

Transformations

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMEN

We have had the great privilege to be members of Darlington School’s Board of Trustees and to participate in the unprecedented collaboration that led to the Second Century Campaign. Over the last few years, trustees, faculty and staff have rigorously examined the school’s current programs, studied best practices from around the country, and assessed the challenges we expect during the coming decade. The integrity of the planning process for this campaign has been, in our experience, remarkable.

The Second Century Campaign is about much more than raising large sums of money; it’s about people – students, faculty and staff. The momentum behind this campaign has been to support the people who make Darlington the special school that we all love. The areas of focus for the campaign include not only faculty support and financial aid, but also community and facility improvements. The decisions to renovate the boys’ houses and build a new Middle School, for instance, grew out of the realization that to attract the best students, we need to enhance the boys’ residential facilities and improve the Middle School learning environment. These campaign objectives all focus on people who are integral to Darlington’s mission. In short, the goal of the Second Century Campaign is to transform lives.

We thank those who have given early leadership gifts. The next steps require the participation of the greater Darlington Community. Together we can implement all the objectives in the Second Century Campaign. We encourage you to consider how your philanthropic generosity might intersect with Darlington’s needs. The privilege of shaping Darlington’s future now belongs to us all.

JERE A. DRUMMOND ('57)
Campaign Co-Chairman

GEORGE H. JOHNSON ('54)
Campaign Co-Chairman



BOB LEDBETTER ('84)

As executive vice president of R.H. Ledbetter Properties, a leader in real estate development and management, Bob Ledbetter ('84) knows a thing or two about weighing costs and benefits of new projects. "One opinion I hope prevails as a result of this campaign is just what an asset Darlington is to our community and state," said Ledbetter, a member of the Board of Trustees and the Rome-Area Campaign Cabinet. "Making a contribution to Darlington at this time is a wise investment."

Yet beneath his business-minded approach to his volunteer work is a deep tenderness for the school that shares a special connection with his family. Bob is the grandson of the esteemed E.L. Wright, who was headmaster for 34 years and then served as Darlington's second president. His father, Bob Sr., is a member of the class of 1953 and a former trustee; his mother, Betty, a life trustee, grew up on the Darlington campus; and his two brothers, Wright ('85) and David ('88) followed in the family footsteps as well.

However, the Ledbetters do not rest on their legacy. Instead, they continue to offer remarkable support for Darlington. Romans have raised

nearly \$9 million of the funds for the Middle School project, and the Ledbetter family has contributed significantly to that total with a seven-figure leadership gift.

"Our family viewed our gift as both a contribution to the Middle School project, as well as toward the overall comprehensive campaign goal," said Bob. "And while this campaign is about much more than just improving buildings, a major hallmark is the new Middle School, which reflects Darlington's commitment to quality education."

As the bridge between Lower and Upper School, an innovative, new Middle School will strengthen all of Darlington. "This project will have a tremendous ripple effect through the Lower and Upper Schools. Improving this facility – which gives continuity to all of Darlington – will have impact beyond grades 5-8," Ledbetter said. "With over 95 percent retention between grades 8-9, we cannot afford to offer anything less than the very best Middle School program."

With 77 percent of the \$21 million goal already raised, Ledbetter said he has been most impressed by the Darlington Community's willingness to participate – regardless of their giving capacity. "If you examine the gifts that are making the Middle School project a reality, you literally see gifts at every level," he said. "The success of this campaign is determined by the entire amount raised, no matter how the total is reached. Every single dollar counts and is just as important as the next. That's why I'm proud to ask anyone with a vested interest in Darlington to dig a little deeper and give as much as they can."



Resident students check out the new facility in Summerbell House.

Signs of Success: Boys' Houses

For the first time in decades, the boys' dormitories, located in historic Wilcox and South halls, are getting a much-needed makeover. Slated to occur in phases over the next several years, the work will enhance the feel of the Moser, Neville and Summerbell houses, making them both more modern and comfortable.

Through a donor's generosity during the very early stages of the Second Century Campaign, the school was able to begin work on the

renovation of Wilcox and South halls this summer. These 80-year-old buildings received much-needed improvements during this first phase, including window replacement, interior and exterior cleaning, HVAC upgrades, reconfigured and upgraded bathrooms, and painting.

When our boarding families arrived this fall, we hope they felt even more at home with the transformation that has occurred in these two signature buildings.

KEVIN EVANS ('87)

Kevin Evans ('87) is passionate about his alma mater. That's why his family's business, Evans Construction Co., has given a \$1 million gift to Darlington's Middle School campaign. This contribution – which is a gift in kind – includes 25,000 yards of dirt (which raised the site to the appropriate level for the building), storm drainage systems, and sewer and water work.

"Darlington has done so much for my family and me," Evans said. "All of northwest Georgia benefits from this school. Rome is very lucky, and our community is even better because of the people that Darlington attracts."

Evans will also be responsible for the demolition of the existing Middle School building, a particularly poignant part of the process since he attended the Middle School as a child. "I remember inspiring teachers like Jim Van Es and Bob Rogers who changed my life," he recalled.

"Darlington transformed me not only by preparing me academically for college, but also by introducing me to many of the people I'm still friends with today."

Evans and his wife, Candi, are the parents of current students Lindsay ('12) and Keara ('16). "I really realized what Darlington meant to me when my oldest daughter, who is 14 now, started pre-K," he recalled. "I could see how much she enjoyed going to school at Darlington, making friends, learning from her teachers. That made me feel so good about sending her here. It's a really great feeling to see your children leave home every morning with smiles on their faces, knowing that they're looking forward to a day of school."

Evans added that he and his family realize how important state-of-the-art facilities are in the increasingly competitive independent schools market, and they are excited about helping take Darlington's program to the next level. "We are pleased to help with the development of a new school that will offer the very best educational facilities for our children and future generations," he said. "I want others to be able to experience the same opportunities we had here at Darlington. It's our time to give back, and we're very happy to do so."

Upcoming Campaign Events

Atlanta Campaign Kickoff

Sept. 17, 2008
Capital City Club –
Brookhaven

For more information, please contact Bob Covington ('64) at 404-281-0548 or bcovington@darlingtonschool.org.

New York City Campaign Kickoff

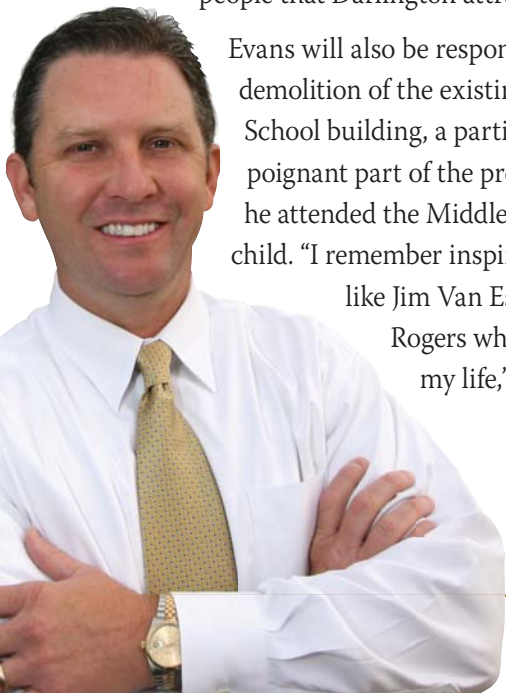
Nov. 6, 2008
University Club

For more information, please contact Julie Wilson Lucas ('97) at 706-802-4390 or jlucas@darlingtonschool.org.

Charlotte, N.C. Campaign Kickoff

Nov. 20, 2008
Charlotte City Club

For more information, please contact Julie Wilson Lucas ('97) at 706-802-4390 or jlucas@darlingtonschool.org.



SECOND CENTURY CAMPAIGN

Transforming Lives Through Teaching

	GOAL	GIFTS AND PLEDGES
The Learning Center	\$4,700,000	\$700,715
Faculty Support	\$10,000,000	\$1,199,991

Transforming Lives Through Innovation

	GOAL	GIFTS AND PLEDGES
New Middle School	\$21,000,000	\$16,197,511
Technology and Equipment	\$800,000	\$277,632

Transforming Lives Through Stewardship

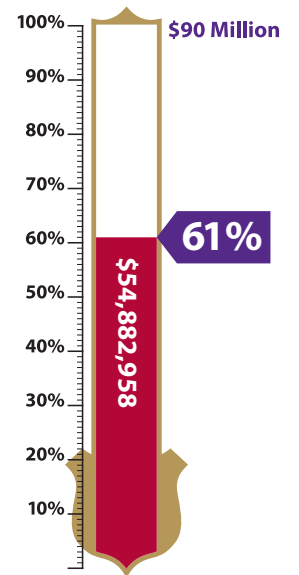
	GOAL	GIFTS AND PLEDGES
Improvements to Boys' Houses	\$3,000,000	\$1,050,000
Campus Buildings & Maintenance	\$1,000,000	\$140,000

Transforming Lives Through Opportunity

	GOAL	GIFTS AND PLEDGES
Financial Aid Endowment	\$10,000,000	\$3,566,612

Transforming Lives Through Giving

	GOAL	GIFTS AND PLEDGES
Annual Giving	\$7,500,000	\$5,849,505
Planned Gifts	\$28,000,000	\$19,021,937
Undesignated Capital		\$6,202,000



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