa. I kept that dream alive by watching "Wild Kingdom" on TV and reading books on wildlife. Then I got to high school and heard about the Peace Corps. When I finished my undergraduate work at Murray State University in Western Kentucky, I applied for the Peace Corps but was turned down. At that time Peace Corps biologists were required to have a four-year degree and one year of experience. I got that experience working at Land Between the Lakes—a TVA conservation area in Kentucky and Tennessee.

Then I re-applied. At that time there was a program called the Smithsonian Institution/Peace Corps. The Smithsonian developed the program and the positions for environmental volunteers. You were a Peace Corps volunteer once you got

into the country but were working in a more scientific or environmental program. I got in and applied for Africa...and they sent me to Paraguay! That's typically a two-year experience in the Peace Corps—I stayed for three and one-half years. It was an amazing experience. I worked with Smithsonian scientists cataloging the species richness of Paraguay which hadn't been very well studied. That was 1978.

I just kept extending my time as a volunteer. It was a fantastic experience to work with a world-renowned mammalogist or a world-renowned botanist or a world-renowned snake expert. It was an incredible education. At the same time, we trained Paraguayans to collect inventories and know their own species. The end game was to help build a museum of natural history—kind of like our Smithsonian but on a much smaller basis—in Paraguay. We did that, and it is still running.

I met my wife, also a Peace Corps volunteer, and we got married in the Peace Corps. My mentors said that I needed to go to graduate school, so we went to the University of Florida which, at that time, was the Mecca for conservation biology.

I studied primates in Paraguay for my master's thesis and stayed to complete my Ph.D. I took my family to Brazil, where we lived in a forest park facility for 14 months while I did my dissertation research. Our oldest son Gannon, who also works here at YHC, was two and three when we lived in the Rio Doce State Forestry Park.

We returned to the University of Florida where I defended my dissertation. I went back to Brazil on a post-doctoral fellowship with the Smithsonian and World Wildlife Fund (WWF), where I helped create a



master's level conservation biology course for Brazil and taught at the Federal University of Minas Gerais for three years. I also conducted ecological research at the Poco das Antas Biological Reserve, which is the home of the famous golden lion tamarin, a small golden colored primate.

For a more hands-on application of conservation biology, we went to Ecuador. By then we had our second son Max, who also went to YHC. I worked for CARE International, a humanitarian organization, which had received money from the US government to implement a large environmental program. I ran that program for 10 years.

From there, I went to Guatemala and worked for two years in the Maya Biosphere Reserve, which is



located in the northern part of the country bounded by Belize and Mexico, and has significant Mayan ruins and fantastic wildlife. I was in charge of managing the project for the US government.

Approaching mid-life, I had my opportunity, finally, to go to Uganda in East Africa and work for the US government as a foreign service officer. I worked out of the US embassy and managed the US environmental portfolio—giving grants to national and international conservation organizations to do the kind of projects I did when I worked for the Smithsonian, WWF and CARE.

In Uganda, I was fortunate to manage projects that were focused on large mammals such as gorillas, chimpanzees, lions and elephants. We worked with the mountain gorilla—there are only about 700 left in the world—which is a huge economic opportunity for tourism and encourages villagers and government officials to protect this highly endangered great ape. I also worked with elephants. We darted and put radio collars on elephants to follow their large migration patterns throughout northern Uganda. This elephant study would hopefully give us an insight into their movement patterns and offer some management guidelines to avoid the loss of crops. The goal was to strike that happy balance between human needs and patterns and saving biodiversity. And now I'm here at YHC.

**ECHOES:** I understand you have quite a collection of artifacts.

**STALLINGS:** I have collections of all kinds of bizarre things. In Uganda,

Guatemala and Ecuador, I collected masks, totems and other artifacts. I have four or five real blow guns from Amazonian tribes. Some are eight feet long and take two hands to hold; some are light. I've always been interested in primitive weaponry. One of my publications was entitled "From Blow Guns to Shot Guns in 30 years." It looked at the impact of going from more primitive and traditional weaponry to more modern weaponry and its impact on biodiversity.

**ECHOES:** Someone described you as a modern-day Indiana Jones.

**STALLINGS:** Well, I don't have a whip or carry a pistol, but I certainly have the drive to experience new cultures and to visit exotic places; like going down an Amazonian river in a canoe to a Huaorani indigenous village and trying to communicate with the people about their natural resources. I enjoy searching for pieces of



traditional culture that are still intact. And I really enjoy looking for artifacts. I am just as comfortable sitting on a stump in a remote village in a tropical forest discussing wildlife issues with a tribal chief as I am in a city negotiating with government officials. Well, actually I am more comfortable with the chief!

**ECHOES:** What was it that said it was time to settle down?

**STALLINGS:** We had always planned to move back, settle down and find something to do in this area. When I heard that YHC was going to four years, it seemed like the time to transition back to the states. If we were going to

live in the Blairsville area, there aren't a lot of employment opportunities for someone with my background, but I thought the opportunities would be better with a four-year school than a two-year school.

**ECHOES:** So you're very excited about the move to four years.

**STALLINGS:** Oh yes. I think it is a very exciting opportunity. The opportunity to expand to a four-year program and actually teach conservation biology next fall as part of the new curriculum fits in very nicely with my goals.

*After traveling the world for more than 30 years, Dr. Jody Stallings brings a true global perspective to YHC. His enthusiasm and passion for conservation biology fit in perfectly with this area.*



# *Report* TO INVESTORS



*Dear Alumni & Friends of Young Harris College,*

*Enclosed in this magazine is a listing of the donors from January 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008. We are providing this information to complete a listing of all donors that gave in the fiscal year 2007–2008. Our sincere thanks to our donors for your support of Young Harris College.*

*Beginning July 1, 2009, we will list and report our donors by fiscal year instead of the calendar year. This provides the college with a more accurate accounting of the money raised each year as well as following the fiscal year of the college. This new publication will be called The President's Giving Report and will be mailed to all donors in the fall of 2010. This report will reflect all gifts to Young Harris College from July 1, 2008 to June 30 2009.*

*Again, thank you for your generous support of Young Harris College!*

*Sincerely,*

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Jay Stroman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jay" and last name "Stroman" clearly legible.

*Jay Stroman*

*Vice President for Advancement*

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 2007 Cathy Cox

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 Dr. J. A. Sharp Club  
 President's Club  
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*Persons who have made a planned gift to Young Harris College qualify as members of the W. Harry and Harriett Hill Society. To learn more about arranging for the college to benefit from your estate, please contact the Office of Advancement at (706) 379-5318. We would appreciate the opportunity to introduce you to the benefits of the Society, including a Legacy newsletter and opportunities to come together with others who have made similar commitments.*

Raymond A. Alley Jr. '60

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 Marguerite McCall '53  
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## Diamond Club

*The Young Harris College Diamond Club is a way for parents and fans of YHC Baseball to show their support for their favorite college baseball team. There are four levels of membership including the Single A (\$50), Double A (\$100), Triple A (\$200), and the Major League level (\$500). All proceeds go to the Young Harris College Baseball Team to assist with the operation of this elite college baseball program.*

The Reverend and Mrs.  
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Estate of Charles Edwin Suber





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Mr. and Mrs. John W. Winn

### *ASBURY WALTON*

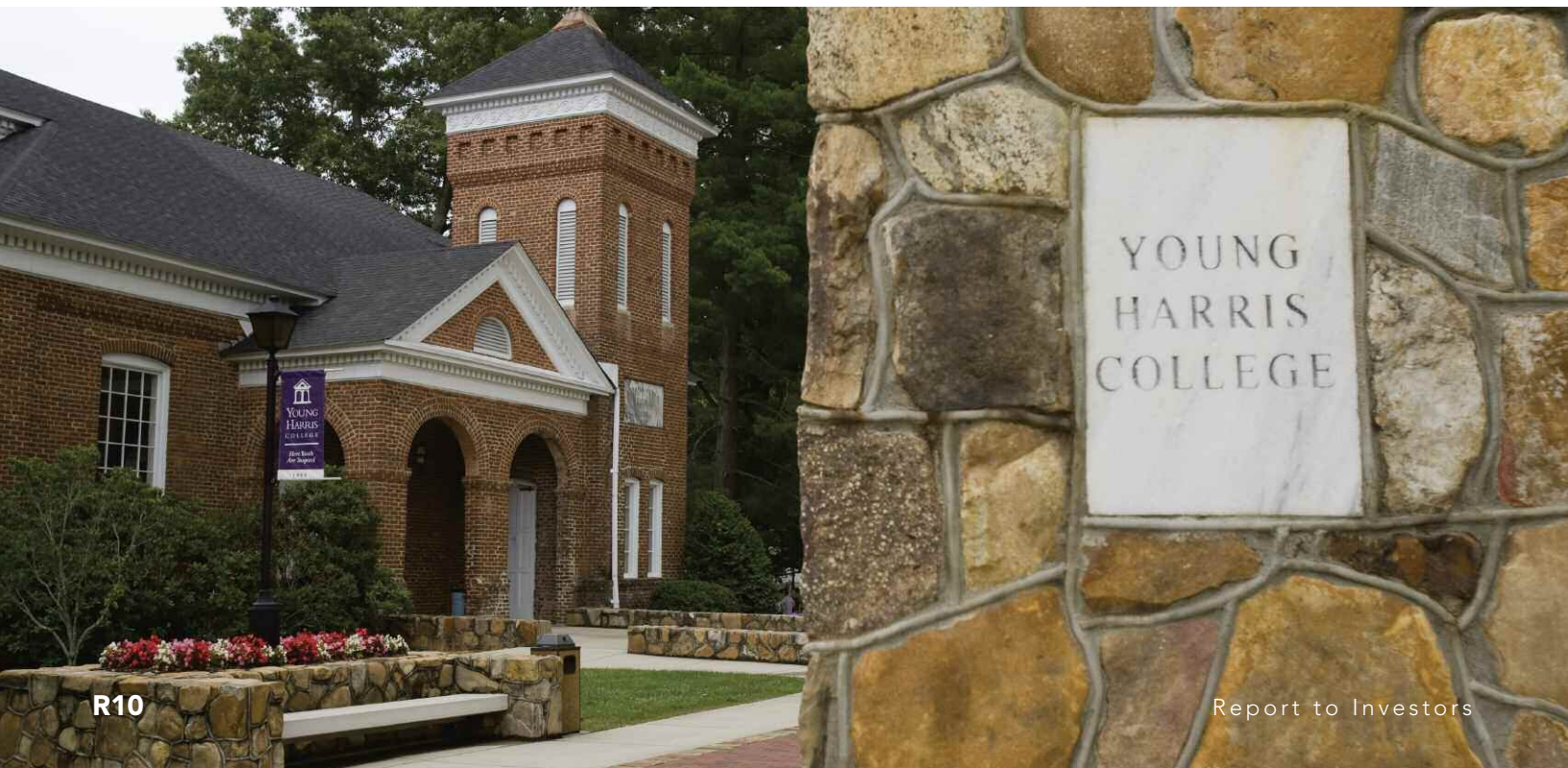
The Reverend T. Jack  
McCollough Jr. '47

### *ANNELLE WHITAKER*

Mr. and Mrs. A. Dan Sassaman

### *EVELYN L. WITHERSPOON*

Alice Witherspoon Bliss



# T H I S I S Young Harris College



## MISSION

Young Harris College educates, inspires and empowers students through a comprehensive liberal arts experience that integrates mind, body and spirit.

## GOALS

*Young Harris College will:*

- Educate students through a comprehensive liberal arts experience.
- Challenge students through innovative academic, cultural, athletic and spiritual programs.
- Recruit and retain excellent students, faculty and staff.
- Empower students, faculty and staff to reach their full potential.
- Increase significantly the college's financial resources and facilities to support growth and development.
- Contribute to the quality of life of our local community.

## VALUES

### TRUTH

- Truth and its unfettered pursuit through intellectual inquiry
- Integrity in all aspects of academic, professional and personal life

### THE LIBERAL ARTS

- Open-minded and inquisitive learners
- The liberal arts model of higher education and its role in transforming students

### HERITAGE

- Its historic affiliation with the United Methodist Church and the Wesleyan tradition of higher education which seeks to develop both a trained mind and a warm heart
- Academic freedom, affirmation of the dignity and worth of all persons, moral integrity and support for the spiritual journeys of the members of our college community

## COMMUNITY

- The relationships engendered through a small and diverse campus community
- The support provided by our faculty, staff, trustees, alumni and friends
- The natural world and the cultural traditions and rich history of the southern Appalachian region

## CITIZENSHIP

- Our personal and collective responsibilities as citizens in service to society
- The role of leadership dedicated to creating a sustainable, just and caring society

## VISION

*Young Harris College will be a liberal arts institution of recognized excellence comprised of a vibrant community of learners.*

## EDUCATE

Young Harris College seeks to be recognized in the Southeast as an institution that, through its liberal arts education, encourages students to be intellectually curious. The college will educate the whole person through a comprehensive program of classroom, residential and extracurricular experiences. Faculty and staff will be active lifelong learners, and the college will support their intellectual and professional development. The college will examine its processes and learn not only from itself, but also remain involved with the academy at-large. The college will embrace emerging technology and pedagogical innovations.

## INSPIRE

Young Harris College will be inclusive in character, providing opportunities for the development of faith through study, worship and service. The college will take advantage of its mountain setting, incorporating the heritage and

natural environment in both academics and student programming. The college will provide diverse educational, recreational, social and cultural experiences for its students and the surrounding community.

## EMPOWER

Young Harris College will prepare its students to exercise mature and independent moral judgment in an ever-changing and diverse world. The college will challenge students to find and develop their particular talents, skills and abilities. The college will provide opportunities for students to interact with others from diverse backgrounds, thus preparing them for responsible citizenship. The Young Harris College experience will exemplify environmental awareness, stewardship and service to the community.

## STUDENT LIFE

There are more than 35 student organizations—drama/theatre group, choir, ensemble, art student league, student-run newspaper and literary magazine. Social organizations include local fraternities and sororities, student government, activities board, Wesley Fellowship, Baptist Student Union, Newman Club, Chapel, honorary services organizations and Phi Theta Kappa. At Young Harris College, students have opportunities for involvement regardless of their special interests.

## ATHLETICS

YHC is a NJCAA and GJCAA member. Intercollegiate sports include men's baseball, cross country, golf and soccer and women's cross country, golf, soccer, softball and tennis. Intramural sports include badminton, basketball, flag football, golf, indoor hockey, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, ultimate Frisbee, volleyball and weightlifting.



# Methods of Giving

*Donors may consider, but are not limited to the following methods of giving:*

## *Current Gifts*

Cash, Appreciated Property (i.e., stocks, bonds, art, etc.), Gifts-in-Kind, Life Insurance, Real Estate.

### **ONLINE GIVING**

Donations may be made online by following the related links provided at [www.yhc.edu/1120.aspx](http://www.yhc.edu/1120.aspx).

## *Planned Giving or Deferred Gifts*

Wills, Living Trusts, Charitable Remainder Unitrusts, Charitable Remainder Annuity Trusts, Gift Annuities, Deferred Gift Annuities, Life Estate Agreements as below.

### **WILLS**

A properly drawn will is an excellent way to remember YHC and make a significant contribution. This gift is in a designated amount, part of an estate or the residue of a will given at the time of the donor's death.

### **LIVING TRUSTS**

A donor may, in his or her lifetime, enter into a legal agreement or contract for the benefit of an organization such as YHC. The donor funds this trust with assets, but retains the right to terminate, cancel or revoke the trust.

The trustor or grantor transfers property of any kind to a trustee, who invests and reinvests the property and pays the income to a named beneficiary. When the trustor dies, the trust is terminated or continued for beneficiaries for a definite period of time. At some time, either a trustor's death or at the death of his or her beneficiaries, the principal goes to the college.

### **LIFE ESTATE AGREEMENT**

Donors may contribute a personal home, a farm or other assets to YHC and retain the right to live in the home or farm and use the property to produce income. At the donor's death, the property would go directly to the college without going through probate or taxation.

### **DEFERRED ANNUITY**

The donor makes a charitable gift to the institution before retirement. The institution agrees to pay a guaranteed life income, beginning when the donor retires or at any date he or she specifies. This program is ideal for donors who would like to make a sizable charitable gift but are concerned about having sufficient retirement income.

### **CHARITABLE REMAINDER UNITRUSTS**

Created by the donor, this life-income plan irrevocably transfers assets to a trust, which pays the donor an annual income for life. The income is based on a fixed percentage, which is determined by the fair market value of the trust as re-valued annually. Upon the death of the donor, the trust assets are transferred to YHC.

### **CHARITABLE REMAINDER ANNUITY TRUSTS**

This life-income plan irrevocably transfers assets to a trust, which pays the donor an annual fixed dollar amount. The donor can also provide income for another person. At the time of the donor's death, the trust principal becomes the property of the YHC.

### **CHARITABLE LEAD TRUSTS**

With this plan, payments are made to the charitable institution for a predetermined time, after which the trust corpus goes to a designated remainder beneficiary.

### **GIFT ANNUITY**

Donor transfers cash or other property to YHC and in return, the college pays the donor a specified amount annually or quarterly for the remainder of the donor's life. This gift has tax advantages and is a way to make a gift and receive an income for life.

*All materials presented are for general information only and should not be acted upon without qualified professional assistance.*

*For more information on how you can become a part of the vision for Young Harris College, contact the Office of Advancement at (706) 379-5173.*



# LANCE Signature COLLECTION

BY MARC McAFEE '07

*It all started with a birthday present. Given to a husband and father of four, this small envelope, yellowed by almost 200 years of age at the time, was signed by George Washington himself.*

The envelope once contained a letter sent from Washington to fellow Revolutionary War hero and friend Nathaniel Greene, who was living down at Cumberland Island. LaBelle Lance couldn't resist giving her history-buff husband this special artifact with a Georgia connection. This gift started the Bert and LaBelle Lance Presidential Signature Collection.

Started long before the Lances got involved in politics, the collection is the fruit of 50 years of searching and compiling. Now on loan to YHC from the former Democratic Party leader and his wife of almost 60 years, it's quite a sight. As Lance points out, "When you're in that room, you're

standing in the middle of American history." For these aren't just autographs. These pieces of handwriting, signatures of the most powerful men in the United States, are attached to official pardons, ship's documents and personal letters. Together they tell quite a story about our country. They reflect humor between powerful friends, thanks from grateful politicians and grace between men on opposite sides of the political spectrum.

I wanted to learn more about the Lance Collection, so I went to Calhoun to interview my Great-Uncle Bert and Great-Aunt LaBelle. They told me the wonderful story of how one prized possession became a collection of priceless historical artifacts. They did not start with the goal of having all the presidents' signatures. It started with Washington's and took off from there when they decided to collect others. This was not an easy process in the



days before the Internet. It took years. And by its very nature, the collection will always be a work in progress. President Obama's signature has not been added yet. Lance has not written him with a request, saying "I wanted to give him a break for a while."

James Polk's signature was the hardest to track down. He didn't like to sign many documents. But the thrill of the chase didn't make Polk's the favorite. When asked if he had any personal preferences, Lance hesitated, trying not to show preferences, then admitted he is keen on the personalized letters, the historical value of the Lincoln





document and simply the idea of having personalized pieces of writing from all the great men who became our US presidents.

Lance believes “[the collection] is American history in compact form, from the start of the country to today.” That’s as good a collection as any lifelong student of history like Lance could ask for.

When Bert and LaBelle moved from their longtime Calhoun home, they decided to loan the priceless collection to another place close to their hearts: Young Harris College.

One of the many people who welcomed the collection was professor of history Dr. Thomas Stearns. He gave me a good look at the collection through the discerning eyes of an historian. Dr. Stearns hailed the arrival of the collection as “a double-win for YHC,” because it allows the viewer to “learn something of history and cultural expression at the same time.” He looks forward to both scholars and the general public brushing up on their history, and commented that the signatures,

“while fixed in time on paper, represent an era.” He sees them as time capsules that provide an up-close and personal look into the lives of the great men who took the oath of office. Professor Stearns says the most refreshing part of the collection is its accessibility—and you don’t have to be an historian to appreciate it.

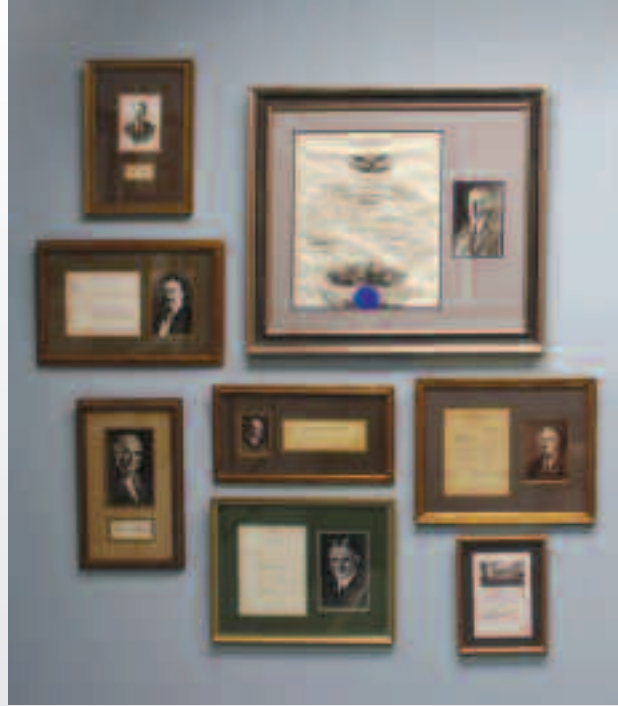
The collection can be overwhelming and isn’t made any easier by the fancy and nearly illegible handwriting on many of the documents. That’s where Debra March stepped in. The YHC librarian used her many years working for doctors to “transcribe” each word on

the documents.

Many of the documents’ stories are lost in history. Two presidential pardons for two unknown persons, a short, cryptic document signed by Teddy Roosevelt when he was president of the board of police commissioners in New York and a blank, multi-lingual ship’s passport signed by John Tyler are just a few of the mysteries hidden in the collection and lost to history.

Not all the pieces are mysteries however. The story behind what may be the most emotionally powerful document in the collection, the Abraham Lincoln signature, is quite clear. That document, a promotion for a soldier to brigadier general, was signed a week after the Battle of Shiloh, when the blood was still drying on the fields of Tennessee. The signature came on a day when Lincoln had many newly vacated positions to fill, as the North had suffered more than 13,000 casualties. The document itself is a powerful sight to behold, and the observer is even more profoundly affected when faced with the back story.

Many of the pieces may strike a personal chord with visitors who have trekked from places as far away as Okinawa, Japan, and Sydney, Australia. Professor Stearns said Franklin Roosevelt’s note of thanks moved him the most. “My parents were teens in the Great Depression. My grandfather talked of FDR as a hero throughout my growing up years,” Stearns said, “To see that he wrote that note in Warm Springs is an emotional bond to a man facing and conquering his adversities with pluck and courage.” The FDR signature dates to when he had just



been elected governor of New York, before the Depression that would define his later presidency had even started.

Most of the more modern examples have personal connections to the collector, because they came from presidents who were friends and acquaintances of Lance. One of my personal favorites shows the good will that can extend between men from both Republican and Democratic presidencies. The Richard Nixon signature is on a letter Nixon wrote to compliment Lance on an editorial he wrote for the New York Times in 1990. In it, Nixon tells Lance, "If Carter had followed your wise counsel he might have won in 1980!" Kind words from the former Republican president to the former Democratic presidential cabinet member.

Lance said he has many more historical examples in his personal collection, which he and LaBelle may one day give to the college. For now, the YHC Board of Trustees member wanted to do what he could for his childhood home. The library where the signatures are on display is right across from the Hesed House. It was in that little house built for his father, Dr. T. Jack Lance, that Bert Lance spent his early years. Jack Lance graduated from YHC in 1908 before becoming a professor and eventually the school's president from 1930 to 1942. Bert's brother Bob Lance '36 and sister Alice Rose '39 both graduated from YHC. Alice married my grandfather Frank McAfee '38, after they met there in the enchanted valley.

Lance dedicated the collection to



his father, a lifelong scholar. He hopes students will use the collection for their own research, and Professor Stearns believes they should. He said professors will encourage students to visit the collection when they are studying certain presidents, because handwriting "reflects the individual...it may change a student's mind about a particular president to see how he put his name to paper." Dr. Stearns agreed with Lance that the collection can be a powerful learning aide to both professors and their students.

But even if you aren't there to study, you can still take a moment to pause and reflect on what's in front of you. It may be harder to grasp in an age when we put our signatures on everything from grocery receipts to UPS packages, but long before a hastily typewritten reply followed every casual email, signing your name with a quill pen was quite an elaborate affair. Just ask John Hancock.

The truth is, we rarely stop to ponder the significance or importance of a signature beyond its material worth as a famous person's

autograph. Therefore it's easy to forget that some of the greatest pieces of writing in history, and certainly the most important, are closed with signatures. Contracts, love letters, peace treaties, declarations of independence, all are truly punctuated by the signatures attached.

So when you make the trip to see the collection, don't look past the stories these documents tell, for they are endless. They provide a unique glimpse into the lives, personalities and responsibilities of the men who stepped forward to take our nation's highest office. They tell the stories of the separate times and worlds in which these men lived. They also tell the story of one great man's patriotic affinity for history and collecting, and the loving gift from his family that started it all.

*Marc McAfee '07 is the great-nephew of Bert and LaBelle Lance. He is currently a student at the University of Georgia in the Henry Grady School of Journalism.*





# YHC Goes Global



Dale Cochran with Big Ben

## London

YHC students and faculty visited the museums, galleries and theaters of London during a spring break trip sponsored by the Division of Fine Arts in conjunction with the Delta Gamma Drama Society. In addition to seeing the other sights, the group of 25 students and faculty visited the restored Globe Theater, the Royal National Theater and enjoyed a performance of *Les Miserables* in London's West End theatre district. The group was the largest since the trips began in 1989.



Erika Estep and John Redgrave beside the Thames River

## Mexico

A group of YHC students gave their time and energy during spring break helping those less fortunate. Working with the Casa por Cristo organization, 19 students and adults participating in a mission trip to Juarez, Mexico, brought along the supplies and tools necessary to build a home for a family in need. Over the past 10 years, YHC students active in the religious life program on campus have built 19 homes for Juarez families, helping meet crucial housing needs.



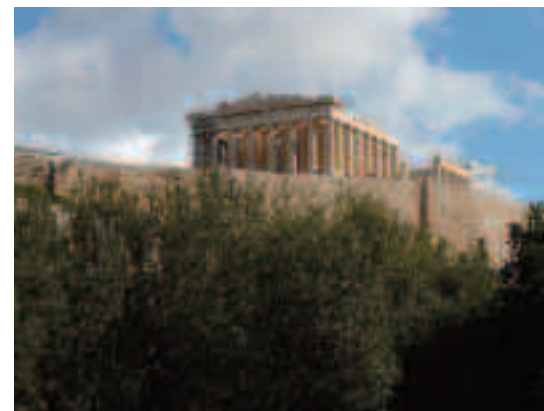
YHC students frame walls of a home for a family in need



Chris Heard

## Greece

Seven YHC honors program students spent nine days in Greece during spring break, visiting the islands of Poros, Aegina and Hydra. Students also toured Olympia, site of the original Olympic Games, hiked through Delphi and visited Mycenae, a city that dates back to Homer's *Illiad*. The students were enrolled in a one-hour humanities course and prepared for the trip by studying the literature, art, history and culture of Greece. They were accompanied by YHC professor Louisa Franklin.







## Choir Chosen for Savannah Performance

For the second time in three years, the Young Harris College Choir was chosen to perform at the Georgia Music Educators Association Convention in Savannah.

The 50-voice choir, directed by Jeffrey Bauman, director of choral/vocal studies, performed selections from Brahms' Liebes Lieder Walzer in the historic Wesley Monumental United Methodist Church sanctuary.

The choir was among a select group of outstanding choirs from colleges and universities across the state selected to perform at the event.

The choir is a non-auditioned ensemble that includes nearly 10 percent of the total student body, representing all academic areas of the college.

The Young Harris College Choir performs regularly throughout the region with a repertoire that ranges from standard choral literature and choral masterworks to standard vocal jazz selections.

## Springfest '09

More than 400 students and friends enjoyed an afternoon of music, games and a Beatles-themed dinner at the annual Springfest celebration on the lawn on April 1. Ben Chapman and the Accents, featuring YHC student Matthew Goodlett on the bass guitar was the opening act for The Return, a Beatles tribute band. Clubs and organizations provided snacks, drinks and prizes. Activities included a giant rock climbing wall, an inflatable boxing arena, an inflatable obstacle course, an airbrush tattoo station and a "make your own street sign" booth.



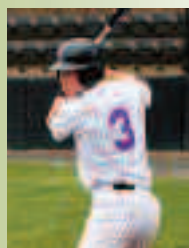


# A Season of Honors

## BASEBALL

The Mountain Lions baseball team ended the season with 44 wins and shattered a majority of the team's offensive records.

The team broke the records for batting average (.381), runs scored (642), doubles (146), home runs (83) runs-batted-in (610), slugging percentage (.598), fewest strike-outs (257) and on-base percentage (.473).



Bryson Smith  
named GJCAA  
Player of the Year

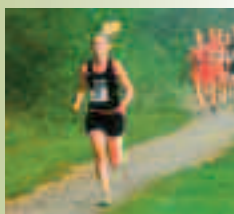
Bryson Smith was named the Georgia Junior College Athletic Association (GJCAA) Player of the Year after breaking YHC's single season record for batting average (.467), tying the record for home runs with 21 and finishing second in hits (99) and runs batted in (90).

Eight players were named to the 2009 GJCAA All-Conference Team. First Team selections were Bryson Smith, Travis Echols, Daniel Warzon and Derrick Lowery. Clay Remole, Austin Schultz, Kenny Swab and C. J. Smith were named to the Second Team.

## CROSS COUNTRY

Coach Barry Brown was selected as the Women's Cross Country Coach of the Year by the GJCAA after coaching his women's team to the Region XVII Championship. The team placed 17th in the National Championship meet.

The men's cross country team took second place in the Region XVII Championship, missing first place by only a few points.



Stacey Keahon took  
first place overall in  
the regional meet

On the women's team, Stacey Keahon came in first place overall in the regional meet. Rebecca Westbrook came in second overall and Grier Fricks came in fifth overall. All three women made the All-Region First Team. Carolyn Hoffinan and Stella Snowden were named to the All-Region Second Team.

On the men's team, Zach Tyler finished second place overall at the meet and was named to the All-Region First Team along with Alex Truitt.



Coach Barry  
Brown was named  
Coach of the Year

## MEN'S SOCCER

The men's soccer team ended its season with a 16-4 record, finishing 11th in the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) poll and 14th in the NSCAA ranking.



Adrian Klammer leading  
scorer in the nation

Adrian Klammer finished the season as the leading scorer in the nation with an amazing 50 goals, a record never before achieved at YHC. He led the nation in points-per-player and was named All-American, Region XVII Player of the Year, NCJAA National Player of the Week and was named to the All-Region First Team and All-Tournament Team for Region XVII.

Klammer, who ended his freshman year with a perfect 4.0 GPA and is on course to be an Academic All-American, will return to YHC in the fall as captain of the Mountain Lions soccer team.

Johan Ekbert, also with a 4.0 GPA, was named to the All-Region First Team. Cory Bonar made the All-Region Second Team and the Region XVII All-Tournament Team. Jacob Primm and Pedro Almazan received honorable mention for the All-Region Second Team. Primm was named to the Region XVII All-Tournament Team.

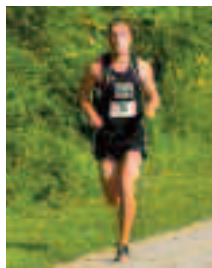
## GOLF

The men's golf team had a successful year, both on and off the course, averaging a fifth place finish in all tournaments.

The team's GPA of 3.3 was the highest in the short history of the golf program.

The women's team also averaged a fifth place finish in all tournaments and achieved a team GPA of 3.3.

Sophomore Heather Dusch won the Region Tournament and will represent YHC and Region XVII in the National Championship Tournament in Daytona, Florida.



Zach Tyler finished  
second place  
overall



## WOMEN'S SOCCER

The women's soccer team won 17 games this season, lost only two and recorded one tie, finishing with an eighth place ranking in the NJCAA National Poll.

The highlight of the season came last fall when the team beat No. 1 ranked Lewis & Clark College, a team that eventually went on to win the national championship.

Candace Edwards was the team's leading goal scorer with 16 goals. She was recognized as NSCAA All-American and was named to the All-Region Second Team. Sarah Dashiell was also a NSCAA All-American and was named to the All-Region First Team.

Kristen Leonard was awarded the prestigious Luke Rushton award for her talent in athletics and academics. She maintained a 4.0 GPA throughout her two years at YHC.

Other team members who received recognition were Emily Villas, All-Region First Team; Rachel Wilkes, Cat Durham and Kelsey Cunningham, All-Region Second Team.



Candace Edwards was the team's leading goal scorer

## WOMEN'S TENNIS

The tennis team finished the 2009 spring season with an 8-8 record, competing against junior college and four-year college teams.

One of the biggest matches for the team was the home match against regional opponent Georgia Perimeter College. YHC took a 5-4 victory this season, after losing to their rival for many years.

After finishing second in the region during the regular season, the team went on to compete in the Region Tournament in Tifton and came in third place, only two points behind the second place team. Victoria Mililli won the No. 5 flight in the tournament and was named to the All-Region Team.

## SOFTBALL

The softball team finished fourth in the Region XVII tournament in Covington, ending their season with 25 wins and 22 losses.

Freshman outfielder Chelsea Davis and freshman catcher Sam Woolf earned Region XVII Second Team All-Conference honors. Davis and Woolf along with 10 other freshmen will return to the team as sophomores next year.

# ROBINSON RACKS UP 500<sup>th</sup> Win!



Baseball Coach Rick Robinson won his 500th game as head coach of the Mountain Lions and led his team to a 44-win season.

In his 11-year coaching career at YHC, Coach Robinson has

achieved an overall record of 513-159. His career record is 546-185. The historic win came on April 4 when the Mountain Lions beat their archrival Middle Georgia College.

Coach Robinson has led his Mountain Lions to eight GJCAA conference championships, five Region XVII championships and one NJCAA national tournament appearance.

He was named the GJCAA Coach of the Year in 2008 in recognition of his fourth 50-win season. He was named the Region XVII Coach of the Year in 2000, 2003 and 2004.

"As the head coach, I am the least important factor in winning 500 games. To be successful and to be able to win consistently for that many years in a row, you have to have great players, great assistant coaches and an administration that supports you and trusts that you are putting a quality product out on the field," Robinson said.

His players consistently achieve on the field and in the classroom and are active in campus activities and their community. Twelve of the 19 sophomores from the class of 2009 have signed to continue their baseball careers beyond YHC. Eight of these have signed with NCAA Division I schools.

Through the years, more than 100 players coached by Robinson have gone on to play at four-year colleges and 23 have signed professional contracts.



# YHC ALUMNI *Celebrate!*

## Homecoming 2009

### JULY 24-26

This is sure to be a memorable weekend for alumni and friends of YHC! This is your opportunity to return to your alma mater and reconnect with friends, classmates and professors. Join us as we celebrate the transition from a two-year to a four-year college and the formation of a new, unified alumni organization.

Plan to be here for all of the exciting events and activities. If you are a member of a reunion class and don't see your information on the schedule, please contact the alumni office for the latest information.

Come back and spend a special weekend in the enchanted valley as we celebrate YHC, friendships and our bright future. You won't be disappointed!

#### Friday

- 7:30-9 a.m. Breakfast, Grace Rollins Dining Hall, \$6.50
- 8:30 a.m.-7 p.m. Campus Book Store Open
- 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Registration Tent Open, Campus Plaza
- 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Lunch, Grace Rollins Dining Hall, \$7.50
- 1:30-2:30 p.m. Open House at New Office of Alumni Services  
849 Main Street  
*Stop by and meet the staff. We'd love to meet you! Refreshments will be served.*
- 2:30-3:30 p.m. Ice Cream Social  
Myers Student Center
- 3:30-4:30 p.m. *Now and Then* Walking Tours of Campus  
Leaving from the Susan B. Harris Chapel  
*Check out the new residence hall and legacy tree planting.*

- 4-4:30 p.m. and 5-5:30 p.m. The Cowboy Astronomer  
Rollins Planetarium  
*Family planetarium show featuring new digital technology. A skillfully woven tapestry of star tales and Native American legends.*
- 6-8 p.m. Dinner, Grace Rollins Dining Hall, \$8.50
- 6-8 p.m. Greatest Generation Dinner  
Classes '35-'47  
Robinson Dining Room  
★\$15 pre-registration required
- 6-8 p.m. Class of '49 ('48 & '50) 60th  
Reunion Dinner  
Moschetto's Restaurant  
★\$18 pre-registration required
- 6-8 p.m. Class of '59 ('58 & '60) 50th  
Reunion Dinner  
Grace Rollins Dining Hall  
★\$18 pre-registration required

Register Now Online at [www.yhc.edu/homecoming](http://www.yhc.edu/homecoming).

6:30–10 p.m.

**Celebration Reunion Dinner and Alumni Awards**

Book signing by Zell B. Miller '51 for his new book, *Purt Nigh Gone*  
Brasstown Valley Resort

★\$45 pre-registration required, cash bar  
*Special nightly rates available for YHC alums*

8–11 p.m.

Coffee and Cake Reception  
Myers Student Center

**Saturday**

7:30–9 a.m.

Breakfast, Grace Rollins Dining Hall, \$6.50

8–9:30 a.m.

Dorcas/Spat Breakfast

Grace Rollins Dining Hall

★\$6.50 pre-registration required,  
pay at the door

8–10:30 a.m.

Hike to Brasstown Bald (3.5 miles)

Gather at Outdoor Center,  
shuttle return to campus

*Get that heart pumping; take a hike through the beautiful Young Harris mountains to the top of Brasstown Bald.*

8 a.m.–2 p.m.

Registration Tent Open, Campus Plaza

8:30 a.m.–7 p.m.

Campus Book Store Open

9–10 a.m.

Coffee with President Cox

Campus Gate Gallery

Special recognition for classes of  
'58 and '59

9 a.m.–5:30 p.m.

*Students of Ezra Sellers*

Alumni Art Exhibit

Campus Gate Gallery

10:30–11:30 a.m.

**College Update with President Cox**

Hilda D. Glenn Auditorium

Unveiling of the new alumni board name  
and special recognition for classes of '58  
and '59

11:45 a.m.

*All Alumni and Family Service*

–12:15 p.m.

Susan B. Harris Chapel

Honoring Reverend Fred Whitley '66

12:15–2 p.m.

All Class Lunch on the Lawn and  
Bluegrass Music

★Pre-registration required, complimentary

12:15–2 p.m.

Faculty Meet and Greet, On the Lawn



1–2 p.m.

Book signing by Zell B. Miller '51 for his new book, *Purt Nigh Gone*, Campus Plaza

1–3 p.m.

*Now and Then* Walking Tours of Campus  
Leaving from the Susan B. Harris Chapel  
*Check out the new residence hall and legacy tree planting.*

1:30 p.m.

Homecoming 2009 Picture

Myers Student Center

All alumni gather

2–2:30 p.m.

The Zula Patrol, Rollins Planetarium

3–3:30 p.m.

*Family planetarium show featuring new digital technology. Based on the highly-acclaimed PBS TV series, this exciting*

and

4–4:30 p.m.

*animated, full-dome show is like a roller coaster fun ride across the universe.*

2–3 p.m.

Class of '64 Meeting, Student Center

2–3 p.m.

Susan B's Class of '99 ('98 & '00)

10th Reunion

Robinson Dining Room



*Join us for an event-filled weekend to see old friends and professors. Get involved by volunteering for your class reunion committee or be a special group sponsor.*

CONTACT:

**YHC Office of Alumni Services**

**Dana Ensley**

**Director of Alumni Relations**

**(706) 379-5334**

**alumni@yhc.edu**

Some activities require registration by July 1, 2009.





2–5 p.m.

**Alumni Hot Spot  
Outdoor Education Center**

*Wine tasting by Crane Creek Vineyard, live music, Frisbee golf, wall climbing and children's activities. Bring your refreshments and chairs for an afternoon of fun and fellowship.*

2:30–4:30 p.m.

**Lance Collection**  
Duckworth Memorial Library  
*A collection of US presidential signatures placed on loan by The Honorable and Mrs. Bert Lance. The collection includes an original document from every president from George Washington to George W. Bush.*

5–6 p.m.

**Class of '69 ('68 & '70) 40th Reunion**  
Campus Gate, refreshments and hors d'oeuvres  
★\$10 pre-registration required

6:30–11 p.m.

**Keep the Party Going, The Ridges Resort and Club** *Outdoor dinner, live music, volleyball, horseshoes, fire pit and cash bar. All classes and groups welcome! Special spots reserved for Classes of '69, '84, '89 and '99. If you would like your class or group to have a special spot at this event, please let us know. We would love to help. Special nightly rates available for YHC alums. Villas also available, pricing based on size.*

★\$30 pre-registration required

**Sunday**

7:30–9 a.m. Breakfast, Grace Rollins Dining Hall, \$6.50

8:30 and 11 a.m. Worship Service  
Reverend Timothy Moore, campus minister  
Sharp Memorial UMC

Noon Lunch, Grace Rollins Dining Hall, \$9.50

**Hotels**

Rooms have been reserved at the following hotels. When making reservations, mention YHC Homecoming 2009 to receive a discount. Reservations must be made by July 1, 2009. Make your reservations early. A limited number of rooms are available.

Brasstown Valley Resort  
6321 US Highway 76  
Young Harris, GA 30582  
(800) 201-3205

The Ramada at Lake  
Chatuge Lodge  
653 Highway 76  
Hiawassee, GA 30546  
(800) 613-4349

Holiday Inn Express  
Hotel and Suites  
300 Big Sky Dr.  
Hiawassee, GA 30546  
(706) 896-8884

The Ridges Resort  
and Club  
3499 Highway 76E  
Hiawassee, GA 30546  
(888) 834-4409

Seasons Inn Motel  
and Plaza  
16 Town Square  
Blairsville, GA 30512  
(800) 901-4422



Register Now Online at [www.yhc.edu/homecoming](http://www.yhc.edu/homecoming).

# That's Entertainment!



## Hitting the Right Notes

The Compulsive Lyres, YHC men's a capella ensemble, took first place in the college vocals division at the University of Georgia Jazz Festival April 25 beating out numerous four-year colleges and universities including UGA.

The 10 member group performed its original arrangements of popular tunes.

The ensemble is conducted by Jeff Bauman who teaches voice and is also the director of the Young Harris College Choir.

The group performs throughout Georgia at high schools and churches.



## *Into the Woods*

Students from Theatre Young Harris showed off their singing and acting skills when they presented the Tony Award-winning musical *Into the Woods*.

Performers (from left) included Ashley Sweatte as Cinderella, Misty Barber in the role of the Witch and Ashley Murray as Little Red Riding Hood. The student cast was supported by an orchestra of YHC students, community members and professional musicians.

Theatre Young Harris presents four to five major productions each year. Students staff all production areas including stage management, lighting and sound, costume design, set production, and box office.

## Acappalooza

Three choral groups entertained the audience at YHC's second annual Acappalooza concert in the Hilda D. Glenn Auditorium.

The headline act for the concert was the University of Georgia Classic City Jazz group which includes YHC alumnae Kristen Stephens and Jessica Smith.

Southern Harmony, YHC's 13-voice female a capella group, and the 10 member Compulsive Lyres, YHC's male ensemble, also performed.



The three groups delighted the audience with their own arrangements of hit songs from the past.





# Always Give *the* Best



*The Reverend Dr. Donald A. Harp Jr. '61, long time YHC Board of Trustees member, grew up on his family's 200-acre farm in Inman. His father sold produce to grocery stores and kept some to feed his family...but he gave the best of the crop away. Whenever questioned about leaving the lesser quality produce for the family to eat, his father just replied, "Always give away the best." Don Harp internalized that message soundly. He has been "giving away" all his life the best of himself to those fortunate enough to be around him.*

Young Harris College has been one of many beneficiaries of this policy. Harp quit the University of Georgia after only three weeks in spite of a full baseball scholarship—because it was just too big for him. On the recommendation of his minister, he arrived at YHC where he immediately joined the baseball team coached by Zell Miller '51. Definitely not a one-dimensional ball player, Harp was an active participant in many facets of YHC life. He

participated in Spat Club, was president of the student body and associated with 25 or 30 ministers-to-be and fellow students. Harp recalls that this was a very important time in his life. Twenty-nine years later, in 1989, he continued to give his best as a member of the YHC Board of Trustees, a position he still holds today.

Harp completed his bachelor's degree at Huntingdon College where he met his wife Mary Ellen. Married

for 46 years in June, they have two children and five grandchildren. He earned a master of divinity degree from Emory University and a doctorate at the McCormick Theological Seminary at the University of Chicago.

Starting as a circuit preacher with five congregations in Butts County, he and his growing family moved about every five years. When he landed in Gainesville, the family settled in. Not only did they enjoy



the church, schools and community in Gainesville, they were on Lake Lanier where Harp could indulge his love of fishing.

Even after leaving the lake to pastor one of the largest and most active United Methodist churches in urban Atlanta, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Harp continues to nurture his love of nature, the countryside and especially fishing. He gets away any chance he can to fish—Lanier, Alabama, Conyers, Social Circle or even Alaska. He has taught all five of his grandchildren, three boys and two girls, to fish. Harp has reveled in instructing a new generation in what has been a rite of passage, and he beams with pride as he pronounces them all good fishermen.

For the farm boy who never planned on an urban ministry, Harp blossomed in the city. As senior pastor of Peachtree Road UMC, Harp led the church through ambitious, successful capital campaigns, oversaw the addition of a children's building, administration wing, enlarged sanctuary and expanded parking facilities through the active acquisition of surrounding properties and buildings, assuring the church's ability for continuing growth. He has been active in the community as well. He has led the prayer for the US Senate two times and for the Georgia Legislature on many occasions. He was named one of *Georgia Trend* magazine's most



Harp fishing with grandson Josh Bennett

influential people and has been honored by Brenau University, the Valley Forge Foundation and is a member of the halls of fame at his colleges and high school. He teaches at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University and provides consulting services for church construction projects to Jova/Daniels/Busby. He was recently elected to the board of directors for Fidelity Southern Corporation and the board of Fidelity Bank. In 2001, he wrote and published *Small Blessings: A Book of Prayers for Children*.

He is beloved by the members of Peachtree Road UMC. Upon his retirement in July 2008, he was named Minister Emeritus and continues to maintain an office at the church.

Since his retirement, Harp has had the opportunity to indulge his hobbies of fishing, gardening, reading and cooking. Harp's fishing skill is undisputed and labeled professional by most who have witnessed it. The gardening harkens to his farm roots and reading a hallmark of a well-rounded person, but cooking?

Adults L-R: daughter Robin and husband David Bennett, wife Mary Ellen, Harp, son Allen and wife Julie  
Children L-R: Harry, Josh, Issabell, Sara Nell and Don Harp III

Harp remembers as a young boy, no more than five or six, he watched his great uncle Harry barbecue and carefully blend the ingredients of his special sauce. He learned from his uncle and moved on to more gourmet concoctions. Harp still uses Uncle Harry's special sauce recipe when barbecuing a pig for family and friends and remains the family custodian of Harry's famous recipe for Brunswick stew. But your mouth begins to water when he describes some of the gourmet meals he has fashioned. From crab fritters with lemon grass to a summer salad of tomatoes, watermelon, pine nuts and feta cheese on a bed of micro greens,



Harp in the pulpit

you can smell the enticing aromas and taste the crisp freshness of the delights he prepares. He continues to give the best.

When asked what he hopes people will think when they hear the name Don Harp, he wants them to think of someone who saw life as an opportunity and didn't waste it. Don Harp has certainly done that. He views life as a joy and an opportunity to encourage others. He has truly "given away the best" and in return, personally experienced it.





# People in the News

Let us know what's happening in your life! Send your news and photos to:  
Young Harris College News, PO Box 275, Young Harris, GA 30582 or [alumni@yhc.edu](mailto:alumni@yhc.edu)

## 1940s

**FRANCES MILLER MATHIS '43**, a retired teacher and long-time volunteer, was named Gainesville Woman of Distinction by the Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia in recognition of more than 50 years of service to the community. Her cousin, Zell Miller '51, was speaker at the awards luncheon. She attended high school at Young Harris Academy and received her bachelor's degree from LaGrange College. Frances helped found the Georgia Mountain Museum, the Chattahoochee Heritage Association and Gainesville College. She has been involved with the Quinlan Art Center, the Chattahoochee Baptist Association and the Lanier Island Development Authority. She was given the YHC President's Medallion in 1984. Other honors include Volunteer of the Year from the US Forest Service, Quinlan Art Center Medallion, Outstanding Citizen of Georgia by the Georgia State Senate and Rotary Woman of the Year.

## 1950s

**DR. ELIZABETH FINCHER NEVIL '57** was elected president of the Georgia Hospital Association Council on

Auxiliaries/Volunteers at its annual conference. As president, Liz will serve as the executive officer of the council and preside at all meetings of the council, executive committee and board of management. Liz says that her experiences at Young Harris Academy were invaluable in preparing her for her roles as public school teacher and later as an educational administrator. Her current role as a volunteer allows her to give back for the blessings she has been given. Contact Liz at (706) 546-7184 or 170 Woodvalley Lane, Athens, GA 30606 or [efnevil@bellsouth.net](mailto:efnevil@bellsouth.net).

## 1960s

**PHIL M. HOPE '64** is delighted when he has the opportunity to see old friends and reminisce about his days at YHC—the best in his lifetime. He looks forward to Homecoming 2009 and challenges all his old classmates to meet him there for number 45! Contact Phil at PO Box 202, Tybee Island, GA 31328 or (912) 844-2125.

**GEORGE MATHISON '62** would love to hear from his friends who were at YHC from '61-'62. He went to Huntingdon College on a tennis

scholarship then to Emory to seminary. He did his doctoral work through the Sewanee-Vanderbilt doctoral program and was appointed research fellow in Biblical Homiletics at Yale University. Prior to his graduation from seminary, he served in Mobile, Alabama, for 20 years. He and wife of 36 years, Montaigne, have a daughter, Mallory, who works in Atlanta. He appreciates all that YHC meant to him, and some of his fondest memories are associated with the mountains of north Georgia. Contact George at [georgem@aumc.net](mailto:georgem@aumc.net).

**BARBARA HILL MORLEY '60** graduated in 1964 with a B.S. degree in psychology from RPI, which is now Virginia Commonwealth University and earned her M.S.W. from Ohio State University in 1968. Barbara retired in 2004, after working as a therapist in mental health agencies for more than 30 years. She moved to Edmonton, Alberta, from Boston, Massachusetts, where she had lived since 1989. Contact Barbara at [luckysavannah@msn.com](mailto:luckysavannah@msn.com) or Apt. 704, 11230 St. Albert Trail, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5M3P2.



Mrs. Dora visited with YHC president in 2008 on her 103rd birthday.

## OLDEST ALUM PASSES AWAY

Dora Hunter Allison Spiva '27 passed away on February 24, 2009. At 104 years old she was YHC's oldest living alum and lived at home in Blairsville until days before her death.

Visiting with YHC president Cathy Cox and Carol Head '59 in 2008, Mrs. Dora shared recollections of YHC in the early 1900s, including being reprimanded by Ella Sharp for taking a coffee cup from the dining hall to her dorm room.

Mrs. Dora leaves behind the influence of her 40 years of teaching on students too numerous to count and the example of a life lived with joy, purpose and service. Mrs. Dora was retired from the Union County School System and was a member of the Georgia Retired Teachers Association, a charter member of The Blairsville Garden Club, The American Legion Auxiliary and Union County Historical Society. She was an inspiration to many.



## MARKAKIS INKS DEAL WITH O'S

The Baltimore Orioles have signed outfielder and former Mountain Lion Nick Markakis '03 to a six-year contract through the 2014 season. The left-handed hitting outfielder is a homegrown talent, having been selected by the Orioles in the first round (seventh overall pick) in the 2003 First Year Player Draft.

Markakis has completed three major league seasons, batting .299 in 465 games for Baltimore. He is one of 46 players in major league history to bat .299 or better in their first three seasons, 18 of whom are members of the Hall of Fame. The right-fielder ranks seventh on the Orioles' all-time list in career batting average and is 10th on the O's all-time list in slugging percentage.

### 1970s

**BECKY STYLES PARKER '74** moved to Watkinsville following her recent divorce. She retired from the Hart County school system after 30 years and is enjoying travel and relaxation. She would love to hear from former classmates at 2494 Eisenhower Avenue, Watkinsville, GA 30677 or [rebeccaparker54@yahoo.com](mailto:rebeccaparker54@yahoo.com).

### 1980s

**T. KEVIN PALMER '89** has opened his own architectural firm, Palmer Architects, in Statesboro. He can be reached at [kpalmers@palmerarch.com](mailto:kpalmers@palmerarch.com).

**CRIS CHARBONEAU STEELE '81** worked on the John McCain presidential preference primary campaign, the Lindsey Graham for Senate primary campaign and the VICTORY 2008 campaign in South Carolina. Cris has accepted a position on the staff of US Congressman Joe Wilson from the 2nd district of South Carolina. Cris and **CHIP STEELE '82** celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in February. They have three sons: Clay, a Midshipman 2C at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland; and Chandler and Christopher, high school students. The Steeles live in Beaufort, South Carolina, where Chip is a retired naval officer and currently works as a chemotherapy nurse. Contact the Steeles at [chipsteele@charter.net](mailto:chipsteele@charter.net).

### 1990s

**SCOTT CHANCEY '90** won second place for best game story in a national sports writing contest sponsored by the Associated Press Sports Editors Association. Scott has been a sports writer with the *Albany Herald* since 2002. He covers general assignment issues during the winter and spring, and concentrates on football at Albany State, Florida State and Auburn during the fall.

**K. ALEXA MAVROMATIS '91** wrote the short-form drama *Bastard* which was selected as a finalist for the Actors Theatre of Louisville's 2008 Heideman Award. The most prestigious award given for new American 10-minute plays, the 2008 Heideman competition received more than 1,300 entries from playwrights all over the US. Alexa is pursuing her M.F.A. in playwriting at Boston University. Contact her at [kamavromatis@gmail.com](mailto:kamavromatis@gmail.com).

**REVEREND HEIDI SCHULER '95** earned her M.Div. from Emory's Candler School of Theology in May 2006 and was ordained in the United Church of Christ on November 2, 2008. She is the minister of Christian education and youth at Pilgrimage United Church of Christ in Marietta, and continues to reside in Ellijay. She is thrilled to know the spring break Mexico mission trip is still going after 10 years and encourages past participants to join the alumni trip in October 2009. For more information search Facebook for "YHC Alumni, Mission Trip with Casas." Contact Heidi at [hshuler@ellijay.com](mailto:hshuler@ellijay.com).

**TYRIE J. SMITH '97** received a doctor of philosophy degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on May 24, 2008. He earned a doctorate in English with completion of the dissertation "A Voice that was Thin and Pure: Folklore as Literature, Literature as Folklore in the Works of Byron Herbert Reece." TJ represented YHC at the presidential inauguration at South Georgia College.

**KAREN BUCK SOKOL '99** is the contact person as the Susan B. Harris Society (Sigma Beta Sigma) works on strengthening its alumni network. Contact Karen at [karenbsokol@yahoo.com](mailto:karenbsokol@yahoo.com) or (770) 313-4681.

### 2000s

**KIMBERLY BELLFLOWER '07** is a theatre student at Columbus State University and studied in England during the summer of 2008 with help from the Woodward Scholarship for study abroad.

**JASON K. NORTON '02**, a financial advisor in the Atlanta office of Waddell & Reed Inc., has been named to the company's President's Council. Presented annually, this is the highest honor for the firm's financial advisors. Jason, 26, has been a professional in the financial services industry for five years. He joined Waddell & Reed in 2004. Jason earned a bachelor's degree from the University of West Georgia in 2004. Contact Jason at (404) 766-0725 x127.





**SETH RIKARD '06** was awarded the E. Lanier "Lanny" Finch Scholarship from the Georgia Association of Broadcasters to further his education in broadcasting.

## ENGAGEMENTS

**MARY I. BLACKSTONE '04** to Matthew W. Busbee. Wedding scheduled for July 11, 2009 in Athens.

**RACHEL M. DONEHOO '04** to Scott Summers of McDonough. Wedding scheduled for September 2009.

## BIRTHS

**ANNE SNARE BRIDGES '98** announces the birth of Elizabeth Grace "Libby." Anne can be reached at Anne.Bridges@crumpins.com

**ASHLEY CEDARS CLARK '03** announces the birth of Caron Lee. Ashley can be reached at ashley\_cedars@yahoo.com.

**KEITH GOLDEN '95** and wife Whitney announce the birth of William "Tate" on April 1, 2009. He weighed 9 lbs. 13 ozs. and was 21-1/2 inches long.

**DANETTE CHANCEY HUGHES '95** and husband Andy announce the birth of Autumn Alexis and Alexander Aiden on August 24, 2008. Danette is a kindergarten teacher at Blue Ridge Elementary.

**SARAH AND BARRETT SIEBERT SELLARS '94, '94** announce the birth of Clayton Jacob. The Sellars can be reached at ssellers@carolina.rr.com.

**SANDY PENDLEY STEPHENS '96** announces the birth of Tuck Colton. Sandy can be reached at csstephens@bellsouth.net.

## MARRIAGES

**EMILY S. ANGLIN '00** to Jason M. Karras on December 10, 2008.

**ASHLEY CEDARS '03** to Tom Clark.

**STACEY JOHNSON '96** to Kevin Brown on June 21, 2008. The couple lives in Cobb County. Stacey teaches eighth grade Georgia history in Marietta, and Kevin works for Rogers & Hardin LLP in Atlanta.

**JENNIFER ANNE MALCOM '03** to Joseph George Silva on November 14, 2008. The couple lives in Clarkesville.

**MARISA ANN WILZMAN '05** to Seth Prosser.

## IN MEMORIAM

**DANFORTH BEARSE**  
dedicated friend of YHC  
May 1, 2009

**LOWELL BIDDY '58**  
April 7, 2009

**HOYLE BRYSON '33**  
February 18, 2009

**EMMA LOUISE BEAM CHANDLER '33**  
February 16, 2009

**GILDA COKER '46**  
January 3, 2009

**THOMAS FRANKLIN DEITZ '71**  
April 27, 2009

**QUINTON H. DENT '58**  
October 22, 2008

**RUTH ANN JONES DILLARD '50**  
August 18, 2008

**JAMES E. FARGASON '37**  
May 7, 2009

**FLORA MAE DOWDY FISHER '39**  
February 23, 2009

**GEORGIA LOGAN FLEMING '30**  
March 4, 2009

**ROY M. HALL '34**  
January 13, 2009

**DAVID W. JAMES '69**  
May 26, 2007

**REBECCA A. JESTER**  
dedicated friend of YHC  
February 23, 2009

**STEVE JUHAN '85**  
February 23, 2009

**CAPPA C. KENT '49**  
February 18, 2009

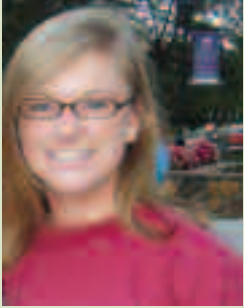
**ANNIE BOGGS LATIMER '28**  
November 14, 2008

## IN MEMORIAM

**SAMUEL MOZLEY '33**, age 94, died April 24, 2009. A resident of Raleigh, North Carolina, he had lived in Jonesboro and Fayetteville. He was a loving father and husband, a lifelong member of the United Methodist Church, a good gardener and an honest, dependable, modest man. Sam worked for the US Postal Service in Douglasville and Atlanta until 1942. He served in the Army Air Corps with a B-29 service group in the South Pacific, leaving active duty as a captain in 1946. He earned a B.A. from Emory University in 1947, then worked for 30 years at the Trust Company of Georgia (now SunTrust Banks) as auditor. He was a charter member of the National Association of Bank Auditors and Comptrollers and one of the earliest certified bank auditors.

The family requests that memorial gifts be made to the Samuel Mozley Endowed Scholarship Fund at YHC or the Hospice of Wake County, North Carolina.

## "BECCA" KESSLER REMEMBERED



Graduation 2009 was a bittersweet occasion for members of the YHC family as they celebrated the achievements of 171 graduates and remembered a young woman who should have been among them.

Rebecca Lynn Kessler, a sophomore and honor student, passed away on October 3,

2008, of injuries received in an automobile accident.

President Cathy Cox awarded Becca the associate of science degree in education posthumously at the commencement ceremony on May 9. Her parents, Ramona '72 and Thomas Kessler, and other family members accepted the degree on Becca's behalf.

At the request of the student body, the men's ensemble, the Compulsive Lyres, performed *Hallelujah* in her memory during the services.

"She was a well-loved young lady, an A student with a very bright future that was cut far too short," President Cox said.

Becca was a Dorcas Society sister and an outstanding student. She also worked as a student athletic trainer.

She was described as a beautiful, young, Christian woman, shown not only by her physical appearance but evidenced by her spirit and strength as well.

"Becca was a dedicated student. She was our

sister. We shared a special kind of love," one student said.

The Dorcas Society and Student Government Association donated a wooden bench swing in her memory at Cupid Falls. The swing sits in the center of the park and faces the falls. The plaque reads "In loving memory of Rebecca Lynn Kessler." A brick has been placed in Becca's memory on the YHC plaza.

Rebecca Lynn Kessler was born in Savannah and graduated from South Effingham High School in 2007 as an honor student.

She was a member of the Beta Club, the track team and 4-H. She became a Master 4-Her, the highest honor in 4-H, in 2006.

She was an active member of Zion Lutheran Church and the Lutheran Youth Organization.

The Kessler family has long ties to YHC. Both of Becca's sisters, Jessica '01 and Erica '04, and her mother, Ramona Holmes Kessler '72, are YHC graduates.

Other family members who are YHC graduates include her aunts Sharon Holmes Payne '70, Stephanie Holmes McClure '74, and Cynthia Holmes Wilson '67; her grandparents, Steve Payne '52 and Joyce Kimsey Payne '42; her uncle Donnie Payne '70; and cousins Leigh Payne '01 and David Payne '08.



President Cox,  
Ramona '72 and  
Thomas Kessler



**HERBERT LAWSON '25**  
April 2, 2008

**WALTER SCOTT McCLESKEY**  
YHC professor '56-'57  
March 19, 2009

**JOHN O. MITCHELL SR.**  
YHC Board of Trustees member  
December 17, 2008

**MARION SMITH MITCHUM '39**  
December 20, 2008

**VIRGINIA LUKE MORGAN '36**  
January 6, 2009

**PATRICK MURPHY '66**  
May 10, 2009

**HARRY E. REESE '60**  
April 1, 2009

**C. EDWARD ROY '38**  
November 1, 2008

**ROBERT E. RUTLAND JR. '37**  
January 7, 2009

**VALERIE HALE SERVIS '81**  
February 9, 2009

**SAMUEL SWILLING III '76**  
February 4, 2009

**CHARLES M. VOYLES '49**  
April 28, 2009

**REVEREND DONALD J. WELCH '52**  
January 31, 2009

**CHARLES R. WILLIAMS '36**  
October 16, 2008



Office of Alumni Services  
PO Box 275  
Young Harris, GA 30582

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## FIRST CLASS OF RISING JUNIORS TREATED TO DINNER

President Cox and several faculty and administration members hosted a special dinner for current students who are returning in the fall to be part of the first junior class at YHC in almost a century. More than 50 students attended the dinner. The college expects to welcome between 50 and 60 juniors this fall.