

# Herrmann takes the reins at Young Harris College

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pleased to have Coach Pete Herrmann join us to lead our new men's basketball program," President Cox said.

Herrmann, whose teams are known for their intense and tenacious play, flashed his trademark sense of humor when told he would be the school's first basketball coach in four decades.

"I was just starting my career in basketball when Young Harris was ending basketball," he said with a laugh. "Hopefully, I've learned enough over that 40-year span that will help us build something special again at Young Harris College."

The school is building a new, state-of-the-art recreation and fitness center, scheduled to open early next fall. The 57,000 square foot facility will feature a 1,000-seat arena, setting the stage for the return of men's and women's basketball at YHC. The college, which currently competes as a member of the National Junior College Athletic Association, has applied for NCAA Division II membership.

"Coach Herrmann brings a wealth of experience, and it is a coup for Young Harris College to attract someone of his caliber to bring back the success of Young Harris' nationally recognized (basketball) program of decades past," President Cox said.

Geldart agreed, echoing President Cox's sentiments.

"We are very fortunate to be able to add to our athlet-

ics staff a basketball coach that brings to Young Harris College the experience, knowledge and recruiting capabilities as those of Coach Pete Herrmann," Geldart said. "I strongly feel that he is the right person to lead our basketball program, and I look forward to working with him."

Herrmann will begin his head coaching duties immediately, as the Mountain Lions prepare to tip off their first season in four decades next fall in 2010.

Over the final seven games for the Bulldogs, Herrmann guided Georgia to a 3-4 finish in the SEC. His Bulldogs beat Florida 88-86, topped Vanderbilt 61-57 and traveled to Kentucky and came back home a 90-85 winner.

For Herrmann, the chance to build a basketball program from scratch was too exciting an opportunity to pass up.

"It's going to be exciting to go into homes when I'm recruiting and tell student-athletes and their parents, 'You're going to build this with me,'" Herrmann said. "It will be fun to meet with faculty, staff and students, as well as alumni, community members and business leaders and tell them the same thing."

"I'm looking forward to getting the best players and people we can for Young Harris College," he said. "I believe winning comes from strong character and work ethic. I'm really excited about the challenge and the opportunity to

work with a great group of people that starts at the top with President Cox and Coach Geldart.

"Everybody I've met is committed to making this a terrific program at a terrific institution," he said.

Herrmann spent the past six seasons as the associate head coach at UGA, and finished his tenure there as the Bulldogs' interim head coach.

UGA advanced to the NCAA Tournament in 2008 after winning the SEC tournament, claiming three victories in a span of 30 hours, including wins over Kentucky and Mississippi State on the same day.

Damon Evans, Georgia's athletics director, said Herrmann brings several intangible qualities that, combined with his coaching ability, will be beneficial to Young Harris College.

"Pete brings a lot of experience and knowledge to this position," Evans said. "More importantly, he understands how to develop young men both academically and athletically. It's a great hire, and I know he will do a great job for Young Harris College."

Herrmann was the head coach at Navy from 1986-92, taking over the ship prior to Robinson's senior season. His first squad went on to win the Colonial Athletic Association championship and advance to the NCAA Tournament, and Robinson was the consensus National Player of the Year.

Herrmann will join

Robinson in Springfield, Mass., on Friday, as one of the presenters for Robinson's induction into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame alongside Michael Jordan and John Stockton.

Herrmann joined the Navy staff in 1980, serving as an assistant until he was promoted to head coach in 1986, where he remained until 1992.

Following his days at Navy, Herrmann became an assistant coach at Kansas State from 1992-94. He would also coach at Virginia from 1994-96 and served as an assistant at Western Kentucky from 1998-2003.

In all, he has been on the bench as either a head coach or an assistant in nine NCAA Tournaments, including in 1986 with Navy and 1995 with Virginia. Both reached the Elite Eight. The 1994 Kansas State squad reached the NIT Final Four.

Prior to his 29 years as a coach on the NCAA Division I level, Herrmann spent 10 years coaching at the high school and Division III levels.

In his first coaching stint, Herrmann was an assistant varsity and head junior varsity coach at Byron-Bergen Central High School in Begen, N.Y., from 1970-74. He then went to Hobart College to serve as an assistant coach during the 1974-75 season, before becoming the varsity coach at Midlakes High School in Clifton Springs, N.Y. in 1975, a position he held until moving to the U.S. Naval Academy.



Coach Pete Herrmann

Herrmann earned a bachelor's degree in Education from the State University of New York at Geneseo in 1970. As a student-athlete at SUNY-Geneseo, he was a member of the baseball and basketball teams, twice earning team Most Valuable Player honors on the diamond. Herrmann was inducted into the school's athletics Hall of Fame in 1990. He also joined the athletics Hall of Fame at Midlakes High School in 2006.

He and his wife Sharon have a daughter, Lisa, and a grandson, Pete.

*The Towns County Herald gives special thanks to YHC Sports Information Director Mickey Seward for his continued excellence as YHC's official sports connection. Seward is the first sports information director in the storied history of Young Harris College. The school's sports traditions continue with Seward as its sports source.*

## Stephens Lodge Groundbreaking ...continued from page 1

that we're going to have a big enough building to serve the lodge and the community."

Lovell said the project wouldn't have gotten off the ground without the help of Commissioner Bill Kendall and the Young Harris City Council.

"We're so thankful to have had Commissioner Bill Kendall, Councilman Matt Miller, Johnny and Janice Cochran here with us tonight," Lovell said. "Without Johnny and Janice, we wouldn't even be here tonight. They donated the land for the project and we're so proud to have that connection with Young Harris Pharmacy."

The ceremony featured a large number of Past Masters and members of the Eastern Star to go along with members of the Towns County community.

Young Harris College has purchased the existing lodge facility on Murphy Street, Lovell said.

"We closed that transaction out about three or four

months ago," said Lodge member Clint Hobbs. "About the time we were closing out the sale, we were approached by Johnny and Janice Cochran about helping us out to find a new location."

"We've had a wonderful partnership with them throughout the years," Hobbs said. "The good news is that Johnny wants to continue Young Harris Pharmacy. With the generosity of Johnny and Janice Cochran, we were able to get the parcel that we're standing on right now."

"They're really the ones that have made all of this happen," Hobbs said. "The partnership will continue for many, many more years now and we're excited about that."

"Young Harris College has been a big help with this project," Lovell said. "They donated fill dirt for the building site; I believe it was 1,004 loads."

Others helpful with the project include Commissioner Kendall, who waived the per-

mit fee for the fellowship organization and Blue Ridge Mountain EMC, which donated the power hookup for the project.

Johnny Cochran said a few words, mostly that he and his wife couldn't think of a better project for the property.

"We're glad to be a part of all this," he said.

Lovell said the one story facility should allow older Masons the opportunity to return to the Lodge without having to worry about having to climb a flight of stairs to get to the Lodge meeting room.

"This is going to be a blessing for Stephens Lodge," Lovell said.

In other business, Lodge member Richard Wheeler announced that the Young Cane & McCay Lodges' Eighth Annual Fall Bass Tournament is scheduled for Sept. 26 from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. in Lake Chatuge. First prize is \$2,000 and second prize is \$1,000. The entry fee is \$125. For more details, call Wheeler at (706) 745-1894.



Thursday was a great day for Stephens Lodge No. 414 F&AM in Young Harris. Elected officials, past masters and members of the Eastern Star turned out to celebrate the groundbreaking ceremonies for the Lodge's new home on Highway 66.

Photos/Charles Duncan

## Residents...from page 1

The city and county worked together to clean up drainage ditches and repaired the road.

"The city appreciates the help of Commissioner Bill Kendall," Mayor Mathis said.

So does Wayne and the residents of North Mountain Drive.

"It's so nice to see our governments working together to solve the problems faced by local residents," Wayne said.

The city inherited the road about 30 years ago, and it was a shoddy road which is only getting worse.

Plans are in the works by the city and county for future resurfacing of North Mountain Drive, Wayne said.

In the future, residents should call the city when there is construction in their neighborhood, Mayor Mathis said, adding that since the city doesn't do building permits, that they don't know what construction is going on.

Stancil said the city will take steps to prevent problems in the future, and he hopes the city can get funding for future road repairs.