

THE MAGAZINE OF YOUNG HARRIS COLLEGE | SPRING/SUMMER 2020

ECHOES

A Heart **FOR SERVICE**

Four YHC students give back to the community while learning valuable leadership lessons.

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ECHOES

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ON THE COVER

Kurt Mueller of Woodstock, Georgia, is one of several YHC students volunteering in the local community and developing important leadership skills in the process. Here, Mueller is shown perched in the gazebo on the YHC lawn. Photo by Laura Grace Holton, '20.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear friends,

Hello from Young Harris College! I hope this edition of Echoes finds you staying healthy, safe and happy.

As you may know, the COVID-19 pandemic caused YHC's leadership team to close campus in mid-March 2020. Thankfully, our dedicated faculty members were able to fully transition to online course delivery in less than a week. The transition called for a lot of hard work, creativity and patience as they set up virtual classrooms and held office hours by video conference.

Transitioning to online learning, postponing Commencement and coordinating move-out schedules during a time of social distancing presented huge challenges. However, I remain amazed at how our Mountain Lion family came together with kindness, grace and compassion to tackle these challenges head-on while caring for each other.

At YHC, we're committed to continuing the College's legacy of educating the next generation of problem solvers and leaders, even during times of crisis. With the help of generous alumni and friends of the College, YHC has survived past wars, epidemic outbreaks and depressions. Being innovative and flexible have been key assets. For instance, YHC changed its format to teach younger students during WWII because the draft caused a lack of students in the college age bracket. When the war was over, YHC returned to its previous structure. Reflecting on how the College handled past hardships reminds us of our resilience and gives us hope that we will emerge from the COVID-19 crisis even stronger.

That said, if you have the ability to make a gift to the College, I ask you to do so. As you know, the pandemic is having a financial impact on many organizations, and YHC is no different. I can guarantee you that your contributions will go to the most pressing needs of our campus community, and your gifts will help us weather this difficult storm. If you're unable to make a gift at this time, I hope you will show your support in other ways: encourage prospective students to come for a campus visit, follow YHC on social media, and keep our campus community in your thoughts and prayers.

We are separated by distance for now, but we are all connected by our love for this special place. I hope reading this edition of Echoes will strengthen your connection to YHC and to those who make the Enchanted Valley your home away from home. I look forward to welcoming you back to campus. Until then, I encourage you to stay Mountain Lion strong!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Drew L. Van Horn". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Drew L. Van Horn, Ph.D.

President

Young Harris College



ACADEMIC UPDATES

Faculty Focus: DR. MATT BRUEN

Dr. Matt Bruen joined the Young Harris College faculty in the fall of 2014 and currently is an assistant professor of English and the director of the Honors Program. Many students are familiar with him from his early American literature course, for which he has become especially well-known.

"Matt is a dynamic, high-energy professor with a genuine passion for the subjects he teaches," said Dr. Mark Rollins, professor of English and dean of the Division of Humanities. "His enthusiasm is infectious.

Students rave about his courses and clamor to get in them."

According to colleagues, Dr. Bruen does more than make his students analyze the classics of American literature. He uses those classics as a lens to help students put themselves in the time period and puts student learning above all. Dr. Rollins calls Dr. Bruen's early American literature course "a masterpiece—one every YHC student should try to take."

"When Matt arrived at YHC, I was impressed by his boundless energy," said Dr. Eloise Whisenhunt, associate professor of English, director of general education and chair of the department of English. "Ever the skeptic, I thought it might have something to do with his youth and his consumption of energy drinks. However, years later, I am even more impressed because his energy has not waned. If anything, it has grown along with his enthusiasm for YHC and its students."



Dr. Bruen brings that same enthusiasm to his work directing the Honors Program. He mentors these high-achieving students, many of whom are pursuing academic awards and admission to graduate school. For example, he has led several YHC students through the demanding process of applying for Fulbright Awards, admission to the Peace Corps, and even Rhodes Scholarships.

His professional interests are wide-ranging. He has published works on subjects such as the similarities between missions to Mars and 19th-century whaling expeditions, as well as

adoption scandals in a nearby Appalachian town. In addition to early American literature, he has published and presented works on ecocriticism, place theory and environmental cinema. He is close to finishing a book on lost places in America, in which he applies the scholarship of place to the study of once-thriving communities that no longer exist. Dr. Bruen earned bachelor's degrees in English and religion from Bucknell University. He earned his master's and doctorate degrees in English and American Literature from New York University.

"Our YHC students are inquisitive and bold; teaching them is easily the highlight of my professional life and the reason I love our institution," Dr. Bruen said. "I also am deeply moved by our rural mountain setting. As a child of the Appalachian Mountains, I consider myself extremely lucky to be able to pursue my twin passions for teaching and writing in the North Georgia Mountains."

LOOKING AHEAD TO COMMENCEMENT 2020

The COVID-19 pandemic may have postponed this year's spring Commencement ceremony, but Young Harris College plans to hold an in-person event to honor the class of 2020. YHC has many important traditions during graduation—the Vespers service, the Baccalaureate service and the Commencement ceremony itself—and we know that many graduating seniors have eagerly awaited being able to participate in those traditions. We plan to send our latest graduating class off the right way during Labor Day weekend, Sept. 5-6, 2020.

At the ceremony, YHC will honor Henry "Hank" Huckaby, '62, with an honorary doctorate, and Huckaby and his wife, Amy, '62, will receive the Young Harris College Medallion, the highest honor bestowed by YHC to alumni and friends who have made extraordinary contributions to the College.

Mr. Huckaby was elected to the Board of Trustees in 2005. He chaired the Academic Affairs and Endowment committees for three years

Staff Spotlight: PEGGY GREENE

Peggy Greene joined the Business Office at Young Harris College in 1987. She started her career assisting with student loans and bookstore needs, but over the years, she has taken on more responsibilities that include accounts payable, banking, payroll processing and budgeting the College's purchasing cards.

"Peggy is a vital part of the Business Office team and a wonderful colleague," said Wade Benson, chief financial officer. "She always makes time during her busy day to help faculty, staff and students. Peggy's faith and cheerful attitude are an inspiration to us all."

Greene's co-workers admire her customer service skills and especially her upbeat attitude. She is someone the office can always count on to help keep things running smoothly.

"We could use more people like Peggy in the world—people full of love, grace and joy," said Tonya Nix, staff forum president and assistant to the vice president of student development. "Peggy exemplifies what it means to be a Mountain Lion!"

"Peggy is the true definition of a Proverbs 31 woman," added Teresa Sampson, '11, an institutional research analyst and one of Peggy's closest friends. "She loves and serves God, serves others with kindness, and shows God's love to family, friends, co-workers and students. She is truly a blessing to others."

A native of Union County, Georgia, Greene has been married to her husband Tommy for 42 years, and both of their daughters attended YHC. She also has two sons-in-law and five grandchildren.

"I have always loved numbers, and I love everything about my job—it has been a career for me," Greene said. "I am so thankful to have been blessed to work here for so many years. I love working with the students and all the faculty and staff, I love people, and I think customer service is of high importance. First impressions last a lifetime, so I hope to always make a good and lasting one!"



and also serves on the Executive Committee. In 2011, he was presented the Iuventus Award by the YHC Alumni Association. In 2017, he was part of the Presidential Search Committee.

A native of Hapeville, Georgia, Huckaby studied under Zell Miller, '51, while at YHC and later worked with him at the state capitol to create the HOPE Scholarship, which has been invaluable to the more than 1.8 million students who have received it to date. In 2011, Huckaby was named chancellor of the University System of Georgia, a position responsible for overseeing the state's 26 public colleges and universities. He retired in December 2016.

Mrs. Huckaby has been deeply involved with the YHC Alumni Association over the years. She has been a class coordinator for her graduating class and served on its 50th Reunion Committee. She joined the Alumni Association Board of Directors in 2017. The Huckabys reside in Athens, Georgia.

In addition to honoring the YHC Medallion recipients, the College traditionally honors the graduating class from 50 years prior at the Commencement ceremony, and this year will be no different. Graduates from the class of 1970 will be invited to walk in the ceremony.

A *Heart* FOR SERVICE

Four YHC students give back to the community while learning valuable leadership lessons.

BY COLEMAN WOOD

Young Harris College provides ample opportunities for students to give back to the North Georgia community they call home through mentorship, volunteering with local nonprofits, fundraising for worthy causes and more.

By giving something—their time and energy—students also are receiving something. They are gaining valuable lessons in leadership that they can take with them long after they leave the Enchanted Valley. Skills like coordinating a group, speaking in front of a crowd, or teaching a young student are all leadership traits that students develop while serving their community.

The ways students give back may look very different, but the leadership qualities they exhibit—selflessness, communication, teamwork and charity—are much the same.



LEFT Guerin Brown stands in the New Mexico desert on the last day of his internship for the University of New Mexico in the summer of 2019.

■ Brown's co-worker in the lab, sophomore outdoor leadership major Brentney Clemmons, works under a net processing oviposition jars, counting beetles and preparing to add new food to the jar to continue the breeding process. **ABOVE** Brown inspects the burlese-tullgren funnels he created for a microarthropod/soil health study he performed while working for the University of New Mexico in the summer of 2019.

HELPING FIGHT AN INVASIVE SPECIES

Guerin Brown recognizes that his on-campus work at a science lab can seem uninteresting. So he uses humor to break the ice. When people ask what he does, he responds that he breeds beetles. It's hard not to chuckle.

"It sounds really strange—to get people to find some humor in it," explains Brown, a junior majoring in biology. "Then you can say, 'But that's not all I do.' And then you can explain a little more about the project, and people realize it's important work."

Brown works with the YHC Hemlock Project, which is led by biology professor Dr. Paul Arnold. Over the years, the hemlock wooly adelgid, a small aphid accidentally brought over from Japan, has devastated hemlock trees across the eastern United States. Dr. Arnold's team, in partnership with the University of North Georgia, breeds a species of ladybird beetle (aka ladybug) that is a natural predator of the wooly adelgid. Since 2006, nearly 230,000 of these tiny beetles have been released into the southern Appalachians in hopes of saving the hemlocks, which are vital to the mountain ecosystem.

Brown became interested in the topic as a high school student and wasted no time trying to get involved. His very first week on campus as a freshman, he sought out Dr. Arnold and introduced himself. The beetle lab had been inactive for a couple of years, but by spring semester, Brown's persistence had paid off, and he had a job at the lab. He even recruited two other friends to work with him before his first day.

Through his hard work and enthusiasm for the project, Brown soon became a supervisor of the student team, setting the schedule and helping his classmates. Along the way, he has learned the patience and communications skills you need to work in a highly collaborative environment like a lab.

"To me, it feels like I'm being the same person I always am," Brown said. "I'm being a friend to my coworkers. I'm giving them help whenever they need it. If I've learned any lessons, it's that you can't work 'over' people. You have to work alongside them."

Brown also is tackling much larger projects at the lab. For his capstone project, he wants to analyze all of the beetle release data since 2006 and compare it to satellite images of the forests to see if their efforts are working. Brown already has taught himself how to code to better analyze the data, and he's hopeful he can complete the project during his time at YHC.

"It's one of those things that no one has done yet, and this is really valuable information that we should have," Brown adds.

GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Kurt Mueller had a very busy year, thanks to his work with Student Opportunities for Leadership through Engagement (SOLE), a Young Harris College program in which students perform outreach work in the community and develop leadership skills.

The junior biology major helped repair the Young Harris Garden, which grows organic vegetables to donate to the Towns County Food Pantry. He pitched in at the campus Swap Shop, a place for students, faculty and staff to trade donated items. He chopped wood at the Hinton Wood Center, which provides wood to local residents to heat their homes. And he participated in several clean-ups around Young Harris and nearby Hiawassee.

But one of his most fulfilling activities over the past year has been mentoring a student at Towns County Elementary School.

"We didn't want for it to feel like a tutoring session," Mueller said. "[My mentee] has all the resources he needs from an academic standpoint. I wanted to be there for a personal relationship. I wanted to be there for his personal support."

Mueller visited the school weekly to spend time with his mentee. They mostly had fun, playing football or soccer outside when the weather was nice, or playing board games like Monopoly and Sorry. But Mueller also was there for emotional support and encouragement. While Mueller may have been the mentor, his mentee also taught him a few things.



LEFT Kurt Mueller and his mentee, Hunter, spend time together during a mentor/mentee party at Towns County Elementary School. ■ Mueller and Laura Grace Holton, '20, created a GoFundMe fundraiser to buy Dr. Paul Arnold, chair of the Department of Biology, EnChroma color blind glasses. The glasses were presented after a faculty meeting, with all the professors and Arnold's wife in on the surprise. **ABOVE** Friends Glenn Wikle, Ryan Smith, Kyle Brena, '20, Kurt Mueller and Jacob Howington volunteered for the Lake Chatuge Shoreline Clean-Up.

COURTESY PHOTOS



LEFT Rachel Ahrens, '20, on Springer Mountain, the southern terminus of the Appalachian Trail, and what will be the last stop on her 2,193-mile journey. **■** Ahrens on top of Max Patch, on the Tennessee/North Carolina border, along the Appalachian Trail. **ABOVE** Ahrens at Pickens Nose in Otto, North Carolina.

"I learned that I didn't know how to play Sorry correctly," Mueller said, laughing that his mentee was the one to point it out and then help him learn.

In addition to spending time with his mentee, Mueller has taken it upon himself to recruit other Young Harris College students to participate in the mentoring program. Most current volunteers are older members of the local community, and Mueller would love to see more of his classmates volunteer with the mentoring program.

"I want to get as many Young Harris students as possible involved, because the students who are a part of this program and who need mentors are really incredible people," Mueller said.

What connects his work with SOLE to his work at Towns County Elementary School is that Mueller saw a need in the community and decided to do something to address it. This caring attitude toward others also is leading him toward a career in pediatric surgery once he graduates.

"Mentoring has reminded me how much I love kids and how much I want to make sure that no matter what job I go into, I can look back and know I made a difference in someone else's life," Mueller said.

WALKING ALONGSIDE OTHERS

Recent graduate Rachel Ahrens, '20, is going to be able to put her outdoor leadership degree to use very quickly. This summer, she will begin thru-hiking the Appalachian Trail as one of two official Appalachian Trail chaplains. She will spend five to six months on the trail, providing spiritual and emotional support for the thousands of hikers who attempt the feat each year.

"The chaplain is a hiker, but you're also a counselor, peace-maker, evangelist, confidante and friend," Ahrens explains. "For me, as a chaplain, I'll walk alongside these other hikers and meet them wherever they're at, because everyone does the trail for a different reason."

The Appalachian Trail Chaplain program is a ministry of the Holston Conference of the United Methodist Church. It started when a group of small churches located near the trail in Virginia wanted to do something more for hikers. They would feed them at trailheads and do random acts of kindness—often referred to as "trail magic" by hikers—but they also wanted someone to be present with hikers on the more than 2,100-mile journey.

Ahrens already has hiked 200 to 300 miles of the trail herself over the years, and while at YHC, she studied the Appalachian Trail hiking community. She sees an intentionality and honesty in what they are doing and finds that appealing.

"Beyond just wanting to love on people and be a light out there, I also really want to be able to experience that form of community and that form of intentionality, because the trail breaks you down in so many ways that the only person you can be is your true self," she said.

Ahrens plans to start her hike at the beginning of July. She'll set off from the top of Maine's Mount Katahdin and hike south toward Georgia. COVID-19 restrictions made physical training difficult during the spring, so she spent the time at her home in McDonough, Georgia, working out the logistics of a thru-hike, as well as preparing for the psychological challenge. Part of her reason for walking southbound, rather than starting in Georgia like most hikers, is that she can leave later in the summer and each step brings her closer to home.

While the obvious goal is to hike the entire trail, her focus is on being present with the hiking community. She also wants to take in the beautiful vistas, including the White Mountains of New Hampshire and the wild ponies of Virginia's Grayson Highlands. Along the way, she's also hoping to educate hikers about the importance of environmental stewardship, something she learned while studying at YHC.

"If I hadn't had the Outdoor Leadership department encourage

me to find these things that bring me joy and resonate with me, I don't know if I would've found [the chaplain program]," Ahrens said. "I owe a lot to the faculty at the Outdoor Leadership department."

UPDATE: Due to COVID-19, the chaplaincy opted to pull its hikers from the trail this year but will revisit the discussion of a future hike in which Ahrens may be able to participate. In the meantime, Ahrens accepted an offer at Western Carolina University to be a part of its first-ever cohort for a Master of Science in Experiential and Outdoor Education, and she will begin in the fall.

PAYING IT FORWARD

Growing up in an orphanage in Ukraine, Dasha Vander Maten would only get one present a year—a small shoebox of toys from Operation Christmas Child (OCC).

Vander Maten was adopted by an American family at age 12, and by the fall of 2019, she was a senior communication studies major at Young Harris College. Her Communication & Leadership class had tasked her with coming up with a semester-long project that would challenge her.

Vander Maten had remained grateful for those OCC boxes she received as a child. She had donated boxes herself in past years with her adopted family, including her two biological sisters who were adopted with her. But her class project would be much more ambitious. She wanted to fill 100 boxes with the help of the YHC community.

Over the next few months, Vander Maten recruited 100 YHC students, faculty and staff members to help purchase toys and fill their boxes. She stood up in front of several local churches asking

for financial assistance to pay the shipping costs. Many were moved by her very personal story of growing up without a family and coming to America.

"It was nerve-racking. I had never spoken in front of that many people in my life," Vander Maten said, adding that having to speak in front of the churches helped her gain confidence in public speaking.

Through her hard work and the generous support of the YHC and North Georgia communities, Vander Maten exceeded her fundraising goal. Not only was she able to pay to ship every box, but she was able to fill and ship an extra 47 boxes.

"I remember the smell of the brand-new toys when I opened the box [as a child]," Vander Maten wrote in her class paper about the project. "When packing these boxes myself, it brought that smell back to me."

With the project nearing an end, Vander Maten decided to cap off the experience by traveling to Atlanta over the Thanksgiving holiday with her sisters and her boyfriend to help process boxes at one of OCC's warehouses. Hearing volunteers cheer every time a large container had been filled with shoeboxes made her feel that all of the hard work was worth it.

Vander Maten gives all the credit to her leadership class, taught by Rusty Royston, '88.

"It's a great class, and I hope they never get rid of it," she said. "Some people take it seriously and some people don't, but you get what you put into it."

The same can be said about the college experience in general—it is what you make of it. And for these four students, putting in the time and effort to serve others has benefitted each of them in ways they will carry for the rest of their lives.



LEFT Dasha Vander Maten, '20, shows off the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes donated by the YHC campus community. **BELOW** Blake Metivier, '19, Dasha Vander Maten, '20, and Dasha's sisters, Tanya and Katya, volunteering at the Operation Christmas Child warehouse in Atlanta. ■ Instructor of Spanish Professor Jeanette Rismiller and Vander Maten promote the Operation Christmas Child project at Temple Baptist Church in Blue Ridge, Georgia.



COURTESY PHOTOS



CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT During the student-alumni networking event, YHC upperclassmen received advice from alumni on following their dreams. ■ Stephen Danvers, '20, and Sylvia Hutchinson, '58, were all smiles at the 2019 Scholarship Luncheon. ■ YHC upperclassmen enjoyed the all-alumni tailgate on a beautiful fall day. ■ President and Mrs. Van Horn posed for a picture with YHC upperclassmen at the all-alumni tailgate. ■ Hannah Walker, '20, stood flanked by donors Len and Beverly Barrow Woodward, '53, at the 2019 Scholarship Luncheon. ■ Chastity Duffey, '20, received a hug from donor O.V. Lewis after she spoke at the 2019 Scholarship Luncheon.

Alumni and Students Celebrated A WEEKEND IN THE ENCHANTED VALLEY DURING PEAK LEAF SEASON

This past fall, the YHC Alumni Association hosted hundreds of alumni and friends for A Weekend in the Enchanted Valley. Weekend highlights included the annual Scholarship Luncheon, a student-alumni networking event and an all-alumni tailgate.

The Scholarship Luncheon brought together scholarship donors and student recipients. Powerful remarks about the importance of supporting higher education for future generations were made by Chastity Duffey, '20, and Hannah Walker, '20. Both students spoke about the opportunities they've received at YHC as a result of their scholarships.

The student-alumni networking event featured special guests, including YHC Trustee Carol Chastain, '84, Nancy Couch, '71,

YHC Trustee Jim Ellison, '88, Lydia Sartain, '79, and John Sillay, '75. They spoke to current YHC students about life after YHC, including how to follow personal and professional dreams. The alumni speakers encouraged students to never settle and always remember what YHC means to them.

The all-alumni tailgate offered alumni an opportunity to enjoy food and drinks on the campus plaza while watching football on TV and reconnecting with friends.

"It is always a pleasure to have alumni on campus," said Director of Alumni Engagement Dana Ensley, '97. "During A Weekend in the Enchanted Valley, they had the opportunity to meet current students, reconnect with friends and be reminded how beautiful campus is during peak leaf season in the mountains."



ANOTHER MEMORABLE "Christmas at YHC"

A cherished holiday tradition, the 2019 "Christmas at YHC" featured the YHC Chamber Choir, Concert Choir and Concert Band, and once again set the tone for a wonderful holiday season. Attendees enjoyed the duet "The Prayer," as well as favorites "O Holy Night" and "The Hallelujah Chorus." The choirs were directed by Professor of Music Jeffrey Bauman and accompanied by Anita Guss. The Concert Band was led by Director of Bands and Assistant Professor of Music Dr. Kerry Bryant.

After the Saturday night performance, community members, students, faculty and staff gathered at the Susan B. Harris Chapel to count down to the annual Christmas tree lighting. Carols were sung, blessings were offered, and the tree lighting began the exciting holiday season for the campus.



ALUMNI EVENTS

YHC ATLANTA-AREA FRIENDS

Enjoy a Variety of Entertainment Options

There was entertainment for every Atlanta-area alum this past February. From the theatre to the brewery, YHC hosted a weekend full of connection and laughter.

Many alumni and friends of the College enjoyed a spectacular matinee performance of "Hello, Dolly!" at the Fox Theatre. Members of the 1886 Young Harris Society enjoyed pre-show drinks and hors d'oeuvres in the theatre's Landmark Lounge.

That afternoon, all Atlanta-area alumni were invited to a social at New Realm Brewing Company. The covered and heated rooftop made for a perfect spot to reconnect with alumni from across the years.



A SPECIAL EVENT FOR FOTA MEMBERS

Friends of the Arts (FOTA) platinum and gold members enjoyed a reception and dinner Friday, February 21, before the evening performance of "Little Shop of Horrors," the spring musical performed by students at YHC. The dinner included discussions with students, faculty and staff. As guests were enjoying dessert, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Fine Arts Dr. Keith DeFoor gave an exciting update on events and activities that FOTA members have helped make possible this academic year through their generous contributions. Chair of the Department of Art and Associate Professor of Art Ted Whisenhunt showcased T-shirts that were screen-printed with equipment purchased from FOTA dollars, and several guests left with freshly printed apparel.

The College is deeply appreciative for the support FOTA members provide our students and faculty. To join, visit yhc.edu/giving/opportunities/fota.





2020 Homecoming

On Saturday, February 29, many Young Harris College alumni came back to campus to celebrate Homecoming.

The College hosted an all-alumni lunch, and the YHC Young Alumni Professionals put on a networking event for current upperclassmen and alumni. One of the day's highlights was the women's and men's basketball teams squaring off against Columbus State University in the Recreation and Fitness Center.

Although the YHC women lost their game 66-48, the YHC men captured a down-to-the-wire victory in double overtime, winning 95-93.

During halftime of the men's basketball game, Joseph "Mojo" Tenenbaum, '20, and Chastity Duffey, '20, were crowned YHC Homecoming King and Queen.



INDUCTS FOUR NEW MEMBERS

On Nov. 9, 2019, Young Harris College hosted a special ceremony and luncheon to honor the 2019 Athletics Hall of Fame inductees.

The YHC Athletics Hall of Fame was established in 2013 by the College's Board of Trustees to recognize individuals for their outstanding athletic achievements and distinguished service to YHC and the greater community. The inductees are nominated by alumni and friends for being an integral part of the College's celebrated history of athletics. The 2019 inductees included:

Kimberly MacNeill Boswell, '01 – Tennis

Kimberly MacNeill Boswell came to the Enchanted Valley from Miami, Florida, in 1999. Growing up, she spent summers traveling from Florida to see her grandparents in Hiawassee and had the opportunity to train under Robyn Russell, who was YHC's women's tennis coach at the time. Kimberly fell in love with Young Harris College and set her sights on playing tennis for the Mountain Lions.

When her dream to play at YHC came true, she took up her racket and became a stand-out tennis player. She played #1 singles as well as #1 doubles with her doubles partner and roommate, Lindsay Gilbert Whitelaw, '01. In the spring of 2000, the YHC women's tennis team was a runner-up against Georgia Perimeter College in the regional championship. Not backing down, the Mountain Lions squared off against Georgia Perimeter College the following year, and YHC brought home the regional championship in 2001. As a result, the team traveled to Tucson, Arizona for the NJCAA National Championship. While at Nationals, Kimberly advanced to the quarter-finals in singles. In the spring of 2001, she ranked 14th in the nation for NJCAA singles and seventh in the nation for doubles, an honor she shared with Lindsay.

After YHC, both Kimberly and Lindsay continued their studies and tennis careers at North Georgia College & State University, which is now the University of North Georgia. There, Kimberly played #3 singles and continued playing at the #2 doubles position with Lindsay. Kimberly received a Top 50 national ranking in singles in the NAIA.

After playing for UNG, Kimberly returned to Young Harris College in 2005 as the interim women's tennis coach and remained until 2007.

In addition to her achievements on the court, Kimberly also excelled in academics. She earned an associate's degree in business administration at YHC and a bachelor's degree in business

administration from UNG. She also pursued a master's degree in education at UNG and earned a specialist degree in education from the University of Georgia.

Today, Kimberly continues to make an impact in the classroom and on the court. She teaches fifth grade Language Arts and Social Studies at Jefferson Academy in Jefferson, Georgia. She is also the head coach of the Jefferson High School women's tennis team. Her team is the current champion of Region 8-AAA. In the spring of 2019, Kimberly was honored as a Coach of the Year for the Georgia High School Association Region 8-AAA.

Kimberly and her husband, Corey Boswell, '06, have three children: Brooke, Bre and Behr.

Ilija Ilic, '15 – Soccer

Ilija Ilic came to Young Harris College from Belgrade, Serbia. Growing up, he played youth soccer for Red Star Belgrade, one of the biggest clubs in his home country.

Ilija was attracted to the opportunity to earn an education while playing the game he loves in the Enchanted Valley. From the moment he stepped foot on campus, Ilija fell in love with YHC. With encouragement from Coach Mark McKeever, he committed to become a Mountain Lion.

While at YHC, Ilija racked up awards for his skilled soccer performances. His many accolades include being named an NSCAA NCAA Division II All-American and CoSIDA Division II Academic All-America® selection in 2013 and 2014; the YHC Male Athlete of the Year in 2014-2015; NSCAA Division II National Men's Soccer Player of the Year in 2014; NSCAA Men's Soccer Scholar Athlete of the Year in 2014; and the NSCAA Men's College Division Scholar All-America first team in 2014.

Ilija graduated from YHC in December 2014 with a degree in business and public policy and a minor in psychology. Upon graduation, Ilija signed his first professional contract with the United Soccer League's Louisville City Football Club in Louisville, Kentucky. At Louisville, Ilija played alongside two of his YHC teammates: Paco Craig, '16, and 2018 Athletics Hall of Fame inductee Niall McCabe, '14. Together, these former Mountain Lions helped Louisville win back-to-back USL Championships in 2017 and 2018.

Ilija now plays for the USL's Indy Eleven in Indianapolis, Indiana. He and his wife, Iva, have one daughter, Sofija.

COURTESY PHOTOS



Jimmy Jordan, '76 – Tennis

Jimmy Jordan came to the Enchanted Valley from Griffin, Georgia. He chose to play for the Mountain Lions because 2014 Athletics Hall of Fame inductee Coach Bob Nichols had recently started coaching at Young Harris College, and Jimmy

wanted to be a part of his team. He hoped to play at the next level and trusted Coach Nichols' leadership to help him grow as a tennis player.

Jimmy's time playing at YHC paid off. He

made the team at Georgia Southern College and was able to compete at the NCAA Division I level. Jimmy played #3 doubles his junior year, then #4 singles, along with doubles, his senior year.

Off the court, Jimmy studied science at YHC and criminal justice at Georgia Southern College, where he earned his bachelor's degree. He went on to earn a Master of Public Administration from Columbus State University and graduated the program with a 4.0 GPA.

Jimmy retired from law enforcement as the chief deputy of the Spalding County Sheriff's Department. As chief deputy, he started several special operations programs, including a Narcotics Task Force, K-9 Unit, SWAT Team, dive/rescue team, and an aviation unit operating a Bell Jet Ranger helicopter and fixed-wing aircraft.

For the past 19 years, Jimmy has worked for DHL Express, which is the world's largest logistics company. He is in charge of the company's TSA programs throughout the United States and its territories. Jimmy has previously served on the local Salvation Army Board and with the Kiwanis Club.

Jimmy's hobbies include golf, snow skiing and flying. He holds a commercial pilot's license with multi-engine and instrument ratings.

Jimmy and his wife, Linda, currently reside on Jackson Lake in Monticello, Georgia. They have two sons, Brandon and Evan, a daughter-in-law, Elizabeth, and two grandchildren, Addison and Grayson.



COURTESY PHOTOS



Neal Simmons, '77 – Tennis

Neal Simmons came to Young Harris College from the Atlanta area after graduating with honors from Lithonia High School. He arrived in the Enchanted Valley ready to play tennis and wound up earning athletic and academic scholarships after his first quarter.

Neal played for 2014 Athletics Hall of Fame inductee Coach Bob Nichols and says he still has unwavering love, respect and admiration for the coach who taught him so much. As a freshman Mountain Lion, Neal played #4 singles on the state championship team and won an individual state title. His sophomore year, he served as captain of the tennis team and played #2 singles.

While at YHC, Neal won the Berry-Dalton Award, which was given to a player who won an individual state title while holding at least a 3.5 GPA. Neal earned his associate's degree from YHC and graduated with honors in 1977.

From YHC, Neal enrolled at the University of Georgia and was pre-med. He graduated from UGA in 1979 and started medical school at the Medical College of Georgia that fall. In 1983, Neal graduated from MCG and went on to intern at West Virginia University.

He returned to MCG in 1984 for a radiology residency and served as chief resident his last year. Following residency, he moved to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, for a fellowship in interventional radiology.

Neal spent the early part of his career at the Medical Center in Macon, Georgia. He then spent about 15 years in Atlanta. He's now happy to be back in Macon practicing with his old group.

Neal is a tennis fan for life. Although he cannot play anymore, he loves watching the sport he holds dear. He also enjoys spending time with his family and is passionate about flying.

Neal and his wife, Andrea, have three children: Morgan, Chase and Lindy.



JENNY MICHAEL NAMED YHC VOLLEYBALL COACH

Young Harris College Director of Athletics Jennifer Rushton announced that Jenny Michael will be the first-ever head coach for the Mountain Lion women's volleyball program, which will begin this fall.

Michael comes to the Enchanted Valley after spending nine seasons as head coach of the Lincoln Memorial University team in Harrogate, Tennessee.

"I am excited to welcome Jenny Michael to Young Harris College to start our volleyball program," said Rushton. "Coach Michael's experience, knowledge and overall plan to build our program makes her the perfect fit. She found plenty of success at LMU and has strong recruiting ties to the southeast region. I am confident in her ability to build this program for long-term success."

During her stay at LMU, she led the Railsplitters to a 162-117 (.581 winning percentage) record with four 20-plus win seasons and four trips (2011, 2012, 2016 and 2018) to the NCAA Division II Volleyball Tournament.

The 2016 South Atlantic Conference Coach of the Year has had players named to the All-SAC team 26 times and to the American Volleyball Coaches Association Division II All-Southeast Region squad seven times. The Railsplitters received five consecutive AVCA Team Academic Awards, and she coached Erica Whiteaker, who was named the 2017 and 2018 CoSIDA Academic All-America® Team Member of the Year for Division II volleyball.

"What an amazing opportunity God has provided me with here at Young Harris College," said Michael. "My gratitude cannot truly be expressed in words, but as I attempt to quantify my elation, I want to thank Director of Athletics Jennifer Rushton and President Dr. Van Horn for their belief in me to lead the first-ever women's volleyball program at Young Harris. I'm looking forward to experiencing the energy and support of the Mountain Lion faithful as we begin our journey together to Defend the Den!"

While at Lincoln Memorial, Michael coached the then-new beach volleyball program for four years.

Michael arrived at LMU in December 2010 after a five-year stint as the assistant volleyball coach at Division I Troy University in Alabama. Prior to joining Troy, she was a high school coach in Kent, Washington.

Michael is no stranger to the Peach Belt Conference. She served three seasons as an assistant coach at then Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, Georgia. She served as a graduate assistant for two seasons and another as the top assistant when the Pirates captured the 2005 PBC regular-season title.

A native of northern Ohio, Michael played collegiate volleyball at Francis Marion University in Florence, South Carolina. While with the Patriots, she helped FMU capture the 1998 PBC regular-season and tournament crowns and earn a trip to the NCAA Division II Tournament. Michael played in 120 matches (394 games) for the Patriots with 985 assists, 880 digs, 228 kills and 135 service aces. She was named the team MVP and captain during the 2000 campaign.

She earned her bachelor's degree in mathematics with a minor in physics from Francis Marion in 2002 and her master's degree in mathematics from AASU in 2004.



ANDREW COBB NAMED DIRECTOR OF TENNIS

In May 2019, Andrew Cobb was named the Director of Tennis for the Mountain Lions.

"Andrew's overall experience, knowledge of the game and ability to recruit quality student-athletes will be a tremendous asset to the YHC tennis programs," said Director of Athletics Jennifer Rushton.

Cobb came to Young Harris after serving as the head women's tennis coach at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall, Minnesota. He helped the Mustangs to a 13-12 record, an improvement of seven wins over the previous season.

"I am very honored to be chosen as the next Director of Tennis at Young Harris College," said Cobb. "I would like to thank Jennifer Rushton for the opportunity to lead both tennis programs. I am looking forward to continuing the success of both programs on and off the court."

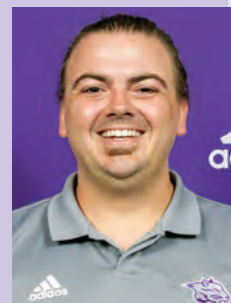
Cobb arrived at SMSU following three seasons as the head men's and women's tennis coach at Montreat College in Montreat, North Carolina. During just the second season of his tenure at Montreat, Cobb helped lead both the men's and women's teams to their best records in more than a decade. Two of his players were named to the conference women's All-Freshman team, and numerous other players were named to the All-Academic squad during his three seasons.

Prior to Montreat, Cobb spent two seasons as assistant men's and women's tennis coach at Reinhardt University in Waleska, Georgia. During his time at Reinhardt, he helped coach the men's team to a program-high No. 15 national ranking, back-to-back winning seasons and its first-ever conference tournament championship. The team also qualified for the NAIA national tournament and advanced to the Round of 16.

Cobb helped the Reinhardt women's team to its first-ever back-to-back winning seasons and its first-ever regular season championship in 2015. The women's team also earned a No. 22 national ranking and advanced to the conference tournament finals in both 2014 and 2015.

As a collegiate player, Cobb played four seasons at Reinhardt and earned All-Appalachian Athletic Conference honors and Academic All-AAC accolades during his career. A three-time AAC Player of the Week honoree, Cobb was also recognized as a NAIA Daktronics Scholar-Athlete.

Cobb is a 2013 graduate of Reinhardt with a degree in business administration. He also earned his master's degree in business administration from Reinhardt in 2015. Cobb is certified as a USPTA Elite Professional and has extensive experience as an academy coach.



MOUNTAIN LIONS ROUND UP

- > Young Harris College women's basketball coach Lindsey Huffman was named the Peach Belt Conference Coach of the Year. Huffman took over the Young Harris program this season and won as many games in 2019-2020 as the team has in the past two years combined. The first-year head coach led the Mountain Lions to a 15-14 overall record, including a 9-11 ledger in PBC play. That's the most wins for a YHC women's basketball team since the 2013-2014 season and an improvement of nine wins over last season. The YHC women made their first-ever PBC Tournament appearance this season with the second-best scoring defense in the league (61.6 points per game). The Mountain Lions were also ranked in the PBC's top five in rebounds per game (36.6), field goal percentage defense (.378) and rebound margin (+3.9). Huffman is the first YHC coach to be named the women's basketball PBC Coach of the Year.
- > The men's soccer team, which was ranked as high as No. 2 in the country this season, captured their fifth Peach Belt title in 2019. The Mountain Lions, who finished the season at 12-5-0, earned their fifth trip in the last six seasons to the NCAA Division II Soccer Championship.
- > The softball team, which finished the season at 19-3, held the No. 1 position in the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Division II Coaches Poll for two weeks during the season. Softball became the second Mountain Lion program to be ranked No. 1 nationally (men's soccer is the other). YHC ended the season ranked No. 6, making it the second consecutive year that the Mountain Lions ranked in the top 10.
- > YHC men's basketball player Brian Harper finished No. 1 in NCAA Division II in assists per game for the second consecutive season. The senior guard from Memphis, Tennessee, finished the 2019-2020 season dishing out 8.5 assists per game. Harper ranked second in NCAA Division II in total assists (237) and third in triple-doubles (1). Harper also was ranked seventh in steals per game (2.39) and 14th in total steals with 67.
- > The YHC men's golf and baseball teams were also ranked during the season. Men's golf was ranked as high as 17th in the Bushnell Golfweek Division II Coaches Poll, while the baseball team was ranked as high as 33rd in the Collegiate Baseball NCAA Division II Coaches Poll.
- > Both the men's and women's soccer teams earned the United Soccer Coaches Team Academic Award. For the men, it was the ninth consecutive year they have received that distinction, while the women earned the honor for the sixth time.
- > Dani Fischer was named to the United Soccer Coaches Division II All-America second team, as well as the United Soccer Coaches Division II Men's Scholar All-America team.
- > Women's golfer Hannah Walker and men's golfer John Lichtenwalner were named Peach Belt Conference Elite 15 Award winners for their respective sport. The PBC Elite 15 Award is modeled after the NCAA's Elite 90 and honors the student-athletes competing in the championship event with the highest cumulative GPA. Walker, who is a senior environmental science major, has a 4.0 GPA, while Lichtenwalner, who is a junior accounting major, has a 3.96 GPA. Both are from Cumming, Georgia.



HUFFMAN



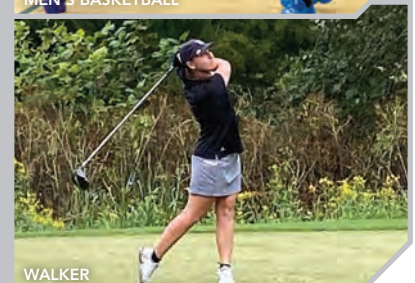
MEN'S SOCCER



SOFTBALL



MEN'S BASKETBALL



WALKER

11 Mountain Lions earned **All-Peach Belt Conference honors** this season. Included in that total is senior **Hannah Walker**, who became only the third women's golfer in **league history** to be named to the **All-PBC team all four seasons** of her college career.

13 YHC student-athletes were named **Player of the Week** by their respective conference this season.

37 Mountain Lions were named to their respective sports' **Team of Academic Distinction** by the Peach Belt this year. **Softball** led with eight players, while **women's soccer** was next with six.

226 Young Harris student-athletes had a **3.0 GPA or higher** during the Fall 2019 semester.

COMMUNITY MEMBERS SUPPORT *The Big Prom* WITH DÉCOR, DINNER AND DANCING

On Saturday, March 7, Young Harris College hosted The Big Prom to raise scholarship funds for more than 200 students from eight surrounding counties: Fannin, Gilmer, Pickens, Rabun, Towns and Union counties in Georgia, and Cherokee and Clay counties in North Carolina. More than 200 community members attended the event, which raises needed funds for the Bob and Carol Head Local Scholarship Campaign. Many thanks to Impact Wealth Builder, our presenting sponsor.

“We enjoyed providing a fun night for our community to make an impact on our students,” said YHC’s Director of Annual Giving Mackenzie Harkins.

In addition to a great DJ and fun photo booth, participants enjoyed a table-decorating contest. David and Sherry Bubeck of Blairsville, Georgia, won the contest, and their group will receive a free table at the next Big Prom.

To view more photos of the fun night, visit YHC’s Flickr account at [flickr.com/photos/youngharriscollege/albums](https://www.flickr.com/photos/youngharriscollege/albums). We look forward to dancing with our supporters again next year!



Help YHC Cross the Finish Line FOR CLASS SCHOLARSHIP CHALLENGE

Many alumni have been able to attend Young Harris College because someone cared enough to provide them with financial assistance. Now, they have the chance to pay it forward—while also engaging in a little friendly competition!

Alumni from across the generations are rallying together to help deserving students attend their alma mater.

Scholarships are awarded every fall to current and incoming YHC students. Whether you just graduated or it's been a few years since your days at YHC, **you most likely received some form of scholarship or financial assistance, and the Class Scholarship Challenge is a great way to give back and pay**

it forward. By making this commitment, we can promote unity and spirit within each class, while helping current and future students benefit from the same outstanding experience you enjoyed at YHC.

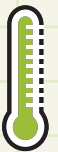
Organized by class coordinators, the Class Scholarship Challenge encourages each alumni class to raise \$1,000 or more each year for student scholarships. There is power in numbers—if 100 members of your class give just \$10 each, your class has reached its goal!

This year, our generous alumni have exceeded the fundraising goal of \$150,000! However, bragging rights for the winning class are still up for grabs. We hope you will consider giving to the Class Scholarship Challenge today.

Visit yhc.edu/csc, and help our students achieve their educational goals.

For more information on the Class Scholarship Challenge, contact your class coordinator, or contact Director of Annual Giving Mackenzie Harkins at (706) 379-5318 or mharkins@yh.edu.

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE
YHC.EDU/CSC



A Meaningful Way to Celebrate A MEANINGFUL ANNIVERSARY

The class of 1970 has set a goal of raising \$30,000 for its 50th Anniversary Gift. This money will go to the Young Harris Fund, which supports scholarships for YHC's incredible students. More than 95 percent of YHC's students receive financial support, so this is a gift that will make a true impact. The class has three years to meet its goal. **If you're in the class of 1970 and are interested in contributing to the class gift, please contact your class coordinators: Jane Harrell Roberts (jane.h.roberts@gmail.com), Harriett Matthews Ward (hward16@sc.rr.com) and Sue Loudermilk Ledford (alice.ledford@yahoo.com). Thank you, class of 1970!**

3 Questions

LELAND BAGWELL, '19
ATLANTA, GEORGIA

1. What is your favorite memory from your time at YHC?
Cooking dinner with my friends every Tuesday
2. What makes YHC special to you?
The small, tight-knit community
3. What motivates you to give to YHC?
YHC has given so much to me, it is the least I can do to give a little back.



COURTESY PHOTO



JOIN THE HILL SOCIETY for Planned Gifts

You have the power to make a lasting impact on Young Harris College, and all it takes is a small update to your estate plan. You can join the Hill Society for Planned Gifts by designating YHC as a beneficiary of any of the following accounts:

- IRA, 401(k) or 403(b) retirement accounts
- Investment accounts
- Checking, savings or CD accounts
- Life insurance policies

To name Young Harris College as a beneficiary, ask your account custodian, insurance agent or bank to send you a beneficiary designation form. Then, complete and return the form. You can name family, friends and/or an organization like ours to inherit your account. Leaving a gift to YHC allows us to continue our work to educate students to make a difference in society and the world.

For more information on joining the W. Harry and Harriet Hill Society for Planned Gifts, please contact Director of Development Paul Summer at (706) 379-5237 or psummer@yhc.edu.

Richard McGinnis Named TRUSTEE EMERITUS

Longtime Board of Trustees member Richard McGinnis has been named Trustee Emeritus in honor of his distinguished tenure on the board.

McGinnis and his wife, Shirley, first became acquainted with the College following Richard's retirement from a career in advertising. The couple, who had a home in Blairsville, frequented the YHC campus for years to attend concerts, theatrical performances, lectures and athletic events before moving to the area permanently. A camping trip with YHC Trustee and alumnus Paul Beckham, '63, proved to be the turning point in their involvement with the College. Beckham had recently been elected chairman of the board, and around the campfire, McGinnis and some friends decided to give to the College to support him.

What started as the donation of a new sound system for Glenn Auditorium turned into several more gifts to the Young Harris Fund, the Mountain Lions Booster Club and the Clay Dotson Open. Beckham also talked McGinnis into joining the board himself, and McGinnis was elected in 2004. Over the years, he served on both the Properties and Student Affairs committees.

Though they have helped YHC in many ways, Richard and Shirley McGinnis's real passion has been in supporting the College's

fine arts programs. In 2012, they donated to help develop and design a new performing arts center, now known as Glenn-McGinnis Hall. Today, Glenn-McGinnis Hall offers a seating capacity of more than 1,000 and a large stage and orchestra pit for theatre and music presentations. Renovations to the Clegg Fine Arts Building, which houses Glenn-McGinnis Hall, include new seating, improved acoustics, a new HVAC system, enhanced lighting and a catwalk.



For their longtime support of the College, Richard and Shirley McGinnis received the Young Harris College Medallion in 2014. Richard, a lifelong music lover, was even able to conduct the band during the 2015 spring concert.

Thank you, Richard, for your years of support. We look forward to seeing you and Shirley at the next concert!



COURTESY PHOTO

YHC Welcomes NEW TRUSTEE

The Young Harris College Board of Trustees has elected a new member, Chris Wadle.

Wadle is the founder and CEO of Lamin-X Protective Films, a manufacturer of industrial tape for the automotive industry headquartered in Blairsville, Georgia. Wadle started the company in 2003 out of his bedroom and has since grown it to a multi-million dollar business with 20 full-time employees. Wadle also is a commercial property developer in Union County. Some of his projects include the 5&10 historic property and Merchants Walk, both in downtown Blairsville.

A native of Florida, Wadle earned a bachelor's degree in business administration from Daytona State College. He spent eight years serving on the board of directors for the Blairsville-Union County Chamber of Commerce, including serving as board chairman from 2016 to 2018. He mentors students at Union County High School, and in his free time, he races cars professionally and flies airplanes.

Alumnus Ray Lambert, '77, SAVES APPLEBY WALL

Part of Young Harris College's appeal is its history, and thanks to one alumnus, a historic piece of campus architecture will be preserved well into the future.

Past visitors to campus may have noticed that the stone wall in front of the Appleby Center residence hall had seen better days. Poor drainage and decades of freezing and thawing had caused the mortar holding the stones together to break down and the wall to bulge outward. It would not be long before the more than 100-year-old wall fell down.

In stepped Ray Lambert, '77, a member of the YHC Board of Trustees, as well as the owner of Lambert Sand & Gravel. Lambert wanted to preserve this piece of YHC history rather than replace it. So he brought his grading equipment from McDonough, Georgia, to Young Harris and led a crew of YHC's grounds and maintenance staff in fixing the wall.

Over several 10-hour days, the crew dug out the saturated soil behind the wall, installed pipes to help drain the water better, attached anchors to hold everything in place, and poured concrete reinforcements. If the College had replaced the wall, it would have cost more than \$100,000, but Lambert Sand & Gravel was able to repair the wall for a fraction of the cost.

More importantly, however, Lambert and the crew were able to preserve a piece of YHC history.



CLASS NOTES

As provided to the College from July 2019–April 2020

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

Send achievements, announcements and photos to alumni@yhc.edu or submit them online at yhc.edu/alumni under “Share Your Story.”

All Class Notes photos are provided courtesy of featured alumni and friends of the College.

1950s



On October 26, 2019, the **class of 1958** gathered in Arnoldsville, Georgia, for its annual BBQ hosted by **Carole Morgan Bramlett, '58**, and Dorsey Bramlett.

1970s



John Beverstein, '78, and **Charlie Ginn, '78**, organized several YHC alumni from the classes of 1977–1980 to raise funds for the MS Foundation and compete in a 35-mile bike ride, which was held in LaGrange, Georgia. They

rallied around classmate **Bonnie Moye Manning, '78**, who has struggled with MS for more than 25 years. The team had 11 bike riders and several other classmates who joined in as cheerleaders for the riders. They raised more than \$15,000 for MS and earned the “Rookie Team of the Year” award from the MS Foundation.

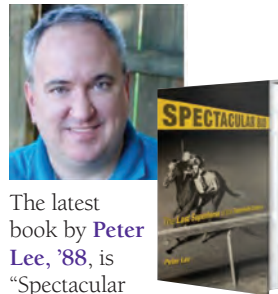


Lydia Jackson Sartain, '79, recently opened her own law practice in Hall County, Georgia, specializing in family law and resolving high-conflict mediation cases.

1980s

Lt. Col. Michael Thomas, '80, transferred to the United States Central Command headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida in June 2018 from the National Media

Exploitation Center in Bethesda, Maryland. He is working as a deputy branch chief of the Current Operations Branch. Michael and Kim are enjoying the Florida quality of life.



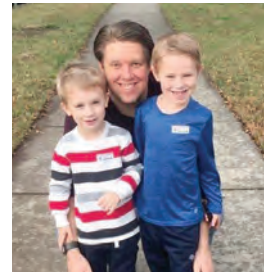
The latest book by **Peter Lee, '88**, is “Spectacular Bid: The Last Superhorse of the Twentieth Century.” The book is published by the University Press of Kentucky and is available at bookstores nationwide, including Amazon and Barnes and Noble. Learn more about the book at spectacularbidbook.com.

1990s

Daunita Fleming Maennle, '91, became supervisor of the adult unit at the Cherokee County Department of Social

Services in Murphy, North Carolina, in April 2019.

2000s



In May 2019, **Dr. Brandon Butler, '00**, son of **Frank, '76**, and **Norma Bass Butler, '78**, was awarded the Doctoral Mentoring Award by the Darden College of Education and Professional Studies at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. Dr. Butler is an associate professor of teaching and learning at Old Dominion, where he has taught since 2011 after earning his Ph.D. from the University of Georgia. Not only has he supported doctoral students by creating unique co-teaching opportunities, he has designed courses on special topics to further understand teacher

education practices and research. Dr. Butler has also provided professional development and research opportunities for his students that have opened doors to advanced careers. He has written an impressive number of book chapters and articles, which often list his students as co-authors. Dr. Butler is married to Kristen Lathem Butler, originally of Gainesville, Georgia, who is a middle school teacher in Norfolk. They have two children, Jackson (6) and Samuel (4).



Dr. Brian K. Creasman, '01, superintendent of Fleming County Schools, was named Kentucky's 33rd Superintendent of the Year by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators.



David Cannon, '02, is a full-time commercial and editorial photographer. He specializes in architectural and lifestyle photography. In 2006, he married interior designer **Stephanie Davis Cannon, '02**. They have two daughters, Shiloh and Afton, and live in Monroe, Georgia.

The second edition of David's book, “Fly Fishing Georgia: A No Nonsense Guide to Top Waters,” is due for release this year. To view his work, visit davidcannonphotography.com.

In 2018, Stephanie was named one of America's 100 Most Creative People by Country Living. To learn more about her work, visit stephaniecannoncreative.com.

David said, “Looking back, our time at YHC was so short. Since it was a two-year school when we were there in 2000-2002, it now seems like a blink of an eye in retrospect. But it can't be overstated how significant that time was for us personally, professionally, socially, spiritually and academically. Stephanie and I met and were in the same group of friends at YHC, started dating after our time there was over, and got married shortly after college. I can't imagine life without her and our two daughters. Still, nearly 20 years later, many of our closest friendships have their roots at Young Harris. And professionally, it was my time in the

mountains and away from the suburbs and the city that made me realize that I wanted to live my life a little further out. Those days of exploring resulted in a love of fly fishing, which led to writing, and then ultimately, shooting photos in the hunting and fishing industries as my career. None of the above would have been the same if not for our time in that special valley.”

Upon graduating from YHC, **Sarah Kay, '07**, attended Georgia College & State University. After surviving a battle with leukemia, Sarah is back in law school at Indiana University. More of Sarah's story can be found in an article provided courtesy of the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law and located at <https://mckinneylaw.iu.edu/news/releases/2019/09/iu-mckinney-2l-sarah-kay-finally-back-in-class.html>. Sarah's photo is courtesy of photographer Dave Jaynes.

"My time at Young Harris College was one of the most enjoyable and transformative times in my life," said Sarah. "I still have such fond memories of the Enchanted Valley. From the professors, the lessons learned and the lifelong friendships that I developed, I will forever hold YHC in my heart."



Dr. Holly Weber Arnold, '02, published "Dear Younger Self: What I Wish You'd Known." The book is available on Amazon and at Pat's Hallmark in Blairsville, Georgia. Through awkward anecdotes, mom-humor and Jesus-filled truths, Dr. Arnold travels back in time in inspirational messages she writes to her younger self. Dr. Arnold shares advice geared toward the struggles of her younger years and provides actionable steps to equip and empower readers to practice living the life God has planned for them.



based on the concept that there are enough resources in every community to meet the needs of that community. His previous company, beremedy, was one of the organizations that brought aid to Haiti after the earthquake using social media to network organizations, the U.N. and U.S. Marines. Both Purposity and beremedy have been able to help thousands of people so far. To learn more, view Blake's 2012 TED Talk on YouTube titled "The Easiest Way to Help Other People: Blake Canterbury at TEDxBend."



Elizabeth Mangham Crase, '02, is the educational director at Orphan Girl Children's Theatre in Butte, Montana.

Blake Canterbury, '04, is the founder and CEO of Purposity, an organization that uses social media to connect those in need with those who can help. It is



2010s

Whitney Marcus Eller, '14, started pharmacy school in August 2015

at Wingate University School of Pharmacy in Hendersonville, North Carolina, and completed her doctorate (PharmD) in May 2019. She now works as a clinical pharmacist at King's Pharmacy in Murphy, North Carolina and loves helping and giving back to her small town. Whitney married Korey Eller on December 8, 2018, and they are living happily ever after in Murphy.

Kaleb Garrett, '14, is a singer/songwriter. He has worked with award-winning Music Row producer Larry Rogers. In February, Kaleb worked to write songs with Jim Weatherly, a member of the Songwriters Hall of Fame. Kaleb has opened for many artists on the road, including Travis Tritt, Three Dog Night, Little River Band and Hank Williams, Jr. If you're interested in Kaleb's music, follow him on Facebook (Kaleb Garrett Music) and Instagram (@spacekaleb).

ACROSS THE DECADES

In January 2020, **Dr. Ray Farley, Dr. Clay Dotson, Dr. Drew Van Horn** and **O.V. Lewis** visited together in Chattanooga, Tennessee. ▶



Dr. Steve Harvey, who taught English at YHC from 1976–2014, recently wrote "Folly Beach," a book-length retirement essay about learning how to say goodbye happily. "Among other things, the book is a goodbye to teaching, including brief vignettes about my time at the College," said Dr. Harvey.

IN MEMORIAM

As reported to the College from July 2019 through May 4, 2020

Mr. Clay J. Adams, '92
March 27, 2020

Mrs. Linda Rhodes Allen, '61
Sept. 4, 2019

Mr. George J. Berry, '57
Sept. 7, 2019

Dr. Charlene R. Black
Aug. 8, 2019

Mrs. Sally J. Boulineau
Nov. 20, 2019

Rev. Sanford V. Brown, '49
Sept. 4, 2019

Mr. James Charlie Burnes, '62
Feb. 1, 2020

Mr. Mark W. Callaway, '73
Feb. 14, 2020

Mr. James F. Clark, '63
Aug. 12, 2019

Mr. Tilden Eugene Clopton
Oct. 6, 2019

Mrs. Mary Ruth Dalrymple, '57
March 18, 2020

Dr. Sam F. Dayton, '59
Dec. 25, 2019

Mrs. Lu DeMore
April 22, 2020

Mr. Jeff Ditch
March 15, 2020

Mrs. Elizabeth Evans Edwards, '54
Aug. 7, 2019

Mrs. Patricia M. Flynt
Oct. 25, 2019

Mrs. Clair Wofford Frazier, '81
Dec. 23, 2019

Mr. James E. Freeman, '54
Jan. 13, 2020

Mrs. Ashley Nicole Gunter, '06
April 13, 2020

Dr. Harold D. Harden, '46
Oct. 6, 2019

Mrs. Dorothy Biggers Harmon, '58
Nov. 2, 2019

Mr. James W. Hinely, '50
Feb. 3, 2020

Mrs. Peggy Whitener Huff, '51
March 10, 2020

Mrs. Patti Kay
Dec. 27, 2019

Mr. Jack D. Little, '51
July 25, 2019

Ms. Sandra Copeland Lumpkin, '60
March 29, 2020

Mrs. Molly Manley, '76
Jan. 7, 2020

Mr. Robert C. Mashburn, Jr., '71
Sept. 4, 2019

Mr. Jim H. McLendon, '67
Dec. 21, 2019

Mr. Thomas McVay
Sept. 10, 2019

Mr. Douglas B. Mitchell, '61
Feb. 28, 2020

Mrs. Virginia L. Moore, '63
Dec. 29, 2019

Mrs. Lou Ellen Morgan, '50
Nov. 17, 2019

Mr. Robin Adair Mosher, '97
Jan. 1, 2020

Mrs. Anne Cavin Moxley, '68
Dec. 23, 2019

Mr. William L. Patterson
Nov. 14, 2019

Ms. Ann Pearre, '54
Jan. 4, 2020

Mrs. Sue Elder Pentecost, '57
Sept. 14, 2019

Mrs. Susan Spivey Pippin, '79
July 20, 2019

Mr. Brian S. Poore, '89
Aug. 6, 2019

Mr. Hoyt Robinson, '50
Jan. 11, 2020

Mrs. Jeanette McArthur Royston, '56
Jan. 7, 2020

Rev. Herchel H. Sheets
Feb. 8, 2020

Mr. Walton R. Simpson, Jr., '72
March 26, 2020

Mr. James E. Smith
March 11, 2020

Mr. Eddie D. Spivia, '61
July 27, 2019

Mrs. Helen Hammett Taylor, '49
Sept. 7, 2019

Mr. Garnett P. Webb, Jr., '58
May 4, 2020

Rev. Scott Wilson-Parsons, '81
Oct. 20, 2019



On November 9, 2019, **Zachary "Champ" Champion, '16**, and **Grace Williams, '16**, were married at Sapelo Island, Georgia.

Brittney Sizemore, '17, is in her third and final year at Mercer University School of Law. According to former YHC President Cathy Cox, who now serves as dean and professor of law at Mercer University School of Law, "She's in the top part of her class and doing exceptionally well."



Briana Bell, '18, is a candidate for a Juris Doctor degree at Emory University School of Law.

Lauren James, '18, was elected editor-in-chief of Mercer Law Review for 2020-2021. According to former YHC President Cathy Cox, who now serves as dean and professor of law at Mercer University School of Law, "That's a great honor, and she's doing exceptionally well here—she's in the top 5 percent of her class!"

Katie Rittenhouse, '18, is building an FFA program at Union County Middle School in Blairsville, Georgia, and teaching agricultural sciences to 6-8 graders.

Jack Ganter, '19, is serving as an intern for U.S. Representative Buddy Carter, '77.



Marcia Louise Hall Hamil, '19, married **Noah Hamil, '18**, on September 28, 2019.

On August 17, 2019, **Paxton Spessard, '19**, and **Anna Dyer Spessard, '19**, were married at The Barn in Young Harris, Georgia. Many YHC alumni were in attendance. ♥



YHC Welcomes the Class of 2024

We're excited to welcome a new class of Mountain Lions this fall. Early this summer, the Admissions team traveled around North Georgia and nearby North Carolina counties delivering "YHC Bound" yard signs to incoming freshmen. The yard signs give the incoming students a chance to show off their purple and white pride and celebrate their future home in the Enchanted Valley. Join us in welcoming students in the class of 2024 as they embark on their Mountain Lion journey!

Stay in the Loop

For the latest College news, please visit the YHC Press Room at:
yhc.edu/about/news-media/press-room

To view upcoming events, please visit the YHC Events Calendar at:
yhc.edu/about/news-media/events

For up-to-date info on YHC's athletic teams, please visit:
yhcathletics.com

To shop Mountain Lion gear, please visit the YHC Bookstore at:
bkstr.com/youngharrisstore