Investing IN THE Future
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
“I believe that the affiliation of Young Harris College with The United Methodist Church greatly enriches the learning experience for all students. This spiritual dimension is one of our distinctive hallmarks that distinguishes us as a leader among private liberal arts colleges.”

Don Harp, ’61
Pastor Emeritus, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church
Member, YHC Board of Trustees
Young Harris College has entered an exciting new era. This distinctive and distinguished College has set its sights on higher ground: to move from its historical role as a two-year college to become a world-class four-year liberal arts college.

As we effect this transformation, we stand on the shoulders of the rich tradition and proud heritage of Young Harris. This College has provided generations of students with an outstanding education, steeped in the values of service and truth fostered by its relationship to The United Methodist Church. Yet, our calling is to be more, to do more and to serve more.

The College’s transformation is already evident throughout the campus. The student body is growing, as are the number and quality of faculty and staff to serve those students. Facilities are being added as well. The students are better prepared academically; our new faculty are coming from the nation’s most outstanding graduate programs; the new and renovated facilities are being built to the highest design and environmental standards.

Yet, more remains to be accomplished. Young Harris College needs a core facility for its academic and social life—a hub grounding and uniting the intellectual and social aspects of a thriving college campus. The College must build its endowment to enable the best and brightest to enroll, regardless of their parents’ financial circumstances, and ensure that Young Harris College can recruit, support and retain the best credentialed faculty. These form the essential elements of our campaign: Investing in the Future.

Now is the time for Young Harris College to take its place among the most competitive four-year colleges in the nation. We invite you to play an essential role in this transformation, preparing generations of students for fulfilling lives of service and leadership.

Pam Rollins
Campaign Chair
Cathy Cox
President of Young Harris College

Cathy Cox (left), President of Young Harris College and Pam Rollins (right), Capital Campaign Chair and YHC Trustee.
“I feel blessed to have been associated with Young Harris College for more than 15 years. I am honored to serve as chairman of the Board of Trustees during this historic transformation into a four-year institution. As we move forward, it will be important for all of us to financially undergird the College, ensuring that future Young Harris students will maximize their potential and make the kinds of positive contributions we can all celebrate.”

Jerry Nix
Executive Vice President & CFO, Genuine Parts Company
Chair, YHC Board of Trustees
Our Roots Run Deep.

In 1886, Artemas Lester, a Methodist circuit-riding minister, saw the potential of the people in a beautiful but isolated part of the Blue Ridge Mountains. His vision to provide education to its residents put Young Harris on the map.

Since our earliest days — and often against challenging odds — Young Harris College has shown a remarkable ability to adapt to the changing needs of its students. More than 125 years later, the influence of Young Harris College stretches far beyond North Georgia. While maintaining strong ties with our local and regional communities, Young Harris College has gained accolades for offering a distinctive experience that educates, inspires and empowers.

Young Harris alumni include two Georgia governors, members of Congress, Grammy Award-winning singers Ronnie Milsap and Trisha Yearwood, Baltimore Orioles standout Nick Markakis, poet and author Byron Herbert Reece, actors Oliver Hardy and Amanda Bearse and numerous business leaders, such as Waffle House co-founder Tom Forkner.

Our story is highlighted by a proud history with a long-standing reputation of academic integrity. It is from this rich heritage and solid intellectual and spiritual foundation that Young Harris College is taking the next steps to become a premier baccalaureate degree-granting liberal arts college.
An Ambitious Transformation is Underway.

In August 2011, Young Harris College broke all previous records for the fifth consecutive year with the largest fall enrollment in our history: approximately 900 students, a 50 percent increase since 2006. Students have joined us from Georgia and across the Southeast, as well as from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, Ireland, Kenya, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom, enlivening an already vibrant campus community.

Growth of the magnitude and immediacy that we are experiencing will require enormous improvements and enhancements in the areas of academics, athletics, infrastructure and endowment. Though we are not starting from scratch, our transformation will require the highest commitment in terms of thorough planning, prudent investment, mindful execution and creative stewardship.

To meet these requirements, we have launched a comprehensive capital campaign, Investing in the Future, which provides the financial guidance to power our strategic blueprint, enabling us to capitalize on our momentum and fulfill our vision of becoming a premier liberal arts college. In just four years, we’ve made tremendous progress toward that goal.

- Earned accreditation from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) to grant bachelor’s degrees
- Earned accreditation from the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM)
- Introduced 13 new majors and 12 minors
- Implemented the Ethics Across the Curriculum academic initiative
- Introduced the “Rhetorica” program to enhance student writing and speaking skills
- Opened the Center for Appalachian Studies and Community Engagement
- Doubled full-time faculty from 36 to 70
- Hired 61 full-time professional staffers
- Opened a $16 million, 200-bed LEED Silver-certified residence hall
- Opened a $15 million, 57,000-square-foot LEED-certified Recreation and Fitness Center
- Opened a $1.85 million, 12-court, lighted tennis complex
- Opened a new apartment-style residential community for upperclassmen called The Village
- Reinstated intercollegiate men’s and women’s basketball and men’s tennis for a total of 12 sports with plans for more coming soon
- Earned candidacy for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Division II

Much has been done, but there is much more to do. Our efforts over the past few years validate our vision to see Young Harris College take its place among the nation’s top-ranked liberal arts colleges. Investing in the Future is a game-changing capital campaign that will allow us to make the necessary investments to enable Young Harris College to best serve the students of tomorrow.
Preserving the Young Harris Spirit.

While our 10-year strategic plan calls for doubling the student body to 1,200 and adding top-notch faculty to teach them in 20 major fields, we recognize that our students and alumni want to protect, preserve and enhance our home.

We believe that our close-knit, residential campus builds vital social skills and enhances academic success. So we will continue to be a walkable campus with glorious mountain views in every direction, a place with intimate classes that afford unexpectedly personalized attention, allowing students to bond with their professors and develop lifelong friendships with their peers.

We will continue to provide the distinctive high-quality education that we are renowned for, adhering to the Methodist tenets of a “warm heart and trained mind.” This is the very nature of Young Harris College, past, present and future.
“My years at Young Harris College provided me with an exceptional opportunity for learning. These opportunities, together with my life experiences, have served me well since graduating some 35 years ago. As the College now transitions to four-year status, it is a proud moment for all alumni and students.”

Ron Hinson, ’76
Senior Vice President
Comptroller & Chief Accounting Officer, Southern Company
Member, YHC Alumni Board
“For more than four decades, I have witnessed the unwavering commitment of the Young Harris College faculty to students’ outcomes above and beyond their academic pursuits. Through this capital campaign we can demonstrate our steadfast commitment to these fine educators and also our dedicated students. Your generosity will position the college for decades to come.”

Tom Glenn
President, The Wilbur and Hilda D. Glenn Family Foundation
Member Emeritus, YHC Board of Trustees
The New Heart of Campus.

The centerpiece of our master building plan and the focal point of our campaign is the construction of a $44 million, 125,000-square-foot campus center, which will become the signature facility at Young Harris College. The O. Wayne Rollins Foundation has generously stepped up to provide $22 million toward its construction.

Located next to the College’s oldest structure, the Susan B. Harris Chapel, the Rollins Center will be the social and intellectual heart of campus. The three-and-a-half stories of this glass, brick and stone building have been designed to optimize the surrounding mountain views and maximize outdoor space, including numerous porches for inspiration and renewal. The Rollins Center will house four distinct areas: a multi-purpose student center, a state-of-the-art library an expanded dining hall and a versatile banquet facility.

• The Student Center: The new 60,000-square-foot student union will house student organizations, activities and services in a loft-like space. For the first time ever, the campus will be able to provide dedicated office and meeting space for student media, Student Government Association, religious life, Greek organizations and other clubs. It will also include multiple lounge areas, informal meeting space, computer workstations and a convenience store. The Academic Success Center, which provides tutoring, academic counseling and disability services, the Office of Student Development and the Academic Advising Center, which offers academic and career advisement, will also be housed here.

• The Zell and Shirley Miller Library: As the College’s academic programs and enrollment expand, so must library resources. The new 40,000-square-foot library will more than double its physical space, allowing for growth in its collection of books, periodicals, videos, DVDs and music CDs as well as designated areas for special collections. The design calls for group study rooms, reading carrels and computer stations, along with a 24-hour study area.

• The Dining Hall: The 500-plus seating in the future dining hall replaces the College’s current 270-seat facility. Food stations with nutritious, customized made-to-order meals, plus grab-and-go options, will shorten waits and enhance fellowship.

• The Banquet Facility: The 350-seat banquet hall will enable the College to host large group gatherings, guest lecturers and workshops. The multi-purpose space will feature a sound system, portable stage and retractable screen; plus a catering kitchen will be adjacent to the room. The facility, the largest in Towns County, will be available for rental.
Attracting the Best People.

In addition to constructing world-class educational facilities, the Investing in the Future campaign has set forth endowment objectives for both students and faculty.

As a part of our campaign effort, we will seek additional endowed funds to ensure that Young Harris College can offer crucial financial assistance to accomplished, deserving students. Scholarship support will be extended to students who have demonstrated academic achievement, but lack the financial means to attend a college of our caliber. Such inclusiveness is reflective of the spirit in which we were founded.

Endowed funds are equally critical to help the College recruit, support and retain the most qualified teacher-scholars by funding Distinguished Chairs and Professorships. Only by developing a top-ranked faculty will we achieve our goal of becoming a leading liberal arts college. Endowments to fund prestigious lectures will also be sought to enrich the academic environment by enabling Young Harris to bring prominent speakers to campus who will challenge our students.

The decisions we have made over the past four years to diversify our student body and to add distinguished faculty members to our ranks have set us firmly on the path to growing academic excellence.
Our Core Strengths.

Graduates leave Young Harris College with far more than a degree. They are prepared with knowledge and compassion to serve their community and their world. They take with them the ability to think logically, critically and creatively; the ability to communicate effectively through listening, speaking, reading and writing; a solid skill set in mathematics; the aptitude to utilize information technology; an understanding of diverse beliefs and values; an admiration of the aesthetic dimensions of human expression; an understanding of global issues, problems and challenges; an awareness of Christian values and principles and how these contribute to the development of faith and character; and an appreciation of interpersonal skills for sensitive, cooperative and responsible interaction.
“Young Harris College is a treasure not only as a learning institution, but also as a stepping stone into one’s future. The College truly has a presence that stays with students for a lifetime. With our expansion into a four-year college, we will have an even more compelling impact on the young people we serve.”

Clair Wofford Frazier, ‘81
Member, YHC Board of Trustees
“I’m a proud son of the Valley. Young Harris College is where I discovered myself, realized the value of work, the significance of God, the pursuit of excellence and the thrill of having an exceptional teacher. My time at Young Harris prepared me for a successful and rewarding life of public service.”

Zell B. Miller, ’51
former U. S. Senator and Georgia Governor
Member, YHC Board of Trustees
Our Future is Now.

Institutions of higher learning are shaped by their location, character, people and programs. Since our founding, we have benefited from a highly recognizable combination of these traits. That is why many Young Harris College alumni — and admirers — send their sons and daughters to our enchanted valley.

Throughout the College’s history, our emphasis on providing a superior liberal arts education has remained constant. While the contours of our campus and curriculum will continue to change over the coming decade, our focus remains steadfast. Strong internal leadership and a wellspring of external support demonstrate that while our ambitions are high, our course is true. Our profile is on the rise.

At a time when many institutions are struggling to raise funds, our donor gifts doubled from 2010 to 2011. We find ourselves at the intersection where opportunity meets action.

By developing infrastructure, hiring and retaining the highest quality faculty and providing financial and scholarship assistance for worthy students, we will become a leading four-year liberal arts college.

Many of you already give generously of your time and resources. This campaign is an opportunity to further express that commitment, ensuring that future young people will be educated, inspired and empowered here. Your support is essential in helping us meet our $55 million campaign goal.

With a nod to the lone circuit-riding minister who founded our College more than a century ago, we are riding with excitement into our future, well-positioned to ascend to the ranks of the nation’s top liberal arts colleges. We invite you to join us with your contribution to this landmark campaign.
Where Green Meets Purple.

Young Harris College is blessed to be surrounded by the tallest mountains in Georgia in the most biologically diverse region in continental North America. To safeguard the unique character of our campus, we take our commitment to the environment seriously.

In Fall 2009, we opened a $16 million, 200-bed LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Silver-certified residence hall, dubbed Enotah Hall, that ensures energy savings, water efficiency and other performance metrics. Beyond the suite-style residential areas, the 62,000-square-foot complex offers soundproof music practice rooms, a third-floor terrace with sweeping mountain views and courtyard amphitheatre.

The College’s handsome new 57,000-square-foot Recreation and Fitness Center earned LEED certification after opening in 2010. It includes a 37-foot-high rock climbing wall and an elevated indoor jogging track surrounding a state-of-the-art, 1,100-purple-seat, NCAA-regulation arena that is home to Mountain Lions basketball. The Center also boasts a juice bar and café, multipurpose classrooms for yoga, dance and aerobics, office space and locker rooms.

Students self-impose an annual “green fee” to pay for sustainability initiatives; recycling is a campus-wide imperative; and doing right by the environment is a way of life. Even the old College Farm is seeing new life with tree and plant cultivation—with solar panels on the way that will provide significant power to the campus.