

Lowery's message hits home for Young Harris College students

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Students at Young Harris College were encouraged by the "Dean of the Civil Rights Movement" to become "Chaplains of the Common Good."

Dr. Joseph Lowery was the featured speaker at the annual Ragsdale Lecture held last week in Clegg Auditorium on the YHC campus. Lowery spoke to a crowded auditorium which included numerous Young Harris College students who, in turn, had much to say about the experience.

Christopher Heard, a junior Biology major, said he was impressed with Dr. Lowery's message.

"I thought he was a good speaker," he said. "He had a good speech and made some good points."

Kortney Shelley, a junior English major said Dr. Lowery's lecture was very informative.

"The lecture was very educational, very uplifting," she said.

Shelley enjoyed the fact that Dr. Lowery "used a lot of humor and how he repeated important facts."

Both students discussed a concept called "Chaplains of the Common Good" a phrase often repeated by Dr. Lowery during his speech.

"Basically, it's everyone

helping everyone else," Heard explained, "and they need to be agents of change."

Shelley explained "Chaplains of the Common Good" referred to "sharing the word of God, loving everybody, trying to help people – even if it's staying here in Young Harris to help people."

Shelley explained that Lowery's message and approach was an attempt to persuade students to encourage people to become "Chaplains of the Common Good."

Although Heard did not like the political references that came within the speech, he said that he felt it was "overall, a good experience."

"He's a big person in the Civil Rights movement and he really started it with Martin Luther King Jr.," Heard said, "He's been around, knows a lot, and what he said was good."

Shelley said she enjoyed the lecture in its entirety.

"There really wasn't anything I didn't like about it," Shelley said.

She loved the fact that Dr. Lowery reinforced the reality that life, in general, was "all about love."

"We need to love people that we do not even like," she said.

Also, she enjoyed the anecdotes about Dr. Lowery's personal life and his experi-



Dick Paris, Dr. Lowery and YHC President Cathy Cox pose for photographs. The Paris family endowed the Ragsdale Lecture Series to honor the journalistic career of family member Warner Ragsdale.

ences with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and President Obama.

"Obama being (elected) the first black president is not only a significant part of our history," Shelly reiterates, "but also means a lot to Dr. Lowery, because of his participation in the Civil Rights Movement."

"I think we all learned firsthand exactly what the Civil Rights Movement was about, how difficult it really was and how much (African Americans) had to go through to get to where we are today."

Former Mountain Lions in the news

Special to Towns County Herald

Former Young Harris hurler Billy Buckner was recalled to the Major Leagues by the Arizona Diamondbacks and another former YHC pitcher, Corey Gearrin, was named Pitcher of the Year for the Atlanta Braves Class A Carolina League affiliate in Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Buckner was recalled when Major League rosters expanded on Sept. 1, and was immediately inserted into the Diamondbacks' starting rotation. Making his first start in the big leagues since a month-long stint with Arizona earlier this spring, Buckner tossed six innings, allowing four earned runs while striking out four batters against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Sept. 3. Five days later, he went to the bump against the Dodgers again, allowing one earned run while striking out four batters in a no-decision.

Buckner didn't figure into the decision in his last start, either, but he did collect a career-high eight strikeouts while giving up just one earned run in six innings against the San Diego Padres. Buckner also helped his own cause with a two-run single in the Padres game.

In the three appearances

since returning to the big leagues, Buckner has registered a 2.84 earned run average while striking out 16 batters and walking just five in 19 innings of work.

Buckner was called up after putting together a 9-3 record with a 3.32 ERA in 18 appearances, 16 as a starter, with Arizona's Class AAA Pacific Coast League affiliate in Reno, Nev.

Buckner played at Young Harris in 2002 and 2003, and is the school's all-time leader in strikeouts (264) and innings pitched (208.0). His 22 victories are one shy of Nick Markakis' (2002-03) school-record 23. Buckner's 13 victories in 2002 are the most in one season by a Mountain Lions pitcher.

He transferred to South Carolina and pitched for the Gamecocks in 2004, before signing with the Kansas City Royals as a second-round draft choice.

Gearrin was honored by the Braves organization after a stellar season that saw him record 17 saves and hold opposing hitters to a .198 batting average at Myrtle Beach before being promoted to the Mississippi Braves of the Class AA Southern League. He struck out 32 batters and

walked just three in 29.1 innings with the Pelicans.

After his promotion to Mississippi, Gearrin, recorded a pair of saves while striking out 20 batters and walking eight in 25.1 innings.

Gearrin played at Young Harris in 2005 and 2006 before transferring to Mercer, where he played for one season before signing with the Braves as Atlanta's fourth-round pick in 2007.

Gearrin, who came to YHC as a second baseman and was moved to the mound when head coach Rick Robinson noticed his sidearm delivery, holds Young Harris' best career ERA for pitchers who have thrown at least 80 innings, at 2.14. His 57 career appearances are one short of Andrew Chilcoat's school record, and Gearrin is tied for fifth at YHC with five career saves and eighth with 15 career victories.

In 2002, Gearrin won 12 games, tied with Markakis for the second most in one season at YHC, and saved four, tied for the fifth best single-season total. That same season, Gearrin appeared in 30 games, which is tied with Chilcoat's 2009 mark as the highest single-season total in school history.

Summer's Last Kiss on Saturday, Sunday

Special to Towns County Herald

The Second Annual Summer's Last Kiss Fine Arts Festival will be held Saturday and Sunday, September 26 and 27 in the downtown Hiwassee City Park. Opening the show in down home southern style will be the U.S. Army Ground Forces Dixieland Band. The 7-piece band from Ft. McPherson, Georgia will take the main stage at 10 a.m. for one hour of traditional New Orleans Dixieland music and again at 3 p.m. for their second and final set. Their traditional New Orleans Dixieland music has survived and flourished for more than a century and continues to delight audiences today. The Dixieland Band carries on this rich tradition, bringing a taste of New Orleans to Georgians and others across the nation at picnics, fairs, festivals, conventions, and schools.

There are 58 soldiers assigned to the Army Ground

Forces Band and perform under 6 different names: Brass Quintet, the Jazz Guardians, Dixie Band, Loose Canons, Concert Band and a Ceremonial Band. The 58 Soldiers assigned to the band have passed a highly selective audition and are among the finest musicians in the United States Army Band program. The majority of the band's members have studied music at some of the finest universities and conservatories in the United States and abroad.

The history of the Army Ground Forces Band is as colorful as the music. The band was organized as the Fourth Infantry Regiment Band on July 21, 1845, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Its heritage includes twenty-six campaign streamers and the French Croix de Guerre with Gilt Star. The history of this unique band began with the Mexican War, where its members fought heroically, becoming the only Army band to

receive a combat distinction from the President of the United States. On September 21, 1846, during the Battle of Monterey, members of the band captured an enemy artillery battery and turned it against the Mexican army. In recognition of this heroic action, President Zachary Taylor, who had commanded the Fourth Infantry Regiment during the war, authorized the band to wear red piping on its dress uniforms, commemorating its distinguished wartime service.

The Army Ground Forces Band's history includes service in the Civil War, the War with Spain, the Philippine Insurrection, and both World Wars. The band fought with the victorious Third Division, which spearheaded the Battle of the Marne in July of 1918. During World War II, the band participated in the Aleutian Islands operation of May, 1943. Since 1945, this proud organization has been stationed at

Fort Lewis, Washington; Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Meade, Maryland; Fort Richardson, Alaska; and Fort McPherson, Georgia.

Following World War II, the name of the Fourth Infantry Regiment Band was changed to its current title, the 214th Army Band. In 1985, Secretary of the Army John O. Marsh Jr. conferred upon the unit the distinctive designation *The Army Ground Forces Band*. Since that time, the Army Ground Forces Band has served as the Musical Ambassador of the American Combat Soldier, serving as an outreach asset for the United States Army Forces Command, headquartered at Fort McPherson, Georgia.

For more information on the Summer's Last Kiss Fine Arts Festival, visit www.mountaintopga.com, or call the Towns County Chamber of Commerce at (706) 896-4966.

Dr. Lowery speaks at YHC

him know that we care. We serve a God who cares and we must care."

Lowery reflected on his days leading the Civil Rights movement. He spoke of his personal relationship with former Alabama Gov. George Wallace, who asked Lowery to pray for him as he lay on his deathbed.

"George Wallace apologized about his address in 1965 (regarding segregation)," Lowery said. "We serve a God who cares; we must care. We must become chaplains of the common good."

Lowery said he fell to his knees in the early morning hours of Nov. 5, 2008, the moment it became official that Barack Obama would be the 44th president of the United States.

"I have never been more proud of America," he said. "The opportunity is here for us to grasp the chance to become chaplains of the common good. Barack Obama is a chaplain of the common good."

YHC President Cathy Cox said it was an honor to have Dr. Lowery speak at

Young Harris College.

"Dr. Lowery is so inspiring because of what he has lived for and what he stands for and what he has lived through," she said. "I'm excited beyond words that our students got to meet him in person and share in his life's story and be challenged by him."

"It was a great turnout, community-wise and students," she said. "I'm so proud of our community."