

YC360

Yavapai College, Your Community & You | SPRING 2020

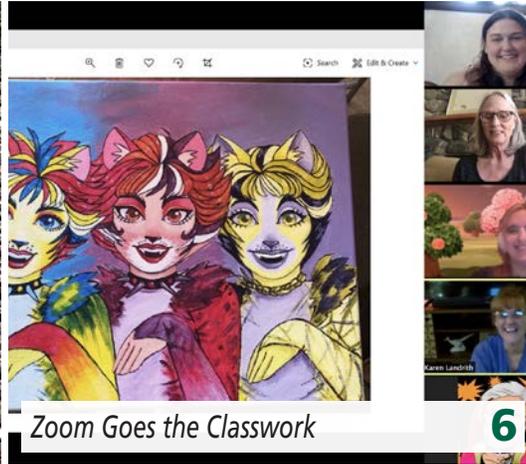


College in the Time of Corona *YC Mobilizes During the COVID-19 Pandemic*



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YC360

A Yavapai College Publication

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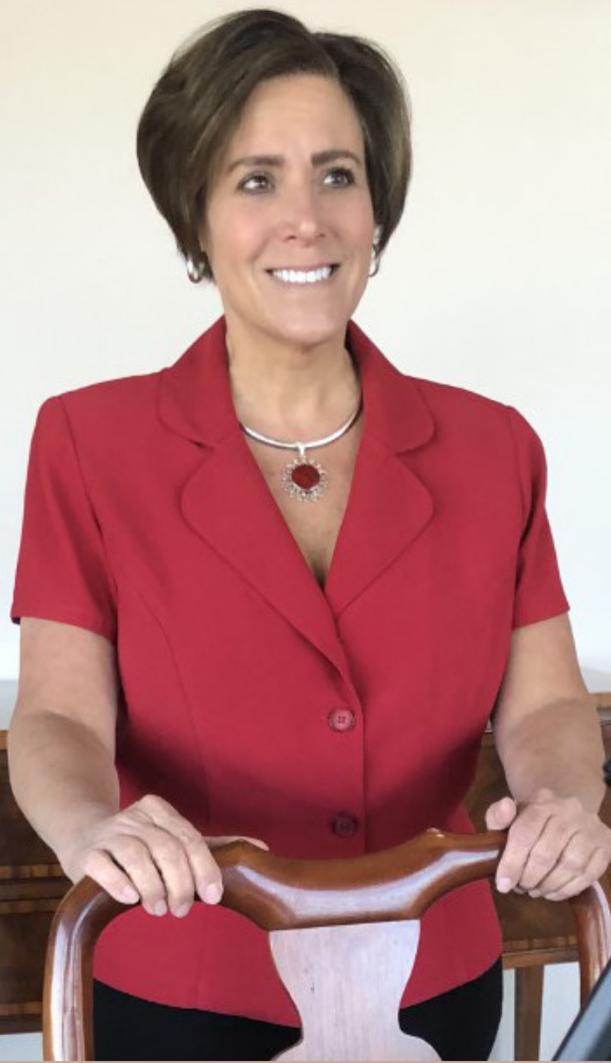
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COVER SHOT:

How do you capture an entire college moving online? That's the challenge we put to Corey Seitz, a 21-year-old Prescott native and YC Visual Arts student. Like many of YC's teachers, students and administrators these past weeks, Corey had to think past the traditional and find another way to connect to YC's mission.

From The President



Dear YC Family:

Early in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic, I began delivering daily messages to the Yavapai College community. Initially, my messages focused on the rapid transition to an online learning and student services environment. I focused on answering questions, allaying fears and ensuring our students and employees had the resources they needed to function and ultimately succeed.

The daily updates about resources, tools and unprecedented change soon included messages of hope and inspiration. I witnessed our response in a new light – that of the human spirit. I was honored to share stories of kindness, generosity and resilience from all corners of the college district: The surge in donations to our student emergency fund; student and faculty teams developing first-responder supplies; and students refusing to give up their dreams amid herculean challenges, were a welcome salve.

Some of my favorite stories of YC ingenuity, charity and determination are shared here. I have no doubt I'll be sharing many more stories in the coming weeks and months. And I have no doubt the YC family will be stronger, more connected and more human as a result of what we are enduring and accomplishing together.

Sincerely,

President, Yavapai College

YC Food Pantry to the Rescue

In the midst of the pandemic – with many local employers shutting their doors – Yavapai College’s Food Pantry has become a critical player in the sustenance and stability of many YC students and their families.

Run by the student organization I Am YC, the Food Pantry was established to assist the rising number of college students who lack of access to affordable, nutritious food. It opened its doors in 2017 to a surprising number of students who could confidentially apply for a weekly bag that included donated canned goods, staple items and cards redeemable for perishables like milk.

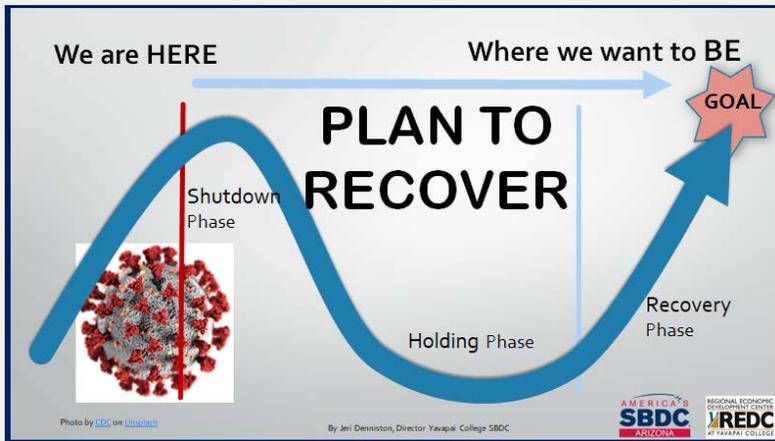
Once the pandemic struck, the Food Pantry stepped into the gap. Between March 20 and April 20, the Pantry fed 261 people, providing 820 food items to students and their families, and \$720 dollars in gift cards.

Logistics prevent the college from accepting food donations at this time. But those wishing to support the Food Pantry can still do so with a cash donation, and those needing services can still apply. [Click here.](#) 



IAMYC students (L to R) Susie Mercado Martinez, Megan Pickrel, Sarah Ireland and Casey Cheryl stock the Food Pantry for opening in 2017.

REDC Offers Business and Employment Help



The Forum will continue its work through a new site, [click here](#), launched on the same day. See related story ⇨ Pg. 13

On April 14, more than 149 businesses and community leaders received relief services information and strategic advice at the Yavapai County Business Assistance & Displaced Employees Community Forum, a webinar highlighting the work of 25 state and local agencies and county chambers of commerce, produced by YC’s Regional Economic Development Council (REDC) and Small Business Development Center (SBDC).

Presented in partnership with Arizona @ Work, the Northern Arizona Coalition of Governments (NACOG), the forum covered the assistance local businesses and unemployed/furloughed workers can find and which agencies offer services; application and eligibility information for unemployment, CARES Act funding and economic injury/disaster loans; strategic steps to adapt a struggling business to the New Normal, as well as workforce and job placement information. 

Curbside Checkout at YC’s Prescott, Verde Valley Libraries

Books have become more important than ever. So, on April 1, YC’s libraries rolled out a safe curbside pickup service. It works like this:

- Members go online (www.yc.edu/library) and place desired items (books, DVDs, CDs, music or Audiobooks) on hold.
- The library staff pulls the item(s) and quarantines them for three days.
- Readers can then get their materials between noon and 4 p.m. weekdays by driving to the designated pick-up spot.
 - o Prescott Campus – the parking lot behind the library
 - o Verde Valley Campus – the front parking lot book drop

- Turn off your car, and call inside (928-776-2260). A staff member will bring your materials out in a sanitized bag.

The idea was driven by YC’s library staffers. “We need to put books in people’s hands,” Library Public Service Manager Shelly Gilliam said, “in a way that’s safe for everyone involved.”

To get started, grab your library card and [click here.](#) 

COLLEGE IN THE TIME OF CORONA



“We discussed ‘what if we have to move everything online?’”

— Office of Instructional Support Dean Stacey Hilton

Photo by Bill Leyden

Yavapai College leads locally, teaches online in response to pandemic

By Michael Grady

On Thursday March 12 – in the middle of Spring Break – Yavapai College President Dr. Lisa Rhine found herself on a conference call at a California airport, listening to a disaster scenario as it rapidly became real.

The College, the state and the entire country were locking down in response to the spread of the coronavirus.

“I realized right away, despite having incomplete information about this virus, that my team and I would need to make decisions quickly to ensure the safety of our students and employees,” she said.

Faced with a health crisis unseen in more than a century, Rhine and her Executive



“Our first thought was Zoom, which has a good modality for face-to-face classes.”

— Teaching and eLearning Support Manager Thatcher Bohrman

Leadership Team had a host of thorny logistical questions that added up to one basic one:

How can a college serve its community when the community can no longer gather? Yavapai College developed an answer – in fact, multiple answers – by thinking creatively and working together.

Students, Safety, Education

Students were Priority One. 7,400 of them were enrolled in spring classes. 1,470 planned to graduate in a matter of weeks. Checking the momentum of so many academic careers was unthinkable. Fortunately, the College had a couple of advantages.

“At the February 24 Executive Leadership Team meeting – weeks before the pandemic was announced – we had activated our Emergency Response Committee in anticipation that the virus would hit our region,” Rhine said.

As COVID-19 hotspots flared in Italy, Iran, New York City and Washington

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“That was surreal. We’re halfway done with the semester, going off on Spring Break ... then ‘Boom!’”

— Allied Health Department Instructor Elizabeth Franco



YC Leads Locally

Continued from Page 5

State, committee members reached out to the Office of Instructional Support Dean Stacey Hilton and explored local scenarios. “We discussed ‘what if we have to move everything online?’” She said. “We gave our Teaching and e-Learning Support Manager Thatcher Bohrman a heads-up: ‘If COVID-19 does escalate, how can we offer our services?’”

It did escalate. On Friday, March 13, YC officially announced it was suspending classes until March 23. “We planned to use the week after Break to determine how we would transition to a mix of online and face-to-face courses,” Rhine said. But in the ELT’s daily Zoom meetings, “we very quickly realized an in-person shut-down was necessary.” On March 18, Executive Leadership decided YC was going to become an online institution “to ensure the safety of everyone.”

Rapid Migration

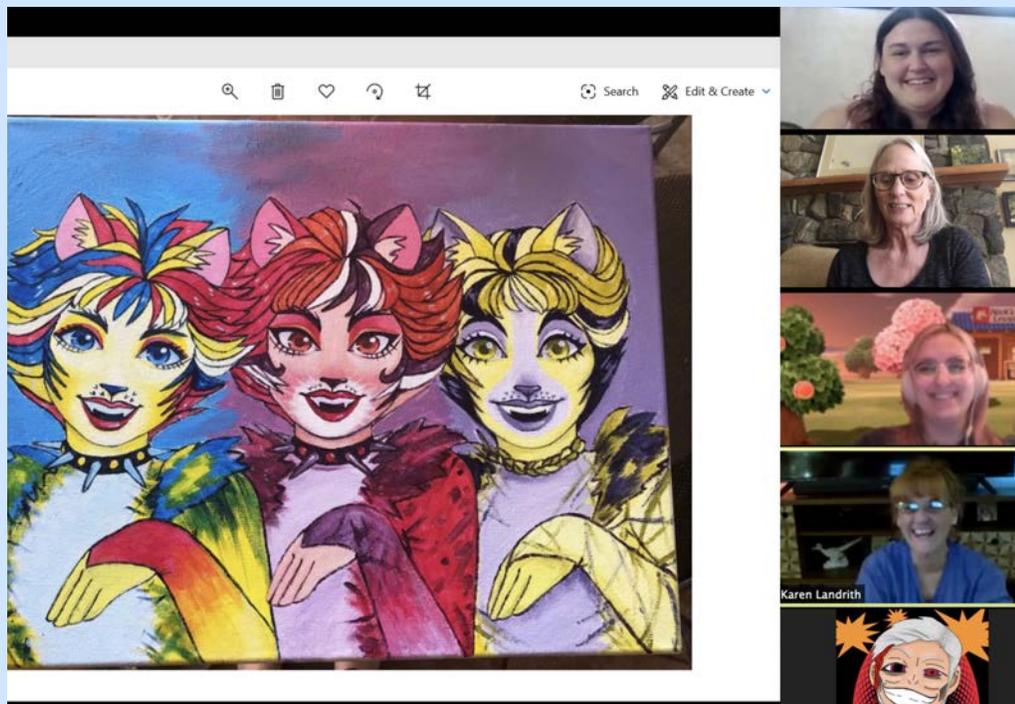
With that decision, Yavapai College – an institution with a 75/25 face-to-face/online class ratio before Spring Break – had to go fully online immediately.

“We got a lot of emails that week,” Thatcher Bohrman chuckled. “We were popular people.”

Seven hundred course sections had to transition to an online environment. It’s a profound culture change that many schools dread, and most migrate to over a course of years. Yavapai College had a little more than a week.

“That was surreal,” Allied Health Department Instructor Elizabeth Franco laughed. “We’re halfway done with the semester, going off on Spring Break ... then ‘Boom!’”

A fairly progressive culture helped the



YC Visual Arts Instructors and students convene to critique student work on Zoom.

transition. Canvas, YC’s online learning management system, served as a starting point. “We’d been using Canvas since 2015,” Bohrman said. “Ninety-five percent of our faculty already had some Canvas component.” Since each class was required to have basic material, like a syllabus, already in Canvas, putting other written coursework online was not a quantum leap.

“I became very good at Canvas, and very good at Zoom,” said Franco, a registered nurse and faculty member since 2017, “I taught two Fundamentals of Health Care classes online. But also, an Introduction to Medical Assistant class and two Phlebotomy classes in person, at the Verde Campus.” The Medical Assistant class, she said, transferred easily. “The Phlebotomy class posed a challenge. No one wants their blood drawn from someone who hasn’t physically done it.”

Learning how to convert courses, while maintaining their integrity, was done case-by-case. “Our first thought was Zoom, which has a good modality for face-to-face classes,”

Bohrman said. Zoom can bring faces together. But for classes with more dynamic elements, instructors got creative. “In ceramics, for instance, they’re inviting students to take clay home. Painting classes can continue via Zoom. Science classes are a challenge. Some have lab kits students can take home.”

Some, like Franco’s phlebotomy classes, use all of it and improvise: “Fortunately, we had already done a lot of blood draws before the break,” she explained. “We continued the lectures on Zoom. Then, we will meet in a socially-distanced lab environment for three or four days in June, to complete the rest.”

Like many, Franco cites Bohrman and the TeLS team for providing assistance and tutorials for teachers embracing the New Normal. “I’m also really proud of our faculty,” Hilton said. “They’ve been mentoring one another on best practices for online teaching. It’s been wonderful.”

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focus

On the Yavapai College Foundation

Compassionate Call from the ICU

YC Nursing Grad Becomes Food Pantry Benefactor

Sarah Ireland has every reason to be distracted these days.

As a nurse at Yavapai Regional Medical Center's Intensive Care Unit, the 25-year-old YC grad watches with interest as the coronavirus spreads across the country. "It's definitely something hospitals have never faced before." Her daily regimen, she says, has not changed much thus far. "You have a lot of different illnesses in the mix. We are still taking care of our patients, and doing the best we can."

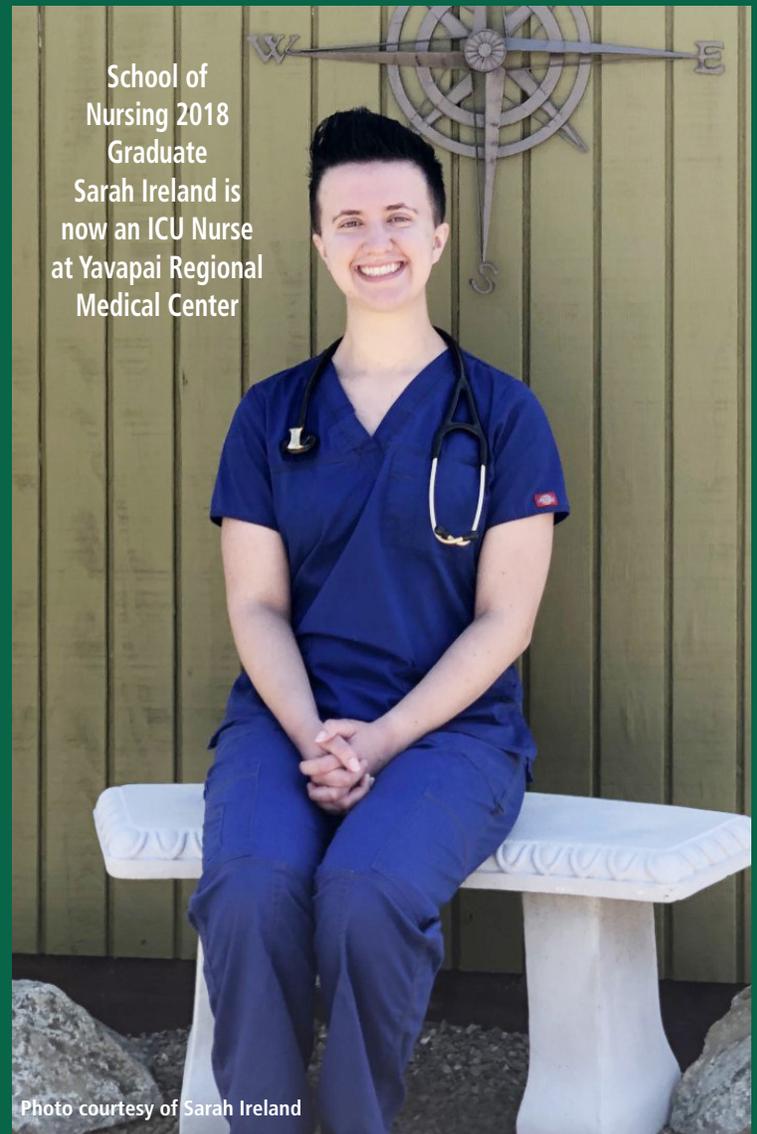
So Sarah could be forgiven if her focus strayed from her community's needs, but it does not. She proved this recently, with a large donation to the Yavapai College Foundation for the College Food Pantry.

"I just wanted to do something for the College and my community," she says.

Run by the student organization I AM YC, Yavapai College's Food Pantry addresses the escalating issue of food insecurity among college students. A 2019 study says 45% of U.S. college students lack reliable access to nutritious food. Many students, balancing jobs and childcare, skip meals in order to make ends meet. This was a revelation to Sarah when she was a Nursing student back in 2017. "I didn't know about 'food insecurity' at the time. It really changed my world."

Back then, Sarah worked with I AM YC Club Advisor Janice Soutee and fellow I AM YC members to establish the pantry, which gathers donated food and creates nutritionally balanced grocery bags for qualifying students. The pantry provided more than 3,500 meals by the end of 2019, and has proved vital during the coronavirus.

Sarah graduated in 2018 and began work on a multi-level care unit at YRMC's East Campus before transferring over to the West Campus ICU. A health care worker's life can be all-consuming, but she has never forgotten the pantry and the lessons she learned there. "I'm



School of
Nursing 2018
Graduate
Sarah Ireland is
now an ICU Nurse
at Yavapai Regional
Medical Center

Photo courtesy of Sarah Ireland

lucky to be in a position to help out. My life has shifted. I don't have time to donate. But I can donate in other ways."

As she prepares for the future, Sarah remains focused on ways she can make a difference now. "It's always good to try to learn something from any situation," she says. "In crisis situations or normal situations, we can still choose to help each other." 

To support or apply for Food Pantry assistance, [please click here.](#)

Foundation Raises \$13,000 on Arizona Gives Day

By J.J. McCormack

On Tuesday, April 7, the Yavapai College Foundation partnered with Arizona Gives Day to raise \$13,087 in emergency grants to help students stay in school and on-track through the COVID-19 pandemic.

Hosted by the Alliance of Arizona Nonprofits and Arizona Grantmakers and presented by FirstBank, Arizona Gives Day is a 24-hour online fundraiser aimed at bringing together communities across the state, to raise awareness and financial support for a variety of Arizona nonprofits. Arizonan responded with record-breaking generosity this year, donating

more than \$4 million dollars to state causes.

YCF will direct its Arizona Gives Day donations to the Student Emergency Fund. The College established the Emergency Fund to help students manage the unexpected financial emergencies that can throw a household into the red and bankrupt an academic career. It has proven to be a game-changer at a college where so many so students are also working parents on a budget.

Since its inception, the Student Emergency Fund has helped dozens of students help pay for unexpected expenses like car repairs, dental work, emergency childcare, rent and other bills.

“Not surprisingly, the pandemic has placed a great demand on our emergency fund,” YCF Executive Director Paul Kirchgrabe said. “We’re hoping the funds we raised through Arizona Gives Day will help ensure we can continue to meet our students’ emergency financial needs.” 



YCF Funding Supports PPE Production

The Yavapai College Foundation stepped up for county health care workers in April, making a bulk plexiglass purchase that will help CTEC protect those treating the coronavirus.

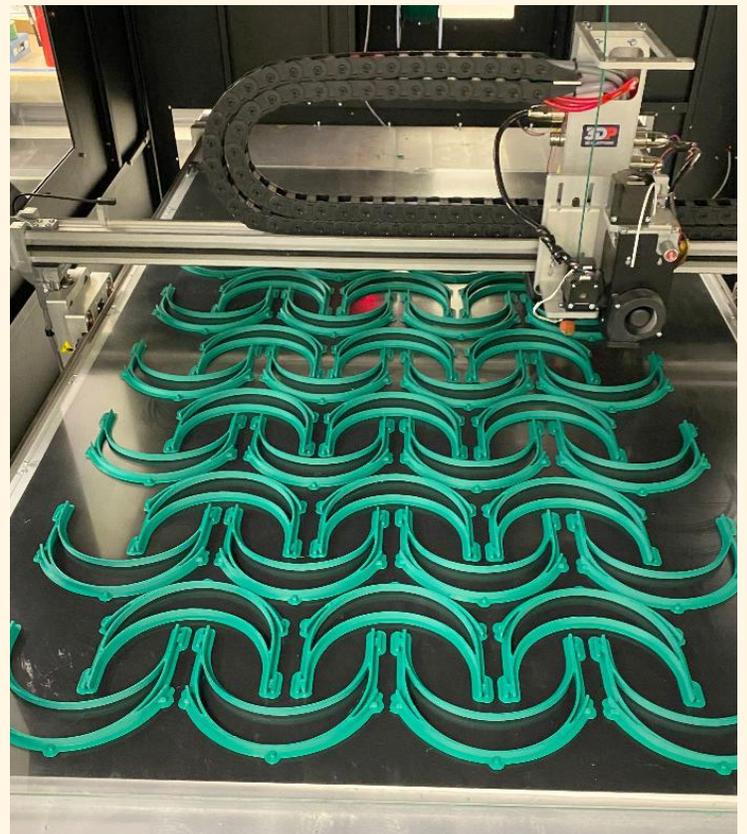
“We heard that CTEC could only take their project so far,” YCF Executive Director Paul Kirchgraber explained, “so we knew we had to act to fill the void.”

The .050 mill plexiglass shields anchor the center of the visors YC’s Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) is currently producing. Face shields are one of the crucial pieces of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) healthcare workers require to safely treat patients with the highly contagious coronavirus.

Last month, the virus’s rapid spread across the United States drained the country’s already-depleted supply of surgical masks, face shields and other protective gear. So CTEC’s Professor of Aerospace Science Matt Mintzmyer re-engineered a CTEC 3D printer to create PPE instead of drone parts. “We have all this capability, why not try to help?” He asked.

But they lacked the elastic to make the shields wearable, and the plexiglass sheathing to protect the wearer’s field of vision. That’s when the Foundation stepped in.

“So far, we’ve acquired shields and elastic for 400 pieces,” Kirchgraber said. “It’s important work because we’re producing it for



YCF Funding helped CTEC manufacture protective personal equipment (PPE) for 400 frontline health care workers.

Yavapai County Emergency Management.”

The organization, which oversees the local coronavirus response, has been requesting 40 face shields a day. “They will direct the shields to first responders and wherever the equipment is most needed.” 

Opera-tic Salute at the Legacy League

The Foundation's annual Legacy League/ President's Club event had a theatrical flair Feb. 6. After dinner, donors enjoyed an evening of music from Yavapai College Performing Arts' production of *Phantom of the Opera*.

Student performers from the popular November show sang for Legacy League members, accompanied by PAC Artistic Director Dr. Craig Ralston on the piano. Legacy League members support scholarships and other educational programs by remembering the College in their estate planning.

Held onstage in the Perry and Sandy Massie Foundation Theater, the annual celebration thanks donors for their ongoing philanthropic commitment.



AAUW's Mardi Gras Cuts Loose

The flavor and the spirit of New Orleans held court in February 21, when *A Taste of Mardi Gras* reigned supreme at the YC Performing Arts Center.

Masked revelers, in colorful costumes, got a four-day jump on Fat Tuesday as they feasted on jambalaya, red beans & rice, gumbo and shrimp etouffee. A 2020 Krewe of Javelina Court was crowned as three separate musical groups performed jazz, folk and classical favorites. Jeweled javelina dotted a PAC lobby and mezzanine decked out in festive green, purple and gold.



Sponsored by the Prescott Chapter of the American Association of University Women, this first annual *A Taste of Mardi Gras* raised funds for AAUW's scholastic programs and, as they say in the South, "A good time was had by all."

The second annual Taste of Mardi Gras is scheduled for February 12, 2021. 



FREEPORT-McMoRAN Announces Scholarship

Freeport-McMoRan is mining knowledge, as well as copper, in one of its partner communities.

The Freeport-McMoRan Bagdad Endowed Operations Scholarship will support the people of Bagdad, AZ. Each semester, at least one \$500 scholarship will be awarded to a recipient who: 1) Is a Bagdad resident. 2) Is enrolled at any Yavapai College campus or learning center. 3) Maintains a grade point average of 2.5 or higher. Students who meet the requirements may re-apply for up to four years.

"Freeport-McMoRan Bagdad Operations wants employees, family members, and Bagdad residents to pursue education and careers that ignite their personal passions," a company statement said. "If and when the copper mine in Bagdad ceases operation, the people, not the place, will remain its legacy."

For more information on the scholarship, please visit [here](#). 

Pomp in Dire Circumstances

Creating a Virtual Commencement

Yavapai College President Dr. Lisa Rhine delivers her commencement address at the April 23 Commencement taping.

By Michael Grady

One of Yavapai College's most painful adjustments to the coronavirus is the need to sacrifice its traditional Spring Commencement ceremony. "We were all disappointed," Registrar Sheila Jarrell says. "It isn't just an event. It's a highlight. For our students, their families, and everyone at the College, commencement represents the culmination of a lot of work."

So Jarrell gathered an eclectic team to create an online ceremony. "We brought the best of our internal expertise together" in an effort to honor the Yavapai College Class of 2020.

Click Here to Graduate

On Saturday, May 9 at 10 a.m., Yavapai College held its Spring 2020 Commencement online. Instead of driving to the YC Performing Arts Center or the Verde Campus, graduates, family and friends received an email invitation and clicked on a video link that led to a thoughtfully produced hour-long ceremony.

Because Commencement is about tradition, many of the traditional ceremonial elements remained in place. "We still had the bagpipe music," YC Performing Arts Managing Director Helen Stephenson said, "and the ceremony will run in its traditional order."

Stephenson collaborated with Emmy-winning PAC Technical Director Mitchell Pietz to create a ceremony that had the look of a formal live commencement and included all its dignitaries. College President Dr. Lisa Rhine, Interim Vice President of Instruction, Dr. Diane Ryan, and Faculty Senate President Dr. Dianne Jacobson sharing prerecorded speeches. Two 2020 graduates – the Verde Campus's Kenneth Froessel and Prescott's Jessica Zieran – offered their perspectives on learning and looking ahead in these challenging times. District Governing Board Chair Deb McCasland conferred the degrees.

Innovations included soaring video footage of College campuses and grounds. "We used a lot of great visuals to connect them with the campus, which are home for students, faculty

and staff alike." And a familiar surrogate for those who couldn't join in person. "We used Ruff, for a bit of levity, and to stand in as a representative for all our graduates."

Hashtag Hoopla

Graduates and their loved ones also participated on social media. YC's Student Ambassadors compiled photos and videos from graduates to create a companion video celebrating the event. The 15-minute video was shared on YC's social media channels. More photos, videos and congratulatory posts can be found there under #2020grad. The companion video, as well as a flipbook of the Commencement program, can be found on the [College's commencement web page](#). More photos, videos and congratulatory posts can be found on Yavapai College's social media pages, under the hashtag #2020ygrad.

Jarrell and company hoped the online ceremony and related festivities conjured a bit of that joy. "What we wanted to do is give our students a moment that they can remember." 

Verde Valley Biologist Explains COVID-19 in Video Series

By Cynthia Heneage

The science of the coronavirus has been broken down in a new three-part video series by YC Biology Professor Dr. Matt Percy.

In clear, logical language Dr. Percy – a Verde Valley instructor who earned his doctorate in Molecular/Cellular Biology from Arizona State – looks at the phenomenon from three perspectives:

COVID-19 Biology (Part 1) How the coronavirus enters our cells and takes over the normal function of those cells to replicate itself. [View here.](#)

How Do Vaccines Work? (Part 2) How a virus enters the body, how vaccines teach the



YC Biology Professor Dr. Matt Percy demystifies COVID-19 for students and community members alike.

immune system to recognize and fight the bacteria without the person becoming ill, and three techniques used to develop vaccines: attenuated, inactivated, and subunit. [View here.](#)

Blood Sera Antibody Treatment for COVID-19 (Part 3) Examines a potential treatment for coronavirus, just approved by the FDA and in clinical trials, that uses antibodies from the blood of people who recovered from the virus to treat the sick or those who have been exposed. [View here.](#)

Percy presents the information in an easy-to-understand way, using graphics to support his presentations.

His series is also available on the [YC COVID-19 Response Center webpage.](#) 

Sedona Community Forum Returns – Online

By Cynthia Heneage

The COVID-19 pandemic may have forced Yavapai College’s Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) to close its spring and summer classes. But OLLI facilitator Dr. Paul Friedman saw the shutdown as a chance to bring back the popular Sedona Community Forum online.

The Sedona Community Forum, a weekly gathering of leaders and citizens to discuss local events, premiered Wednesday April 15, and will return every Wednesday, from 12:30 – 1:30 p.m., on Zoom.

The Sedona Community Forum was the brainchild of Friedman, who started the gatherings ten years ago. When OLLI temporarily ceased face-to-face gatherings, Friedman contacted Linda Shook, OLLI Director for the Sedona Center and Verde Valley Campus, to propose an online version of the forum. She agreed.

“We aren’t seeking to duplicate what can be done through other media outlets,” Shook

explained. “Our aim is to offer a ‘backstage’ view of what our guests are doing and deciding during this period – to put our audience in the leaders’ shoes as they work during this pandemic.”

Co-hosted by Friedman and Shook, the initial online Forum featured Sedona Mayor Sandy Moriarty and City Manager Justin Clifton. For future episodes, Friedman and Shook plan to invite guests from important Verde Valley institutions like the medical center, Sedona Police and Fire Chiefs, Sedona Superintendent of Schools, Yavapai College Dean for Verde Valley campuses, the Sedona Food Bank and Community Center, and more.

“We want to help inform Sedona residents and reassure them that our community is still functioning well,” Shook explained.

OLLI members and Sedona friends can connect to the Sedona Community Forum via Zoom. Each episode will be recorded and made available to the community on [OLLI’s website](#) and [Facebook page.](#) 



MAKING SHIELDS FOR THE FRONT LINES OF COVID-19

CTEC joins battle to produce needed PPE

By Michael Grady

As the coronavirus spreads, healthcare workers have become our front-line defenders – waging war against the virus in emergency rooms and screening locations across the United States.

At Yavapai College, instructors at the Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) are using equipment and ingenuity to give those health care workers more to fight with. “We have all this capability,” YC’s Matt Mintzmyer said. “Why not try to help?”

Mintzmyer, a Professor of Aerospace Science and Naval Reservist, heads Yavapai College’s UAS Program (Unmanned Aircraft Systems) which uses 3D printers to create components for drones. In early April, Mintzmyer began refitting one of the 3D printers to produce personal protective equipment (PPE), specifically the clear face-shields currently in short supply.

“ASU reached out to us to see if we wanted to work collaboratively.” YC got the face shield design from Arizona State, which is working with several partners to equip southern Arizona.

“But Northern Arizona and Yavapai County were not being serviced.” So Mintzmyer coordinated with local Emergency Management officials to create PPEs for Yavapai County. “Yavapai County Emergency Management is requesting around 40 face masks a day.”

Mintzmyer’s original modifications allowed one of YC’s 3D Maker Bots to produce a mask frame every three hours. By mid-April, with assistance from UAS faculty member Spencer Coffin,



CTEC’s Mike Schaible (left) Spencer Coffin and Matt Mintzmyer led the face shield production initiative.



fin, CTEC’s industrial-sized 3D printer was brought online to create face shield frames in the new Fabrication Lab.

With visor production ramping up, the College still needed clear plastic for the shields and 5/8” inch elastic bands to hold the headgear in place. Here, the Yavapai College Foundation jumped into action, making bulk purchases of .050 mil clear plexiglass as well as the elastic. YC Performing Arts also donated some elastic from its costume shop.

By May, a little ingenuity and a desire



to help local health care workers has blossomed into an impressive, multi-colored production line.

“We are somewhere near 500 pieces now,” Coffin said. “The printers are printing out between 20 and 30 a day. We just donated the first batch to Yavapai County Health Services.”

The CTEC program is also exploring the possibility of producing nasal swabs for testing centers. Anyone with leads on raw material is encouraged to contact CTEC at (928) 717-7375 or (928) 910-9099. 

REDC Joins with Local Agencies to Offer Job & Business Resources

The coronavirus will impact Yavapai County's people and businesses long after the virus has passed. But Yavapai College's Regional Economic Development Center (REDC) and a coalition of 24 local municipalities and federal and state agencies have deployed a new website to help county job seekers and businesses find immediate help.

YCAZBUSINESSES.ORG is a one-stop site for job listings, business loan information, and a variety of resources for those struggling during the coronavirus pandemic. The site, which rolled out April 15, was developed through a partnership between the REDC, Arizona @ Work, the Arizona Commerce Authority, the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG), the U.S. Small Business Administration, and a coalition of Yavapai County's chambers of commerce, cities and towns.

YCAZBUSINESSES.ORG centralizes employment leads, recovery resources and more onto a single, up-to-date website. "There's so much to do – both in the short- and long-term," REDC Program Specialist Katherine Anderson said. "There's new information – new guidelines, new programs, new opportunities – and it's all changing daily. The challenge is to find accurate information about jobs and programs that will help people locally."

YCAZBUSINESSES.ORG provides leads and tools for anyone in northern Arizona whose work has been shuttered or hindered

YCAZBUSINESSES.ORG

Yavapai County Business & Employee Assistance during COVID-19



- > Employment opportunities
- > Small business loan & assistance resources
- > Information updated daily

Yavapai
COLLEGE

AMERICA'S
SBDC
ARIZONA
Yavapai College

REGIONAL ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT CENTER
REDC
AT YAVAPAI COLLEGE

Find
jobs &
small business
loans NOW!

Regional Economic and Small Business Dev Centers Standing by with Recovery Resources

In addition to offering resources on YCAZBUSINESSES.ORG, Yavapai College's local business thinktanks – the Regional Economic Development Center (REDC) and the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) – will also be available directly to assist local business owners and employers with:

Small Business Loan Resources

– The SBDC has the latest information on new business loans the Small Business Administration has authorized in response to the pandemic. SBDC experts are available to answer specific questions from small business owners, identify particular

programs or even guide business owners through the SBA application process. Visit their website (www.yc.edu/SBDC)

Job Fairs Going Online – Shelter-in-place restrictions forbid the in-person job fairs that the REDC had scheduled across Yavapai County. So the REDC has put that information online. Job seekers can visit the Job Fair page off the REDC website (www.yc.edu/REDC) for up-to-date information on local companies still looking for personnel.

For any additional questions, please call: (928) 717-7332.

by the coronavirus. Business owners can apply for disaster assistance from the Small Business Administration; YC's Small Business Development Center can help with application assistance and business counseling; Arizona @

Work lists open jobs, businesses recruiting talent, and assistance for those filing for unemployment; the Arizona Commerce Authority offers a variety of COVID-19-related business resources; the Northern Arizona chapter of SCORE can

supply business advice; the REDC features on-line job fairs as well as links to training and workshops; and Community Health Services AZ provides the timely data on the virus and its impact on Yavapai County and its economy.

YCAZBUSINESSES.ORG also provides a timely and comprehensive list of services, grant and loan opportunities and, yes, jobs. "There are positions available," said Anderson, who said as many as 21 companies had posted there recently. "A lot of stores – Fry's, CVS, Costco – need people now."

The site's partnership coalition includes virtually every city and town in northern Arizona, so its reach is vast, but its goal is simple: economic recovery. "This is what we do," Anderson said, "Prescott, Prescott Valley, Chino Valley, Sedona, Cottonwood, Verde Valley – we're one big county and we work together." 

Conversion, By the Numbers

Yavapai College's Spring transition involved...

- Total Spring course sections (pre-coronavirus) – **1,096**
 - o Face-to-face courses – **75%**
 - o Online courses – **25%**
- Full-Time Faculty – **112**
 - o Faculty who had never taught online before – **31 (28%)**
- Remote Virtual Desktop Log-ins/Staff
 - o **2019 - March: 139 | April: 119**
 - o **2020 - March: 1,625 | April 2,910**
- Remote Application Usage (Students)
 - o **2019 - March: 444 | April: 409**
 - o **2020 - March: 703 | April 705**
- Remote Application Usage (Staff)
 - o **2019 - March: 47 | April: 11**
 - o **2020 - March: 289 | April 317**
- Remote Phones (Assigned)
 - o **2019 - March: 3 | April: 3**
 - o **2020 - March: 122 | April 118**
- Helpdesk Tickets (IT assistance requests)
 - o **2019 - March: 307 | April: 432**
 - o **2020 - March: 432 | April: 182**
- Zoom Meetings
 - o **2019 - March: 480-500 | April: 462**
 - o **2020 - March: 2,490 | April: 4,009**

"The biggest challenge was ensuring students and employees had the equipment and familiarity required to utilize our remote applications," YC's Chief Information Officer Patrick Burns said. "It took some time for everyone to feel comfortable within the new paradigm. I am very proud of our efforts to pull everything together so quickly. Kudos to the students, faculty, and employees for their ability to adapt."

At right: Faculty Appreciation Video

YC Honors Program students (right) created a video celebrating their favorite faculty members for National Teacher Appreciation Day.



There's Still Wine!
Tasting Room Manager Lisa Russell and Southwest Wine Center, are still providing curbside pick-up for those seeking its extraordinary vintages. (928) 634-6566.



Helping the Navajo Nation

YC Production Horticulture harvested 100 lbs. of tomatoes and cucumbers and sent them to needy families in the Navajo Nation.



YC Leads Locally

Continued from Page 6

"It's not perfect," Bohrman said. "But we're all saying, 'What's the best way to continue on?' They're discovering a new kind of creativity in teaching. So a lot of good is coming out of this."

A Look Ahead

At this writing, Yavapai College is ready

for several possible futures. "We have a tentative plan for Fall Semester," Rhine said.

Online offerings will continue, with some face-to-face activity using social distancing protocols. "In July, we will revisit this decision to see if new information allows us to open more face-to-face options, or requires to head in the opposite direction."

Rhine is confident in the College's ability to adapt to the next few months. She is not alone. If the last few months are any guide, YC's faculty, staff and administrators have shown themselves flexible and capable of responding to the next few months.

"Everyone at the College stepped up," Rhine said. "They recognized they had a larger role to play." 

Neal Baltz, Kelly O'Brien Named YC's 2020 Alumni of the Year

Neal Baltz

Neal Baltz, a 2017 graduate whose upbeat work ethic exemplified the culture of the Southwest Wine Center, has been selected Yavapai College's 2020 Verde Valley Alumnus of the Year.

An engineer by trade, with degrees from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and the University of Texas at Austin, Neal is remembered as a self-proclaimed "student of life." Captivated by winemaking and its fusion of science and agriculture, Neal began fermenting grapes in a tub at home before learning of the Southwest Wine Center on Yavapai College's Verde Valley campus.

He enrolled in YC's Viticulture and Enology Program in 2015. Each class required a two-hour drive, from his suburban Phoenix home to the SWC's teaching Clarkdale vineyard. Neal routinely drove across the state – sleeping overnight in his truck when necessary – before taking to the vineyard or the classroom with an enthusiasm that became his trademark.

"He was so generous with his time and energy," SWC Tasting Room Manager and former classmate Lisa Russell said. "Winemaking is not a traditional program. The average student age is over 48. Some students haven't been in class for a long time. Neal helped people make light of things, he always had a gift for making others feel comfortable." His generosity continued after graduation. In 2016, he established a scholarship for future winemakers. "That was the way he moved through the world," she said. "Money, for him, was a way to help people."

Neal and his girlfriend, Patricia Beitzinger, were among 34 people who died in a fire aboard The Conception, a scuba charter vessel, off the Santa Barbara coast on September 2. His name is etched on the Founder's Wall at the Southwest Wine Center and on two separate scholarships – The Neal Baltz Viticulture and Enology Scholarship, and the Neal Baltz Memorial Endowed Scholarship – that encourage aspiring winemakers.

"Anyone who earns the scholarship should know how much Neal wanted to share his love of winemaking," Russell said. "In the end, he wanted to create something he could enjoy with friends. And he wanted others to have access to the same thing."



2020 Verde Campus Alumna of the Year Neal Baltz (right) with girlfriend Patricia Beitzinger

Kelly O'Brien

Yavapai College is honoring one of its own this year – a 1981 graduate whose love for people and zeal for higher education shows in every step of her working day. For her kindness, enthusiasm, and dedication to the students she serves, Yavapai College proudly names Financial Aid Advisor Kelly O'Brien as its 2020 Prescott Campus Alumnus of the Year.

For those in the YC community, the honor comes as absolutely no surprise. "Kelly O'Brien is one of the most selfless people I have ever met," Admissions Advisor Shannon Johns said. "She gives from the heart. She is hard-working, helpful, dedicated and a true inspiration."

A Prescott native and fourth generation Arizonan, Kelly first enrolled at Yavapai College in 1978. She became a cheerleader as she worked her way toward her Associate of Arts Degree in Small Business Administration. She married Dave O'Brien, an electrician, in 1980 and graduated in 1981. Kelly and Dave raised two children, Hannah and Hunter, while she worked as Office Manager for Table Mountain Electric, the Prescott business they ran for twenty years.

"They had their own business a long while," daughter Hannah O'Brien explained. "It got to be a struggle toward the end. My Dad got sick. Mom was trying to figure out what she wanted to do." In 2012, Kelly started work in YC's Answer Center, helping new students navigate the logistical and financial challenges of college.

Kelly's advocacy has helped countless students reach, continue and finish their degree programs. It also inspired both of their children to attend college at YC. Hannah graduated in 2017, earned her bachelor's degree from Dixie State University, and now works down the hall from Kelly.



Kelly O'Brien, YC's 2020 Prescott Campus Alumna of the Year with husband Dave.

"People ask me, 'Do you really want to work with your mom?'" Hannah laughs. "I do. She's always positive. Always welcoming. She's a really hard worker, and she always wants to know if there's anything she can do for you."

The Yavapai College Alumnus of the Year Award is bestowed annually upon Prescott and Verde Valley graduates whose careers exemplify scholarship, character and public service. For further information on YC's Alumni of the Year Awards, visit [here](#).

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Hollywood & Broadway, Delivered to Your Door



Yavapai College Performing Arts Center has made its [Facebook page](#) a center for livestreamed musicals, theatre and opera performances.

This spring, YCPAC helped local audiences share the arts together

Yavapai College Performing Arts Center may have lost its audience this spring, when shelter-in-place restrictions forced it to cancel the remainder of its season. "But in times like these," Managing Director Helen Stephenson said, "audiences need the arts more than ever."

So YCPAC combined College expertise with in-home streaming services and local entrepreneurs to give the community two free ways to share the arts together.

Social Distance Dinner Theater (continuing Saturday nights through May 30) blends great films and local commentary with a little dining and democracy thrown in. Each week, YCPAC posts four possible films on its website and Facebook page. Viewers vote for their favorite, then each Saturday, at 5 p.m., Stephenson hosts a locally created pre-show on Zoom. The pre-show brings cinema insiders together to discuss the winning film, and ends with a countdown. Viewers then switch over to stream the featured film before returning to Zoom for a post-show discussion.



Each week, Social Distance Dinner Theater highlights a local restaurant that offers an entrée for viewers to pick up and enjoy at home during the screening. "I think we helped get word out that many restaurants in our community were, and are, open for take-out." Stephenson said. "Our first event had over 71 meals picked up from Goods from the Garden." Social Distance Dinner Theater continues through May. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Stage to Screen, which ran Friday nights until early May, also wrapped live, local pre- and post-show discussions around the finest Theatre in the world. Starting with Andrew Lloyd Webber's "Shows Must Go On" initiative, Stage to Screen premiered with Jesus Christ Superstar before featuring an acclaimed 2015 production of The Sound of Music and the Broadway revival of Noel Coward's Present Laughter. YCPAC added commentary and insights from local artists like PAC Artistic Director Dr. Craig Ralston, stage director Nanette Hofer and local actress Heather Scott. "We were delighted with the response to Stage to Screen," Stephenson said. "It let people meet our Performing Arts faculty and staff and expanded awareness of the plays available for streaming."

YCPAC will be posting the local video portions from Social Distance Dinner Theater and Stage to Screen on its YouTube channel soon. 



Yavapai
COLLEGE

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Photo by Bill Leyden

A Salute to Our Grounds Crew

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the College relies heavily on our Facilities and Management Teams. The Prescott Campus Custodial crew pictured here represents all 35 men and women, at six campuses and learning centers, who took on extra burdens and labored long hours to keep YC accessible, sanitary and safe – before, during and after shelter-in-place orders. Thanks for your hard work, today and every day. We will see you in the hallways soon!