

# YVC360

**BACHELORS DEGREE  
IN NURSING**

**NEW WORKFORCE  
DIVISION**

**HOLIDAYS AT THE  
JIM & LINDA LEE**

**COLLEGE  
ON THE  
CUTTING  
EDGE**

**How new technologies prepare  
tomorrow's students**

# Contents

ISSUE 12 | FALL 2023 EDITION



## 3 Message Board

New technologies are a lot more substance than flash, Dr. Lisa Rhine says.

## 4 Cover Story: College on the Cutting Edge

How immersive technologies are helping YC prepare tomorrow's workforce.

## 6 Q&A: Robyn Bryce

YC's Special Programs Manager shares the game plan on immersive learning.

## 8 A Day in the Life of Collegiate Fundraising

A concerned donor's call leads to culture change in Radiology Sciences.

## 9 Yavapai College Foundation 2022-23 Annual Report

The numbers and breakdowns on a very successful year.



## 14 YC's New Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Helping aspiring nurses and the communities they serve.



### ON THE COVER

Much has been written about Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality and other immersive technologies. At Yavapai College, we see them as tools. In fact, Professor Lindsay Master's ART 230 Graphic Design III class crafted AI-generated images for today's cover. (One of the stunning alternates can be seen in the thumbnail here and on page 5.) Embracing these emerging technologies keeps our teaching relevant, and our students better-qualified for the future. *Read the full story, p. 4.*

### YC360

A Yavapai College Publication

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**“Yavapai College  
is proud to  
be a leader in  
immersive learning  
and technology.”**

## **MESSAGE BOARD**

# **Building The Future Starts Today**

As kids, we thought of ‘the future’ as an exotic place with gee-whiz gadgets that help us accomplish remarkable things.

That’s partly true. Anyone who has seen a student master a Virtual Reality program to learn a lesson, or used an AI interface to create something has, indeed, witnessed the remarkable.

But ‘the future’ doesn’t just drop on us like an episode of *The Jetsons*. It comes to us daily, in increments of technical innovation. Our job, as educators, is to recognize the value of these innovations, make them accessible and teachable, and train our students to harness them to their own advancement.

From our Art studios to our Verde Valley Health classrooms to our Skilled Trades instruction and our OLLI classes – YC is teaching with these immersive technologies. Our objective, in each case, is to make learning more current, more expansive and more useful.

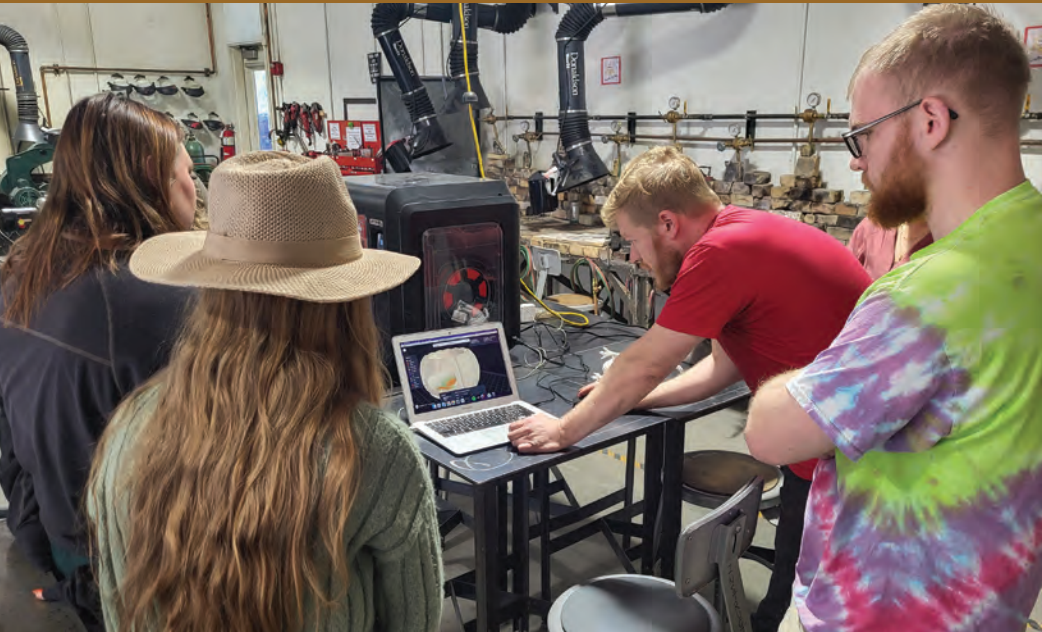
This isn’t fashion or gimmickry. Industries all over the world are already using these technologies, and seeking graduates who can operate them with confidence and zeal. Yavapai College is proud to be a leader in immersive learning and technology. They are the language of our future, and we aim to make our students fluent in it.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lisa B. Rhine". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized 'L' and 'R'.

Dr. Lisa B. Rhine  
Yavapai College President

# COLLEGE ON THE CUTTING EDGE

How immersive technologies prepare tomorrow's students



Professor Ben McKee's class, sculpting with VR software and a 3D printer.

by Michael Grady

An August morning in Brandelyn Andres's ART 201 class. Her students are preparing for an upcoming quiz on compositional elements of paintings. So, Andres has planned a class trip to an art gallery. "Is everybody ready?" She asks, after students settle in. "Okay, put on your headsets."

Their Tuesday morning 'field trip' was a Neil Armstrong moment of sorts: Yavapai College's first in-class voyage into virtual reality education. While students, in bulky headsets, guided their avatars between Renaissance and post-Renaissance paintings in an airy, instructor-composed art gallery, YC instructors, technical gurus and administrators heralded an exciting new era in collegiate education.

## CREATIVE SPARRING PARTNERS

Virtual reality is just one of the cutting-edge, Internet-based technologies Yavapai College is bringing to classrooms. "We call them ED3 technologies," Special Projects Director Robyn Bryce says, of the Virtual Reality, Augmented Reality and AI programs being used across the College this semester. "We're being given these resources, let's take advantage of them." YC is doing just that, using immersive learning tools to invigorate old lessons, invent new ones, spread resources, and teach in ways and spaces considered heretofore unimaginable.

"I'm currently only using AI in my entry-level classes," YC Art Professor Bryan Robertson says. "We have students in those classes

with an extensive background, and students taking it as an elective, who have never had to use that part of their brain before."

Much has been written, in tones ranging from enthusiastic to apocalyptic, about Artificial Intelligence and interfaces like Chat GPT. In Robertson's classes, AI plays reference guide ... and sometime-sparring partner. "Students who have never engaged in creative visual thinking are blown away by it." Using an AI-linked illustrator like Midjourney, he says, students will verbally describe an image, like, 'sailboat at sunset.' "They think, 'Oh, I can only make a stick-figure of that.' They plug it into AI and get something more developed. It amps up their creativity, their sense of possibility, and through the techniques they've learned in class to that point, they're able to create something like that." More experienced artists, he says, have embraced the technology as well. "Those students feel challenged by AI. 'It can make a sailboat at sunset, but not like the one I can make.' It gives them a level of competition that helps them increase their skills."

## A DEEP DIVE ON IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGIES

Immersive technologies are finding their way into a variety of disciplines: In the Verde Valley, instructor Stacy Turley is using Virtual Reality tutorials to teach the fundamentals of hygiene (See story, p. 12). Over at OLLI, facilitator Arlo Chan uses Augmented Reality headsets to teach the ancient practice of Tai Chi (p. 13).



“YC’s initiative: Immersive technologies provide more room, and more tools, in the virtual space than many schools can traditionally afford.”

ABOVE: AI-assisted illustration from ART 230 Graphic Design Class. RIGHT: Here and there: ART 201 students enjoy a virtual “field trip.”

Ben McKee’s 3D Design class combines VR software and 3D printers to better understand line, volume, and form; and at CTEC and the Skilled Trades Center, plans are in place to use Virtual Reality to teach Home Construction basics, as well as elements of Auto Mechanics and Electrical work.

It’s not gimmick science – although it is very cool. “I’ve been teaching for 18 years,” Andres laughed. “My fantasy has always been to teach using holograms or time travel.” But a practical undercurrent drives

YC’s initiative: Immersive technologies provide more room, and more tools, in the virtual space than many schools can traditionally afford. They can level the playing field, providing equal access for online and disabled students. And the value of being literate in AI, Virtual Reality and other progressive technologies is immense. “These will be the tools that employers will expect [our students] to use,” Andres said. “So, our role here is to prepare our students for their future careers. Giving them as much exposure for every possibility sets them up for success.” ■



# Q&A

WITH  
ROBYN  
BRYCE

Special Programs Manager



*In May, YC appointed Robyn, an award-winning educator, to shepherd implementation of technology-assisted teaching. She hit the ground running; teaming with multiple departments to bring advanced technologies – including Artificial Intelligence (AI); Virtual Reality (VR) and Augmented Reality (AR) – to the fingertips of students.*

**YC360: What technologies are being used at YC? And how's it going?**

**Robyn:** *It has honestly been great. So far, we've had VR classes in Art History and Allied Health. At CTEC, we'll be using VR in construction classes. Bryan Robertson is using AI in Art classes and is figuring out how to do VR sculpting in the near future; those are just a few examples.*

**YC360: What has the response been like?**

**Robyn:** *A lot of excitement, especially over VR. No matter how old you are, this is like Science Fiction come true. [Laughs] That promotes a curiosity that people are willing to embrace. Our early adopters tried it. Now, we have people saying, 'what's going on over there?' [Laughs].*

**YC360: How do these technologies improve learning?**

**Robyn:** *You know, the future of education is incredibly exciting, especially with these technologies in the picture. Imagine having a personalized tutor, thanks to AI. It isn't just about automating tasks; it's about having a mentor who can provide real-time feedback. With VR, we're talking about experiential learning. It's one thing to read about a historical event; it's another to 'walk' through it. The same goes for practical training in fields like medicine and emergency response. You get to practice in a risk-free environment, which is invaluable. AR adds another layer, making textbooks and the classroom environment more interactive. Not all these technologies are in place yet, but they represent where we're heading.*

**YC360: You're also teaching students how to master these emerging technologies?**

**Robyn:** *Yes! We're saying, 'Let's try it, let's figure it out. It's a little scary but it's also kind of cool.' They're embracing that. Most students are digital natives. They're born with technology in their hands, so their ability to figure it out is pretty strong. But I've seen people of all ages and walks of life ... before they get into the [VR] environment, they were absolutely against it, and 10-15 minutes inside the headset, they come out completely changed. You still need a teacher in that classroom. You're not meant to be inside a headset the entire time. These [technologies] are tools, like any other tool. It's about using technology to make education more effective, engaging, and aligned with real-world needs.*

**YC360: What would you say to people who are intimidated by tech-assisted learning?**

**Robyn:** *Some of the scariest things lead to the most amazing experiences. You get an opportunity to experience something new; go to a place you've never had an opportunity to go – or see it in a way you never thought you could. Also, you're not alone. We don't just throw you in a class. You're well-supported by instructors, and a curriculum that we've made sure is solid and meets course standards and outcomes. Come and check it out. In classes, We hear "Whoa!" a lot, and it makes me happy to see the smiles when people come out from the headset. I know we're making an impact. ■*

# WHAT'S NEWS



## YC Christens the Jim & Linda Lee Performing Arts Center

For forty-six years, Jim and Linda Lee helped build Prescott's cultural profile. In June, the College etched their name, literally, on the profile of the community they've served so well.

YC renamed YCPAC the Jim & Linda Lee Performing Arts Center, honoring the couple's enduring support of artists and programming through the Jim & Linda Lee Endowment for the Performing Arts.

"Today we celebrate another act of philanthropy from Jim and Linda that will impact the lives of countless people." YC President Dr. Lisa Rhine told the dedication ceremony crowd.

As real estate developers, the Lees have created many local landmarks, including The Ranch at Prescott and Gateway Mall. They have also supported cultural staples like the Yavapai Symphony, The Embry-Riddle Planetarium and Yavapai College.

Performing Arts Director Dr. Craig Ralston praised the endowment for "ensuring that the arts at YC, and in Yavapai County, continue to grow to future generations." ■

## CTEC Wins Prestigious "Training Provider of the Year" Award



YC's Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) earned a prestigious honor in August, when the Northern Arizona Council of Governments named it 2023's "Training Provider of the Year."

Long regarded as the county's leading technical education center, CTEC's curriculum now

includes instruction in 3D printing, advanced manufacturing, automotive, aviation, construction science, diesel technology, electronics engineering, fire science, gunsmithing, welding, unmanned aircraft systems (drones) and more.

CTEC operates as part of YC's Division of Workforce and Innovation. Its goal is to respond to shifting job market needs and demonstrate Yavapai College's commitment to becoming a national leader in workforce and innovation. The College will work strategically with local industries to provide a skilled and qualified workforce.

Learn more about CTEC and its workforce programs at: [www.yc.edu/tours](http://www.yc.edu/tours). ■

## Dr. Doug Berry is YC's New Provost



Yavapai College has selected Dr. Doug Berry, an innovative and award-winning Phoenix educator, as its new Provost.

"I am excited to welcome Dr. Berry to lead our academic programs and initiatives," YC President Dr. Lisa Rhine said. "His expertise and forward-thinking approach will be a perfect fit for YC as we continue to provide accessible, life-changing education."

The current Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences for the Maricopa County Community College District, Dr. Berry holds a Ph.D. in Psychology from Capella University, a master's degree from Argosy University, and a B.A. from Olivet Nazarene University. He received NISOD's Employee Excellence Award and the Roueche Excellence Award from the League for Innovation. As Provost, he will serve on YC's Executive Leadership Team and oversee the Business and professional programs, Visual and Performing Arts, Humanities, English, Social Sciences, Math, Science, and Computer Science. He begins December 1. ■

## A DAY IN THE LIFE OF COLLEGIATE FUNDRAISING

*How a donor's concern brought YC's  
Radiology program in for a scan*

It began with a phone call.

“A donor was concerned about one of our RadTech students,” YCF Executive Director Mary Talosi recalled. The student was exhausted; struggling financially and rising before dawn to drive to her training in Flagstaff. “The donor, who was really worried, asked, ‘Can’t something be done?’”

Talosi reached out to Tracy Rogers, the new Director of YC’s Radiology Program. She shared the donor’s story. Rogers recognized it as one of the many challenges RadTech students face. Then they got to work.

Radiologic Science is a jewel of YC’s Healthcare programs, supplying qualified technologists to every medical provider in the county. Admission standards are high, studies are rigorous, and the results are impressive. (A 94% pass-rate on credentialing and a 100% employment rate since 2018). But its students face considerable challenges.

“The program asks a lot,” Rogers, a 2016 graduate, explained. It’s a year-round commitment that makes keeping a day job impossible. “RadTech requires 40 hours a week, plus homework. Plus, your second semester is spent in clinical settings, with a licensed technician.” Each twelve-student cohort includes single parents. “There’s the challenge,” Rogers said. “How do you manage children? A car payment? A mortgage? It’s extremely hard.”

Compromising the curriculum was never on the table. But Talosi, with Director of Development Kammie Kobyleski, worked with Rogers to find other ways to help. Within hours, they established an Emergency Fund, so RadTech students experiencing financial hardship – for housing, food or transportation insecurities – had somewhere to turn. Were there other ways the Foundation could help? Yes, Rogers told them, “certifications.”

“RT alumni need continuing education certificates to get post-primary certifications,” Rogers said. The certifications qualify alumni to work on advanced equipment, like CT scans or MRI. But they are costly: “It’s \$500 to come back [to school]. With textbooks and fees, costs can easily reach \$1,000.”

The Foundation helped Rogers create a scholarship for graduates to cover those costs and turned to local RadTechs for help. “We lost a beloved technologist to a tragic accident recently,” Rogers said. “So, we named it The Alumni Scholarship for Continuing Education,



Yavapai College Radiology Program Director Tracy Rogers.

in Honor of Marybeth Wester, RT (R).” Within a day, grads raised \$800 to support post-primary licensure.

The donor call triggered a big win for RadTech students and the Foundation, too. “The YC Foundation plays a vital role in training the next generation of healthcare professionals,” Dr. Marylou Mercado, Associate VP of Health Sciences said. “Our donor generosity, funding scholarships for nursing and radiology students, is unparalleled in any community college I have seen.” For Talosi, this demonstrates the kind of working relationship the Foundation wants with academic programs. “For the past few years, [Major Gifts Officer] Ashley Hust has been holding fundraising training for the faculty. This was one of those moments when it became a reality. The Foundation actually is your partner.”

For Rogers, the changes mean a big step in an evolving program. “Now, because of these resources, we’re able to look at our students holistically. Not just as a student in the classroom – but as a whole person.” ■

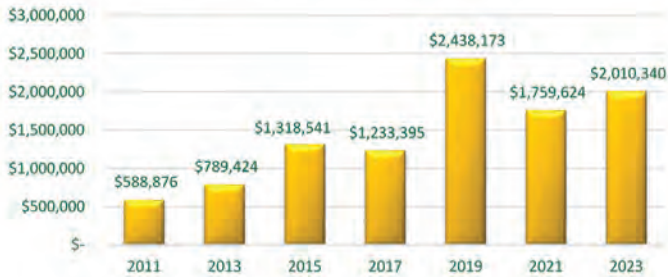


# YAVAPAI COLLEGE FOUNDATION FY2023

# ANNUAL REPORT

## Direct Support of Yavapai College

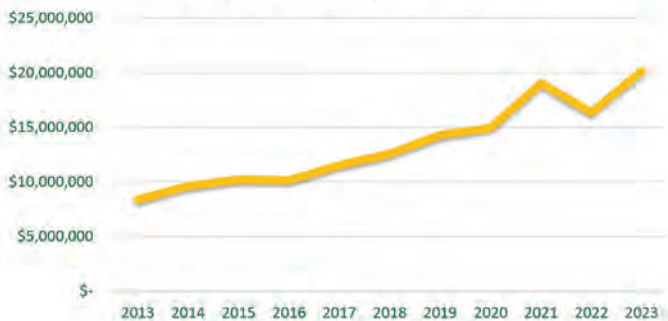
Including scholarship assistance to students, funding of capital projects and program enhancements



## Total Support Raised



## Growth of Endowment



## Number of Endowed Scholarships



## BALANCE SHEET

ASSETS	2023	2022
Cash	\$ 993,928	\$ 962,631
Promises to give	1,891,629	1,344,095
Prepaid expenses	71,783	38,491
Accounts receivable	-	-
Investments	22,697,053	19,556,258
Other assets	23,084	30,097
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 25,677,477</b>	<b>\$ 21,931,572</b>

**2023 Assets \$25.7M**

LIABILITIES	2023	2022
Accounts payable	\$ 508,832	\$ 384,161
Accrued scholarship expense	693,038	791,625
Accrued expenses	13,765	11,934
Deferred revenue	612,697	455,146
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$ 1,828,332</b>	<b>\$ 1,642,866</b>

**2023 Liabilities \$1.8M**

FUND BALANCE	2023	2022
Without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	\$ 212,555	\$ 211,934
Designated	1,312,646	1,204,771
With donor restrictions	22,323,944	18,872,001
<b>Total Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 23,849,145</b>	<b>\$ 20,288,706</b>

<b>Total Liabilities and Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 25,677,477</b>	<b>\$ 21,931,572</b>
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**2023 Fund Balance \$23.8M**

# Foundation *on the Move*



## Memories and Connections Highlight Reunion Weekend

With towering tee shots and growing business networks; sturdy athletes and vivid memories, YC's Annual Alumni Reunion Weekend gets bigger and better every year.

"We had an incredible Small Business Summit," Alumni Affairs Director Kammie Kobyleski said. One hundred Roughrider business leaders shared connections and ideas at the event. Sports faithful packed the Golf Classic, the BBQ mixer, and Hall of Fame Brunch, which featured induction speeches from Tania Sheldahl (Basketball, '82-'83), Jim McCaskle (Baseball, '72-'77) and Kevin Jeffrey (Soccer, '96-'97). Fun-Runners raced the rain, and hundreds of Roughriders, young and old, enjoyed Soccer and Volleyball, and Hispanic Heritage events. "We're so happy that so many attended. Lots of fun was had by all."

Next year's Alumni Reunion Weekend is Sept. 19-22, 2024. ■

## 'Wine & Dine' Blossoms with Age



The Foundation's eagerly awaited *Wine & Dine in the Vines* fundraiser returned in high style Oct. 21. Pleasant weather and vendor tents lit up the Southwest Wine Center, as a capacity crowd of 250 enjoyed, food, wine, laughter, fellowship, a silent auction and a splendid evening under the stars.

Julia Dixon, the award-winning Owner and Manager of 1764 Vineyards and Four Tails vineyards, proved an evening highlight. The Yavapai College Viticulture & Enology graduate spoke persuasively about the value of her education and the Southwest Wine Center's profound influence on the Verde Valley community.

"The Friends of the Southwest Wine Center Board is grateful to all the attendees, sponsors, wineries, restaurants and donors," YC's Friends of the Southwest Wine Center Board Secretary Janet Regner said, "for an extremely successful event. ■

## Elegant New Event Showcases YC's Finest

Mark your calendars for a premiere event that brings the finest elements of higher education to Northern Arizona's social scene. *Night of Class*, a Yavapai College Foundation Signature Event, will light up Prescott's Espire Sports Complex, Saturday, February 10, 2024 at 5:30 p.m.

The elegant, academically themed Night of Class experience will showcase YC innovations in art, athletics, health sciences, performing arts, winemaking and more.

Revelers will enjoy student performances, surrounded by cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and a stately dinner. Proceeds will benefit YC scholarships and programming.

Event reservations must be made by January 24. Sponsorship opportunities are available, at a variety of levels, until December 15. For more information, please visit: [www.yc.edu/nightofclass](http://www.yc.edu/nightofclass). ■



## 'Heart of YC' Ticks Steadily Stronger



The strongest measure of confidence in an organization is this: How many employees contribute to the cause? *The Heart of YC Giving Campaign* explores that very question.

Launched last February to encourage donations from YC faculty and staff, the *Heart of YC* campaign featured a video recapping YC programs that support the College family, including: the Food Pantry, the Emergency Fund and the Roger

Runyan Scholarship for Employee Development. It featured testimonials from faculty and staff, explaining programs they support - and why.

The numbers are encouraging. "We have 81 employee donors using payroll deduction, as of September," YCF's Laura Warne said. "Our total number of employee donors is approaching 140." To learn more, or contribute to *The Heart of YC*, please visit: [www.yc.edu/ycf](http://www.yc.edu/ycf) ■

# A HOLIDAY TO SEE, at the Jim & Linda Lee



YC's December shows are reverent, traditional and sometimes Hawaiian.

Holiday entertainment can be very individual. Some use it to celebrate our time-honored traditions, some use it as a break from our time-honored traditions. Some folks just want to get out of the house. Either way, the Jim & Linda Lee Performing Arts Center has got you covered.

Ukelele wizard **Jake Shimabukuro** became a Prescott favorite with his first appearance here in 2016. The soft-spoken virtuoso, whose jaw-dropping rendition of *While My Guitar Gently Weeps* made him a worldwide sensation, returns with ***Christmas in Hawai'i*** (Dec. 1), where he blends traditional holiday songs with a little island mystique for an exciting evening of old and new.

In 1741, inspired by psalms and the *Book of Common Prayer*, George Frideric

Handel composed a mighty work to harness orchestra, choir and voices in the service of Christmas. Two hundred eighty-two years later, Handel's *Messiah* is one of the best-known compositions in Western Music, and a holiday staple at the Jim & Linda Lee, where gifted guest soloists join Yavapai College's combined choirs to ring the season in with the "Hallelujah" chorus." (Dec. 2 & 3).

**Pink Martini** may not be your first thought when you think, "holiday act." In fact, this talented 12-person orchestra, featuring vocalist China Forbes, may not even know it's Christmas. But their eclectic blend of jazz, ballads and World Music tells you they can play anything – and their strong international and local following says they play it very, very well. Try decking the halls their way, (Dec. 14).

And what holiday is complete without a little girl's magical journey through a graceful, glimmering wonderland of enchanted mice, sugarplum fairies and a prince to save the day? Canadian troupe Ballet Victoria returns for a two-night engagement of ***The Nutcracker***, set to the unforgettable music of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. (Dec. 16 & 17).

The Jim & Linda Lee Performing Arts Center Ticket Office is located on Yavapai College's Prescott Campus, 1100 E. Sheldon Street, and open from 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays; and 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on Thursdays and Fridays. For reservations or more information, please call: (928) 776.2000 or visit: [www.ycpac.com](http://www.ycpac.com).

# GOING BEYOND THE MOTIONS



Tai Chi Master and OLLI Instructor Arlo Chan leads his Tuesday morning class. His students use Augmented Reality glasses to practice Tai Chi at home.

**“Augmented Reality (AR) is a decades-old technology using glasses to project data and images onto a user’s field of vision in real-time.”**

## ***How Augmented Reality-Tai Chi helped inspire an entire college***

Arlo Chan’s morning Tai Chi class seems traditional and peaceful.

Moving between the mirrored wall and the yellowing trees of the sculpture garden outside, the OLLI instructor leads his class into a pivot-and-push sequence across the wooden floor of YC’s rehearsal studio. Their motion is fluid and timeless, a world away from high-tech. But Yavapai College’s move toward advanced learning platforms was inspired, in part, by this 72-year-old-master teaching a 2,200-year-old martial art.

### **HOW HARD CAN IT BE?**

Arlo doesn’t just teach Tai Chi at the studio. He also teaches from the lens of his students’ AR eyeglasses when they practice at home. “I call it, ‘little Arlo,’” student Gary Honeycutt chuckles. “It’s great, because Tai Chi is all about flow, getting the sequence right.” Before the AR glasses, students worked off a list of postures – a hard way to develop flow. The glasses bring Arlo along, through every pivot and turn. “They allow you to always visualize what he’s doing.”

Tai Chi is a Taoist practice, derived from ancient self-defense techniques. It promotes focus, discipline and flexibility. Augmented Reality (AR) is a decades-old technology using glasses to project data and images onto a user’s field of vision in real-time. Arlo isn’t surprised they work well together. “The process wasn’t amazing to me, because it came about organically.”

A student asked if there were any YouTube videos to practice with, but Arlo found nothing satisfactory. “They were all front-facing, so you’re not following the instructor, you’re mirroring him.” Arlo decided to make his own videos. “How hard could it be?” Six months and 78 videos later, he had the perspective he wanted, but students still had to turn toward a monitor to check their accuracy. “Still not ideal. I thought, ‘In this day and age, there has to be technology that overcomes that.’ Then I thought, ‘Wearable displays!’”

### **THE EXPERIENCE**

Behind the glasses, it’s surprising how easy AR Tai Chi is. No disorientation (you see clearly

in front of you). No rubbernecking. Arlo moves in the corner of your eye, ghostly but visible. You’re following along before you know it. “The glasses are beneficial because you can go through the whole thing without stopping.” Honeycutt says. Users can also access Arlo’s videos for greater detail. “You can catch all the subtleties, or stop the video, and go back. Plus, the glasses are really cool.”

Arlo is the first instructor to incorporate AR into a class at YC. “I started using this in class last December.” He took his program to OLLI Director Tricia Berlowe, who asked, “Can I show this to someone?” A series of demos to various committees followed. In most cases, people just “got up and started doing Tai Chi.” Each demo inspired excitement and conversation and inspired his audience to think out of the box. “At each meeting, I made three points: 1) It’s a simple concept, filming Tai Chi so students can follow. 2) The eyeglass technology isn’t new. 3) I’m doing this in my little Podunk Tai Chi class. So the unasked question was: ‘What are you doing?’” ■



ABOVE: Stacey Turley's AHS 100 class splits between learning how to don Personal Protective Equipment, and learning handwashing in Virtual Reality. INSET: YC Special Projects Guru, Robyn Bryce, assists a Healthcare student logging onto the Tutorial.

# Lather, Rinse and Reboot

## Allied Health class learns hygiene in the virtual space

**H**ow do you make an age-old lesson new and exciting? And how do you teach sanitary procedures when you have no plumbing? Allied Health Instructor Stacy Turley found an innovative way around both obstacles. "Since we don't have a sink in here," she told her AHS 100 class in September, "we're going to do virtual handwashing with Robyn."

Under the watchful eye of YC Special Projects guru Robyn Bryce, Turley's 15 Verde Valley students converted from a traditional lecture on infection control to an interactive, Virtual Reality tutorial. They traded their laptops and Big Gulps for the futuristic VR headsets and were soaping up their digital hands in a virtual environment within about ten minutes time.

"I thought this would be a fun way to learn the lesson," Turley said. "When you're learning about a physical activity, it's always better to do the activity to help with the memory of the skill. Now, the students will have the muscle memory of the skill as well as the material they learn in the chapter."

Hand-washing isn't new to anyone. But it's a foundational skill that – if done casually or carelessly – can open the door for

subsequent infection. What better way to mindfully revisit a rote-but-important procedure than to perform it through a virtual lens? "We want to make classes like these interesting and engaging," Bryce said. "The worst thing we can be is boring."

The AHS class was broken into two groups. Students took turns at the handwashing tutorial before moving over to a live exercise, where Turley demonstrated the proper procedures for donning Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). "As we're learning how to operate the headsets, it's important to have 4-6 students per faculty member, in order to give assistance and guidance," Turley advised.

The hybrid class proceeded smoothly, and students seemed to enjoy the experience. In surveys, an overwhelming majority said the VR exercise increased engagement and excitement in the lesson.

"I will definitely incorporate VR in the future," Turley said. "I feel VR and AI allow us to learn subjects that are difficult to understand by just reading about them." ■

# YC ROLLS OUT BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN NURSING DEGREE



ABOVE: Local Healthcare leaders joined YC Faculty to mark the new BSN degree in Nursing. (Left to right) Dr. Anthony Torres, President and CEO of Dignity Health, Yavapai Regional Medical Center; District Governing Board Chair Deb McCasland; Rita Hess, Northern Arizona VA Healthcare System; Sunshine Dean, Spectrum Healthcare; YC President Dr. Lisa Rhine; YC Associate VP of Health Sciences Dr. Marylou Mercado; YC Nursing School Director Dr. Barbara Durham; YC Vice President of Workforce Innovation Dr. Kimberly Moore. LEFT: YC Nursing School students work on a simulation model at the Verde Campus.



In a bold stroke certain to improve local healthcare providers and countless patient bedsides, Yavapai College unveiled its Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The new program offers aspiring local caregivers an affordable chance to learn and launch their nursing careers while remaining in the community.

"This degree will change the lives of residents of Yavapai County," YC President Dr. Lisa Rhine told an October press conference. "It is more than just a degree. Yavapai College provides the educational training our students need to prepare them for living-wage jobs that support the residents of our county."

Designed for aspiring nurses ready to complete their BSN for advancement in leadership roles, the program includes features to make it accessible for working students: affordable tuition; an online format, that can be taken on a full- or part-time basis; eight-week class modules that can reduce total completion time to three semesters or a year; a dense network

of student advisors, instructor feedback and after-hours assistance that ensures curriculum quality and student support.

The BSN degree is the second bachelor's program announced by Yavapai College since the Arizona legislature authorized

**“This degree will change the lives of residents of Yavapai County.”**

community colleges to develop Baccalaureate degree programs. YC's January announcement of a Bachelor of Science in Business, with emphases in Accounting, Entrepreneurship, or Leadership and Or-

ganizational Management, drew more than 200 registrations when it opened last fall.

The Nursing degree was hailed by local healthcare providers, who hoped to see similar enthusiasm in a county where the average age is 55, and hospitals, clinics and urgent care centers often struggle for qualified staff.

"Partnering with Yavapai College helps us to strengthen our workforce now and into the future," Dignity Health/Yavapai Regional Medical Center CEO Dr. Anthony Torres said. "We need qualified nurses, qualified physicians, and qualified support staff. The College is going to afford us that opportunity to collaborate for people not only to live here, get educated here but to have a career here."

Enrollment for the Spring semester is already underway. Classes begin January 13. For more information on YC's Bachelor of Science in Nursing, visit: [www.yc.edu/register](http://www.yc.edu/register). ■

# Yavapai College Athletics Inducts Hall of Fame



ABOVE: Yavapai College President Dr. Lisa Rhine opens induction ceremonies for the Roughrider Athletics Hall of Fame. INSET: For Roughrider Women's Basketball standout – and current Associate VP of Student Affairs Tania Sheldahl speaks at her induction.

By D.J. Irwin

The weekend of September 23 was a special one at YC as the campus opened for its 2023 Alumni Reunion Weekend. The campus welcomed back alumni, hosted home volleyball and soccer games, inducted the 2023 Athletics Hall of Fame Class and hosted its annual golf classic along with a plethora of events across all campuses.

After a volleyball victory on Friday night, Haley (Shackelford) Neufeld (Volleyball: 2009-10) kicked off the Hall of Fame brunch on Saturday as the first HOF inductee in the Class of 2023. Following Neufeld were a couple of Roughrider National Champions: Jenna (Rodriguez) DiPrima (Softball: 2008-09) and Kevin Jeffrey (Men's Soccer: 1996-97).

Following DiPrima and Jeffrey was the lone coach of the HOF class in Roughrider Baseball's Jim McKaskle, who coached the squad from 1972-77 with Roughrider Hall of Fame Baseball Coach Gary Ward. While at YC, McKaskle helped guide the Roughriders to two National Championships.

After the four individual inductees spoke, the attention turned to the team inductees: the 1997 men's soccer team that captured the program's third National Championship with a 23-0-1 record and

the 1982-83 women's basketball team that went 25-5 (a perfect 11-0 record at home) and captured the Region Championship while going to the NJCAA National Tournament.

Unbeknownst to most in the crowd, Yavapai College's Vice President of Community Relations and Student Development Rodney Jenkins, after thanking those in attendance for their contributions to the college, revealed the final/surprise inductee into the 2023 class as none other than Tania Sheldahl.

Sheldahl, a member of the 1982-83 women's basketball team, is the current Associate Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students at Yavapai College and has dedicated the majority of her life to the betterment of student life at YC.

Sheldahl, in slight shock of her recognition, took the stage and encapsulated YC perfectly with her remarks.

"Connecting with you ladies again has been phenomenal." Sheldahl said. "I enjoyed Yavapai College so much, I never left, and it was the best decision I ever made. I often say that I have been blessed to be able to grow personally and professionally at YC and Yavapai College has given me so much. Roughriders for life." ■



## HONORING THE SUPERHEROES OF ADVANCED TECHNOLOGIES

Virtual Reality, Artificial Intelligence, and other cutting-edge learning technologies may feel like they've been beamed down from a sci-fi universe, but rest assured, they're very much grounded in reality. The credit goes to the tireless efforts of Yavapai College's dedicated ITS, Library, and TeLS teams. These unsung heroes lay the groundwork by setting up server platforms, ensuring network stability, managing resources, guiding students, coaching faculty and staff, crafting curriculum, investigating industry standards, and solving problems at every turn. So here's a salute to YC's real-life superheroes. (L to R): Michael Byrnes, Nick Rickman, Christina Goldsmith, Patrick Keeling, Thatcher Bohrman, Ustadza White, Richard Pierce, James Rider, and Ryan Gray. Congratulations on a job well done!