

SPRING/SUMMER 2010

Echoes

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE



INSIDE:

The Green Life at YHC

+ The Return of Basketball

+ Jerry Nix: A Genuine Leader



Right: Eric Lindsey, '10, of Fayetteville, co-stars as the Pirate King in Theatre Young Harris's presentation of Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular operetta *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Above: Senior Ryan Bender, of Braselton, charms the General's Daughters as Frederick in the May 2010 production.

On the Cover

Members of the Young Harris College chapter of Roots & Shoots planted a tree at the old College Farm in honor of Arbor Day this past April. Pictured from left to right are Mattie Jewel, Garret Kessler, Katie Dyer, David Agori-lwe and Sara Rodgers.

PHOTOGRAPH SCOTT DEAN

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Young Harris College is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award associate and baccalaureate degrees. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call (404) 679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Young Harris College.



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A Lesson in Sustainability

Do you remember a time when green was just a color? If so, then you are showing your age!

“Green” is now an adjective describing something as environmentally friendly or sustainable; “green” is, in fact, a way of life today. You will be proud to know that Young Harris College is quickly becoming a very “green” place, and I’m not just referring to our expansive central lawn area or the surrounding mountains!

During the three years that I have now been privileged to call YHC home, one of the best lessons I have learned has been taught by our students—and that is the genuine importance they place on sustainability. Our students live and breathe it. For them, it is not just bumper-sticker philosophy. They pay attention to what they (and we) waste, from paper and plastic to food and energy. They recycle as if it had become a second-nature act to them. They are focused on whether or not their lifestyles will cause harm on our world, now and long into the future.

It is an incredibly inspiring lesson, and I think you, too, will be impressed and inspired when you read in these pages about the “green” wave that hit campus this year—even to the point that our students now “tax” themselves with a \$5 per semester “green fee” that is matched by the College and placed into a fund that our Student Government Association can use for campus-wide sustainability programs.

We have an incredibly beautiful campus, and I am proud that our students want to protect, preserve and enhance it for future generations of students. That has been very much our focus as we continue to grow YHC into a great four-year college. Our most recent addition to campus, a 200-bed residence hall that we temporarily named “Enotah Hall,” earned LEED Silver certification this year, making it the most environmentally friendly building ever placed on the campus and setting a great standard for buildings to come. The energy efficiencies of this residence hall are amazing—and its low utility bills prove it! Our new recreation and fitness center that opens in August is also expected to earn LEED certification.

In partnership with Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, we currently are investigating a major solar project for campus. We hope to place solar panels on a small portion of the YHC farm that, ultimately, would generate some four megawatts of electricity, making us—possibly—the first completely solar-powered college campus in America!

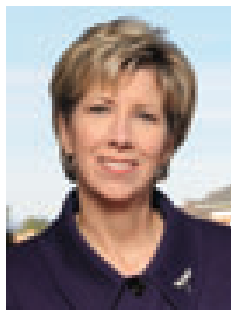
We are dreaming big and moving eagerly toward a celebration of the College’s 125th anniversary in 2011 by preparing YHC to flourish and excel for another 125 years. That is, after all, the essence of sustainability. We want our actions, plans, buildings and everything else we do today to contribute to an even stronger—and greener—future for YHC in the years to come.

Green—what a perfect complement to YHC purple!

Warmly,



Cathy Cox
President



Cathy Cox
PRESIDENT

Echoes

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The Official Magazine of Young Harris College

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YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE

Gears Up for 125th Anniversary Celebration

The very first classes at Young Harris College, initially called the McTyeire Institute, were held in a vacant storefront in January 1886. The College has grown and evolved significantly over the past 125 years, and has now returned to its roots with the move back to a baccalaureate program.

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE



Beginning in January 2011, Young Harris College will commemorate its 125th anniversary with a year-long celebration of events and activities. Look for more information about YHC's 125th anniversary in the next issue of *Echoes*. There will be many opportunities for students, alumni, faculty, staff and friends of Young Harris College to participate in the 125th celebration.

As a preview activity for the 125th anniversary, Young Harris College's Office of Alumni Services has published a new alumni publication in partnership with Harris Connect, LLC. The 125th-anniversary edition of *Alumni Today* features a historical timeline of YHC along with alumni photos and directory listings. Alumni had the opportunity to update their information and order directories in early 2010, and the book was published in May.

If you missed your chance to participate in the Alumni Today project or would like more information about the publication, contact the Office of Alumni Services at (706) 379-5334 or alumni@yhc.edu.



GEORGIA TREND/STEVE PENLEY PAINTING



YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE

Featured in January Georgia Trend

Young Harris College was featured in the January 2010 issue of *Georgia Trend* magazine. The story "Reinventing Young Harris College," by Shannon Wilder, focuses on the College's historic transformation to a four-year college and includes interviews with YHC President Cathy Cox, other faculty and staff and YHC student Tyler Morris, a rising senior from Douglasville. The article is available online in the YHC News archives at www.yhc.edu or at www.georgiatrend.com.

If you would like a print copy of the article, contact the Office of Advancement at (706) 379-5173.

PRESIDENT COX SPEAKS TO

2010 Leadership Georgia Class

Members of the 2010 class of Leadership Georgia kicked off their first training/education session with a visit in late January to north Georgia and the Brasstown Valley.

Although wintry weather prevented the group from touring campus, Young Harris College President Cathy Cox met with the group at Brasstown Valley Resort and gave a presentation on the current growth occurring at Young Harris College and discussed ways in which the College is "going green" and implementing sustainability efforts.

Leadership Georgia is a leadership training program affiliated with the Georgia Chamber of Commerce that identifies, trains and inspires young business, civic and community leaders who have the desire and potential to work together for a better Georgia.

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE'S

Enotah Hall Earns LEED Silver Certification

Young Harris College's newest residence hall, Enotah Hall, was awarded LEED Silver certification in January by the Green Building Certification Institute, making it the first higher education facility north of Atlanta to achieve this level of certification.

The \$16 million, 62,500-square-foot, three-story residential facility opened in August 2009, fulfilling the need for additional on-campus housing as student enrollment continues to reach record highs. Enotah Hall's 50 residential suites are each comprised of two double-occupancy rooms, providing housing for 200 students.

The Green Building Certification Institute is a third-party reviewer for the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC), a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit organization committed to promoting national sustainability through cost-efficient and energy-saving green buildings. USGBC developed the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System to provide building owners and operators with a framework of tools and



performance criteria for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of high performance green buildings.

LEED promotes a whole-building approach to sustainability by recognizing performance in five key areas of human and environmental health: sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality.

According to the USGBC's website, only two other facilities in north Georgia have registered a higher LEED rating; a USDA Forest Service ranger office and a Georgia Department of Natural Resources state park hikers' inn both have Gold certification. The majority of Georgia's LEED-certified buildings are in and around the Atlanta area.

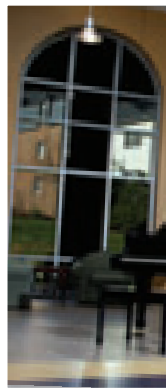
"From the very beginning, we wanted this new residence hall to complement our environment," Young Harris College President Cathy Cox said. "We wanted large expanses of

LEED Silver-certified Enotah Hall at Young Harris College offers students amenities such as an inviting terrace on the third floor and a grand piano in the main lobby.

windows to take in our beautiful views, and we wanted it to set a standard for being 'environmentally friendly.' We have all that and more in this fabulous facility."

Led by Chet Roach and Brad Noyes, Brailsford and Dunlavey served as project manager throughout the design and construction of the new building. They were responsible for the development of and adherence to a LEED plan while managing the design and construction teams.

"This is an exciting achievement for Young Harris College, as well as for everyone on the project team," Roach said. "This is certainly a bold testament to the College's commitment to sustainable design and its position as



Enotah Hall

an exemplary environmental steward in the community.”

“If you look at where LEED projects are registered, they tend to be located in urban areas,” said Jackson Kane, a project manager with Lord, Aeck & Sargent, who served as the architect for Enotah Hall. “One of the ways this project serves the community at large is by demonstrating sustainable design in the north Georgia mountains.”

Young Harris College made it a top priority to implement sustainable design practices that reduce the College’s carbon footprint, including an upgrade to a geothermal mechanical system with an energy recovery unit.

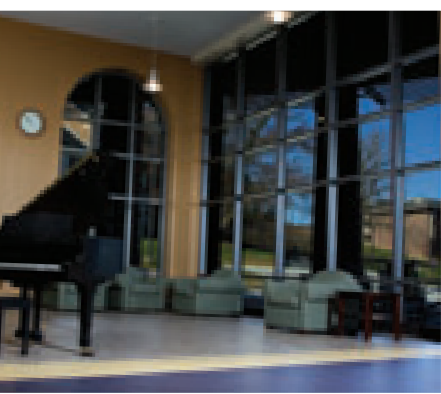
Kane noted that the building was constructed with regional and recycled materials, FSC (Forest Stewardship Council)-certified wood, and low-VOC paints and sealants. Also, the building employs generous daylighting and sustainable site strategies. Robust energy-saving measures conserve natural resources and minimize adverse environmental effects.

The residential wings are oriented so that windows are within 15 degrees of due south or due

north, maximizing daylighting while minimizing late afternoon glare. Deep roof overhangs help shade the upper terrace, and the two-story porch provides coverage at the building’s west-facing curtainwall openings. Rainchains direct water from the terrace into the planters at the base of the porch’s masonry columns.

The building also made a significant positive impact on the local economy. Nearly \$4.5 million, or approximately 30 percent of the total project cost, was spent locally among several counties surrounding the College. Additionally, the large majority of non-local workers stayed at local hotels and contributed to the overall economic well being of the community through the purchase of meals and other services in the area. Staff members with Hardin Construction, general contractor for the project, rented local properties for housing, providing a steady income stream for local property owners.

“Enotah Hall sets the tone for how we move forward,” said Susan Rogers, vice president for student development at Young Harris College. “It’s full of ‘wow’ moments – from the third-floor terrace, which is one of our most popular gathering spots for students, to the lovely little comfortable seating spaces with windows at the end of each wing. The students are crazy about it.”



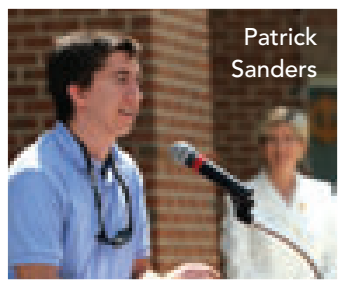
YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE Dedicates Enotah Hall

Following the spring meeting of the Young Harris College Board of Trustees on campus on April 23, Young Harris College President Cathy

Cox led trustees, students, faculty, staff and other guests in a dedication ceremony for Enotah Hall. President Cox recognized project managers, architects, contractors and other workers involved in the building project and led those in attendance in a special litany to dedicate the new residence hall “to serve

present and future generations of students who seek an educational, inspirational and empowering experience” at Young Harris College. Hall Council President Patrick Sanders, a rising sophomore business major from Winder, brought greetings from the students and residents of Enotah Hall, and Campus Minister Rev. Dr. Tim Moore led a prayer of dedication.

Special guests in attendance included Mrs. Lillie Mae Green, who made a significant gift to Young Harris College to name the first-floor common area of Enotah Hall the “Green Family Lobby.” The College will dedicate the lobby and honor Mrs. Green, whose son, Ronnie, was a member of the Class of 1965, at Homecoming/ Alumni Weekend in July.



Patrick Sanders



Mrs. Lillie Mae Green (center) is accompanied by friends Skip Reed and Bonnie Reynolds for the dedication of Enotah Hall at Young Harris College.

FACULTY AND STAFF HONORED WITH Emeritus Status

Eight former Young Harris College faculty and staff members were recommended for and granted emeritus status at the spring Board of Trustees meeting on April 23. Following the meeting, the honorees named below were recognized at a special campus-wide luncheon.

Kenneth Fox, emeritus professor of computer science—*Served at YHC 1984-2009*

Deborah Courtney, emeritus professor of physical education—*Served at YHC 1988-2009*

Dr. Meg Gring Whitley, emeritus professor of foreign language—*Served at YHC 1987-2008*

Thomas Jeffery, emeritus professor of theatre
Served at YHC 1980-2009

Dr. Robert Nichols, emeritus professor of mathematics—*Served at YHC 1973-2009*

Dr. Roberta Rankin, emeritus professor of theatre—*Served at YHC 1987-2009*

Rev. Fred Whitley, '68, emeritus professor of religion and campus minister
Served at YHC 1980-2008

George "Bud" Dyer Jr., emeritus director of admissions—*Served at YHC 1971-2009*

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE PREPARES Pilot Program for QEP

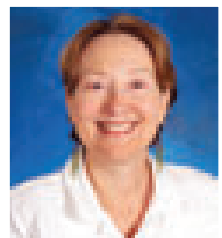
Young Harris College has continued developing its Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) since the student learning initiative's inception in March 2009. The QEP is one component of YHC's 10-year reaffirmation process by its accrediting agency, the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Young Harris College's SACS Compliance Certification was submitted in March 2010, and the SACS onsite team will visit campus Sept. 21-23, to review the College's QEP. The 10-year reaffirmation is an entirely separate accreditation process from the substantive change procedure YHC has been engaged in with SACS to begin granting bachelor's degrees.

"Our topic is improving students' written and spoken communication," said Mark Rollins, Ph.D, assistant professor of English and QEP committee chair. "Professors are developing writing- and speaking-intensive versions of their courses, and the College is developing resources to help students complete these courses successfully."

The Written and Spoken Communication Program includes a Center for Writing and Speaking that will assist students with papers, presentations and techniques for effective class discussion. The Center will be directed by faculty members from the departments of English and communication studies and is scheduled to open in Fall 2010. Resources will include on-campus writing and speaking labs, staffed by student tutors who have received extensive training and are certified in speaking and writing instruction, and a website with online resources that address specific aspects of effective writing and speaking such as thesis statements, effective organization, grammar, audience awareness and anxiety management.

PRESIDENT COX RECOGNIZES Retiring Faculty and Staff

During a special end-of-year faculty and staff luncheon on May 7, Young Harris College President Cathy Cox recognized two members of the YHC community retiring at the end of the academic year.



Dr. Felicia McDuffie

Felicia McDuffie, Ph.D., associate professor of religion and chair of the religion and philosophy department, has been on the faculty at Young Harris College since 2001 and was instrumental in developing and implementing YHC's successful Ethics Across the Curriculum initiative.



Dale Cochran

Dale Cochran has been part of the Young Harris College community for more than 20 years, most recently serving as adjunct scene designer in the Division of Fine Arts. He has designed more than 30 sets over the years for the theatre department and has also served as adjunct professor of art. His paintings of Georgia birds and wildflowers have been exhibited in national and local shows, and he was selected as one of *Artist Magazine's* top 125 wildlife artists in America in 1990.

Other highlights of the Written and Spoken Communication Program include workshops for faculty that examine effective techniques for writing and speaking instruction and a peer observation program to enable faculty to share ideas about how to create lively and well-focused class discussion.

"Fifteen faculty members have volunteered to teach writing- or speaking-intensive versions of their courses in Fall 2010 as part of the QEP pilot program," Dr. Rollins said. The classes include a mix of lower- and upper-division courses from each academic division. More courses will be offered in Spring 2011, and the program will formally begin in Fall 2011.

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE PARTICIPATES IN *Appalachian Studies* Conference

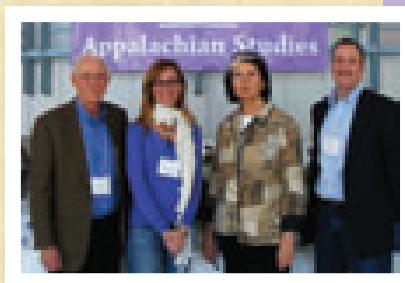
Young Harris College participated in the 2010 Appalachian Studies Association Conference hosted by the Georgia Appalachian Studies Center March 19-21 at North Georgia College and State University in Dahlonega. The College co-hosted a special opening reception with the Byron Herbert Reece Society for participants of the 33rd annual conference, and March 19 was declared "Byron Herbert Reece Day" by the Georgia General Assembly in honor of the state's Appalachian poet and novelist.

Young Harris College Vice President for Academic Affairs Ron Roach, Ph.D., introduced a series of presentations called "Rediscovering Our Past: Mountain Land and People" along with a paper on the subject titled "Zell Miller and Joe Brown: Remarkable Parallels and a Sense of Place in the Rhetoric of North Georgia's Appalachian Governors."

Young Harris College Associate Professor of Biology Brenda Hull, Assistant Professor of Communication Studies Nick Bowman, Ph.D., and rising senior business and public policy major Matthew Kammerer, of Loganville, collaborated with Clarissa Youngblood Fuentes of the Hinton Rural Life Center on a presentation titled "Developing Mutually Beneficial Community-Campus Partnerships: Young Harris College's Renewed Emphasis on Community Engagement."

Other representatives from the College involved in the conference included John Kay, Ph.D., professor emeritus and Class of 1956 alumnus, Rosemary Royston, '89, vice president for planning and assessment and chief of staff, and Dawn Lamade, dean of library services.

"I talked to several representatives from regional agencies and commissions and am encouraged at the possibilities for future grants and other collaborations as we continue developing our Appalachian, Bonner and civic engagement components," said Dr. Roach, who also emphasized the importance of partnering the College's sustainability programs with Appalachian and regional initiatives in the future.



Dr. John Kay, '56, Rosemary Royston, '89, Dawn Lamade and Dr. Ron Roach represented Young Harris College at the College-hosted reception on March 19 of the 2010 Appalachian Studies Association Conference in Dahlonega.

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE NAMES *New Dean* FOR DIVISION OF HUMANITIES

Ruth Looper, Ph.D., has been named dean of the Division of Humanities at Young Harris College. Dr. Looper, who previously served as chair of the Division's English department, began her new role July 1, making her the College's first female dean. She was appointed to the position after Steve Harvey, Ph.D., announced that he would step down to focus on full-time teaching in English and creative writing. Dr. Harvey served for two years as the Division's first dean, during which time he oversaw the development of the new bachelor of arts degree in English and bachelor of arts degree in communication studies. A member of the faculty since 1976, Dr. Harvey has published three collections of personal essays, including *A Geometry of Lilies*.

Dr. Looper joined the English faculty at Young Harris College in 1996. She specializes in Anglo-Irish literature, modern British literature and contemporary poetry. Dr. Looper holds a bachelor of arts degree from Furman University and a master of arts degree in English from the University of Virginia. She earned a Ph.D. in English from Emory University.



Dr. Ruth Looper

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE ADDS

Five New Baccalaureate Programs

Young Harris College earned approval from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Commission on Colleges in late February to offer five new bachelor's degree programs beginning in August 2010.

Incoming and returning students for the Fall 2010 semester can now pursue a bachelor of arts in communication studies, a bachelor of arts in history, a bachelor of arts in theatre, a bachelor of arts in musical theatre or a bachelor of science in outdoor education.

"We are thrilled to offer these five new programs to our students," Young Harris College President Cathy Cox said. "Each major has been custom-designed to fit the needs of today's 21st-century student. We believe that these new programs are attractive opportunities for our current and future students."

The new majors join the existing bachelor's degree programs—biology, business and public policy, English and music—for a total of nine new baccalaureate programs added since the College was awarded four-year status by SACS in December 2008.

"We are pleased to receive approval for these new degrees and believe that they are outstanding additions to our academic program," said Ron Roach, Ph.D., vice president for academic affairs at Young Harris College. "The College's strategic plan calls for the addition of new majors each year for the next several years as we move forward as a four-year school."

COMMUNICATION STUDIES

The bachelor of arts degree in communication studies prepares students to enter specific communication contexts such as electronic media/broadcasting, journalism, media psychology, advertising, interpersonal/intercultural/health counseling, organizational consulting or training, marketing and public relations; supplies a broad background of information and develops skills needed to enter areas such as law, ministry and public service; develops students for graduate studies; and offers opportunities for debates and discussions of current issues as well as informative and entertaining media programming. Students choose one of two tracks: Human Communication Studies Concentration or Media Studies Concentration.

Contact: *Dr. Joy Goldsmith, (706) 379-5350, jgoldsmith@yhc.edu*

HISTORY

The bachelor of arts degree in history educates students in all aspects of the historical process. Within the framework of the liberal arts, students will become vigorous contributors to historical knowledge—producing accurate, compelling and revealing narratives of real significance—and will have the opportunity to find and explain the human condition. A history degree is flexible and far-ranging and serves to prepare individuals for service in a variety of fields, such as law, education, historical archives, museums, government, business, public service, journalism and medicine.

Contact: *Dr. Thomas Stearns, (706) 379-5239, tstearns@yhc.edu*

THEATRE

The bachelor of arts degree in theatre trains students, within a liberal arts context, in all phases of the theatre and prepares them for graduate programs in theatre. Students will develop a range of practical acting skills at a high artistic level, the ability to operate effectively as a theatre technician in a production setting, a range of practical design skills at a high artistic level, and an understanding of the history and literature of theatre and the ability to communicate about it thoughtfully. In addition to careers in the entertainment industry, an undergraduate theatre education is excellent preparation for a wide variety of careers including education, law, design and business.

Contact: *Eddie Collins, (706) 379-5144, ecollins@yhc.edu*

MUSICAL THEATRE

The bachelor of arts degree in musical theatre trains students, within a liberal arts context, in all phases of musical theatre and prepares them for graduate programs in musical theatre. Students will develop a range of practical acting skills at a high artistic level, the ability to operate effectively as a theatre technician in a production setting, skill in vocal music performance at a high artistic level, the ability to self-teach a piece of music in their principal performance area, a range of musical theatre dance skills at a high artistic level, and an understanding of the history and literature of theatre and the ability to communicate about it thoughtfully. In addition to careers in the entertainment industry, an undergraduate musical theatre education is excellent preparation for a wide variety of careers including education, law, design and business.

Contact: Eddie Collins, (706) 379-5144, ecollins@yhc.edu

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

The bachelor of science degree in outdoor education provides students with an innovative curriculum rooted in the philosophical, historical and theoretical foundations of experiential education. In the spirit of the liberal arts, students engage in a comprehensive educational experience that emphasizes a holistic approach to learning and development. Students benefit from a learning environment located in the southern Appalachian Mountains, between the Chattahoochee, Cherokee and Nantahala national forests, with immediate access to premier rivers, trails and rock faces. Students integrate theory and application through classroom and field experiences that combine campus resources with surrounding wilderness areas. Graduates of the program will be competent, ethical leaders prepared to provide effective, environmentally sound, outdoor education programs in a variety of social service settings.

Contact: Rob Dussler, (706) 379-5113, rdussler@yhc.edu

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE SETS Another Enrollment Record

In 2010, Young Harris College saw its largest spring enrollment in the history of the College with 683 students on campus, continuing a trend that began in 2007 of steadily increasing enrollment figures for the College. The spring record was established just after a third consecutive record fall enrollment of 696 was set in Fall 2009.

With accreditation to offer bachelor's degrees in place, the College anticipates retaining many students who would have otherwise transferred to other colleges and universities after receiving an associate degree from YHC. The Office of Enrollment Management expects a high percentage of YHC's sophomore class to return this fall to continue their education at the College, including 33 students who earned their associate degrees this spring.

According to Clint Hobbs, '88, vice

president for enrollment management, the retention rate may change again as YHC makes the transition to a four-year athletics program. "Once YHC makes the move to NCAA Division II, we should see another boost in retention," he said. According to Hobbs, YHC loses numerous student-athletes who transfer after their freshman year to maintain continuous eligibility.

Young Harris College plans to grow enrollment to around 1,200-1,500 students within the next decade, with a steady eight to 10 percent increase in enrollment each year.

"I am very pleased and thankful that we are in this trend of record

enrollment despite the economy," Hobbs said. "We have a lot of systems in place that are working well, and at the moment we are on pace to have another record enrollment in Fall 2010 and to reach our goal of 773 students."

YHC will award its first bachelor's degrees in Spring 2011 with a graduating class that is expected to consist of more than 60 students representing all nine baccalaureate degrees offered by the College—English, music, biology, business and public policy, history, outdoor education, communication studies, theatre and musical theatre.



Clint Hobbs, '88

"Once YHC makes the move to NCAA Division II, we should see another boost in retention."

CLINT HOBBS, '88, VICE PRESIDENT FOR ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

The Green Life

SUSTAINABILITY AT YHC

BY DENISE COOK AND KRYSTIN DEAN

Several decades ago, there may have been one or two avant-garde student activists on campus preaching about recycling and swearing off the use of plastic bags. Then, perhaps a club was formed with several members devoted to saving the planet through various service projects, but never a campus-wide environmental awareness ranging from the entire student body all the way up to the President's office. Times have changed.

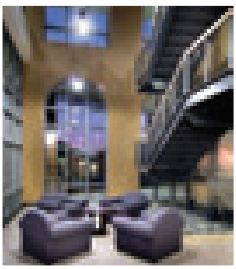
Now, two-thirds of university applicants say that a school's environmental report card would influence whether they would plan to attend, according to a recent survey by the Princeton Review. While the "green report card" movement is relatively new, and colleges are still deciding whether these rankings accurately reflect their efforts, the message is loud and clear. Today's college students are concerned about the environment and desire to be affiliated with an institution that is doing something significant to protect it.

With seemingly everyone and every

company in the nation hopping onto the "going green" bandwagon, it may not come as a surprise that this issue of *Echoes* addresses that exact topic. It is easy to get carried away with the trend, buying more reusable totes than one could ever use or purchasing an unneeded accessory simply because it is made from recycled materials, but it is more difficult to permanently shift into a new way of thinking and make lifestyle changes that transcend

multiple facets of day-to-day life. These kinds of changes take time and strategic planning before they can come to fruition.

As defined by The College Sustainability Report Card website, sustainability efforts focus on meeting current needs "without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs" by determining how resources should be used and managed throughout regular operations.



Enotah Hall



GREEN BUILDINGS ON A PURPLE HORIZON

In 2009, Young Harris College opened its first facility built to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards. The 200-bed Enotah Hall earned LEED Silver certification, signifying that the building was designed and constructed using strategies to ensure energy savings, water efficiency, stewardship of resources and other performance metrics.


The College's new 57,000-square-foot recreation and fitness center has also been designed and constructed to LEED standards and is expected to earn LEED certification. Like the old College Farm, the new recreation and fitness center will provide a variety of job opportunities for YHC students.

The next major facility planned for the College is the 125,000-square-foot campus center—combining a dining hall, banquet facility, library and student center into a single, convenient state-of-the-art building that will become the social and intellectual hub of campus. The campus center, currently in the final stages of design, is being created to LEED standards as well.

Recreation and fitness center

A NEW DAY AT THE OLD FARM

After laying dormant for a number of years, Young Harris College's old College Farm, located west of campus near the edge of Towns County, is seeing new life. In addition to the one-acre plot that is now being used to cultivate plants and trees, Young Harris College is in negotiations to build solar arrays on part of the land, paving the way for the College to become—possibly—a completely solar-powered campus. Young Harris College is partnering with Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, the local electric membership corporation, in developing the plans for the project. Together the College and the EMC hope to harness solar energy for use by the College and the local community. More information is expected to be available in late 2010.



sustainability committee to facilitate campus-wide recycling efforts. As Young Harris College expands and grows in the coming years, the sustainability committee anticipates a significant increase in recyclables. That means YHC will have to continually step up recycling activity and manpower in order to meet student expectations. YHC President Cathy Cox is on board to do whatever it takes. "What's beneficial for the environment is good for YHC," she said. "Likewise, what's beneficial for YHC must also be good for the environment."

Members of the Young Harris College community, representing all ages, are spearheading efforts across many aspects of the College to be better stewards of resources, to reduce the carbon footprint of the College and its individual members and to seek out new ways to integrate sustainability into their everyday lives.

Much of the green movement at Young Harris College is driven by the current generation of students who expect and demand sustainable practices and lifestyles. For example, a recent sustainability survey at the College found that recycling is the number one priority of YHC students. In reaction, one student group—Roots & Shoots—is taking the lead to work with the College's

With the College undergoing possibly the most significant transformation in its 124-year history, the opportunity exists to not only make good decisions for YHC's future, but to also make green decisions to ensure that future will, in fact, one day exist. Already, discarded or unwanted items and materials are being recycled or reused; new buildings are being constructed to U.S. Green Building Council standards; existing resources are being repurposed; alternative energy sources are being explored and developed; and students are forming alliances and creating mechanisms to make a difference. A culture shift is happening at Young Harris College—a shift, in a way, back to the College's roots.

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE

Green Profile

Facility Initiatives:

- LEED Silver certification earned for Enotah Hall residence hall (2009)
- LEED certification expected for recreation and fitness center (2010)
- Geothermal heating and cooling systems installed to serve Enotah, Hillgrove, Manget and Winship residence halls (2009)
- YHC Annex repurposed for art department space and environmentally friendly pervious concrete pad installed to reduce runoff (2010)
- Green cleaning supplies used throughout campus

Administrative Initiatives:

- YHC Sustainability Committee
- Member of Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education (AASHE)
- Campus-wide recycling

Student Initiatives:

- Bonner Leaders
- Project Artemas
- Roots & Shoots
- Student Government Association Green Fee of \$5 per semester (matched by the College)

Academic Initiatives:

- YHC Beekeeping Institute addresses green and non-chemical beekeeping
- YHC beekeeping classes, lectures and workshops are offered to students and public
- YHC Hemlock Project conducts research for a non-chemical solution to an ecological problem
- Organic gardening class teaches students, faculty and staff to grow their own food using natural fertilizers and organic pesticides

Religious Initiatives:

- Special chapel services and religious life programming are offered (Theology of Ecology service and Earth Day events were held in Spring 2010.)
- Opportunities for students to participate in special summer programs are available (Rising senior Kyle Hatley attended Program on Interfaith Engagement and Environmental Responsibility in Summer 2010.)

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE *Celebrates* Earth Day 2010

Young Harris College returned to its roots on Saturday, April 24, when several campus organizations and departments co-hosted a special day of service at the old College Farm to celebrate the 40th global Earth Day, which was Thursday, April 22. The event, dubbed "Creeks, Crops and Cornbread," was part of a series of activities organized and co-sponsored by YHC's chapter of Roots & Shoots, the Bonner Leaders, the Office of Religious Life, the Office of Campus Activities, the YHC Sustainability Committee and the Student Government Association.

"Despite the thunderstorms that drenched Young Harris on Saturday afternoon, biology professor Brenda Hull and an excited group of students planted 10 apple and pear trees and eight blueberry bushes on an acre of land at YHC's old College Farm, reviving the fertile soil and marking a new era of sustainability at YHC," said Rob Campbell, experiential learning coordinator and director of the Bonner Leaders Program at Young Harris College.

The groups also planned a clean-up effort for Corn Creek the same day, but the stormy weather forced cancellation.

Still in good spirits despite the continuing rain, the YHC groups concluded their Earth Day celebration Saturday evening with a campus-wide barbecue dinner with commemorative Earth Day T-shirts and live music by Cornbread Ted and the Butterbeans, comprised of Ted Whisenhunt, associate professor of art and chair of the art department, Jamie Watson, Ph.D., assistant professor of philosophy, and their wives, Eloise Whisenhunt, Ph.D., and Darlena Watson.



Experiential Learning Coordinator Rob Campbell holds a commemorative Earth Day T-shirt.



Young Harris College students plant fruit trees and bushes on the College Farm in honor of Earth Day 2010.

YHC's chapel praise band leads the call to worship during the special Earth Day chapel service on April 21 at the Enotah Hall Amphitheatre.



THEOLOGY OF ECOLOGY: A RELIGIOUS EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

In connection with Young Harris College's Earth Day celebration, the Office of Religious Life hosted "Theology of Ecology," a special chapel service on April 21, the eve of Earth Day, at the new Enotah Hall Amphitheatre. The event was funded by the Student Government Association Green Fee initiative in which students self-impose a \$5 per semester "green fee" that is matched by the College to fund sustainability efforts at the College.

Campus Minister Rev. Dr. Tim Moore invited Rev. Alan Jenkins, founder of Earth Covenant Ministry, an eco-justice outreach ministry in Atlanta, to deliver a special message about the healing and renewing of God's creation. Jenkins led the group through exploration of Psalm 24:1, "The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;" (NIV).

Jenkins pointed out hopeful signs of mankind reconnecting with God's earth through recent trends in sustainability and environmental awareness like creating community and urban gardens, implementing renewable and sustainable energy and recognizing all living creatures as "our neighbors."

In closing, Jenkins challenged the YHC community to slow down and spend time with and be inspired by a living creature. "Allow yourself to be awestruck at the beauty, intelligence, freedom, simplicity and complexity," he said. "Then begin to marvel at the web of life, and consider how your life is connected to that being. Consider your vocation, your purpose. Consider the Lordship of Jesus Christ."

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE STUDENT CHOSEN FOR PILOT Program On Interfaith Engagement and Environmental Responsibility

Kyle Hatley, a rising senior biology major from Kennesaw, was one of 30 students in the country selected to participate in Common Ground: Interfaith Engagement and Environmental Responsibility, a summer program co-sponsored by Andover Newton Theological School, Hebrew College and Yale University at the Incarnation Conference Center in Ivoryton, Conn., June 7-11.

This innovative pilot program brought together a diverse group of college and seminary students interested in the relationship of environmental responsibility and interfaith cooperation. The program was a week-long summer camp experience for 15 college students and 15 seminarians representing diverse religious and spiritual traditions.

"My hope is that Kyle will not be the only one to benefit from this experience; I hope our entire religious life program will benefit from this summer's experience, challenging us all to engage more intentionally and authentically with faith and the wonderful intersection of faith and reason," said Rev. Dr. Tim Moore, YHC campus minister.

A five-day retreat experience, the Common Ground project included exploration of sacred texts and contemplative practices, scientific research and models of effective interfaith action. Learning took a number of different forms, including classroom learning, guided nature walks, artistic explorations and service learning.

Time was spent together as a whole group and in various smaller groups, including seminarian and undergraduate cohorts and intrafaith groupings. A team of experiential educators served as the core faculty with guest scholars, activists and artists joining the program for specific experiences. Core faculty members will continue to mentor participants throughout the upcoming academic year.

"The chance to study with leading scholars from such prestigious institutions while immersed in that diverse and dynamic environment cannot help but be transformative," Dr. Moore said.

Core faculty for the program included Abdullah Antepli, Duke University's first Muslim chaplain, Sharon M. K. Kugler, university chaplain of Yale University, Jennifer Howe Peace, the managing director of the Center for Interreligious & Communal Leadership Education (CIRCLE) and Or N. Rose, associate dean of the Rabbinical School of Hebrew College and co-director of CIRCLE.

"It was an honor and a privilege to be part of the Common Ground project this summer," Hatley said. "The time I spent in Connecticut was great. I was able to meet new people with different perspectives and learn how different religions can work together to maintain the beauty of God's creation."



Kyle Hatley

Organic Gardening is Chic AT YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE

A sustainable, organic garden is thriving at Young Harris College thanks to a group of environmentally conscious students and Brenda Hull, associate professor of biology. The garden, located next to the Beetle Lab house on the YHC campus, was tended by 31 eager students during the spring semester as part of a new one-credit course.

"I started the garden three years ago as part of another class hoping it would catch on, but it's time had not come for our students," Hull explained. "I decided to offer it this year as a separate course, and it exploded."

The students planted spinach, broccoli, leaf lettuce, buttercrunch lettuce, sugar snap peas, Swiss chard, mustard, onions, potatoes and tobacco. For Hull, the most rewarding part of implementing the garden was the reaction of the students when the plants started blossoming.

"Many students had never dug in the dirt before, much less planted anything. They were as excited as little kids when their seeds germinated," she said. "Many are concerned about leaving their plants during the summer and want to come back to campus every now and then to see what is growing."

The students have no reason to worry. The garden is being carefully nurtured over the summer by Hull and a team of YHC faculty and staff.

Hull looks forward to expanding the class's involvement in organic gardening elsewhere on campus in the future. "We also have the acre at the YHC farm to play with now," Hull said, referring to the space where she and a team of students planted fruit trees and bushes for Earth Day.

The Fall 2010 course will include trips to other gardens as part of the College's trendiest new class.



Rising senior Katie Dyer checks her plants at Young Harris College's organic garden.

Jane Goodall *Brings Inspiring Message*

TO YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE



Dr. Jane Goodall

On Feb. 18, Jane Goodall, Ph.D., DBE, founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and UN Messenger of Peace, made a special visit to Young Harris College to share her remarkable story and talk about her internationally recognized work with an enthusiastic crowd. The theme of the evening was “Gombe 50: Celebrating Dr. Jane Goodall’s Extraordinary Legacy,” and YHC students, faculty and staff, local citizens and Goodall admirers from beyond the local communities filled the campus’s Glenn Auditorium to capacity to hear Dr. Goodall’s inspiring

and empowering message of hope and peace.

Dr. Goodall discussed her groundbreaking work with chimpanzees in Africa and her continued work with the Jane Goodall Institute’s (JGI) innovative community-centered conservation projects in Africa.

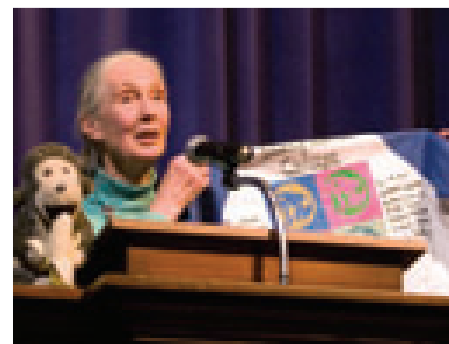
While introducing the guest lecturer, Assistant Professor of Biology Jody Stallings, Ph.D., described how he came to know the JGI team while spending four years in Uganda as the environmental officer for the U.S. government. “Their projects quickly became my favorite sites to visit because I was so impressed with their work ethic and the way they worked with local communities,” he said.

“When I think of the Jane Goodall Institute work, I think of three key words: educate, inspire and empower,” Dr. Stallings said. “The Jane Goodall Institute team would educate children through their environmental education centers; they would inspire local communities to work toward a more sustainable future; and they would

empower women’s groups and local organizations to develop microenterprise and revenue-sharing programs linked to ecotourism activities that made communities feel like real stakeholders in the process.

“These three words, educate, inspire and empower, bring us back to place,” he added. “They are the pillars of the YHC vision.”

Dr. Goodall applauded Young Harris College for its campus-wide efforts to



Pictured above with her familiar mascot, “Mr. H,” Dr. Jane Goodall proudly displays her new Young Harris College Roots & Shoots T-shirt.

Unwanted Items Get New Life through Project Artemas

This spring, Young Harris College’s Office of Residence Life introduced Project Artemas, a new initiative encouraging YHC students moving out of the residence halls to donate unwanted belongings and non-perishable food items to two community outreach organizations, the S.A.F.E. Again Thrift Store and Towns County Food Pantry.

Organized by Enotah Hall Resident Director Stuart Miller and funded through the students’ self-imposed SGA Green Fee, Project Artemas was created as part of the Young Harris College Recycling Strategic Plan. Student leaders were utilized to help organize the overall program, including resident advisors and residence hall council sustainability chairs.

“S.A.F.E. and the Towns County Food Pantry are two great organizations that make sure the people in our community who are struggling get the things they need to make their lives better,” said Miller, who is also a member of the YHC sustainability committee.

Collection bins were placed in the lobbies of each residence hall and outside the halls to collect non-perishable foods, clothing, furniture, unused school supplies, books, kitchen items and electronics. After three collections during the last week of the Spring 2010 semester, nearly 1,000 pounds of goods were donated to the S.A.F.E. Again Thrift Store, and more than 150 pounds of food were given to the Towns County Food Pantry.

“I am thankful to our students at YHC who made the effort to help someone else when it might have been easier to just throw something away,” Miller said.

promote sustainability and green choices. She also encouraged involvement in JGI's global environmental and humanitarian youth program Roots & Shoots and recognized the YHC Roots & Shoots chapter for their work. Dr. Goodall challenged those in attendance to think about the kind of impact each person makes every day.

"Each one of us is capable of making a difference," she said. "We have a choice of what kind of impact we're going to make."

2010 marks a monumental milestone for Dr. Goodall and JGI. Fifty years ago, Dr. Goodall, who is today a world-renowned primatologist, conservationist and humanitarian, first set foot on the shores of Lake Tanganyika, in what is now Tanzania's Gombe National Park. The chimpanzee behavioral research she pioneered there has produced a wealth of scientific discovery, and her vision has expanded into a global mission to empower people to make a difference for all living things.

A major part of this mission is Roots & Shoots, a global program of JGI to make positive change happen for communities, animals and the environment. The program engages young people from preschool through college as they take positive action in their communities and beyond.

"Everywhere there are young people who want to tell Dr. Jane with shining eyes what they've been doing to make a difference," Dr. Goodall said. "That's inspiring. It's really my main reason for hope."

A book signing followed the lecture, and Dr. Goodall spent time greeting the long line of fans anxious to meet her, posing for photos and signing autographs.

To view and download photos from the event, visit www.janegoodall.org/tour-photos. For more information about Dr. Jane Goodall and the JGI, visit www.janegoodall.org.

Roots & Shoots

RAISES AWARENESS ON CAMPUS AND IN LOCAL COMMUNITIES

During her visit to Young Harris College, Jane Goodall, Ph.D., met with members of YHC's student chapter of Roots & Shoots, a global environmental and humanitarian youth program of the Jane Goodall Institute. The group consists of 16 members led by President Emma Witherington, a rising junior biology major from Winder.

YHC Roots & Shoots members have mobilized to raise more than \$1,800 since the group's founding in 2009.

"To raise money, we began by selling African Trash Beads made of recycled magazines, a common livelihood for women in Uganda. The necklaces were a big hit on campus," said rising junior biology major David Agori-Iwe.

"Their original plan was to fundraise and get organized," said Assistant Professor of Biology Jody Stallings, Ph.D., who serves as the Roots & Shoots chapter advisor and YHC's sustainability committee chair. "After the Goodall event, Roots & Shoots became more action-oriented."

Dr. Goodall's lecture prompted Fannin and Towns county schools to contact YHC's Roots & Shoots chapter to find out how to get involved. Members of the YHC chapter visited these local schools to talk about what they learned from meeting Dr. Goodall and reiterate the importance of taking care of the environment. To further the growth of Roots & Shoots throughout the region, the chapter will offer grants to these local schools to fund their own chapters.

"We hope that by targeting younger children, we can raise awareness of green issues and encourage their involvement from an early age," Agori-Iwe said.

The chapter is also focusing on campus recycling, allocating part of their funds to educate students about the correct way to recycle. The chapter also collaborated with the YHC Student Government Association (SGA) to produce signs for recycling containers purchased by SGA for all residence halls.

In the future, the group plans to focus on animal rights outreach and help non-governmental organizations communicate the dangers of invasive plants and the benefits of planting native species.

"Our students have shown outstanding initiative from bringing the Roots & Shoots program to Young Harris to fundraising and educating fellow students," Dr. Stallings said. "They are not only accepting the environmental programs implemented by the YHC sustainability committee, but are actively seeking out ways to facilitate positive change."

For more information about the JGI Roots & Shoots program, visit www.rootsandshoots.org.



YHC President Cathy Cox hosted a dinner at her home on campus for special guest Dr. Jane Goodall and biology faculty and students.

Naturally *Creative*

ALUMNUS FINDS 'GREEN' CAREER COMBINING PASSIONS FOR ART AND NATURE

BY PEGGY COZART

As founder of his own architecture firm, Kevin Palmer, '89, brings a strong personal philosophy of architecture as a creative, service-based profession to his work when interpreting his clients' brick and mortar needs. Founded in 2006 in his hometown of Statesboro, Palmer's young firm is making a name for itself in the Southeast and is a leader in green design practices.

Palmer Architects specializes in educational and commercial design, creating projects that range from \$1 million to \$10 million in construction costs. In addition to a full range of architectural services, the firm also provides a spectrum of in-house services often not found in smaller firms, including surveying, civil engineering, interior design and three-dimensional marketing models. While the majority of their work is in Georgia, the staff currently has projects in three states.

Palmer enters into each project with no preconceived ideas and strives to maintain open lines of communication throughout the process. "I can tell how well I've done my job by the emotional reaction I get the first time the owner sees a rendering of their new building," he said.

Of his philosophy, he said, "Meeting the requirements of the program, and even the budget, is really not that difficult. What keeps me interested in the profession are those clients who are looking for something unique, a building that becomes a representation and symbol of themselves or their organization." He does not see it as his job to push his own style on clients. "It's much more rewarding for me to

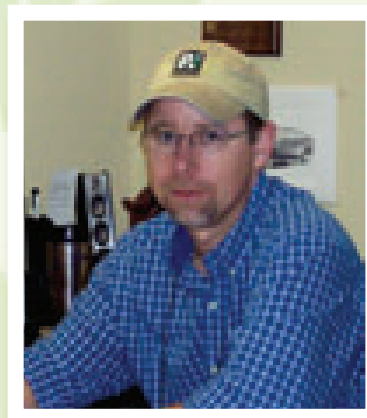
get to know them and then develop a design which reflects their personality rather than mine."

Palmer graduated from Young Harris College in 1989 with a liberal arts degree. He then took a year off to spend some time working—and playing his guitar—on Jekyll Island. After the sabbatical he went on to enroll in the architecture program at Southern Polytechnic State University in Marietta, where he earned a B.A. in architecture in 1996.

Palmer, who now lives in Statesboro with his wife, Julie, and their three young children, Rebecca (10), Maggie (4) and Jake (2), credits the liberal arts education and his time at YHC with preparing him for success as an architect. "A liberal arts degree is excellent preparation for the business world," he said. "You become well-rounded and learn how to relate to other people."

Palmer came to YHC in 1987 at the suggestion of his high school history teacher. "I loved the area and the mountains. At the time, the town of Young Harris was still secluded, and I fell in love with it," he said. "I have always been involved in outdoor activities, and I love nothing more than time spent as far away from civilization as possible. I suppose that's why I chose YHC in the first place."

It was at YHC that Palmer learned to study, organize and get involved. "At a large school of 20,000, how many people do you know?" Recalling a student body of about 400, he said, "You got to know most of them and developed relationships more deeply than at a larger school."



Kevin Palmer, '89

His two years at Young Harris College provided him with opportunities for leadership and student activities as well. "Everybody's involved in some group," explained Palmer, who helped found the Zeta Pi fraternity and served on the Council of Presidents. Additionally, he played on the soccer team, was a member of the student senate and even performed in the Christmas musical *Cotton Patch Gospel*.

Palmer is an artistic soul who thrives on the act of creating whether it's music, painting, writing or architecture. "In most cases the arts and nature are fairly compatible. I also believe the same is true of architecture and nature," he said of his work. "In fact, the way in which a building interacts with nature is one of the main characteristics that elevates it to the status of architecture in the first place."

After earning his degree, Palmer signed on with the architecture firm Buckley and Associates in Swainsboro, working there for 10 years before deciding to go out on his own. Palmer recounts the experience of opening his firm. Starting out with an empty office, a shelf of reference books and no money was, in his words, "Horrible! I spent a lot of time cold calling, and after two years we had grown to 12 employees."

The busy firm currently has several projects on schedule to break ground this year. "From inception to completion, a \$3 million or \$4 million project can take two years to complete and occupy," Palmer explained. He and his team just wrapped the design and construction drawings, and funding has been approved, for a student housing project at East Georgia College in Swainsboro. They also have two renovation projects at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro slated to begin soon, and they have just begun the design phase for an addition to the plant operations building at East Georgia College. Additionally, several projects are underway in nearby Dublin, Ga., including a medical imaging center and an assisted living facility.

Much of the firm's work, particularly in the educational field, meets current LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification standards, providing a tangible measure of environmentally friendly features used in the design and construction of a building. "In the educational sector, there is more of a sense of ownership and more of a willingness to spend the extra effort needed to meet the LEED certification."

The trend toward green design and sustainability suits Palmer's sensibilities well. "We spend a good amount of time thinking about how to be environmentally friendly because we want to do the right thing."

According to Palmer, "going green" in his line of work has become more an issue of time and management than an issue of additional funding. For example, LEED standards call for local and recycled materials to be chosen when available, and the firm's recently completed Learning Center at East Georgia College is made almost entirely

of wood, the vast majority of which is local pine. The cypress used came from nearby Mount Vernon, Ga., and was harvested from dry growth, rather than being collected in wetlands. The 8,000 square feet of decking is a composite material made of a combination of engineered wood fiber and recycled plastic. All of the stains, sealers and paint are low- to zero-VOC (volatile organic compounds) content, which affects indoor air quality. The building has very little carpeting, and the carpet that was used was manufactured about 45 miles from the site at a plant that not only touts their use of recycled content but is partially powered by waste material from the canning industry just down the road. The windows were manufactured in Adrian, about 20 miles from the site.

"The point of sustainable design is to pay attention to the details related to the products we use, where they come from and how they are made," he said.

Palmer's experiences in Young Harris and the north Georgia mountains helped shape his beliefs about architecture and the environment. "I

know how much the area means to me personally, and I see how it has changed since the days when I was hiking up Bell Mountain and camping by Lake Chatuge. I try to remember that no matter where I am asked to design, someone has nostalgic feelings about that place, and it's my job to treat it with respect."

Palmer remembers his years at Young Harris College as the best of his life, and 20 years later, he still looks for any excuse to return. "There is simply an overwhelming sense of place that seeps into your soul and never lets go. Every time I've returned since, it's felt just like coming home," he said. "The valley just gets into your blood and the people you experienced it with become a sort of family."

Palmer admits that not a day goes by that he is not reminded, in some way, of being there, and he continues to be inspired. "The memories are imprinted on my heart in a way that few others are. In a lot of ways, I can visualize my time there more clearly than I can remember last week. It's not just visual. When I think of Young Harris, I

remember how fall smells and the taste of dew."



Kevin Palmer, '89, combined his love of art and nature into his architectural vision for the recently completed Learning Center at East Georgia College in Swainsboro.



Seeing Creation Anew: *A Theology of Ecology*

BY REV. DR. TIM MOORE

Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.' So God created humankind in his image, in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them. Genesis 1:26-27 (NRSV)

In Christian theology, we regularly turn to biblical texts as the first stop in the long, creative process of articulating doctrine. Often, we turn and return to particular texts, as those particular texts provide a rich resource that is abundant in insights and that informs divergent yet indispensable theological positions. Many analyses of these texts and the positions they underscore are ancient, supplying the foundational claims for central doctrines. Yet, on the occasions when a separate or new issue arises about which the church has less frequently or never definitively spoken, theologians will, again, turn to these seminal passages, extrapolating a new doctrine from ancient doctrines emergent from these primary interpretations.

The above text from Genesis is just such a text, poured over and sifted through for the seed of such pivotal and ancient doctrines as the Trinity and the imago dei (i.e., our being created in the image of God). In more recent years, theologians have turned to this text as a means to imagine how we might speak to issues of ecology. Frequently at question is how to deal with our being conferred "dominion"



Rev. Dr. Tim Moore

over creation.

Does having dominion mean domination? Does having dominion mean humanity is justified in exploiting the environment for whatever (short-term) benefit might be gained? Unfortunately, more times than can be recounted, the answer to these questions has been

"yes." Yet, such a reading of the text is only a partial interpretation of the text. The text provides a balancing, additional source for theological guidance.

Returning to those two pivotal and ancient doctrines possibly alluded to within the text (i.e., the Trinity and the imago dei), we find the governing concepts for what it might mean to have dominion. If (1) the concept of the Trinity speaks to the character of God and (2) the concept of the imago dei speaks to the derivative character of humanity relative to that character of God, then transitive logic suggests an indelible, essential correspondence between who God is as Trinity and who we are as persons created in God's image.

If, as many have understood the doctrine of the Trinity to suggest, God's unique character is to be simultaneously both uniquely one

while corporately many, then God is an essentially and intimately intertwined sociality. In technical language, God's character is expressed perichoretically. In more accessible language, God is one while, also, many. Moreover, if we are created in that image, then quite possibly, we, too, exist fundamentally as corporate individuals.

Such a doctrinal notion places a great deal of significance on our sociality and the social systems generative of and created by our sociality. Further, the care for those systems becomes paramount because those systems must exist in order that we exist. Said more positively, such care seems a natural outgrowth of our own recognition that systems are essential to all life and that having dominion is more about responsibility for those systems and sustaining those systems than it is the exploitation of those systems. Such exploitation would be out of character for a people who understand their very essence to be wrapped up in the sustained presence of systems.

Because of this possible essentiality of systems within Christian doctrine, I have entitled this piece a "theology of ecology." Ecology is the study of systems; the study of the interrelatedness of various things. Interestingly, if not purposefully, the word "ecology" derives from the same Greek root for our word "church," *oikos*. The church is understood to be a vibrant, diverse, dynamic yet singularly interconnected entity. (As Paul reminds us, the church is, after

all, one body with many members.) In other words, while we discover the very essence for what it means to be the church, we also discover what it means to be ecological. For Christian theology, this means that being interested in and passionate about the environment should be a natural and inevitable outcome.

All people, regardless of our faith commitments, would benefit from such a shift in emphasis away from “dominion as domination” toward “ecology of care.” If the excerpt from the creation story previously cited narrates anything, it is the reality that we are, literally, in this together, and creation care is our common concern.

If the church and institutions of the church like Young Harris College are to be faithful to our created imaginings, then we must be

environmentally responsible, engaging proactively in social and political systems seeking to care for creation.

This complicated and important topic is rapidly gaining attention both inside and outside the church.

To read more about theology, ecology and the Christian faith, I recommend finding an essay by Wendell Berry. If you are to read just one essay, I would read his “Christianity and the Survival of Creation” in his collection *Sex, Economy, Freedom and Community*. While profound and provocative, Berry’s work remains eminently accessible. Being a novelist, his essays are a pleasant encounter.

If you want to push a little deeper into both Berry’s work and the theological issues underlying and encompassing conversations about the

environment, try Norman Wirzba. Wirzba is both an excellent theologian and an expert on Berry. In analyzing Berry’s thoughts, Wirzba supplies theological depth and language to Berry’s engaging prose. As an initial read, I recommend Wirzba’s *The Paradise of God: Renewing Religion in an Ecological Age*. While these readings are just two of the many works in this expanding area of theological inquiry, these two authors provide useful avenues into this vexing world of conversations about faith, creation and our proper role.

Keep reading and discussing.

To ask questions, comment or further discuss this topic with Dr. Moore, email him at tsmoore@yhc.edu.

...the word “ecology” derives from the same Greek root for our word “church,” oikos.

Welcome TO THE Jungle

A SURVIVAL LESSON IN THE AMAZON

BY PEGGY COZART

This past fall, Young Harris College rising junior outdoor education major Mallory Holland lived the adventure of a lifetime during a semester-long expedition in the Amazon region of Brazil.

Over a period of 80 challenging days, Holland journeyed through a National Outdoor Leadership School (NOLS) course that teaches participants both the hard skills of wilderness camping and the soft skills of group dynamics and expedition behavior, training students to become strong and confident outdoor leaders.

"I learned about NOLS in my Intro to Outdoor Education class during my freshman year at Young Harris," Holland said. "The program screamed my name because it covered two of my favorite outdoor skills, canoeing and hiking."

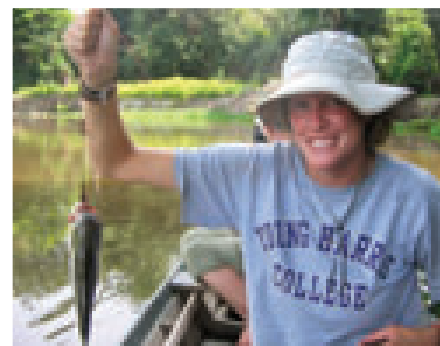
The 21-year-old from Woodstock, single-handedly raised the \$15,000 needed for the trip. In addition to working an entire summer at northwest Georgia's Camp Misty Mountain, Holland's fundraising efforts included earning a

study abroad grant from YHC funded by alumna Beverly Woodward, '53, and her husband, Len. Holland also wrote her congressman and other key officials seeking financial backing and secured donations from neighbors, friends and family in support of her quest. Additionally, a letter of recommendation from YHC President Cathy Cox helped her earn a NOLS scholarship.

During her semester in Brazil, Holland and her NOLS classmates spent a month paddling the upper tributaries of the Amazon on the Jurueña and Tapajós rivers in the Brazilian state of Mato Grosso, followed by a week of hiking the ground-level rainforest in the Amazonia National Park.

The NOLS training then rounded out the students' cultural experience with a week spent living in the remote Amazon backcountry with a Brazilian host family. "This experience really made me appreciate communication and realize how often we take it for granted," Holland said of having to learn basic Portuguese.

After their stay with the Amazonian families, as part of their Independent Student Group Expedition (ISGE), the students hiked the vastly diverse Brazilian Highlands region and the Cerrado, the world's most biologically rich savanna. During this segment of the training, students learned to use only a map, a compass and their surroundings to navigate the rugged terrain.



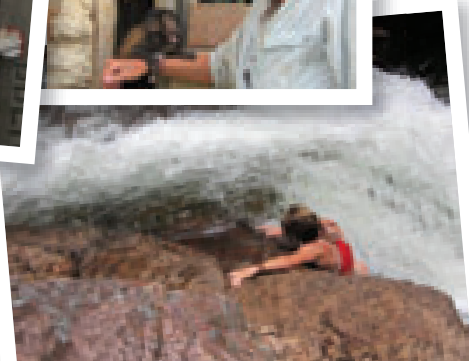
Mallory Holland

"To get to the Cerrado, we had to basically climb vertically, up one of the less steep canyon walls, to get to the highlands of the upper Amazon," explained Holland. "This section was the most challenging due to our bare surroundings and scarce water. However, there were nonstop breathtaking vistas."

Wrapping up their 80 days of training and adventure, small groups of six and seven students had to find their way off the highlands and out of the jungle to their final destination, a town called Villa Bella.

Holland cites YHC Instructor of Outdoor Education and Director of the Outdoor Education Center Rob Dussler as a mentor who encouraged her to pursue the unforgettable NOLS program experience. She plans to become a wilderness therapy field instructor and help troubled youth in rehab situations through backcountry training.

"One thing I learned is that if you want something bad enough you'll overcome obstacles and jump through hoops to get it," Holland said. "I got to the jungle, and I survived. And I think about it every day."

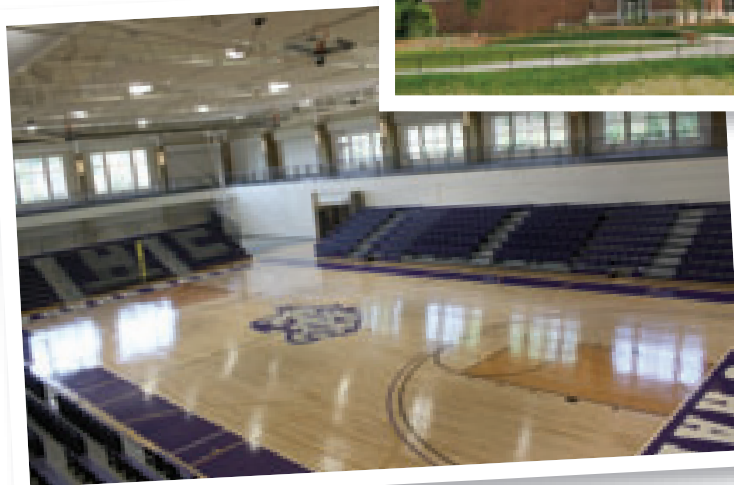


CAMPUS FACILITIES

Continue to Grow and Expand

Just over a year after Young Harris College broke ground on a new 57,000-square-foot recreation and fitness center, the grand facility is nearing completion and scheduled to open in August. The facility boasts an impressive 37-foot-high rock climbing wall beside a fully equipped weight room and fitness center. An elevated indoor jogging track surrounds the facility and overlooks the state-of-the-art, 1,100-purple-seat, NCAA-regulation arena. The center also boasts the Balance Café, a healthy food and juice bar, and multipurpose classrooms for yoga, dance and aerobics. Ample office space and locker rooms are available for use by the athletics program and wide expanses of windows allow visitors to take in the breathtaking surrounding views. Young Harris College students will have immediate, unlimited access to the facility's amenities, and fitness center memberships will be available to YHC faculty and staff as well as the local community. The facility has been designed and constructed to LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) standards and is expected to earn LEED certification upon completion. The recreation and fitness center will be the second new facility to be completed as part of Young Harris College's aggressive strategic plan to make the transformation to four-year status and the second facility to earn LEED certification. The 200-bed

Recreation and fitness center arena and exterior



Enotah Hall, which opened in August 2009, was awarded LEED Silver certification.

Also scheduled for completion in August is a new tennis complex located on Hwy 76 that will be home to the Young Harris College men's and women's tennis teams. The complex will feature 12 lighted tournament-quality courts that will help make YHC eligible to host NCAA-member tournaments and other tennis events. The Berry House that currently houses the College's Outdoor Education Center will become home to a pro shop, locker rooms and offices for YHC's tennis and cross country programs. When the collegiate teams are not using the courts, all YHC students, faculty and staff will have access for recreational tennis. Additionally, memberships

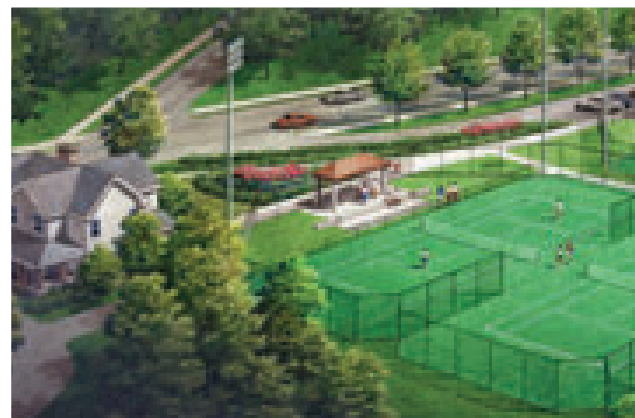
A rendering of the new Young Harris College Tennis Complex

will be available for the local community.

The tennis courts that were located near the athletic fields on campus were removed in spring of 2009 to accommodate storm water management areas next to Corn Creek. The space

will ultimately be landscaped and converted into a beautiful, picturesque "green space."

The next major facility stipulated in the College's master plan is a new campus center that will combine a library, dining hall, banquet facility and student center into a single modern, state-of-the-art building. The campus center has been in design throughout 2009 and into 2010.

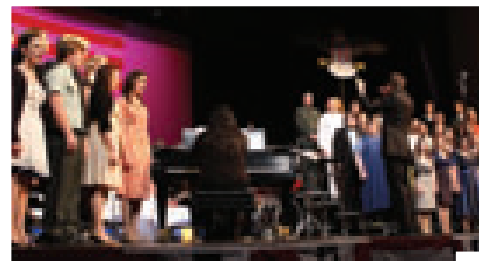


Fine Arts Take Center Stage at YHC



Young Harris College's Division of Fine Arts presented an exciting spring lineup of events that showcased the talents of YHC students, faculty and guest artists.

Totaling nearly 9,000 patrons for the 2009-2010 year, Theatre Young Harris, directed by Theatre Department Chair and Assistant Professor of Theatre Eddie Collins, opened the semester with a special collaborative presentation with the Division of Humanities of the Pulitzer Prize-winning play *Wit* in Susan B. Harris Chapel on Feb. 2. Next the theatre company presented four performances of the Tony Award-winning dramatic play *Dancing at Lughnasa*, Feb. 18-21, in Dobbs Theatre. The group closed out the season with Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular operetta, the smash-hit swashbuckling romp *The Pirates of Penzance*, filling Glenn Auditorium April 22-25. The Theatre Department also hosted its first student-produced show, *Almost Maine*, with two sold-out performances March 2-3.



The Young Harris College Choir presented "An Evening at the USO" Feb. 26-27.



Above: Theatre Young Harris presented *Dancing at Lughnasa* Feb. 18-21. Right: Student a cappella groups Southern Harmony and The Compulsive Lyres performed at the third annual Acapalooza concert on March 26.



Renowned *House of Sand and Fog* Author Visits YHC



Andre Dubus III

On March 23, Young Harris College's Division of Humanities hosted a special reading in Glenn Auditorium with author and novelist Andre Dubus III, widely renowned for his 1999 novel *House of Sand and Fog*.

Dubus has been a bounty hunter, private investigator, bartender, teacher and actor, but he is best known as an important American short-story writer and novelist. His most famous novel, *House of Sand and Fog*, secured his place on the list of major contemporary authors and was a finalist for the 1999 National Book Award in fiction. It was

adapted for the 2003 film of the same name.

Dubus has also received critical acclaim for other works, having won the 1985 National Magazine Award for his short story "Forky." His 2008 multi-layered novel, *The Garden of Last Days*, is currently being adapted into a film slated for 2011.

During his lecture, Dubus read from his memoirs, which are scheduled to be published next year. He also spoke candidly about events in his life that shaped him as a writer. To explain why he writes, Dubus simply stated, "When I write, I am far more me than when I don't."

During his two-day visit to Young Harris College, Dubus also participated in two question-and-answer sessions and presented special lectures about poetry and fiction to English and creative writing students.

"Having Andre Dubus come to our class made everything that we've done in my English course come alive," said sophomore business major Torben Krauss.



Rising sophomore Evan McLean, of Woodstock, co-starred as Major-General Stanley in *The Pirates of Penzance* April 22-25.

The Art Department, chaired by Associate Professor of Art Ted Whisenhunt, hosted three diverse exhibits throughout the semester in the Campus Gate Art Gallery. "Fossil Fools" by Kristen Baumliar, Tom Hansel and Brian Harnetty fused a live performance in Dobbs Theatre with an exhibit that consisted of installations about the past and future of fossil fuels and energy resources. The "Alice Hirt Memorial Art Exhibition" featured sculptures by Mike McFalls that explored beauty in the changing contemporary landscape. The semester ended with a Student Juried Art



Exhibition, featuring work by many talented YHC students. Corey Hendrix, '10, of Waycross, was awarded Best of Show for his bailing wire piece "Rupert the Rhino."

The Department of Music presented the Young Harris College Choir, conducted by Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral and Vocal Studies Jeff Bauman, in the 1940s big band-era tribute titled "An Evening at the U.S.O.," Feb. 26-27. YHC hosted the DeKalb Symphony Orchestra on March 18 for the "Fay Harmon Clegg Hoag Concert Series," featuring guest conductor Fyodor Cherniavsky and viola soloist Amy Leventhal in Hector Berlioz's *Harold in Italy*. The YHC Guitar Ensemble, directed by Instructor of Guitar and Music History Richard Knepp, hosted "An Evening with Leo Brouwer" on March 22, performing works by the famous Cuban composer. Southern Harmony, YHC's 12-voice female a cappella group, and its 12-voice male counterpart, The Compulsive

Corey Hendrix, '10, was congratulated by Ted Whisenhunt, Art Department chair and associate professor of art, and YHC President Cathy Cox for his winning artwork "Rupert the Rhino" at YHC's Student Juried Art Exhibition on April 15.

Lyres, both directed by Bauman, hosted the third annual Acapalooza concert, performing their own original arrangements of popular tunes to a sold-out crowd on March 26. The Young Harris College/Community Concert Band performed in February and April, with Benny Ferguson, Ph.D., dean of the Division of Fine Arts, serving as conductor. YHC Adjunct Instructor of Music Leigh Miller, Ph.D., was featured as clarinet soloist in Carl Maria Von Weber's *Concertino* in the Feb. 23 concert, while YHC Department of Music Chair Sandy Calloway, D.M.A., was featured in "Highlights from *The Music Man*" in the April 27 performance that also included John Philip Sousa favorites and other patriotic tunes.

Visit www.yhc.edu for information about upcoming fine arts events.



Students Celebrate the Arrival of Spring

On Campus

After emerging from a cold, snowy winter that lasted into March, Young Harris College held its annual Spring Fest extravaganza, April 12-17, for students to celebrate the return of warm weather and to enjoy some of the last days of the semester. For the first time ever, the festival spanned a full week with new activities every day, making the event bigger and better than ever. Sponsored by the Campus Activities Board, events throughout the week included a blood drive, a coffeehouse open mic night featuring performances by YHC students, a special chapel service sponsored by the Office of Religious Life and a dance at Enotah Hall.

The event culminated on Saturday with the Spring Fest Carnival on the YHC lawn, where student organizations set up

booths with airbrush tattoos, old-time photos and refreshments, including cotton candy and snow cones. Fun activities on the lawn included bongo ball mania, volleyball and

Frisbee, along with a performance by Atlanta-based alternative cover band UNZIPT. The carnival culminated with a barbecue on the plaza, wrapping up an exciting, action-packed week.



Spring Break Trip

Educates, Inspires and Empowers Students to Combat Human Trafficking

BY STEPHANIE SEXTON

Several Young Harris College students chose to spend their spring break in Washington, D.C., taking part in a transformative and empowering mission trip along with YHC Campus Minister Rev. Dr. Tim Moore, and Senior Admissions Counselor Julianna Barron, March 7-12.

The trip, made possible by a grant from the Chatlos Foundation, gave the students an opportunity to learn about how to end and prevent human trafficking in the United States and to learn more about Not for Sale, a non-profit corporation that attempts to identify and shut down trafficking rings across the country and support victims of human trafficking.

The group from YHC participated in a two-day seminar hosted by the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, an agency that seeks to empower college students to take actions to reshape society. The seminar was held at the United Methodist Building, a large complex located beside the Supreme Court Building and across the street from the Capitol Building. It is also the

only non-governmental building on Capitol Hill.

The seminar consisted of informational sessions on the issue of human trafficking, group discussions and meetings with various agencies working to end both domestic and international human trafficking. The seminar also included trips to agencies including Shared Hope, an organization that rescues and restores women and children in crisis, and International Justice Mission, a global organization that works to prevent human trafficking, primarily focusing on third-world countries.

The group also attended a fundraising informational dinner for Courtney's House, a local Washington, D.C.-based agency that provides a safe home, education and restorative environment for children who are victims of trafficking. The Young Harris College students also met with U.S. House Representative Paul C. Broun and U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson to discuss human trafficking and upcoming Senate bills regarding the issue.

"The experience was inspirational, educational and shocking. We have to

realize that the battle is not over, and this trip helped us understand how big the problem of human trafficking really is and that it will take much more involvement for a solution to this very disturbing problem," said rising sophomore music major Lizann Weissinger, of Tucker.

Although the week was primarily devoted to missions work, the students also had the opportunity to spend several hours each day touring the city and taking in the historic sites of the nation's capital.

"Members of our group went to museums, skated at the Smithsonian ice rink, toured the Capitol Building, took in the botanical gardens, rode the elevator to the penthouse viewing lounge of the Bank of America building and walked to the White House to see if the President was home," Dr. Moore said. "Each night, we gathered at our church home to catch our breath, reflect on the day's work and pray."

Rising sophomore business and public policy major James Tripp, of Fayetteville, called the trip "an amazing experience." He continued, "It was so great to see how just a few

"The experience was inspirational, educational and shocking. We have to realize that the battle is not over, and this trip helped us understand how big the problem of human trafficking really is..."

SOPHOMORE MUSIC MAJOR LIZANN WEISSINGER

“My prayer is that the students find the trip a moment of awakening to action, inspiring concrete moments that invite others to share in both their newfound knowledge and passion for change.”

YHC CAMPUS MINISTER REV. DR. TIM MOORE

students from Young Harris College could make even the smallest difference.”

Upon returning to YHC, the students began the effort of turning their knowledge into action by holding a special chapel service in which the

missions group shared their stories and students wrote letters to state and federal representatives. The chapel service marked the first of many efforts YHC's Inter-religious Council hopes to implement to address the issue of human trafficking.

“My prayer is that the students find the trip a moment of awakening to action, inspiring concrete moments that invite others to share in both their newfound knowledge and passion for change,” Dr. Moore said. “Over the coming year, we hope to continue our efforts more locally, traveling to the state capitol to discuss this important issue with our legislators and coordinating efforts with other campus ministries similarly committed to seeing our faith made incarnate in our actions.”

Sexton is a rising junior musical theatre and communication studies double major from Cumming.

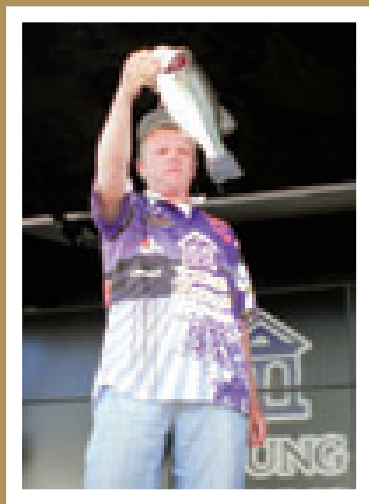
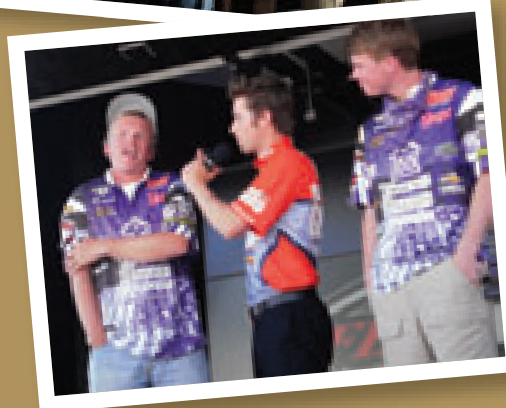
Bass Fishing Team Finishes 12th in the Nation

After hopping in a boat and starting Young Harris College's first competitive bass fishing team last fall, rising sophomore Brad Rutherford and Clint McNeal, '10, led the College's team to a 12th-place finish in the National Guard FLW Outdoors College Fishing National Championship held April 10-12 on Ft. Loudoun Lake in Knoxville, Tenn. The event hosted the top five teams from each region with a total of 25 teams competing for the championship.

The YHC team scored its first win during its first tournament appearance last October at the Southeast Division event on Lake Guntersville, Ala., beating out 39 other teams. The victory earned the team \$10,000 to be split evenly between the College and the bass fishing club.

McNeal and Rutherford next competed in the nationally televised Regional Championship on Lake Monroe in Sanford, Fla., in November, finishing in the top five and securing a spot in the national tournament. As part of their fifth-place award, the team presented a check for \$3,000 to the College.

According to club sponsor Danny Rubino, assistant softball coach at Young Harris College, the team has participated in other local and regional tournaments beyond the FLW Outdoors series and is looking forward to a great second season in the fall.



Brad Rutherford shows off his latest catch at the National Guard FLW Outdoors College Fishing National Tournament.

Above, top: The YHC bass fishing team presents a check for \$3,000 to President Cathy Cox. Next: Brad Rutherford and Clint McNeal, '10, are interviewed on stage at the National Guard FLW Outdoors College Fishing National Tournament.

Young Harris College Responds to Haiti Disaster with Compassion and Urgency

Following the devastating Haiti earthquake in January, Young Harris College quickly mobilized a campus-wide response in reaction to the disaster. The Office of Campus Activities worked closely with the Office of Religious Life and the Bonner Leaders service-learning scholars to develop and implement a three-fold relief effort that included collection of monetary donations, clothing and personal health kits.

"The earthquake in Haiti is such a tremendous natural disaster, compounded by the crushing poverty already weighing upon the Haitian people. When we see such destruction and horror, our hearts break. We want to respond," said Young Harris College Campus Minister Rev. Dr. Tim Moore.

When asked to help, faculty, staff and students responded quickly, contributing their time and resources.

Rouseline Emmanuel, director of campus activities, coordinated the effort and served as the point of contact for the campus community.



Rev. Dr. Tim Moore delivered nearly 100 health kits to Reid's Chapel United Methodist Church on behalf of YHC.

For Emmanuel, it was personal, having lived in Haiti until moving to the U.S. at age 11, and she was determined to help the campus react quickly. "I was speechless and in tears when I heard the devastation that occurred in Haiti, especially since some of my family members are there," she said. "Now I have a feeling of peace since many people around the world have stepped up to assist Haiti with the destruction."

Emmanuel's office collected monetary donations from the YHC community and presented \$500 to the American Red Cross in February.

YHC student Michelle Brun led an effort to collect clothing to send to Haiti. The rising sophomore from Kennesaw has family members now living in the U.S. who are from Haiti as well as relatives who are still there. She placed collection boxes in all of the residence halls on campus and sent the first shipment of collected items through HOPEH (Haitian Organization Program for Education and Health Incorporated) in early February with plans to send more in the summer.

The United Methodist Committee on Relief called for

donations of health kits, containing essential supplies to aid in personal hygiene, and Young Harris College collected and assembled materials for nearly 100 kits. The kits were assembled during the College's weekly chapel service on Jan. 20, and throughout the following day.

Moore delivered the kits, along with left-over supplies from the assembly process, to nearby Reid's Chapel United Methodist Church in Hiwassee Dam, N.C., on Jan. 23, to be transported to a collection center in Charlotte, N.C.

"A central part of our faith is the belief that we should share life together. So, our impulse is not only to respond but also to respond physically, materially. Such a material response is difficult when so far away," Moore said of YHC's relief effort. "The collecting of funds, assembling of health kits and the gathering of donated clothing offered the opportunity for both an emotional outpouring and material action. Our campus community certainly responded when called. Their response is witness to their generosity and compassion and to their love of neighbors they have never met. Our prayers go out to the Haitian people."

"When we see such destruction and horror, our hearts break. We want to respond."

YHC CAMPUS MINISTER
REV. DR. TIM MOORE



YHC students assembled health kits for Haiti in the Grace Rollins Campus Restaurant.

BUILDING A Legacy of Learning

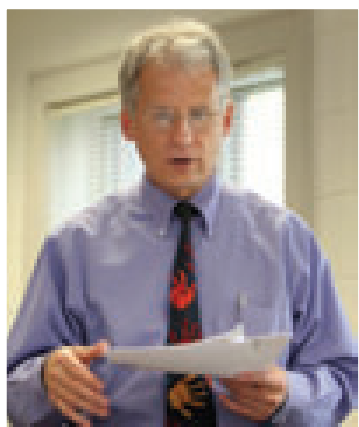
BY PEGGY COZART

Fueling the visible physical growth underway on campus is the behind-the-scenes academic growth that is taking place as Young Harris College continues its transformation to a four-year liberal arts college.

Under the committed leadership of two men, the YHC Department of Education is poised for the academic growth ahead. Both professors bring a history of dedication and enthusiasm for education, learning and teamwork to their latest roles. In anticipation of serving the needs of future educators these two lifelong learners, each with vast experience in the field of education, bring their distinct vision to Young Harris College.

Between the two of them, Department of Education Chair and Professor of Education Bill Brown, Ed.D., and Assistant Professor of Education Mark Brunner, Ph.D., have more than 75 years experience in teaching and education administration. Since 1970, Dr. Brown has logged 20 years as a secondary school science teacher

and another 20 years in higher education administration. Dr. Brunner began his teaching career in 1973 in his native Ohio, later moving to Florida and rising to the rank of school principal during his 36 years in education.



Mark Brunner
B.S., M.S., Youngstown
State University
Ed.S., University of
South Florida
Ph.D., University of Florida

Assistant Professor of
Education Dr. Mark
Brunner and
Department of
Education Chair and
Professor of Education
Dr. Bill Brown



Both men bring to YHC a history of building programs, and each conveys excitement about the work ahead. “The spirit at YHC is energizing and challenging at the same time,” Dr. Brunner said. “The energy comes from the enthusiasm and dedication in which people go about their work. The staff is extremely motivated and committed to the mission of the College.”

As Education Department chair, Dr. Brown is guiding the development and implementation of a 10-year strategic plan as the department prepares to offer four-year degrees. Pending review and approval by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission (PSC) in early 2011, the program is on track to be in place by Fall 2011.

Prior to his move into higher education, Dr. Brown taught in public schools as a science teacher and coached women’s high school basketball. He began his teaching career as a physical science teacher in Manchester, Tenn., at Westwood Junior High School and worked eight years in Tennessee before moving to the Atlanta area, where he spent 12 years.

“The spirit at YHC is energizing and challenging at the same time. The energy comes from the enthusiasm and dedication in which people go about their work. The staff is extremely motivated and committed to the mission of the College.”

DR. MARK BRUNNER

Legacy of Learning

From 1993 through 1999, in addition to teaching, Dr. Brown worked as an education consultant with the prestigious Oak Ridge National Laboratory where he directed the Elementary Science Leadership Institute, sponsored by the National Science Foundation, and the Appalachian Regional Commission's Teacher Leadership Institute, overseeing programs designed to expose working teachers to working scientists. "I was able to help the teachers in these programs make connections between their experiences working with practicing scientists in the national lab and their own classrooms and students," he said.

Next Dr. Brown made the move to college educator and administrator, serving five years at Lindsey Wilson College as a division chair and a programs coordinator, then spending four years at Shorter College, first as chair of the Department of Education and later as dean of the School of Education and Social Sciences. He came to Young Harris College in the fall of 2008, just before the school was granted four-year baccalaureate status by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) that December. As department chair, Dr. Brown oversees the design and implementation of a full Teacher Preparation Program to be approved by the Georgia PSC.

He is quick to point out his role is anything but a one-man show, noting the backing and efforts of many, right up to YHC President Cathy Cox. "President Cox has very

high expectations and empowers everyone to think outside the box and not to settle," he said. "The message is not, 'That's the way we've always done it,' but rather, 'What are we going to do?' The support here is phenomenal."

In an effort to address the needs of the surrounding communities, Dr. Brown's department has teamed with Towns and Union counties and assessed their needs. In the spring of 2009, the Teacher Education Advisory Committee (TEAC) was created. The committee meets twice a year and is comprised of members of the YHC faculty, including some department chairs and division deans, along with school administrators from Towns and Union counties.

As department chair, professor and Teacher Preparation Program coordinator, Dr. Brown handles numerous tasks each day, such as preparing documents required for PSC approval and to ensure establishment of a high quality program.

In addition to his administrative workload, Dr. Brown teaches the course Teacher Technology. "This class is set up to meet the standards of the International Society for Technology in Education," he explained. "We live in a digital world, and the course is designed to meet the needs of 21st-century students."

As an advisor, meeting with students allows Dr. Brown to maintain a relationship with them as the program develops and to stay in touch with their needs.



Bill Brown
B.S., University of Tennessee,
Knoxville
M.A., Ed.S., Tennessee
Technological University
Ed.D., University of Tennessee,
Knoxville

"We want to make sure we are serving the mission of the institution. We must educate students in a manner to be productive citizens and inspire them to be lifelong learners," he said. "We owe them an academic integrity that will empower them to be successful in their careers. That's where a liberal arts foundation provides for a quality of life."

Dr. Brown delights in seeing a spark ignited in future educators. The essence of a lifelong learner himself, he lights up when recounting his journey into the field of education. He grew up a "Tennessee farm boy" and, in fact, still owns the family farm in Warren County, Tenn., which serves as his weekend retreat. "As a farm kid there is no way you can get away from science, from viewing comets to being out in nature, splashing in creeks and hearing the spring peepers," he said.

On the farm, Dr. Brown was instilled with the values of family and being a part of the working unit needed to run the farm. It is much the same for him at YHC. "Professionalism, collegiality and

When I arrived in the fall of 2008, I saw an opportunity in the form of a Genesis moment taking shape at Young Harris College. That's a rare moment. It's exciting to come into that moment, to have an impact and to produce a legacy."

DR. BILL BROWN

teamwork are hallmarks of the YHC faculty—everybody is involved in everything," he explained.

Dr. Brown's colleague Dr. Mark Brunner was attracted to Young Harris College by the opportunity to be part of the development team in a growing program. He began his career in 1973 as a third grade teacher and a reading specialist for six years in Ohio. In 1979, he and his wife relocated to Inverness in Citrus County, Fla., where he began teaching second grade.

His career path led him to become a curriculum specialist for the Citrus County School District and then, in 1985, an elementary school principal. He went on to become the district's executive director of educational services. Dr. Brunner also worked at the university level with positions as project facilitator for Florida State University's Learning Systems Institute and as an adjunct professor at the University of South Florida and the University of Florida.

Dr. Brunner came to Young Harris College in August of 2009, and Dr. Brown is glad to have him on board.

"Mark has a wealth of experience and, in particular, has great strengths in connecting with the students who are and will be seeking certification in our programs," Dr. Brown said. "In addition, he is very involved with the local schools systems."

Dr. Brunner teaches three classes—two Introduction to Education courses and one Introduction to Exceptional Education course. Additionally, he directs the early childhood education program.

An integral part of Dr. Brunner's role in the department is to tap students well suited for careers in education. "When asked, 'Why are you in an education program?' successful future teachers almost always answer that it was a teacher in their life that inspired them," he explained. "When asked, 'When did you know you would teach?' almost all say it was clear to them at an early age. They always knew."

Dr. Brunner cherishes the moment he knew he would become a teacher. He remembers getting excited one day in class while his seventh-grade history teacher Mrs. Kochera was teaching about Native American history. He rushed home that day to find a shovel and headed to some nearby mounds to dig for artifacts. Then and there he was hooked. "The passion in which Mrs. Kochera taught history and my love for that subject is what ultimately led me to teaching," he said.

As a way of finding future teachers, Dr. Brunner facilitates freshman and sophomore field experiences,

where students get a glimpse of real-world classroom settings in nearby schools.

Citing their openness and eagerness, he finds it rewarding to work with college students who soon will be stepping into the profession in which he has spent so many years. "They are just beginning to think about their direction," he said.

Young Harris College's mission to educate, inspire and empower blends well with Dr. Brunner's personal philosophy. "The little things are the big things," he explained. He sees this ideal throughout the campus. "The people of YHC are very warm and inviting and supportive," he said. "There is a spirit here, a real feeling of community."

Dr. Brown agrees. "When I arrived in the fall of 2008, I saw an opportunity in the form of a Genesis moment taking shape at Young Harris College," he said. "That's a rare moment. It's exciting to come into that moment, to have an impact and to produce a legacy."

Dr. Brunner believes the new education program is indeed an important part of the YHC legacy. "People do not become teachers because they like grading papers and creating lesson plans," he said. "They become teachers because they want to touch lives."



Athletics Prepares for Competition at Four-Year Level

BY MICKEY SEWARD

An era ended when Young Harris College's women's golf team completed its final round in the National Junior College Athletic Association's national championship tournament this past May. As the Mountain Lions' final player walked off the 18th green at the LPGA International Course in Daytona Beach, Fla., she took with her the College's status as a junior-college athletic program.

That status no longer applies to the Mountain Lions' athletic department, which moves from the junior-college level of competition to the four-year level this fall. The transition follows the College's move from a two-year college to a baccalaureate degree-granting liberal arts institution.

As part of the move, Young Harris College has applied to the National Collegiate Athletic Association for membership in NCAA Division II.

The move to a four-year athletic program has many people on campus excited about the opportunities that lie ahead, including YHC coaches who are looking forward to the chance to invest in the lives and athletic careers of their student-athletes for more than two years.

"It will be exciting to bring in a freshman and see the improvement during the four years of competition," Women's Tennis Head Coach Alli Hillman said. "At the junior-college level, you work with an athlete for two years and then watch her finish her journey elsewhere. Now, we will be able to be a part of the entire process."

Several teams, including tennis, golf and women's soccer, competed against four-year schools this past season, and the competitive difference was obvious when YHC's all-underclass teams faced teams with juniors and seniors.

"Being able to work with a team for four years will allow us to become much more competitive, both physically and mentally, as individuals and as a team," Men's and Women's Golf Head Coach Brett Beazley said.

Assistant Athletic Director and Women's Soccer Head Coach Kathy Brown added that the older student-athletes will help serve as role models to their younger teammates. "I'm excited to have an opportunity to develop strong leaders that will help evolve the program," Brown said. "Having quality juniors and seniors to set the example for new players to follow is extremely important."

A former NCAA Division II student-athlete and assistant coach, Men's Soccer Head Coach Mark McKeever speaks from experience about advantages of Division II competition. "Everything will provide a more structured environment, from the student-athlete, to the NCAA, to the level of play," McKeever said. "I loved playing at the Division II level, so it's a welcomed return."

Many of the teams will include plenty of student-athletes who have been a part of the program for the past two years. Both soccer teams, for example, will have a majority of their players return in 2010, which leads

to consistency. "The men's team was very successful on the field and in the classroom," McKeever said. "I'm excited to take these lads into a more competitive environment."

Other coaches, such as Baseball Head Coach Rick Robinson, have encouraged student-athletes to move on to Division I opportunities and have signed almost entirely new teams for this first season as a four-year program.

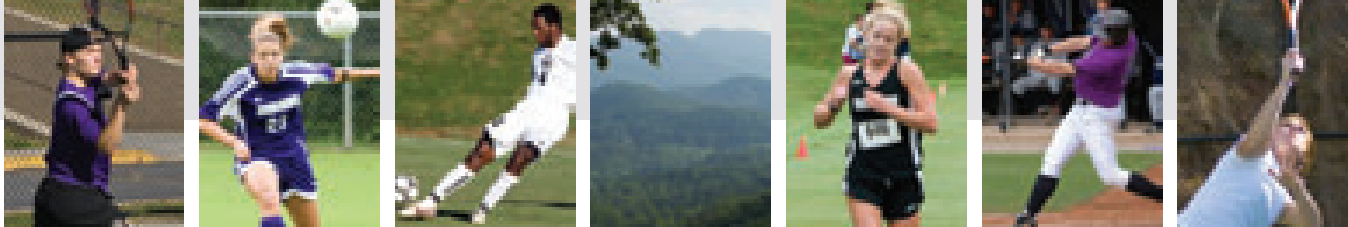
A move of this magnitude does not come without its share of challenges. From scheduling, to conference affiliation, to opponents' experience level, the Mountain Lions will face an uphill climb.

Young Harris College will seek conference affiliation when it learns of its status with the NCAA, but for the 2010-2011 academic year, its teams will compete as independents, which causes some headaches for coaches.

"We have been very fortunate to put together a pretty good schedule, but it's definitely not easy doing so without conference affiliation," Brown said. "We are going to have to travel a little more than we would like."

Women's Basketball Head Coach Brenda Paul agrees. "The lack of conference affiliation is going to be a challenge this year," Paul said. "Our student-athletes will not be able to compete for a conference championship."

In the short term, the physical differences between the junior-college and four-year levels could also play a



part in the learning process. "Right now, we have a very athletic team, but we lack the physical maturity that players at the next level have," Brown said.

Even with the challenges that will come, McKeever likes the road the Mountain Lions are traveling. "All the challenges are positive," McKeever said. "The student-athletes will be treated exactly the same with high expectations on and off the field. There is obviously going to be more work going through the NCAA, but it's all a part of creating that structured environment for our student-athletes."

While student-athletes will see few changes in the way they are treated on campus, the transition will change the way coaches do parts of their jobs.

"The recruiting philosophy will change," Hillman said. "We must now sell our program differently. We are no longer trying to prepare student-athletes for the next level. We are now playing at that next level, and the student-athletes need to be ready for this level of competition when they arrive and must desire to stay at this level for four years. In the past,

many of our players may not have felt ready to compete at the four-year level their freshman year, but knew that with two years of experience, they could get there. Now, we have higher expectations of the student-athletes that come to Young Harris."

Brown agrees that the transition will lead to a more competitive student-athlete. "We are focused on academics; we train to win; and we are extremely disciplined," Brown said. "In that regard, my job will not change. What will change is the opportunity to go after quality players that we could not pursue in the past because some student-athletes would never consider competing at the junior-college level. I hope to recruit better depth that will lead to more competitive training sessions."

Although McKeever said he will not change the way he coaches, "what will change," he said, "is the manner in which we have to organize and cooperate with rules and regulations."

"The biggest difference right now is paperwork and following procedures for NCAA compliance," Hillman said. "We must pay more attention to details as we learn the NCAA rules as well as follow them."

The coaches all agree that the move should bring increased name recognition for Young Harris College. "The conference that we join will give us immediate recognition and a sense of pride for our students and alumni," Paul said. "It helps define us and puts us into the same pool with the institutions we wish to be compared to."

While the pressure to win will be felt by the coaching staff, Paul cautions that there will be growing pains. "Remember to have patience as we nurture our young and growing programs," Paul said. "Most of us will compete with inexperienced freshmen against teams full of experienced juniors and seniors."

However, she believes the opportunity to support an up-and-coming four-year program should get Mountain Lions fans on board. "This is a great time to support us and enjoy the journey with us as we develop these student-athletes who will become the backbone of our program."

FOLLOW THE MOUNTAIN LIONS SPORTS ACTION ON YHCathletics.com

In March, Young Harris College introduced **YHCathletics.com**, the online home of Mountain Lions Athletics. The new website is the official source for scores, stats, schedules, ticket information, photos, multimedia and up-to-the-minute news for Young Harris College Athletics. **YHCathletics.com** offers expanded resources for alumni, fans and media to follow and affiliate with all Mountain Lions sports.



Fans can also keep up with the Mountain Lions on Facebook at **Young Harris College Athletics** and follow the Mountain Lions on Twitter @**YHCathletics**.



Spring Sports Recap

BASEBALL

After finishing 39-17 overall and 12-9 in Georgia Junior College Athletic Association play, Young Harris College's final season in the junior college ranks ended with a

pair of losses to eventual tournament champion Gordon College in the GJCAA playoffs. The Mountain Lions opened the season with 11 consecutive victories and won the First Pitch Classic in Florida, hosted by Gulf Coast College, and were later ranked as high as

No. 9 in the nation in the NJCAA Division I poll. Sophomore centerfielder Matt Lowery, of Columbus, was named the Defensive

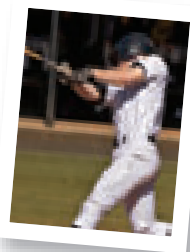


Matt Lowery

Player of the Year, in both the GJCAA and in the East Central District, and earned first-team All-Region and All-District honors. Freshman pitcher Mitchell Knox, of Appling, joined Lowery on the All-Region first team, while sophomore outfielder Chris Holloway, of Signal Mountain, Tenn., was named to the All-GJCAA second team and to the GJCAA's All-Tournament team.

MEN'S GOLF

YHC's men's golf team finished fifth at the 2010 NJCAA Region XVII Championship in Albany. The Mountain Lions shot 965 in the 54-hole event, firing rounds of 314, 323 and 328, respectively. Sophomore Eric Hodgson, of Canton, finished 12th (76-82-78) overall with a score of 236 to pace Young Harris in the event. Freshman Matt Lewallen, of Clarkesville, finished 14th (78-81-82-241), freshman Beau Gammage, of Cedartown, was 16th (84-73-85-242), freshman Cameron Medina, of Bremen, was



Chris Holloway

19th (77-87-84-248) and freshman Matthew Peeler, of Zebulon, was 22nd (83-87-84-254). Earlier in the spring, Young Harris posted a pair of top-10 finishes in back-to-back events, finishing fifth at the University of West Georgia Invitational and fourth at the Spring Reeder Cup, hosted by Covenant College.

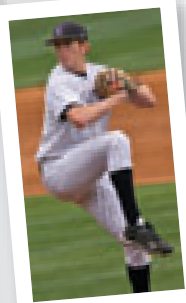
WOMEN'S GOLF

Young Harris College's women's golf team won the NJCAA Region XVII Championship in Albany, and finished 12th at the NJCAA National Championship in Daytona Beach, Fla. Ranked 12th in the final national poll, the Mountain Lions played an excellent final round at the national tournament, firing a team-best



Kelsey McEntyre

score of 353 to jump two places on the leaderboard on the final day. Freshman Kelsey McEntyre, of Hiram, who won the individual medal at the region tournament, was YHC's top player in the national tournament,



Mitchell Knox

Geldart Assumes New Role Earns 500th Win

In April, Young Harris College President Cathy Cox announced that Eric Geldart had decided to step down from his role as director of athletics in order to concentrate on his duties as the College's head softball coach. He will continue to assist administration in a new role as senior associate athletic director.

"The NCAA Division II model calls for a full-time athletic director without any coaching responsibilities," President Cox explained. "We are grateful for Coach Geldart's outstanding service to the College as athletic director. After much discussion through this transition process, we respect the fact that Coach G wishes to continue coaching, and we want to allow him the opportunity to do that while also utilizing his administrative expertise."

Since membership in NCAA Division II necessitates that the College have a full-time athletic director, Geldart made the choice to devote his time to leading the College's softball program rather than giving up coaching duties to concentrate fully on administration.

"As we pursue membership in NCAA Division II, it will be important for the College's athletic director to devote 100 percent of his time to administering and guiding the department. In order for me to do this, I would not be able to continue coaching softball and do not want to give that



YHC President Cathy Cox presents a commemorative plaque to Softball Head Coach Eric Geldart in honor of his 500th career win.

shooting 84-85-51-250 to finish 30th overall. Sophomore Courtney Moore, of Powder Springs, who carded a career-low 81 in the tournament's final round, finished 47th with a 54-hole score of 88-92-81-261.

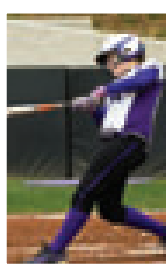
Freshman Carol Raterman, of Atlanta, (96-101-98-295) finished 87th and freshman Katie Bludworth, of Alpharetta, (101-108-93-302) was 90th. In the regional tournament, McEntyre, Moore and Bludworth finished 1-2-3 overall.

SOFTBALL

Young Harris College finished the 2010 softball season with a 20-21 overall record, including an 11-11 mark in conference play. The Mountain Lions reached the semifinals of the Georgia Junior College Athletic Association Tournament, pulling off a 1-0 upset of third-seeded Darton College in the first game of the event, then shocking top-seeded tournament host Middle Georgia College with a 4-3 victory. Following the tournament, sophomore outfielder Emily Wilson, of

Snellville, and freshman pitcher Victoria Sink, of Dacula, were named

to the All-GJCAA second team, and Wilson and sophomore second baseman Jennifer Watford, of Rome, Ga., were named to the conference's All-Tournament team.



Emily Wilson

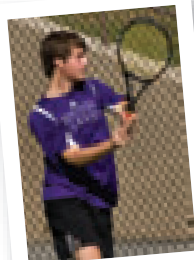
MEN'S TENNIS

Young Harris College's men's tennis team finished the season with a 20-12 overall record and finished second at the Georgia Junior College Athletic Association tournament. At the end of the season, the Mountain Lions were ranked 27th nationally by the

Intercollegiate Tennis Association, and

five singles players were ranked among the top 70 players in the U.S.

Freshman Laurenz Schraepen, of Montreal, Quebec, earned the team's highest national ranking at No. 17, while sophomore Will Dixon (29th), of Port St. Lucie, Fla., freshman Jamie



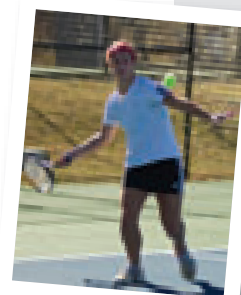
Mitchell Midkiff

Childree (58th), of Valdosta, freshman Mitchell Midkiff (63rd), of Macon, and freshman Felix Reichl (68th), of Berlin, Germany, all earned national rankings. In addition, the doubles team of freshman Matt Howard, of Duluth, and Dixon was ranked 40th in the final poll.

WOMEN'S TENNIS

Playing a schedule that included mostly NCAA Division II schools, YHC's women's tennis team finished the 2009-2010 season with a 7-22 overall record and finished third in the regional tournament, which was broken down into flights and scored by individual victories each team member earned.

Freshman Michelle Allen, of Marietta, reached the championship match of the No. 5 singles bracket, and freshmen Sarah Deese and Holly Smith, both from Roswell, teamed up to advance to the title match in the No. 2 doubles bracket.



Michelle Allen

up. I welcome the challenges and direction I can give in this newly defined role," Geldart said.

Known affectionately throughout the campus community as "Coach G," Geldart earned his 500th career collegiate softball coaching victory on Jan. 30, 2010, when his Young Harris Mountain Lions defeated Broward College 2-1 in the International Women's Fastpitch Invitational in Kissimmee, Fla. That milestone victory came on the second day of Geldart's 26th season as a head coach on the collegiate level, and his eighth season at Young Harris College.

Geldart spent 18 years as the first head coach at Western New England College, beginning his tenure there in 1979. With Geldart at the helm, Western New England put together a 290-196 record. He also guided the school through the transition from the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) to the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

Since coming to YHC in the fall of 2002, Geldart has led

the Mountain Lions to a 228-165 record. During the past eight seasons, Geldart's YHC teams have collected four 30-win seasons, won two NJCAA Region XVII championships and twice appeared in the NJCAA national tournament. He will enter the 2011 season with a 518-361 (.589) career record in 26 years as a head coach.

Along with his collegiate coaching experience, Geldart is well known in international softball circles. He managed and coached select teams from 1995-2001, competing each summer in the Puerto Rico Festival Olimpico. In late 2005, he began coaching in the International Fastpitch event.

Geldart also has extensive experience as a basketball coach and referee, both in the United States and abroad. He coached in the Puerto Rico Basketball League, leading the Quebradillas Pirates to the league championship in 1970. He was also an NCAA basketball referee for several years.

Geldart is a member of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association and a graduate of Roanoke College.

Reviving a Key Tradition

BY EMILY SANE

"Back in the '50s and '60s, Young Harris was known as a basketball school," former Young Harris College basketball player Phil Meadows, '62, said as he reflected on his time as a Mountain Lion. "Basketball was what put us on the map. We were a small school, but our basketball program was big. We could fill the gym on campus and the gyms at just about everywhere else we played. We were known nationally."

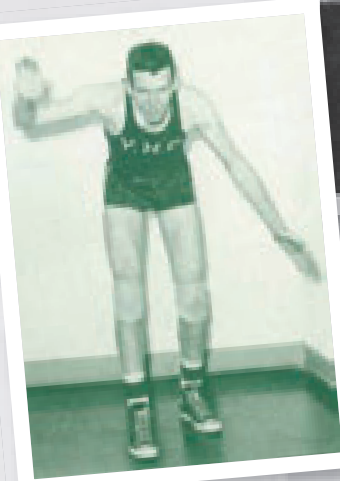
Meadows played basketball for the YHC Mountain Lions during the 1960-1961 and 1961-1962 seasons. During both seasons, the men's basketball team successfully advanced to the junior college national tournament.

Coming to Georgia from Illinois, Meadows was on his way to Athens to play basketball at the University of Georgia. He was advised, however, to play at YHC before taking the court for the Bulldogs.

"Back then, college freshmen couldn't play intercollegiate basketball at the varsity level," Meadows said. "Instead of going straight to the University of Georgia, I played two years at Young Harris. I was able to get some playing time and not just sit on the bench."

Meadows eventually attended Middle Tennessee State University after two years, but he would have been happy to stay at YHC.

"I really fell in love with the college when I was there," Meadows



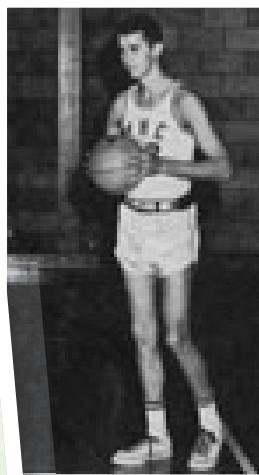
Bill Roberts, '52

said. "I loved playing basketball, but I also loved everything else about the school. I wish Young Harris had been a four-year college because I would've played basketball there for all four years."

On Monday, Nov. 15, 2010, Meadows, along with YHC students, faculty, staff and other alumni, will gather on campus to cheer on the Mountain Lions as they play in the College's first intercollegiate basketball games in 40 years.

Basketball is back at YHC. The Mountain Lions will return to the hardwood as they host the North Georgia College and State University Saints from Dahlonega. The Lady Mountain Lions will tip off against the Lady Saints at 5 p.m., and the men's team will follow against the Saints at 7:30 p.m.

"I plan to be at the first home game," Meadows said. "I don't want



Phil Meadows, '62

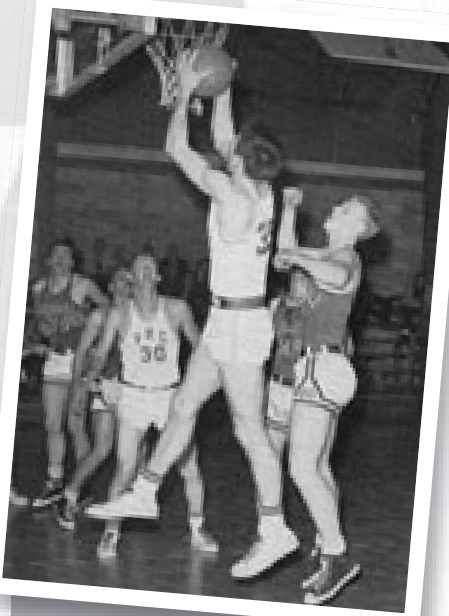
to miss it—the excitement, the energy. The alumni, especially the former players, are fired up about the return of basketball to Young Harris."

Former YHC basketball player Bill Roberts, '52, also plans to attend the home opener against the Saints. Roberts played for Young Harris College during the 1950-1951 and 1951-

1952 seasons. He currently serves on the College's Board of Trustees.

"I'm ready for the home opener against North Georgia," Roberts said. "The new teams and the new facility will be good additions to the college."

During the upcoming 2010-2011 season, the Mountain Lions will take on their opponents in a new on-campus facility. The 57,000-square-foot recreation and fitness center,



Jon Goldman, '61, goes for the rebound in a 1960 game.

which opens in August, will include a 1,100-seat arena with an NCAA regulation-sized court to serve as the home for the women's and men's basketball teams.

"The new facility will be so different from the gym we had in the '50s," Roberts said. "Our facility during those years was a wooden building covered by sheet metal. It was just up the hill from where the new facility is being built."

PLAYING A GOOD GAME

The YHC men's basketball team first took the court in 1930 and played until 1969. The women's team started playing in 1931 and continued into the 1940s.

For most of the time on the court, Young Harris College played in the Georgia Junior College Conference. The basketball teams competed against other two-year colleges throughout Georgia during the regular season.

"We didn't play four-year schools like North Georgia College back in the '50s," Roberts said. "One of our biggest rivals was Brewton-Parker College. I remember beating them at home in our gym. They were from the southern part of the state, and we were at the very north end of the state. It was a good game."

Opposing teams complained they could not beat YHC at home because the school's gym was often cold.

"We played in the old gym that was heated by two potbelly stoves," Roberts said. "Its floor was not completely level. There were low spots in the wooden floor, but we knew where they were, and we played around them."



Dora Moreland Marshall, '48 (fourth from right), and the 1948 YHC women's team

The men's team won the junior college state championship in 1953, 1957, 1961 and 1962, and also finished as state runner-up multiple times. In 1961 and 1962, the team clinched the regional championship and consequently advanced to the national tournament in Hutchinson, Kan.

The Mountain Lions concluded the 1960-1961 season in ninth place nationally.

During the following season, the Mountain Lions entered the national tournament as the number one team in the country. The team placed fifth in the national tournament and completed the 1961-1962 season with a 38-1 record. The team's only loss came during the tournament. Moberly Junior College from Missouri beat YHC by a few points in the game's final seconds.

Moberly's coach Cotton Fitzsimmons later went on to coach the Atlanta Hawks and the Phoenix Suns.

"At one time, we were ranked as the number one junior college basketball team in the country," Meadows said. "We had great chemistry and our success was a huge deal. Young Harris College had nearly 600 students while some of the other junior colleges we played in the tournament had thousands of students."

The women's team also scored success on the court.

"We played very well as a team," former YHC basketball player Dora

Moreland Marshall, '48, said.

As "We could win most of our games around the area. One season we won all of the games around the area and got to go to the playoffs. We took a bus to Chattanooga for the games. All the girls were excited to travel together to the playoffs. The other team outscored us by a few points, but we played a good game."

FOLLOWING A CHAMPION COACH

Young Harris College alumnus Luke Ruston, '42, coached basketball at YHC from 1948 to 1969. Throughout 21 seasons, Ruston and his teams won 407 games and only lost 167 games.

In addition to coaching basketball, Ruston coached tennis and served as the athletic director. He enjoyed all sports. Standing only five feet, eight inches tall, Ruston opted to play baseball during his student days, but eventually learned to coach the game of basketball.

"He had an innate ability to connect with his players by getting on their level," Ruston's son Eddie said as he described his father. "This is how he made things work. He could understand the type of player a person was, and he could also understand the player's personality."

Ruston used basketball practices



Luke Ruston, '42

Reviving a **Key Tradition**

as opportunities for teaching his players. Basketball games were where he coached his players.

“Coach Rushton led by example,” Roberts said. “I learned from his actions. He was a good teacher, coach and person.”

Wins and losses were not the only measurements of success used by Rushton. He wanted his lessons to help build the character of his basketball players.

“Luke Rushton was my mentor,” Meadows said.

“He never got angry or raised his voice, but you never questioned him more than once. He wanted the best for you and helped you to

want it too. His impact transcended beyond the court.”

During his years at YHC, Rushton developed strong relationships with his players and also with fellow coaches and officials.

“He cared about the game and the people in the game,” Eddie said. “He would have been absolutely excited about the return of basketball to Young Harris College. He influenced many people, including me, through the game.”

For back-to-back seasons, the Atlanta Tip-Off Club named Coach Rushton the Georgia Junior College Coach of the Year in 1961 and 1962.



Students watching a game closely in 1968



STRENGTHENING A COLLEGE COMMUNITY

From the 1930s to the 1960s, basketball enhanced the overall college experience at YHC. The game brought excitement and entertainment to the campus.

“In the 1940s, students didn’t have as many entertainment options as they do today,” Marshall said. “Students loved to watch the basketball games on campus. The gym was the place to be on game days. We were thrilled to play, and the students were thrilled to watch us.”

The success achieved on the court helped to strengthen the college community off the court.

“The team had a good camaraderie and that extended to the rest of the campus,” Roberts said. “Basketball was the thing to talk about and to see as well. It unified the community. It produced good publicity for the college then, and it will produce good publicity for the college now. It will help with the growth of Young Harris College.”

RETURNING TO THE HARDWOOD

To help rebuild the basketball programs, YHC hired Pete Herrmann and Brenda Paul as head coaches in September of 2009. Both coaches bring many seasons of experience, knowledge and leadership to the court.

Herrmann will coach the men’s team. He came to YHC from Athens, where he coached six seasons for the Georgia Bulldogs. He also served as the associate head coach and, in 2009, as the interim head coach. During his last season at Georgia, Herrmann led a young team to wins

against conference rivals Kentucky and Florida. Prior to his time at UGA, he coached at the United States Naval Academy, Kansas State, Virginia and Western Kentucky.

“It is the ultimate challenge for a coach to build a new basketball program,” Herrmann said. “It’s really exciting for me to build this program from scratch. I’m thrilled that everyone else is excited like I am. The students, the alumni, the administration, the faculty and staff—everyone is fired up.”

Paul will coach the Lady Mountain Lions. Before coaching at YHC, she coached at Elon University from 1994 to 2008. She also coached at Georgia State, Mississippi State, Berry College and Tennessee Wesleyan College. Entering her first season at YHC, Paul needs only nine victories to reach 450 career wins.

“The total atmosphere at Young Harris College attracted me to this coaching position,” Paul said. “President Cathy Cox has the vision, passion and energy to build a reputation of academic and athletic success. In return, I want to build a basketball program with players who



Eddie Rushton with Men’s Basketball Head Coach Pete Herrmann



**Women's Basketball Head Coach
Brenda Paul**

play together with heart, enthusiasm and pride for the College.”

As the Mountain Lions return to the hardwood this fall, the coaches are inviting and encouraging the community to come and support the teams.

“We will be a young team,” Paul said. “It will take time to mature. We will gain experience one game at a time.”

The upcoming 2010-2011 season will be the beginning of rebuilding a prosperous program.

“We are working to receive NCAA Division II status and play in a conference,” Herrmann said.

“Finding an identity is always

important for a new program. Ultimately, we want to be winners. We want to win league championships like the former Young Harris basketball teams. We want to continue that tradition.”

The new coaches have already gained the support of former players.

“I am very proud of Young Harris,” Meadows said. “When they do something, they do it right. They have done a good job in hiring coaches to build these programs successfully. Coach Herrmann and Coach Paul are first-class people who will build a first-class program.”



Former YHC basketball players Charles White, '56, Bob Short, '51, Dora Marshall, '48, Terry McCollum, '56, Bill Roberts, '52, and Phil Meadows, '62, attended a College-hosted luncheon in November 2009 to welcome new coaches Pete Herrmann and Brenda Paul and celebrate the return of basketball to Young Harris College.

Get Season Tickets for Mountain Lions Basketball

Be part of all the action when basketball returns to Young Harris College this fall. Call the YHC Department of Athletics at (706) 379-5296 or (800) 241-3754 x5296 to get your season tickets for the inaugural 2010-2011 season and watch every home game from your new purple seat!

Mark your calendar now, and make plans to return to YHC on Nov. 15 when the Mountain Lions take on the North Georgia College and State University Saints in the new recreation and fitness center! Join generations of Young Harris College alumni and friends to celebrate the return of basketball with exciting pre-game and half-time festivities and cheer on the Mountain Lions! The women tip off at 5 p.m., and the men follow at 7:30 p.m.

Visit YHCathletics.com for details.

**DON'T
MISS IT!**

**FIRST
GAME NOV. 15**



Jacob Turner

NEW COACH NAMED FOR **Men's Tennis**

Jacob Turner was named men's tennis head coach at Young Harris College in

April. He brings strong recruiting experience and a coaching background from an NCAA Division I program, attributes that are very important as Young Harris College moves its athletics program to four-year status.

Turner said he is excited about the future of the College and his team. The Mountain Lions' men's tennis program was revived this past season after a decade of inactivity. For Turner, the newness of the team was a motivator.

"Being able to put my ideas and stamp on a growing program was an opportunity that I couldn't pass up," he said.

Turner comes to Young Harris after serving as an assistant coach for the men's team at NCAA Division I Kennesaw State University for the past two years. Helping to start the brand new Owls men's program in 2008, Turner saw four of his players earn scholar-athlete honors from the Intercollegiate Tennis Association, and the program earn the highest cumulative grade point average of any KSU team.

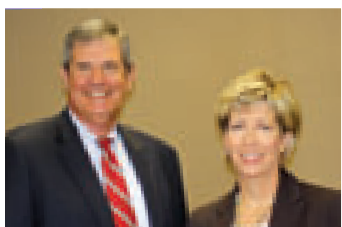
Before joining the fledgling men's program at Kennesaw State, Turner

was an assistant with the school's women's program during the 2007-2008 academic year. Prior to joining the KSU staff, Turner served as an assistant instructor at Harrison Tennis Center in Marietta from 2003 to 2007.

Turner is a decorated veteran of the United States Air Force, having reached the rank of staff sergeant. He served in Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany and South Korea.

Turner earned a bachelor of science degree in sports management with a minor in coaching from Kennesaw State. He is currently pursuing a graduate degree in sports management from Georgia Southern University. He holds a United States Professional Tennis Registry certification, as well as Etcheberry Academy Certification for Strength and Conditioning in Tennis.

Young Harris College will open a new tennis complex in August 2010 that will be home to the men's and women's tennis teams. The new facility will feature 12 lighted tournament-quality courts that will also be available for use by all YHC students, faculty and staff. Memberships will be made available to the local community. In addition, the adjacent Berry House, currently used as the College's Outdoor Education Center, will be converted into a pro shop, locker rooms and offices for the tennis and cross country programs.



New YHC Athletic Director Randy Dunn and YHC President Cathy Cox

YHC Names New Athletic Director

Young Harris College President Cathy Cox announced on June 7 that Randy Dunn, athletic director at North Georgia College and State University in Dahlonega and long-time coaching veteran, would join YHC as director of athletics on July 1. Most recently, Dunn led NGCSU's transition from the NAIA (National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics) to the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) Division II and the Peach Belt Conference.

Look for a full story on Dunn's experience and vision for YHC in the next issue of Echoes.

A Gift of Education

BY DENISE COOK

When Jerry Vaughan, Ph.D., decided to honor the memory of his mother, Irma Crenshaw Vaughan, '31, he realized the best way to pay tribute was to support a cause very dear to her heart: education.

Dr. Vaughan and his brother learned the importance of education from their mother as children growing up in Charlotte, N.C. "She taught both of us how to read before we started school," he said.

"I remember going into a new third grade class after we had moved within Charlotte. There was a circle of students passing a book around, and the teacher was helping them read aloud. When the book came to me, I just started reading out loud," he continued. "The teacher was very surprised; apparently I was ahead of the other students in reading."

In an effort to pay it forward, Dr. Vaughan decided to endow a scholarship at his mother's alma mater. "My mother gave a lot of credit to Young Harris College," the Greensboro, N.C., resident said.

Dr. Vaughan's mother came to YHC from Banks County during the difficult days of the Great Depression. "My mother never mentioned this to me," he said, "but I've been told that in those days, students could work on the college farm and earn their way through college." He wonders if that may be the way she paid her tuition.

He believes it may have been the Methodist connection that brought her to the enchanted valley. "I have often wondered how my mother

came to YHC. I asked my cousins about this, and one of them said that our grandfather Paul Jackson Crenshaw owned a general store in Homer and was a Methodist circuit rider."

The 1931 alumna always wanted more education, and although she took some courses

later in life, she was never able to complete another degree, Dr. Vaughan explained. "She urged me and my brother to get all the education we could, and she supported us through that endeavor."

Soon after leaving Young Harris, his mother went to work for the federal government in Washington, D.C., where she met Dr. Vaughan's father. "They married in 1936," he explained. "Then I was born in 1939." At a very young age, Dr. Vaughan moved with his family to Charlotte, N.C., where he stayed until leaving for college.

Dr. Vaughan took his mother's advice seriously. He studied math, earning an undergraduate degree from nearby Davidson College in 1961 and a Ph.D. in mathematics from Duke University in 1965. After serving two years in the United States Army and earning the rank of captain, Dr. Vaughan has dedicated most of his career to

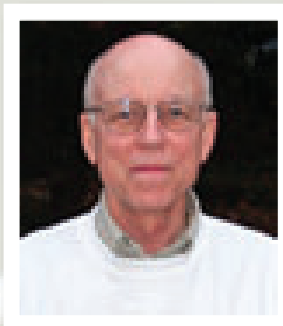
higher education. He has been a professor of mathematics at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro since 1973.

Now as he begins to think about retiring in the next few years, Dr. Vaughan wants to help other students achieve their educational goals.

His generous gift established the Irma Crenshaw Vaughan Endowed Scholarship at Young Harris College. The scholarship will be awarded annually with preference to students from Banks County, in honor of his mother.

Dr. Vaughan has also made a planned gift to the College that will benefit the scholarship, making him a member of the W. Harry and Harriet Hill Society for Planned Gifts at Young Harris College. "I've included in my will for a portion of my estate to be added to the scholarship," he said.

This lasting legacy is a fitting tribute to a lady who believed in the gift of education.



Dr. Jerry Vaughan



Irma Crenshaw Vaughan, '31

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE RECEIVES

Gift to Name New Campus Center Banquet Hall

Young Harris College recently received a gift totaling more than \$3.35 million from the Charles Edwin Suber Foundation.

\$3 million will be used to support construction of Young Harris College's new campus center with the facility's banquet hall to be named for Charles Edwin Suber, a United Methodist layman and retired Fulton County Superior Court clerk who passed away in November 2007.

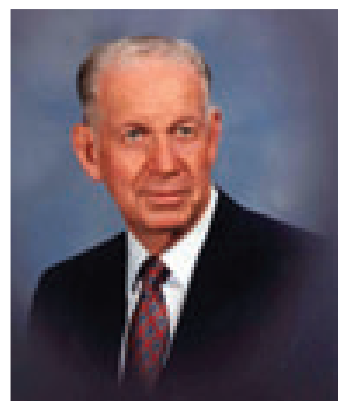
More than \$54,000 will benefit the Robert V. Ozment Endowed Scholarship, honoring Suber's former pastor at Atlanta First United Methodist Church and long-time Young Harris College trustee Rev. Dr. Robert V. Ozment.

The remaining \$300,000 will establish the Charles Edwin Suber Endowed Scholarship.

The Suber Foundation was established by the estate of Charles Edwin "Ed" Suber, a lifelong resident of Atlanta. He attended Emory University and served in the United States Army during World War II. His family owned and operated the C. P. Suber Grocery Store in the Ben Hill community.

Trustee of the Suber Foundation Jim Campbell, along with his wife, Evelyn, and their son Mark, presented the gift on behalf of his first cousin to YHC President Cathy Cox.

"We are extremely grateful for the generosity of Mr.



Charles Edwin "Ed" Suber

Suber. I am also thankful for the College's new relationship with the Campbell family and truly appreciate their hard work and dedication to working out all of the details with the Foundation," President Cox said. "It's clear that Mr. Suber was a devoted United Methodist, and his estate will strengthen our college and other United Methodist causes for generations to come."

The gift will benefit YHC students and the College through critical scholarship funding, which is more important than ever as the College continues to grow enrollment, and through support of a great new facility designed to accommodate that growth.

"We are pleased that the Suber name will hold a publicly distinctive place on our campus forever now with the naming of our soon-to-be-constructed campus center's banquet facility in honor of Mr. Suber and his legacy," President Cox added.



Mark Campbell (left) and his parents, Jim and Evelyn Campbell (center), present a gift for Young Harris College totaling more than \$3.35 million on behalf of the Charles Edwin Suber Foundation to YHC President Cathy Cox.

¡Qué Bueno!

YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE RECEIVES GIFT TO EXPAND THE GOIZUETA FOUNDATION SCHOLARS PROGRAM

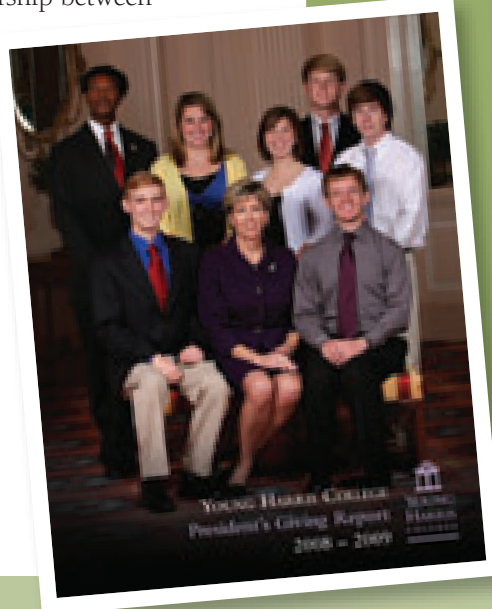
Over the next four years, The Goizueta Foundation Scholars Program for Hispanic/Latino students at Young Harris College will be enhanced and expanded through the continued generosity of Atlanta-based The Goizueta Foundation. In December 2009, the College received a \$610,000 grant from the Foundation to expand the The Goizueta Foundation Scholars Program and enhance recruitment of Hispanic/Latino students.

“The opportunity to expand our reach and enroll more Hispanic/Latino students who would benefit from the strong academic programs, nurturing learning environment and close campus community that we offer presents many wonderful possibilities for the students, the College and the community,” Young Harris College President Cathy Cox said.

In addition to funding scholarships, the grant will enable the College to implement targeted recruitment strategies, employ dedicated admissions counselors and develop specialized academic support programs to better assist Hispanic/Latino students during every step of their college experience at Young Harris.

“The impact of the The Goizueta Foundation grant over the next four years will be one that increases both the size and diversity of the student body,” YHC Vice President for Enrollment Management Clint Hobbs, '88, said. “We look forward to furthering this lasting partnership between Young Harris College and The Goizueta Foundation that allows us to realize a mutual goal of providing excellent educational opportunities for Hispanic/Latino students.”

The Goizueta Foundation is a private foundation established by Roberto C. Goizueta in 1992 to provide financial assistance to educational and charitable institutions. A Cuban immigrant, Goizueta was chairman, director and CEO of the Coca-Cola Company from 1981 until his death in 1997.



YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE

Makes Changes to Gift Reporting

During the 2008-2009 fiscal year, several changes were introduced in Young Harris College's Office of Advancement, including the creation of a new publication called the *President's Giving Report*. Because of this change, the Spring/Summer 2010 issue of *Echoes* does not include its usual *Report to Investors*. While previous reports to investors recognized donors on a calendar year, this new publication lists gifts made to Young Harris College during the fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30. This new fiscal-year format is the standard for colleges and universities across the nation.

The Office of Advancement published the 2008-2009 *President's Giving Report* in June 2010. The report was distributed to the College's donors in recognition of gifts made between July

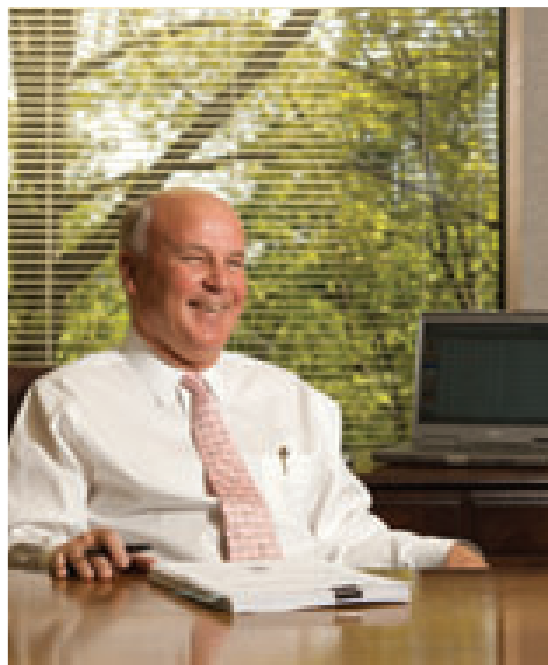
1, 2008, and June 30, 2009. All gifts received since July 1, 2009, will be included in the 2009-2010 *President's Giving Report*. Going forward, these reports will be published in the fall immediately following the end of each fiscal year. To learn more about this new publication, contact the Office of Advancement at (706) 379-5173.

A Genuine LEADER

BY DENISE COOK

Jerry Nix never planned to be board chairman of a small, private college in the north Georgia mountains. Now the Genuine Parts CFO embraces his newfound role of leading Young Harris College through possibly the greatest transformation in its 124-year history.





“I came to work for Genuine Parts Company in the late ’70s. They were my client while I was working at Ernst and Young in Atlanta,” the Mississippi native explained. “I liked the people in the company, and fortunately, they liked me. I’ve been here ever since and done just about every finance-related job at some point.”

He is not kidding. Nix started out in internal audit, then moved to insurance director. Then he added director of internal audit back to his responsibilities. Over the next decade, he moved on to be assistant vice president for finance, vice president for finance, senior vice president for finance and now executive vice president for finance and chief financial officer—the position he has held since 1990. He also serves as Vice Chairman for the GPC Board of Directors.

“I’ve been blessed,” he said. “I like what I’m doing, and that’s important.”

When Nix graduated from Mississippi State University in the 1960s, the Vietnam War was in full swing, so he joined the United States Air Force. “I was in pilot training for

one year, then served as a pilot for the next five years,” he recalled. “When I got out, I went to work for Ernst and Young.”

Impressed by Nix’s leadership skills and initiative, YHC Trustee Emeritus William C. (Bill) Hatcher, GPC’s then president, asked Nix in 1994 to serve on the Young Harris College Board of Trustees alongside him and GPC Group Vice President Duncan T. Fulton Jr., ’44. Fulton was working at General Automotive Parts in Dallas, Texas, when GPC bought the company in the 1980s. After moving to Atlanta in 1983, he served on the board for his alma mater from 1989 to 2003.

“Mr. Fulton has a special place in his heart for Young Harris,” Nix said of his retired colleague. “He loved going back to campus for the meetings, and he still keeps in touch.”

Hatcher and then YHC Chairman Thomas K. (Tom) Glenn II encouraged Nix to get more involved, first on the academic affairs and endowment committees, then as chair of endowment, then as chair of the finance committee. In 2000, he found himself serving as vice chairman under new YHC Chairman Paul D. Beckham, ’61. In 2008, Beckham confidently handed over the reins to Nix.

A 2004 recipient of the YHC President’s Medallion, Hatcher served on the YHC board from 1981 to 2003. He was introduced to YHC through his business relationships with entrepreneur and philanthropist O. Wayne Rollins and John H. Harland Company Chairman and CEO J. William (Bill) Robinson. “Because of his own involvement with Young Harris, Mr. Rollins asked some other Atlanta business people to get involved. One of those was Bill Robinson,” Nix said. “Mr. Robinson and Mr. Hatcher had a good relationship, and I believe Mr. Robinson then asked Mr. Hatcher to serve on the YHC board.”

Nix said he too will pass the torch one day, ensuring that Genuine Parts Company remains connected to the

A Genuine LEADER

College. “We try to stay involved with the community in general. One of my main objectives and goals is to take young people that come along and get them involved in philanthropies and non-profits,” he explained. “As long as Young Harris College wants someone from Genuine Parts on the board, we’ll make sure that tradition continues.”

Genuine Parts Company places a great importance on community involvement, both at the corporate and individual level. “If our employees are happy and successful individually, then we will be as a company,” Nix said. “It’s pretty simple and basic in our minds.”

According to Nix, the company has one basic rule. “We try to follow the Golden Rule—the original Golden Rule—whether dealing with our employees or customers,” he said.

GPC has been doing something right; the company, headquartered in north Atlanta, has been in existence and successful since 1928.

That was the year Carlyle Frazer moved to Atlanta and purchased a small auto parts store. His fledgling auto parts distribution company with six employees and \$40,000 in

capital has grown over the past 82 years into a leading Fortune 500 enterprise in the U.S. automotive aftermarket that exceeded \$10 billion in revenue in 2009.

GPC grew steadily over the years, acquiring more stores and expanding their automotive parts distribution services under the NAPA brand name.

“In 1969, the company decided to diversify and purchased Beck and Gregg Hardware,” Nix said. The century-old hardware distributor was located in downtown Atlanta. “We sold the company in the mid-’80s but held onto the building.” GPC later donated the 2.5-block property to the Atlanta Olympic Committee for the 1996 summer games. It served as the foundation for Centennial Olympic Park.

In 1975, the company purchased S. P. Richards, an office products distributor and one of the oldest companies in Georgia, having started up in Atlanta in 1848. One year later, it purchased Motion Industries, a Birmingham, Ala.-based industrial parts distributor that today makes up nearly one-third of GPC’s total net sales. The company’s last expansion to date came in 1998

when it acquired Atlanta-based EIS, Inc., an electrical/electronic materials distribution group.

Today, the company’s automotive parts division accounts for more than half of GPC’s net sales and operates throughout all of North America. It serves approximately 5,800 NAPA Auto Parts stores in the U.S. alone, about 1,000 of which are owned by GPC.

By maintaining close ties with the National Automotive Parts Association and keeping a small-company atmosphere across all four of its divisions, Genuine Parts has successfully weathered changing economic climates and consistently provided outstanding and reliable service to customers. Nix knows the importance of a good name and reputation. “We’ve got a lot of good, talented people who make sure we do the right thing,” he said. “We take great pride in our consistency and our integrity. That’s extremely important to us and our credibility with customers.”

At GPC, doing the right thing goes beyond business success and community involvement. The company has in place green initiatives for each business unit. “We believe that’s important in all aspects of business today,” Nix

YHC Board of Trustees Chairman Jerry Nix leads a YHC executive committee meeting at Genuine Parts Company’s corporate office in Atlanta.



added. “We think everyone appreciates companies who make an effort to be green.”

GPC’s green initiatives are not just handed down from the top either. “Sometimes a lot of folks get into it because it’s a fad,” he said. “But for it to be sustainable, you have to get input from your employees.” GPC is ramping up company-wide efforts in 2010 with the introduction of LEEP, the Living Earth Environmental Program. “We want to continue to raise awareness of environmental issues but also get input from our employees about how to live and work in ways that respect the earth and reduce our impact on the environment,” he said.

LEEP program components include promoting recycling and reusing materials, communicating environmental issues and news with all employees through special publications (printed on recycled paper), and recognizing performance and results from GPC locations and individuals. “We give out awards to business units and locations that achieve their sustainability goals as well as give recognition to people who deserve credit,” he explained.

Nix’s business philosophy carries over into his personal life as well. “I don’t believe in being superficially involved,” the Roswell resident said. “I don’t care what it is. If you commit to doing something, you need to do it and do it to the best of your ability.” His wife of 42 years, Cheryl, and children, Hope, Jay and Scott, know he means what he says.

While he may never have thought about taking on the chairmanship of the YHC board, the other board members quickly picked up on Nix’s personal philosophy and knew they had found the right person for the job. “When Paul stepped down, they asked me to be chair,” he said. “I agreed to



Jerry Nix at Genuine Parts Company’s corporate office in Atlanta.

do it. I’m happy to serve and am committed to getting us through this transition.”

Nix believes the board struck gold when they successfully lured YHC President Cathy Cox away from Georgia politics. “I think that she has made a huge difference in every way at the College, and I think we will continue to see her influence,” he said of Georgia’s first female secretary of state. “She likes the challenge, and we believe she enjoys being out of politics right now. Our challenge will be to keep her,” he added.

The other challenge Nix faces is leading the College through its upcoming major capital campaign. “We hit this transition at the most inopportune time,” he said. “It would be a challenge even under the best of circumstances, but I think the economic situation has made the board better and made us more focused on all aspects of the process.”

Nix is confident that YHC can get the job done. “With the leadership we’re going to have on this campaign, we will have a very successful campaign. Many of our alumni also graduated from a four-year institution, and they are sharing their time, attention and resources with that

school as well,” he explained. “But because of the special place that Young Harris has in their hearts and minds, we know they will step up to invest in the future of YHC.”

Although he is not an alumnus, Nix shares a similar attachment for the College and its mission. “I’m happy to be associated with Young Harris College. I feel a little guilty about not having gone to school there,” he admitted. A member of Marietta’s Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, he understands the significant role the small Methodist college has played in many lives. “The feeling of the people who did go there is so special, and their experience was so unique. Many have remained very involved and dedicated over the years—including many of my colleagues on the board.”

He credits past outstanding leaders for the College’s remarkable accomplishments. “The secret is finally out about this wonderful place, and we want it to be out,” Nix said. “That is a tribute to Zell Miller, ’51, and all of the contacts and connections he and other outstanding leaders have had. They have kept this board strong over the years, and I’m excited about what we’re going to accomplish going forward and the legacy we will leave.”

Campus Organ Strikes a Chord with Alumnus

BY EMILY SANE

Each Wednesday evening for nearly two decades at Young Harris College, Jerry Taylor, '71, has been heard during the weekly service in Susan B. Harris Chapel. Look and listen for Taylor sitting in what he believes is the best seat in the house—behind the organ.

Taylor has played the College's 1934 Möeller four-rank pipe organ during the campus chapel services since 1991.

"I've played many songs over many years with many people, but I really love the traditional hymns," he said. "Those songs are the ones I play during the chapel services."



Jerry Taylor, '71, at the Möeller pipe organ in YHC's Susan B. Harris Chapel

The current Towns County historian, Taylor taught history for more than 30 years at Towns County High School, where he was named Star Teacher and Teacher of the Year in 1996.

After retiring, Taylor figured out a way to combine his passion for history with his love of music. In 2007 he opened the Organ Loft in Young Harris. The museum features 31 organs collected by Taylor that showcase the progression of the instruments from the 1880s to the mid-1900s.

According to Taylor, the Susan B. Harris Chapel organ began its life in an Atlanta funeral parlor, then was moved to Toccoa First United Methodist

Church. It was subsequently donated to YHC in 1957. He admits the organ's 1988 restoration was a reason for his decision to start playing at the chapel services.

Taylor received his first organ from his grandmother when he was 14. "It had been my grandfather's organ, but it no longer worked," he said. "She said I could have the organ if I could make it work. So I put the organ back together."

His musical vocation began earlier than that. The lifelong Towns County resident started taking piano lessons when he was 11 years old. "Although I began playing the piano at an early age, I did not learn to play the organ until college," Taylor said.

While attending Towns County High School, Taylor was inspired to continue his piano lessons by his music teacher Mary Ann Fox, who was also a professor of music at Young Harris College. She not only encouraged him to practice and play but also suggested that he attend YHC.

"Mrs. Fox encouraged me to develop my music skills," Taylor said. "She let me go on some of the college music trips while I was just in high school. Being with the older students motivated me to practice and play more."

Taylor also credits Dr. John Kay, '56, for inspiring him to play the piano and influencing his decision to attend Young Harris College. Dr. Kay was the minister from 1967 to 1980 at Sharp Memorial United Methodist Church, where Taylor served as church organist from 1973 to 2003. The church is located on the YHC campus.

Taylor graduated from TCHS in 1969, and, according to him, his transition to college life at Young Harris was "natural and easy."

He focused on history in the classroom but also took some music classes, including the pipe organ. "I

wanted to be involved with the music opportunities at the college so I could keep learning," he explained.

In 1971, Taylor graduated from YHC with an associate of arts degree in history. He earned a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Georgia in 1973. He also received a master's degree in education from North Georgia College in 1979 and a specialist degree in education from Lincoln Memorial University in 1999.

Remaining an integral part of the Young Harris community during retirement, Taylor teaches Georgia history for the Institute for Continuing Learning, an adult-education center affiliated with the College, and is an active member of the Towns County Historical Society. In 1983, he was named Towns County Citizen of the Year.

In his spare time, he also teaches piano and organ lessons, and he plays the organ at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church in nearby Hayesville, N.C.

In 2008 Taylor was presented the Juventus Award during Young Harris College's Homecoming festivities for his exemplary contributions to education and youth.

In addition to the weekly chapel services, Taylor has played the campus organ for memorial services and other special activities. "Presently the organ is in urgent need of a replacement for its original blower motor that finally 'gave up the ghost,'" Taylor explained. The repair is estimated to cost \$10,000. For now, he plays the Chapel's piano.

Taylor said he will continue to play the organ for chapel services in the future because he loves the music, the services and the students. "As long as I am asked, I will keep playing for chapel services," Taylor said. "I enjoy being a part of the weekly services and getting to know the students. That keeps me young."

Class Notes

Share your news with other Young Harris College alumni and friends.

Send achievements, announcements and photos to: Young Harris College Class Notes

Office of Alumni Services • P.O. Box 275 Young Harris, GA 30582 • alumni@yhc.edu

ACHIEVEMENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

1940s

ERNEST Q. CAMPBELL, '43, of Nashville, Tenn., is now an emeritus professor at Vanderbilt University, where he served most of his career as professor and chair of sociology and dean of the Graduate School.

1960s

TRUSTEE REV. DAVID T. HAYGOOD SR., '60, represented Young Harris College at the presidential inauguration of Dr. Dan McAlexander at LaGrange College, where Haygood is a member of the Class of 1962 and his wife Harriette Kuhr Haygood is a member of the Class of 1964.

LYNDA LOVELL BOGGS, '65, recently retired from teaching and is looking forward to gardening and seeing her children and grandchildren more often.

DWIGHT BURGER, '67, attended the University of Georgia after YHC. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and completed a tour of duty in Thailand. He earned a master of social work degree at the University of Washington School of Social Work and became a licensed clinical social worker. He changed his first name to Andrew, using Dwight as his middle name. He now resides in Atlanta.

1970s

WARD (SKIPPER) P. RIGGINS, '70, received his B.A. from Georgia Southern University after YHC and now resides in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

RALPH (ED) REED, '70, was elected president of the Union County Historical Society, succeeding YHC alumnus Sam Ensley, '60, who served three years at the helm.

SANDY G. MCGREW, '72, and her family have been living in Canton, Ga., for almost four years and enjoy the peace and beauty of the foothills in the Blue Ridge Mountains.

STAN ANDERSON, '73, is the chair of the graphic design department at Georgia State University and an associate professor in GSU's Welch School of Art & Design. Before joining the faculty at GSU, Anderson served for 21 years as head of the broadcast design department at CNN, where he helped Ted Turner shape Turner's vision for a 24-hour news network.

JOHN BEVERSTEIN, '78, and **MARIANNE NAIL BEVERSTEIN**, '79, are now owners of a HoneyBaked Ham Co. and Café in Columbia, Mo.

ANN HARPER SMITH, '79, published the book *Written On My Heart: Daily Devotions for your Journey through the Bible* in January 2010. The book was published by Smyth & Helwys.

1980s

BARBARA J. BANTA, '83, is in her 16th year as associate artist at The Foundation for Hospital Art, a non-profit organization that provides artwork to hospitals and care facilities at no cost. She has traveled around the U.S. and the world to paint and use her art degree to help others.

MARKUS "STORK" LEDERGERBER, '83, is the new director of housekeeping and laundry with Cutter Services at Shannon-Gray in Jamestown, N.C. He is in charge of the housekeeping and laundry staff and oversees minor repairs of the new 150-bed facility. Markus and his wife of more than 12 years, Mary, have lived in North Carolina for more than five years, where they have welcomed numerous foster children into their home.

LYNDEE ADAMS CAYUPE, '88, has a son, Benjamin, who just turned four and loves animals of all kinds.

1990s

SAMANTHA SPEARS, '90, has changed career paths from non-profit management to website management and photography. In addition to working full time for Marist School in Atlanta as the web manager and photographer, she also has a photography business, TSI Photography. She currently resides in the East Cobb area of Atlanta.

BRYAN B. BRIDGES, '92, is now the Internet marketing director at Morgan Stanley.

P. JEAN HARN, '93, has two beautiful children, a wonderful husband and great friends.

MAIREAD MOLONEY, '95, received her Ph.D. in sociology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in December 2009. She is currently a post-doctoral research fellow in the Program on Integrative Medicine in the UNC Department of Medicine, as well as a teaching fellow in the Department of Social Medicine.

HOLLY MULLINS NGUYEN, '99, lives in LaGrange, Ga., and is a textile designer for Milliken & Co.

2000s

JOSEPH DELOACH, '03, is the manager of Briarpatch Office Products, Inc. in Eatonton, Ga.

KIMBERLY LYNCH, '08, graduated summa cum laude from Georgia College and State University in May 2010 with a degree in political science and a minor in Spanish. She plans to begin law school in Fall 2011.

(Continued on page 52)

YHC Alumni Honored for Lifetime of Service

BY PEGGY COZART

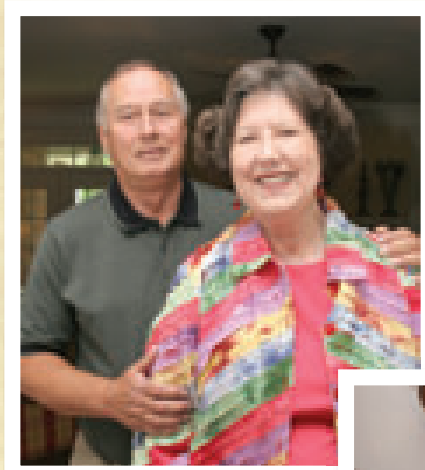
Technically speaking, Lee and Jerry Aldridge are retired. However, that does not mean the busy Young Harris College alumni have time on their hands. The two former educators have always been dedicated volunteers in service to their community.

The Aldridges came to Young Harris College more than 50 years ago. As they flip through the pages of their yearbooks, recalling names and pointing out faces, it seems like just yesterday that they were on the YHC campus.

The two young students hailed from two very different parts of Georgia. Lee Costley, '59, as she was known then, grew up in not-so-far-away Covington, while Jerry Aldridge, '58, was from Blackshear, near the southeast corner of the state. They came for different reasons. Lee applied to only one school, knowing exactly where she wanted to be. Jerry enrolled thanks to the persistent efforts of a high school counselor who secured a work scholarship for him.

Lee fell in love with YHC the moment she saw it. "I thought the campus was beautiful and peaceful," she said. "I saw so many students milling about and talking to each other. To me it looked like a little piece of heaven, and it was." She had learned of YHC through her hometown Methodist church. Knowing she wanted an affiliated school, her pastor recommended the college.

On the other hand, Jerry arrived at YHC in the fall of 1956 when his parents dropped him off at "this place that seemed like the end of the world." He was certain he would soon return to Blackshear. By Christmas break his outlook had changed, and he was in love with the place. "The students were so friendly, like a big family," he



said. "If I had attended UGA I never would have graduated."

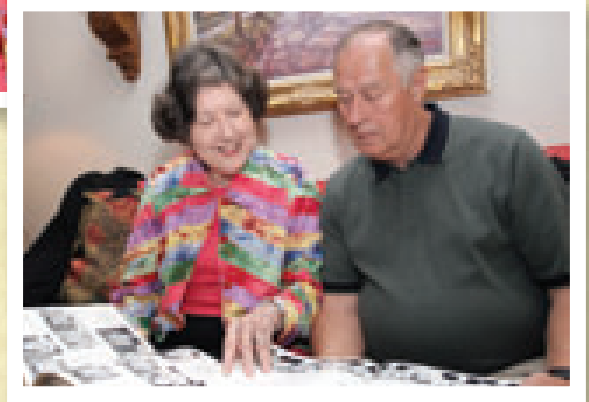
Lee recounts details about friends and teachers who touched her life, calling her experience at YHC life altering. "The staff was extraordinarily kind, sweet and cooperative," she recalled. "The faculty loved you. If you wanted to excel, you had the opportunities to do so, both in academic studies and in extracurricular activities."

The couple met while working in the campus dining hall. She waited tables; he washed pots and pans. "Everybody wanted to work in the dining hall. Other students often begged to take my place," Lee said. "I had a blast and got to know everybody. It was not only an opportunity to meet the other students but a way to make instant friendships."

Teaching and helping is a way of life for the couple who eventually settled in Lee's hometown of Covington. After both graduated with associate degrees from YHC, Lee went on to earn dual degrees in science and home economics from Georgia College, while Jerry earned his bachelor of

science in education and social studies, and later, his master's degree in administration, both from Georgia Southern University.

Life in Covington suited them well, and the Aldridges took root, becoming mainstays in the community and raising a family there. The family remains close-knit and nearby.



Lee and Jerry Aldridge flip through the pages of one of their YHC yearbooks at their home in Covington.

Daughter Cindy Norton lives in neighboring Rockdale County and works for the Department of Family and Children Services. Son Keith is a pediatrician in Hall County, and youngest son Austin, who lives across the street from Lee and Jerry, is a Baptist youth pastor in McDonough. Of their offspring's career choices Jerry likes to say, "There is one to save your children, one to save your life and one to save your soul."

Lee retired from the Newton County school system in 1998, after nearly 38 years of teaching. "I loved teaching and to be able to touch a child's life in a positive way," she said. "It is miraculous to see the light turn on. Kids are wonderful. As long as they knew you loved them, they loved you."

“Miss A,” as she was always known to her students, taught physical science, biology, anatomy and physiology, and senior biology (now called AP) at Newton County High School.

Jerry spent four years in the classroom, teaching history and civics, before moving into administration as an elementary school principal and then finishing his 31-year career as assistant principal at Newton County High School.

Of being a principal, the calm-spoken Jerry said, “I always tried to do whatever was best for teachers and students. I was not necessarily an administrator’s administrator. The central office tended to see it all in black and white, and I worked a lot in the gray area, trying to temper rules to the situation.”

To honor him in his last year as assistant principal at Newton County High School, the senior class chose Jerry to announce their names at graduation. Making the day even more special was the fact that the Aldridges’ youngest son was a member of the class of 1991.

Beyond the classroom and the office, the Aldridges have logged countless hours of their time in volunteer endeavors. Lee coached cheerleading and served as advisor to the yearbook, school paper and Y Club. Over the years, Jerry found time to drive the bus for Lee’s cheerleading squad and announce the football games as the “Voice of the Rams.”

Both taught Sunday School, Jerry for 40 years, Lee for 20 years, and have served on many boards at their home church of nearly 50 years, Julia A. Porter United Methodist, and both were 4-H volunteers for 30 years. Both currently volunteer at Newton Medical Center.

Jerry has been involved in Boy Scouts since 1964, becoming scoutmaster of Troop 222 in Newton County in 1989. He holds the Silver

Beaver award, the highest honor a Boy Scouts of America volunteer can receive. As a scoutmaster he has guided 35 scouts to the rank of Eagle Scout and currently has four boys working toward the goal. Additionally, Jerry has been on nearly a dozen mission trips to Mexico and is a longtime member of the Covington Kiwanis Club, having received the honor of Kiwanian of the Year and lifetime membership.

Lee’s accolades include being named as one of the 2005 Women of Newton County in recognition of her professional and volunteer accomplishments. She is known for her work as chair of the Newton County literacy program “Reach Out and Read” and for the annual classroom readings she gives dressed as “The Cat in the Hat” each year celebrating Dr. Seuss’s birthday. In honor of her more than 5,000 hours of service to the hospital, Lee received the 2009 President’s Volunteer Service Award, given on behalf of the White House.

The couple embodies a personal philosophy of giving back to their community. “So many people have so

much time on their hands,” said Jerry, who sees his time as something he has to offer. “Somebody gave for you to get there. You have to give back.”

This year, the couple received the R. O. Arnold Award, honoring their lifetime of service and commitment to Newton County. The most prestigious honor a Newton County resident can receive, the award was presented to the Aldridges during the Covington-Newton County Chamber of Commerce’s annual meeting. When accepting the award Lee said she was literally speechless “for the first time in my life.” Then in May, the Aldridges were named Georgia Federated Woman’s Club Family of the Year in recognition of their dedication to church and community activities.

Explaining the couple’s hours and years of professional and community service Lee said simply, “I always felt like we had servants’ hearts. It’s what we enjoy doing.”



Pages from the couple’s YHC yearbooks. Jerry is pictured in the lower row, second from the left, in the book he is holding. Lee is seen standing, to the left, in the book she is showing.

Class Notes

ENGAGEMENTS, MARRIAGES & BIRTHS

1990s

KATY ROBERTS FIELDER, '92, and her husband, **MARK FIELDER**, '89, announce the birth of their daughter on Sept. 1, 2008.

BRANDEY SMITH CONN, '94, and her husband, Dan Conn, announce the adoption of their son, Evan James, who was born on Aug. 20, 2008.

HEATHER WHITE, '95, married Ryan Saltamacchio on April 12, 2008, at First United Methodist Church of Lawrenceville, Ga. Their daughter, Makayla Grace, was born on Nov. 12, 2009. She weighed 7 pounds, 12 ounces and was 20 3/4 inches long.

MEG CAINE DU PLOOY, '96, and her husband, Braam du Plooy, announce the birth of their son on July 22, 2009.

LAURA SMITH COGGINS, '97, and her husband, Jason Coggins, welcomed their first child, daughter Ava Elizabeth, on Nov. 10, 2009. Ava weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce and was 19 inches long.

CHRISTINE JOHN, '97, married John Fuller on Nov. 14, 2009, at St. Mary's Chapel in Charlotte, N.C.

JAMIE HARPER, '98, and **KAREN WILLIAMS HARPER**, '99, announce the birth of their third child, Benjamin James, on Aug. 23, 2009, at Parkwest Medical Center in Knoxville, Tenn. He weighed 9 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long.

MARY BETH RUTLEDGE THOMPSON, '99, and her husband announce the birth of their second child, Lincoln James, on July 9, 2009. He joins big sister Gracyn Elizabeth.

2000s

DR. JAYME WILLIAMS, '00, married Capt. Adam Holcombe on Nov. 28, 2009.

BRIDGET R. LARSEN, '00, and **RYAN C. LEVERETTE**, '04, were married on May 11, 2009, in the Cayman Islands. They reside in Athens, Ga.

JOE BANAS, '01, married Allison McGee on Aug. 8, 2009, at St. John United Methodist Church in Atlanta. They reside in Duluth, Ga.

JENNIFER DIEMER BROWN, '01, and family announce the birth of her son Levi Jeremy Brown on Sept. 12, 2009.

MARION PEARSON RINALDI, '02, and her husband, Dominick Rinaldi, announce the birth of their daughter, Elizabeth Grace, on Nov. 12, 2009.

NANCY MANN WILLIAMS, '02, and her husband, Dave Williams, announce the birth of their daughter, Marylou Grace, on Sept. 11, 2009. She joins big brother Max.

STEPHANIE STYKES MARTIN, '03, and her husband, Luke Martin, announce the birth of their son, Layton Henry, on March 14, 2010. He weighed 9 pounds and was 21 inches long. He joins three-year-old big brother Logan.

KELLIE J. MASON, '03, accepted a marriage proposal from her long-time boyfriend Joshua Nelke on March 12, 2010. They currently live in Canton, Ga., and are planning a spring wedding for 2011.

MARY BLACKSTONE, '04, married Matthew William Busbee on July 11, 2009, in Athens, Ga. The couple enjoyed a honeymoon in Italy and now resides in Stone Mountain, Ga.

LACIE TRAVIS, '04, is engaged to **LUKE MARDEN**, '04. The wedding is scheduled for July 31, 2010, at Young Harris College's Susan B. Harris Chapel.

NATALIE S. ROUSSEAU, '05, married Gregory Mullis on Nov. 14, 2009, in Columbia, S.C.

AMY BECK, '05, married Robert Jason Conner Jr. on May 30, 2009, at Young Harris Memorial United Methodist Church in Athens, Ga.

KEVIN GIBBONS, '06, proposed to Ashley Domm during a trip to Istanbul, Turkey. They are currently living in Sheffield, England, where Kevin is completing a master of science degree in environmental archaeology and palaeoeconomy. They are planning a welcome-home wedding for fall of 2010 in Lake Placid, N.Y.

TRAVIS BYRD, '08, is engaged to **ELIZABETH HUNT**, '08. Travis proposed at Cupid Falls, where they had their first date. The wedding is scheduled for 2011.

IN MEMORIAM

WILLIAM BURNETTE, '58
Dec. 19, 2009

J. WILLIAM DENTON, '55
Feb. 20, 2010

ROBERT E. EDWARDS, '62
June 6, 2010

MARSHALL R. ELIZER, '30
Nov. 26, 2009

JAMES E. FARGASON, '37
May 7, 2009

PRESTON R. FERGUSON, '57
Dec. 11, 2009

BOBBY J. FITZPATRICK, '51
Oct. 7, 2009

MARTHA FOLEY, '45
Oct. 4, 2009

REID P. GALEY, '89
Jan. 19, 2010

REYNOLDS GREENE JR.
Friend of YHC
Jan. 16, 2010

DORIS M. HAMILTON, '39
April 8, 2010

W. DALE HAMPTON, '37
March 8, 2010

HOWARD G. HANSON
Faculty member at YHC
Feb. 2, 2010

VIRGINIA HEMRICK, '34
Jan. 10, 2010

JIMMIE C. HILL, '65
March 28, 2010

JOHN M. HOOD, '39
May 14, 2010

PAULA P. JOHNSON, '58
March 11, 2010

CLYDE LEE JR., '48
May 21, 2010

FRANK MACKEY, '40
Dec. 13, 2009

ROBERT HOUSTON MADDEN III, '91
May 4, 2010

CLYDE G. MCCARVER, '39
Sept. 29, 2009

JEFF S. MCCLELLAND, '84
June 12, 2010

JOE M. MILLER, '46
April 7, 2010

HARRY L. MITCHAM SR., '33
May 24, 2010

LEONARD A. MOEN, '58
Jan. 9, 2010

ROBERT G. MOORE, '58
Feb. 21, 2010

DONALD C. NICHOLS, '46
Sept. 2, 2009

DONALD H. NORRIS, '56
Oct. 25, 2009

WILLIAM A. NORTON JR., '57
March 27, 2010

W. JOSEPH PATTERSON JR., '37
Feb. 26, 2010

J. MICHAEL PORTERFIELD, '67
May 28, 2010

ETHEL RYAN, '34
May 28, 2010

JOHN M. STONE, '38
Feb. 6, 2010

CHARLES M. WHITE, '56
Dec. 10, 2009

Seasons of Friendship

CLASS OF 1958 RAISES THE BAR FOR ALUMNI PARTICIPATION

Don't call them senior citizens—the Class of 1958 never got the memo that college was over. The Young Harris College alumni group learned to stay connected over the past 50-plus years by taking trips together, meeting for lunch or dinner, participating in YHC alumni events, taking on fundraising projects to support their alma mater and, in Class Coordinator Carole D. Morgan's words, "keeping the YHC spirit alive."

"Each January, under the leadership of classmate Dr. Gary Green, we gather for a luncheon in Gainesville," Morgan said. In 2010, Director of Alumni Services Dana Ensley, '97, joined the party to share with them the exciting details of the College's four-year transformation and what the growth means for alumni often concerned about change.

"I was thrilled to be a part of the Class of 1958's winter tradition," Ensley said. "I was able to assure them that 'good ol' YHC' is still the same place they fell in love with, only now students get the opportunity they always wanted—to stay four years."

The 70-somethings still enjoy a lively "spring break" too. Every April, they take a trip together and invite members of the classes of '59 and '60 to join them. This year's trip was hosted by Andy and Edna Lee Borders, both Class of '59 grads, in Shelbyville, Tenn. "We had 15 people on this trip," Morgan said.

They also look forward to YHC's annual Homecoming/Alumni Weekend in the summer. Many of the classmates

attend the July festivities and enjoy dinner together on Friday night.

When the next season rolls around, the class, naturally, gets together again, this time with Morgan hosting the fall fun in Comer. "In October we

gather to enjoy a barbecue meal out in the country," Morgan said.

The Class of 1958 is also paving the way for future generations of YHC students—literally. "One of our class projects is the Brick Paver Campaign," Morgan explained. During the last two years, they

have placed at least 20 bricks on the YHC plaza with plans to add more in the future.

Without a doubt, their most remarkable alumni contribution was made in 2008 when, in honor of their 50th reunion, the class presented a gift of \$50,000 to the Young Harris Alumni Foundation, which merged with the College later that year.

"The Class of '58 is an admirable example of how we, as alumni, can make Young Harris College a part of our lives long after graduation," Ensley said. "Their year-round enthusiastic participation in College-hosted events and their own class gatherings is an impressive feat all of us can strive to achieve."

Unaware of the true definition of "retirement," the Class of 1958 has been actively keeping the college spirit alive for half a century; don't expect them to slow down any time soon.



Members of the Class of 1958 gather at Young Harris College during Homecoming 2008 to celebrate their 50th class reunion.

On the Road of Service

BY PEGGY COZART

Carrie Miller, '06, has a servant's heart and an adventurer's spirit. The young alumna recently returned to the United States following 14 months of service as a Peace Corps volunteer in Niger, West Africa.

After earning an associate of arts degree from Young Harris College and a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from the University of Georgia, Miller traveled to Niger in October 2008, eager to serve and explore a new place.

Miller's father, Charles Miller, said of his daughter, "She wants to help and make a difference in the world."

Living in a small village in the Tillaberi region, a four- to five-hour drive from Niger's capital city, Niamey, Miller worked with local farmers to combat desertification and with local women to help create income-generating activities. Additionally, she taught environmental education to children at the local school.

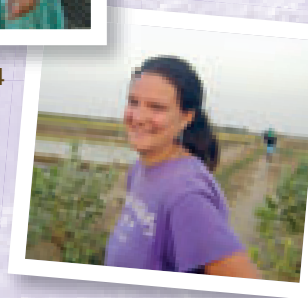
"The biggest part of being a volunteer is cross-cultural exchange, so I spent a lot of time learning the local language, Zarma (or Djarma in French), to be able to communicate with my villagers and tell them stories about America," Miller explained. "Many villagers have never been to the capital city and have a limited view of the outside world and other cultures."

By the third day of her arrival in Niger she had moved in with her host family to begin her training. Volunteers spend two months with host families, learning language, skills and customs they will need while living in Africa—not to mention learning how to navigate the villages and markets.

"The utter bewilderment of moving to a village in West Africa without being able to speak the language



Carrie Miller, '06, spent 14 months as a Peace Corps volunteer in Niger, West Africa, learning about the local way of life and teaching her villagers about outside cultures.



"The utter bewilderment of moving to a village in West Africa without being able to speak the language cannot be explained though words."

CARRIE MILLER, '06

cannot be explained though words," she said. "And yet in the two months I spent in my CBT (Community Based Training) site, I made good friends whom I will miss tremendously."

Miller got around via a healthy mix of walking (what most Americans might call hiking), bicycling and public transportation, known as a bush taxi. Take a van or old truck from an American junkyard, overload it with people and farm animals, both inside and on the roof, and you get an idea of Miller's experience in a bush taxi.

Living conditions were difficult with the temperature most days climbing to well over 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Miller lived in a mud hut with a grass roof and no electricity or running water. She typically slept in her

courtyard under the stars and a mosquito net.

While in Africa, Miller shared her experiences via her blog *On the Road Again*. She noted that during her first month in the village she had successfully learned to transport buckets of water balanced, African-

style, on her head without spilling a drop. Since all of her water had to be carried from a well and filtered before use, this was no small accomplishment.

In one compelling blog post, Miller eloquently wrote of how death seems simply to occur in the villages of rural Niger. In a span of two days there were as many deaths in Miller's world. One day a neighbor reported to her, almost casually, that her daughter died the day before. Then Miller told about a man falling from a ferry the night before that. "The ferry stopped and circle around for about 30 minutes but eventually gave up, and we went on our way minus one man," she wrote. "Death is common everywhere, a fact of life, but here it is accepted differently. I must begin to accept it in the same way."

The cross-cultural experiences of understanding and misunderstanding seem to run both ways. One evening, as Miller was relaxing with a good book, she thought the sounds of the village seemed particularly rowdy. She decided to stick with her book but soon was persuaded by a villager to come out and see the "fire" (electricity) and video. Someone had brought a generator, a television and several music DVDs into the village. As American pop star Usher sang amid an array of scantily clad female

dancers, villagers inquired of Miller, “Is this what all of America is like?” “No, it is not,” was her succinct reply.

Miller was able to speak with her family via cell phone weekly. In an interesting twist, most developing countries in Africa are investing in cell phone technology, and Miller was able to tap into the modern world using a solar charger to power her phone, iPod and other small electronics.

On the other hand, the postal service is primitive. Miller had to travel 25 kilometers (more than 15 miles) from her village to the larger town of Gothery to pick up her mail. Letters

from home took about two weeks to reach her while packages usually made it in four weeks. She warned friends and family, “Don’t expect a quick reply.” Friends mostly kept in touch with Miller over the Internet, though the quality was poor, and she only had access when she traveled to Niamey.

Back in the U.S., she is somewhat undecided about what her future will hold and is “still getting used to America again.” She has spent time hiking sections of the Appalachian Trail while deciding on her next adventure. “I may work for a non-profit or go to grad school or re-enroll

in the Peace Corps,” she said.

Her answer is not a surprise, coming from someone who dedicated more than a year to doing extremely tough work in extremely tough conditions—and loving it. In her blog, where she touted her water carrying abilities, she also summarized her first month in the village, tabulating the number of scorpions killed (1), weddings (3), funerals (3), marriage proposals received (too many), times she cried (2), and the number of times she knew Niger was the place she wanted to be (daily).

Alumna Takes Part in Nationally Televised Singing Competition

LaTisha Wilson Usher, '07, received somewhat of an early Christmas present last December when she landed the opportunity to compete on NBC’s “one-of-a-kind battle of voices” television show *The Sing-Off*. Usher performed with Lee University’s 10-voice a cappella ensemble, Voices of Lee, who advanced to the final round of the vocal group competition show that aired Dec. 14-16 and ultimately finished second runner-up in the star-studded finale on Dec. 21.

More than 800 singing groups auditioned across the country before the final eight were chosen for the show. When Voices of Lee director Danny Murray learned about an audition in Atlanta, he selected 10 of the group’s alumni who he felt had good chemistry.

“The 10 of us had performed together for a solid two years prior to the show,” Usher said, who attended Lee after graduating from YHC. “We went to the Atlanta audition thinking we would just try and see how it went. We never thought we would really get picked.”

Voices of Lee performed unique renditions of many

popular hits on the show, including Natasha Bedingfield’s *Unwritten*, George Michael’s *Freedom! ’90* and Michael Jackson’s *Man in the Mirror* before finishing the competition with *So Long, Farewell* from *The Sound of Music*.

According to Usher, her experience at Young Harris helped prepare her for the competition. “I majored in liberal arts, and I loved being a part of the choir during my time at YHC. I sang under the direction of Jeff Bauman at YHC and learned vocal technique that has helped me excel in music performance,” she said.

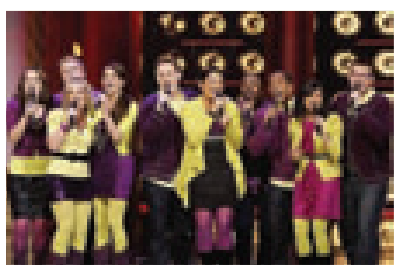
The show’s memorable finale included performances

by Smokey Robinson, Boyz II Men (including judge Shawn Stockman), Bobby McFerrin, (judge) Nicole Scherzinger, Natasha Bedingfield and (judge) Ben Folds.

“Being a part of the competition was an unbelievable experience. It was so exciting to meet the celebrities involved in the show,” Usher said. “We worked hard the entire time we were in California and had a great time learning how things worked in the television

business. It was such a great opportunity to do what we love.”

Usher graduated from Lee University in 2008 with a bachelor’s degree in behavioral science and is currently earning her master’s degree in school counseling. “I plan to be a school counselor in middle or high school,” she said. “I want to be an academic advisor to students and help them find a career path they love.”



LaTisha Wilson Usher, '07, and
Voices of Lee



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YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE CONFERS 147 DEGREES DURING 2010 COMMENCEMENT

On May 8, Young Harris College awarded 147 degrees to students in liberal arts, religious studies, art, musical theatre, music, theatre, science, allied health, athletic training, business, education and outdoor education. Many of the graduates will return to campus as juniors in the fall. Look for the full story in the next issue of *Echoes*.



For up-to-the-minute news, announcements and fun, connect with YHC online. Find us on Facebook, and follow us on Twitter @YH_College.

www.yhc.edu