

# YC360

YAVAPAI COLLEGE, YOUR COMMUNITY & YOU | SPRING 2021

## Redefining the Future Seven YC Programs Leading the Way

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**YC360**  
A Yavapai College Publication

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**COVER SHOT**

"Tomorrow awaits on the chalkboards (and whiteboards and laptops) of today." The saying is never truer than at YC. Academic Vice President Dr. Diane Ryan introduces us to seven talented teachers with progressive programs. (L-R) Dr. Joshua Harper (Vocal music), Dr. Ryan; Dr. Matt Percy (Biology); Spencer Coffin (Unmanned Aircraft Systems); Jennifer Riley (Cybersecurity); Amber Davies-Sloan (Communication); and Lauren Kookan, RN (Allied Health).

Photo by Bill Leyden. Read the full story, p. 6.

# Message Board

Yavapai College President  
Dr. Lisa Rhine

## Exploring Possibility in the Lessons of the Pandemic

**W**ith vaccines in the pipeline and COVID-19 (apparently) on the run, people are talking about returning to normal.

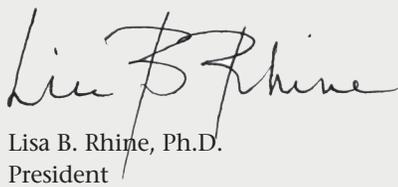
Like you, I long for a post-COVID world. But “normal” won’t be like it was. It won’t be 2019 – nor should it be. That would mean we missed the lessons of the pandemic.

The primary lesson is that higher education can be – and should be – more flexible and accessible than before. Last March, necessity forced us to move more than 700 courses online over Spring Break. The transition wasn’t perfect. But it showed us quality learning is more adaptable than we’d assumed.

Community colleges need to take this mindset even further. We are the institutions, remember, that brought higher education out of ivy-covered towers and put it within reach of working students, single parents, and first-generation collegians. Last year taught us that we can configure courses in different ways to fit the lives of the people who need them most.

That could mean a variety of approaches: shorter degree and certificate programs; in-person, online and hybrid courses; it could mean college on weekends; non-credit courses that complement local industry needs, or re-skilling classes that help local workers advance their careers. It means tailoring the form and delivery of education in ways that preserve the integrity of the lesson while fitting the pace, schedule and lifestyle of the learner.

These are some of the exciting possibilities Yavapai College is now exploring. You’ll hear more about them in the days to come. Last year was a brutal year. But we are a learning institution and we are bouncing back – better and wiser.

  
Lisa B. Rhine, Ph.D.  
President



# What's News

## College Moves to Phase Green



Yavapai College will move to Code Green of its five-phase COVID-19 Re-entry plan on June 1, with the expectation to operate the summer and fall semesters in the green phase.

Code Green denotes a lower risk of COVID community transmission. All classes are eligible to be held in-person. All employees can begin to report to YC in person on June 1, and each department has created a plan for in-person/hybrid staffing.

All College safety protocols will continue to be in place. Students, employees and campus visitors must continue to wear face masks and observe social distancing measures.

YC's COVID-19 alert status is determined by YC President Dr. Lisa Rhine and the Executive Leadership Team, after consulting Governor Ducey's Executive orders, as well as the weekly and 14-day trends in Yavapai County positive PCR tests, and the College's own mitigation strategies.

For the latest on YC's COVID-19 status, visit: [www.yc.edu/v6/college-police/covid-19/reentry/](http://www.yc.edu/v6/college-police/covid-19/reentry/)



### Kuknyo Joins District Governing Board

Chris Kuknyo, a Prescott High School graduate and local business leader, is the newest member of the Yavapai College District Governing Board. Mr. Kuknyo and fellow member Mitch Padilla, were sworn into six-year terms at the DGB's January 12 meeting.

He will represent District 4, covering Antelope, Ashfork, Big Chino, Camp Wood, Chino Valley 1 and 2, Country Park, Cougar, Coyote Springs, Deep Well, Drake, Granite, Perkinsville, Pinon Oaks, Sandretto, Seligman, Shadow Valley, Spruce, Williamson Valley, West Chino, and Willow.

Mr. Kuknyo's family moved to Prescott from Chicago in 1978. He co-founded Patriot Disposal, a leader in local trash removal and recycling. He has chaired boards of directors for the Prescott Valley Chamber of Commerce and the Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization. He served as President for the Citizens Tax Committee and President/co-founder of the Prescott AZ- Zeitz Germany sister city group. He was Mayor Pro-Tem for the Prescott City Council Board, and served on the Prescott Valley Economic Development Foundation Board and on the Prescott Downtown Partnership. He succeeds Dr. Pat McCarver, whose term ended December 31.



### YC's Kari Warne Named to All-USA Academic Team

YC Justice Studies student Kari Warne is one of only 20 community college students in the nation to win a spot on the prestigious All-USA Academic Team. "It doesn't feel real. I haven't wrapped my arms around it yet," Warne said after the March announcement. "I'm truly honored to be a part of this team and excited for the future."

The honor comes just weeks after Warne was one of seven Yavapai College students selected to the All-Arizona Academic Team. It makes the Prescott native the recipient of two lucrative scholarships based on academic, leadership and community service work in the college and community.

A graduate of Tri-City Prep, Warne joined the YC Honors Program – a rigorous, tuition-free academic program where students work on community service projects. She is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the Students of Leadership as well as a part-time campus safety officer. Warne plans to attend the Intelligence and Information Operations program at University of Arizona this fall.



### YC Student Government Gets Started

Yavapai College's first student government has hit the ground running, with a newly approved constitution and its first Meet-and-Greet, held via Zoom, in February.

"We want to say 'thank you' for participating in the elections and entrusting us with the new student government at Yavapai College." Student Government Association President Brian Sims, said. "We've been working hard through the Winter Break to ensure we have a solid governing foundation for you, the student body."

Sims, along with Vice President Jayden King, Secretary Brian Moultrup and Treasurer Hannah Lowe, were elected to the SGA Executive Leadership Board in voting November 9-16, 2020. The Executive Leadership Board will govern in partnership with nine-member student Senate, representing each YC campus and learning center as well as the residence halls. The Senate will be elected during Fall Semester 2021.

For more information on the YCSGA, including events, advocacy opportunities and upcoming forums, please visit: [www.yc.edu/yicsga](http://www.yc.edu/yicsga).

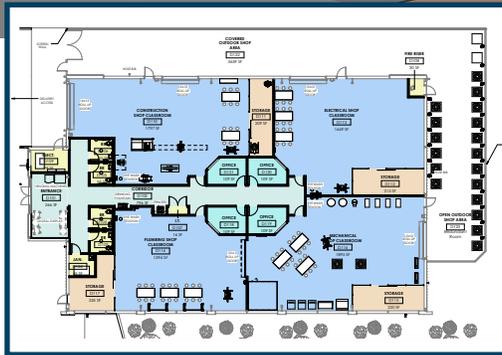
# YC Readies New Skilled Trades Center



The Skilled Trades Center's open flexible space design will mimic YC's CTEC campus.

By Michael Grady

Construction continues on Yavapai College's new Skilled Trades Center, a ten-thousand-square-foot facility to train the next generation of construction workers, electricians, plumbers and heating/cooling technicians on the Verde Valley Campus.



"The building will be up in early April," YC Director of Facilities David Laurence explained. "The plan is to have everything in place around June 30, then put in the security and IT systems."

Designed by SPS+ architects – the team behind the Verde Campus's recently renovated Building L – and constructed by McCarthy Building Systems, the Skilled Trades Center will house the classrooms, shop space and equipment to teach trades critical to the Verde Valley's continuing growth.

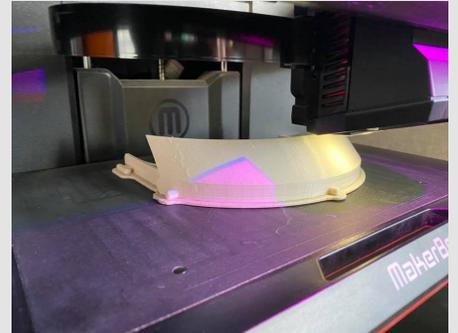
"The interior consists of four large bays, each equipped to handle a different program," YC Career & Technical Programs Dean John Morgan explained. The exterior includes large covered spaces for outdoor work. "It will be similar to CTEC [The College's Technical Campus near the Prescott airport] in that everything will be open and visible."

The building's design is the result of extended consultation with the Verde Valley community. "After several months of meetings, a group consisting of local businesses, school superintendents, and county officials voted on programs they felt made the most sense to add in the Verde, based on workforce needs." Morgan said. "They included engineering and manufacturing – now located in Building L – and residential electrician, plumbing, HVAC and construction programs, which will go in the new center."

The building fulfills a promise made by YC President Dr. Lisa Rhine back in 2019: "I've heard your requests for skilled trades programming in the Verde Valley. Yavapai College is here and ready to provide the educational opportunities and infuse the workforce on the East side of Yavapai County."

YC's Verde Valley Skilled Trades Center will open its doors to students in the fall of 2021.

## CTEC Unveils New 3D Printing Certificate Program



3D Printing's potential is so vast, industries are racing to find uses for it.

3D printed materials play a role in everything from jet engines to housing units to prosthetic limbs. It is manufacturing's next frontier – and CTEC will offer a program in 3D Printing in Fall 2021.

"The 3D Printing and Manufacturing Certificate program will cover: building a printer, troubleshooting printers, design of projects, software, and modeling." CTEC Dean John Morgan said. The six-course, 19-credit program will introduce students to the mechanics of the emerging technology. "There's a strong industrial demand for 3D printing, especially in design. (DFAM). COVID exposed a huge need for it, and more elaborate printers have entered the marketplace and starting to take market share from traditional machining." The courses will begin at the CTEC, and move out to Building L on the Verde Valley Campus in the following year.

For details, visit: [www.yc.edu/ctec](http://www.yc.edu/ctec)

# Community Impact:

## SCHOOL OF ARTS & HUMANITIES



### Bryan Robertson Painting & Drawing

Many teachers accept online classes as a necessity. Others embrace them as the future. Instructor Bryan Robertson sees possibility in both.

"In the studio, an art class can be free-flowing," he says. "You're in tune with the class more." In-person instruction allows him to read the room. "You follow the enthusiasm. Maybe you're working with charcoal, and the class is enjoying it. You don't want to [change] right away."

An MFA graduate of the University of Washington in Seattle, Robertson sees more intensity in online classes. "There's more structure, assignments are less spontaneous, and the students spend more time interacting with the material apart from you. There's less pressure without immediate student/instructor interaction. I end up giving students less quantity but higher quality feedback as they explore at their own pace."

Effective instruction can exist in either format, he says. But best to combine their strengths. "I see a future in the hybrid model. Maybe in-class learning, structured in an online way, with in-person meeting times. So you can work where you're comfortable."

Learn more at: <https://www.yc.edu/v6/schools/arts/visual-arts.html>

## SCHOOL OF BUSINESS & COMPUTER SYSTEMS



### Jennifer Riley Cybersecurity

Ask Computer Networking Professor Jennifer Riley what makes a good cybersecurity expert, and you get a very precise answer. "Being detail-oriented," she says. "Cybersecurity takes a lot of investigation, knowing what to look for in collected network data. You have to be able to focus well on each specific task." Computer Networking offers AAS certificates in Cybersecurity and Network Administration. "With Cybersecurity, you learn about securing a network, working in a Special Operations Center, and digital forensics – looking at data after a [breach] has occurred." In a field that must innovate as rapidly as hackers do, lessons include "ethical hacking," where students briefly role-play hackers to understand how they think. "We get lots of young people – and working people looking to expand their skills, because many companies don't have the funds to add their own security department." The program has entered the three-year application process for the NSA/Department of Homeland Security's coveted CAE-CDE designation, and is creating a Cyberwarfare Range where students can practice, on the Prescott Campus, opening in Fall 2021.

Learn more at: <https://www.yc.edu/v6/schools/bucs/cnt.html>

## SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES



### Amber Davies-Sloan Interpersonal Communication

"When I start a class, I tell my students: for some of you this will be difficult, for some it will be easy." Amber Davies-Sloan says. "Many come in with a chip on their shoulder. 'Why am I here?'" What she teaches is the distinct difference between communicating and communicating well.

"Communication permeates everything we do. A lot of people just think it's a passive, learned activity." In a social media-dominated society, where the volume of words far exceeds their value, she fosters engagement that's thoughtful, genuine and interactive. "It's an individualized journey. I encourage students to be introspective and honest about their lives. Some say, 'Whoa, I never thought about that before.'" They address obstacles like physical challenges and social anxiety, effective self-expression, and acknowledgement of others. "We joke that it's inexpensive group therapy because we're all learning from each other. I learn a lot from them." And even those students with a chip learn about meaningful interaction. "It's fun to watch them have those 'ah-ha' moments," she says.

Learn more at: <https://www.yc.edu/v6/schools/sosc/communication.html>

# Seven Programs, One County, YC Making a Difference

## SCHOOL OF CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION



### Spencer Coffin Unmanned Aircraft Systems

Most of us search high-and-low to find our calling. Chino Valley native Spencer Coffin knew his path early on. "I was always fascinated with aviation. In middle-school, I was flying RC toys and doing aviation projects in Boy Scouts." In high school, he saw an ad for YC's then-fledgling drone program. "I thought 'you get to fly a toy for a living?' I was completely set that second."

That was then. Coffin and YC's Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) program have grown up together. Along with teaching UAS courses, Coffin flies, designs and creates his own aircraft in a field that seems to add career possibilities each week. "I tell students, 'drones are in the data collection business. Whether you're shooting video; studying topography for civil engineers, conducting search-and-rescue or something else.'" Created by Aerospace Science Professor Matt Mintzmyer in 2014, YC's drone program teaches piloting, construction and design. It's part of an Aviation program that prepares future airplane pilots, dispatchers, instructors – and drone innovators like Coffin, helping to define a new industry.

Learn more at: <https://www.yc.edu/v6/schools/cate/aviation.html>

## SCHOOL OF HEALTH & WELLNESS



### Lauren Kookan MSN Ed., RN Allied Health

"I want my students to be excited about healthcare," Lauren Kookan says, "and to reach out with empathy to people in our community."

Allied Health instructor Lauren Kookan, MSN Ed., RN, is a graduate of YC's Nursing program. Her Nursing Assistant course (AHS 114) teaches students the basic skills and procedural background – as well as the communication, legal and ethical training – to capably support nurses in facilities like long-term care centers. Her course partners with the Mountain Institute Career Technical Education District (MICTED), an independent school district, to offer free classes to high school students.

"Many students have no experience in healthcare," She says. "In this course, they have 40 hours of clinical training at local healthcare facilities. In 16 weeks, they're eligible to take the state examination to become a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA)."

That's a definite win-win for job hunters – and for community healthcare facilities, as well.

Learn more at: [www.yc.edu/alliedhealth](http://www.yc.edu/alliedhealth).

## SCHOOL OF SCIENCE & ENGINEERING



### Dr. Matt Pearcy Biology

In Spring 2020, with the coronavirus raging and misinformation everywhere, Biology professor and virologist Dr. Matt Pearcy saw an opportunity to help the community make sense of the puzzling, often frightening aspects of the pandemic.

"It turns out this is a great time to be a virologist," Pearcy says. "It's important to me to help our communities better understand what COVID-19 is all about."

Pearcy created YC's COVID-19 Video Series ([www.yc.edu/v6/college-police/covid-19/](http://www.yc.edu/v6/college-police/covid-19/)), presentations that break the virus's biology into understandable and actionable information.

Pearcy also participated in Spirit of Joy Lutheran Church's virtual symposium, bringing local groups together to discuss the relationship between science and religion. His presentation, "COVID—One Year On," addressed the virus and the speed of the vaccine response.

Students seeking to continue scientific study at a 4-year institution may contact Dr. Pearcy at: [matt.pearcy@yc.edu](mailto:matt.pearcy@yc.edu).

Learn more about YC science courses, at: [www.yc.edu/scen](http://www.yc.edu/scen)

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# focus

on the Yavapai College Foundation



## YC Loses a Guardian Angel

“Mom had an eye for detail, and she understood fundraising.”

– daughter Jan Mackey

YC's dynamic benefactor Jean Phillips "always approached life with a positive attitude," daughter Jan Mackey said.

### Jean Phillips's Legacy is a Thriving College and Community

Yavapai College lost a founding mother and a guiding spirit in December, when Jean Phillips passed away from complications of COVID pneumonia. She was 96 years old.

A child of Elgin, Illinois, Jean was raised during the Great Depression. Her family couldn't afford college, so she worked at the YWCA, then U.S. Gypsum in Chicago and then as a newspaper proofreader before marrying Dr. Mel Phillips in 1944.

They came to Arizona in 1948, when Mel secured a practice at Grand Canyon National Park. "We had a little dog that we loved and when we got [to the Canyon] the ranger said, 'no dogs.'" Jean recalled. "We looked at the dog, said 'thanks but no thanks,' and drove to Prescott."

Their loss was Prescott's gain. The town's 6,000 people were desperate for medical care and civic leadership. The couple dug

in. Mel became the "gentleman doctor," treating patients as far away as Bagdad. Jean helped establish Prescott's charter government and many of its defining institutions.

"Mom had an eye for detail, and she understood fundraising," daughter Jan Mackey said. "She always approached life with a positive attitude." Jean's work led to the creation of the Prescott Center for the Arts; the Yavapai Regional Medical Center Foundation; West Yavapai Guidance Clinic, Samaritan Village and the expansion of the Prescott Public Library.

Knowing education was critical to growth, Jean and Mel also played critical roles in the establishment of Yavapai College and the YC Foundation. They created YCF's first endowed nursing scholarship, which kept student nurses working at YRMC through the state's nursing shortage.

As YCF president, Jean oversaw the construction of the Performing Arts Center and chaired the Foundation's scholarship committee for thirty years.

Though she won many honors – including Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year, Philanthropist of the Year, and Woman of the Year – Jean's legacy resides in the countless people who found success through the opportunities she and Mel created. "You can't get a better feeling than helping someone else get a step up," she explained.

The Yavapai College Foundation encourages those wishing to honor Jean to contribute to the Phillips Health Scholarship Fund. ([www.yc.edu/jean](http://www.yc.edu/jean)) "Scholarships are a win-win, because your gift goes on." Jean said, "When a person gets a scholarship, they get an opportunity. Their life changes. As a result, their children get more opportunities and on and on."

# PEER<sup>2</sup>PEER FUNDRAISING

## YCF's New JustGiving Platform Streamlines Fiscal Support

By Michael Grady

The Yavapai College Foundation has entered a new era of peer-to-peer fundraising with its new 'JustGiving' software.

"We launched JustGiving last Fall," YCF Major Gifts Officer Ashley Hust explained. "We used it with the College Honors Students to replace the Fun Run." JustGiving allowed the students to set up a donation page, create individual goals, and reach out to their contacts digitally. "In the end, we raised just over \$5,000, with a lot less time and effort than putting in an event."

Fundraising used to be either a neighborhood project (like a carwash or a lemonade stand) or a non-profit activity. Peer-to-peer fundraising – often called crowdfunding and made popular on sites like Kickstarter and GoFundMe – fuses the two, allowing grass roots causes greater reach through the web and social media. 'JustGiving' continues the trend, streamlining both the start-up and the bottom line.

"If you want to raise funds for the College or a certain program, you can go to 'Crowdfunding' on the Foundation page, fill out a form and submit your idea." Hust said. Money raised, minus a small platform fee, goes directly to the YCF.

The platform is already making a difference, helping the Friends of the Family Enrichment Center raise more than \$10,000 for an outdoor play area. The Friends of the Southwest Wine Center used 'JustGiving' for their Fall campaign, raising \$18,000 in revenue and in-kind contributions -- \$3,000 above their target.

Hust says the innovations fast-track the process between people who want to support a program and making that support real. "We want people to sign up as fundraisers and get excited."

Interested on doing an online peer-to-peer fundraising campaign for YC? Go to: <https://www.yc.edu/v6/yavapai-college-foundation/ruffraiser.html>

**You Can  
Give to  
what you  
Love!**

## Yavapai College Foundation Hires New Fundraising "Coach" for Athletics

By Sue Wiant

As Yavapai College's first Major Gifts Officer for College Athletics, Jason Herbers is wasting no time spreading the word about Roughrider teams – and ways to support them.



Jason Herbers

"This is our chance to create something new to help student athletes," he says. "It's about making community connections and attracting donors."

Hired in November by the Yavapai College Foundation, Herbers has worked in higher education, with an emphasis on intercollegiate athletics fundraising, for 21 years. It's a specialized field, where community connections are key.

"I do a lot of listening. Donors reminisce about their own sports participation – I see the excitement in their eyes and want to give them a chance to share those memories."

A Wisconsin native, Herbers earned a bachelor's degree in exercise science from the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse and a master's degree from Eastern Washington. He came to YC from North Dakota's Williston State College, where he was Athletic Director.

Here, Herbers will build a network of YC alumni, former players and local businesses. The important thing, he says, is to create a supportive community. "When people donate, they like to be thanked. Small or large, a gift is a gift. We want our donors to know we appreciate their generosity."

In March, he helped organize a fundraising kick-off event to honor retiring Soccer Coach Mike Pantalione and his assistant, Hugh Bell, and introduce new men's and women's head coaches, Andre Luciano and Rozie DeWeese. He's currently planning YC's first-ever athletics golf tournament at Antelope Hills this fall.

For more information on Roughrider fundraising, contact Jason at (928) 776-2063 or [jason.herbers@yc.edu](mailto:jason.herbers@yc.edu).

# Foundation on the Move



Talking Rock Master Gardener Peggy Stair

## Talking Rock Harvests \$1.3K for Horticulture Scholarships

When Peggy Stair set her festival up for August, the Talking Rock Master Gardener was hoping for an Open House; with flowers and produce from the 25 community gardens she supervises, as well as auctions and tours to raise money for Horticulture scholarships.

But COVID had other plans. With cancellations everywhere, Peggy had ample excuse to call the festival off. She didn't.

"One of the reasons gardening has become popular is because you can be outside and socially distanced." She said. Peggy and her gardeners changed their festival on the fly. They restricted it to Talking Rock, and her neighbors stepped up. "People created or donated art. We got quilts and paintings and sculptures for our silent auction. People made baked goods. Everybody got involved." Despite the lockdown, Peggy and company raised \$1,300 for YC's Mary Barnes & Jeff Schalau Master Gardener scholarship.

## AAUW offers "A Stroll Through Victorian Prescott"



Last Fall, the Arizona Association of University Women (AAUW) combined 19th Century history with COVID-safe sensibilities to create a unique fundraiser.

"A Stroll Through Victorian Prescott" offered a safe way for donors to get out, learn about the beautiful turn-of-the-century homes along Pleasant Street, and support female students pursuing science and technology-related careers.

Participants purchased a \$25 electronic guide to 28 homes in Prescott's historic district, allowing self-guided strolls around the homes at the donors' convenience.

Proceeds funded the AAUW's Centennial Scholarship for female YC students in Science, Technology, Engineering or Math programs.

Learn more about AAUW activities at: [www.aauwprescott.net](http://www.aauwprescott.net).

## Daniel's Ride Helps YC Students Stay In School and On-Track



Every day since May, Daniel Swartz, 65, has hit the Peavine Trail. The YC Professor's 8½-mile ride began to help him cope with the lockdown's devastating impact on his students.

"For some, their jobs took over," he said. "For others, family chaos took over. I'd say I lost about a quarter of them." As the days racked up, an idea took shape. "I thought, 'how can I use this to help?'"

Now nearing its 330th consecutive day, *Daniel's Ride* is raising money to help YC students stay in school. Supporters can donate on Daniel's YC Foundation page: [www.justgiving.com/campaign/IAMYCFundraiser](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/IAMYCFundraiser). Proceeds go to IAMYC's Student Emergency Fund, which helps students cover unexpected expenses that threaten their academic careers. Daniel will keep riding, and fundraising, until mid-May, a year after he began.

## 'Waz' Scholarship Mirrors Its Generous Namesake



Even from his childhood days in Michigan, Jeff Wasowicz embraced life with vigor. 'Waz's' occupations grew diverse – school teacher, small business owner,

extreme sports athlete, winemaker, bee keeper; and his community service record was long: the Yavapai College Foundation Board; the Arizona Community Foundation of Yavapai County Board; the Yavapai Exceptional Industries Board. But a generous spirit and a joy of living shone through them all.

When Jeff tragically passed on last year, those who cherished him created a memorial that reflects that spirit. The Jeff Wasowicz Community Service Endowed Scholarship is a full-time tuition scholarship for students committed to community service, and a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

For more information, please call: (928) 776-2025.

# “LEND US YOUR EARS!”

## YC Radio Players Rekindle Radio's Golden Age



Return with us now to the thrilling days of yesteryear!

Yavapai College Performing Arts Center – ever-mindful of its mission to entertain our pandemically restricted community – has revived the Golden Days of Radio.

The YC Radio Players, a company of Arizona performers, have recorded classic radio tales to stream over the YCPAC website.

The idea came from YCPAC Managing Director Helen Stephenson, “Like so many of us, I’ve been sitting in a whole lot of

Zoom meetings.” She said. “I thought what if we could merge Zoom and radio plays?”

The stories, recorded on Zoom then mixed for presentation, hearken back to an era of storytelling, when kids and parents would gather ‘round the radio for tales long on plot and suspense, and vivid with imagery that played out in the listeners’ minds.

YC Radio Players premiered February 5, with an adaptation of Edith Wharton’s ghost story *The Looking Glass*.

YC Radio Players will conclude their season with *Alice in Covidland*, (May 7-9 and 21-23); *Ozma of Oz* (June 4-5 and 18-20) and *Aladdin* (July 2-4 and 16-18). Streaming begins at 5:30 p.m. the first Friday of each month, through the following Sunday.

The radio plays are free of charge, but listeners are strongly encouraged to use the adjacent “Donate” button. The link is available at: [www.ycpac.com](http://www.ycpac.com).

# CUES DIGITAL STREAMING SERIES

## Brings Theatre to District Schools



Pandemic restrictions have cancelled many experiences that make a school year special. But students can still enjoy a field trip online.

This year, Yavapai College Performing Arts Center’s Curtain Up Education Series (CUES) has been streaming great Theatre for Youth plays to local students, free-of-charge.

“I am thrilled we can offer this program to Yavapai County public school district audiences.” School Matinee Coordinator Ryan Gastonguay said.

The *CUES Digital Streaming Series* let schools select from a season of filmed, hour-long plays and musicals. Made possible by a generous grant from the Forest Fees Management Association, CUES features professional companies from Texas, Britain and Australia.

Two final shows remain: *Finding North* tells a powerful true story of the Underground Railroad, Apr. 18 - May 1; and *Emil & The Detectives* uses bravery and teamwork to crack a baffling caper, May 2-18.

The series is available to county public school districts only. Each booking includes two-week, unlimited access to a password-protected link on Vimeo.

Previews for each show and registration information are available at: [www.ycpac.com/online/article/cues2021](http://www.ycpac.com/online/article/cues2021).



## YCPAC Launches Five-Show “Concerts on the Green”

Great music – *OUTSIDE!* – on the lawn at Prescott Valley’s Civic Center Amphitheater

### YAVAPAI COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS Sunday, May 9

Jazz bands (2 p.m.); Choral music (4 p.m.)  
Symphonic bands (6 p.m.)  
Free admission, donations encouraged.

### ABBAFAB

Sunday, May 23

Party like its 1979 with “the world’s #1 ABBA Tribute Band.” 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15; children 9-17: \$5; kids 8 & under are free.

### DECEMBER '63

Sunday, June 6

Journey back with this Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons tribute band. 7 p.m. Tickets: \$15; children 9-17: \$5; kids 8 & under are free.

### BRIAN CHARTRAND QUARTET

Sunday, June 27

Great songs, old and new, from this soulful folk/rock ensemble. Tickets: \$15; children 9-17: \$5; kids 8 & under are free.

### PRESCOTT POPS “AN AMERICAN CELEBRATION”

Saturday, July 3

Patriotic music and tunes from Broadway & Hollywood. 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$20; children 9-17: \$5; kids 8 & under are free.

**For tickets and more information,  
(928) 776.2000 or [www.ycpac.com](http://www.ycpac.com)**

# SBDC's "Makeover" Program Keeps Local Business Dreams Alive!



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## THE MAKEOVER

### YC's Business Think Tank offers no-cost resources and expertise

The pandemic continues to impact many small businesses throughout Yavapai County. While some have successfully pivoted to online and alternative strategies, many still hang by a thread.

So Yavapai College's Small Business Development Center (SBDC) has launched the *Small Business Makeover Program*. "Thanks to new funding from the CARES Act, we are able to bring additional resources to help us plan and launch this pilot program for new clients," SBDC Director Jeri Denniston said. "Our goal is to expand this program to all SBDC clients next year as an additional tool to help small businesses thrive."

Four business owners will be selected by a panel of community partners to receive the "Makeover of a Lifetime" – an in-depth assessment of their top 2-3 business challenges. The SBDC will then help the owners address those challenges over the next several months. "We'll bring in industry experts, tools, resources, and possibly some funding to help these four businesses move their operations from

good to great." Denniston said. Remaining contestants will be entered into the "Mini-Makeover Bootcamp," receiving confidential one-on-one coaching with SBDC consultants, access to subject matter experts and resources to suit their specific needs. A special cohort has also been established for Hispanic-owned businesses to address the unique language, access and capital resource challenges these business owners face.

Inspired in part by the Hulu series "Small Business Revolution," The *Small Business Makeover Program* will be fitted to meet Yavapai County needs. The SBDC will partner with the Arizona Commerce Authority to provide subject matter experts and access to their Small Business Academy, a live, online workshop facilitated by industry experts.

Interested businesses still have time to apply. The remaining application deadlines are April 30, and May 31. (See sidebar.) Don't pass up this opportunity to keep your business dream alive!



YC's Small Business Development Director Jeri Denniston (left) at Insurgent Brewing Company. The Chino Valley business was one of the first participants in the REDC's Makeover Program.

## Your Business Qualifies for The Small Business Makeover if it...

- Has fewer than 500 employees
- Has less than \$15 million in annual revenue
- Is structured as a for-profit entity
- Has been in operation at least three years
- Has not received SBDC coaching in the past five years

Business owners who contacted the SBDC for occasional disaster funding assistance last year are *still eligible* if they did not receive ongoing coaching.

Apply for your makeover at: [www.mybusinessmakeover.com/apply](http://www.mybusinessmakeover.com/apply).



# Community and Connection during COVID

## OLLI & Comm Ed classes offer "a meeting of minds"

By Michael Grady

When Jerry and Bev Thurber moved to Prescott last year, they had no idea how to make friends. "We got here during the lockdown," Jerry laughs. "We still don't know what our movers looked like. They all wore masks. Then we thought, 'How are we going to get out?'"

COVID-19 has proven especially difficult on newcomers, seniors and folks living alone. But people seeking companionship and intellectual challenge can still find an invigorating connection through YC's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) or Community Education classes, available county-wide on Zoom.

### Revvig up for Zoom

"We still find people who haven't heard about us yet," Prescott's OLLI/Lifelong Learning Coordinator Tricia Berlowe said. "Or people who don't know about the improvements we've made on Zoom."

Yavapai College's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) is one of 124 grant-funded community college programs designed to provide learning experiences for students 50 years old or older. YC's Community Education program features non-credit leisure and lifestyle classes for all adults. Both programs have become valued touchstones, offering more than 771 online classes and workshops since the pandemic began.

"We have everything you could want," Verde/Sedona OLLI Director Linda Shook says. "We help people acclimate to Zoom. You can learn it on our YouTube channel, or on a PowerPoint we send you." Comm Ed also has a class in Zoom ("Zoomin' for Boomers"). Don't have a computer? "Our libraries have loan programs for laptops," Shook says.

### Reinventing the Classroom

OLLI and Comm Ed have re-invented themselves for remote learning. "We had to re-think our class design," Berlowe said. They reduced class sizes. Comm Ed's painting and writing faculty now use a multi-camera setup. Adventure Trips have been converted



ROLLI facilitator Ustadza Azra leads a Bellydancing class on Zoom.



New Arizonans and Prescott OLLI members Bev & Jerry Thurber.

to long-form Adventure Videos. The new format broadens their catalog, too – Prescott OLLI and Comm Ed courses are now available to Verde Valley students, and vice-versa.

In classes, the results have been dramatic. "People are seeing and hearing each other better," Berlowe says. "Maybe if it's the comfort of attending from your own space. But facilitators tell us even the introverts are participating in discussions more. I think it's the connection people are craving."

For the Thurbers, the courses have been a game-changer. "We're really impressed with how smoothly it runs," Bev says. They credit OLLI with helping them feel at home. "We take one or two classes every semester, plus they have a monthly book group and a weekly trivia group that are fun." They've studied local history to learn the area, and taken general education classes. "You get to know people with diverse interests in the classes, and because you see many of the same people, you feel like you're making friends," she says. "It definitely is a meeting of active minds."

To learn more about Prescott-area OLLI courses, call (928) 717-7634 or visit: [www.yc.edu/v6/lifelong-learning](http://www.yc.edu/v6/lifelong-learning)

To learn more about the Sedona/Verde Valley OLLI program, call (928) 649-4275 or visit: [www.yc.edu/ollisedonaverde](http://www.yc.edu/ollisedonaverde)

# Coaching Karma

## Former YC Star Andre Luciano Returns to Lead Men's Soccer

by Michael Grady



YC's 2021 Men's Soccer Team – Photo by Bill Leyden

In 1990, when he was a promising young goalkeeper under the tutelage of Coach Mike Pantalione, did 19-year-old Andre Luciano ever imagine he would succeed Pantalione as the next coach of Yavapai College Soccer?

"No," Luciano laughs at the idea. "I could barely figure out how to get to class."

Much has happened in the three-plus decades since: Mike Pantalione established a soccer dynasty at Yavapai College – seven NJCAA national championships; 78 total conference, region, district and national championships; and an unheard-of .900 winning percentage. He did it developing outstanding players like Luciano: the 1990 AIAA/Adidas Goalkeeper of the Year and Most Valuable Goalkeeper on YC's first championship team; he went on to lead the University of Indiana to two Big Ten titles and two trips to the NCAA National Tournament. Since then, Luciano has coached for the University of Arizona, worked with three states' Olympic

Development programs and coached at Northern Arizona University.

In a world where many coaching changes feel like crap shoots, this one feels like Karma. Or as Athletic Director Brad Clifford put it: "It is a great day for Yavapai College Athletics with the hiring of Andre Luciano."

For his part, Luciano is already embracing the job whole-heartedly. "When I left NAU in 2018, I had it in my head I'd never coach again – unless YC came available." He said. "This college and the program provided me a pathway to where I am today. It changed the trajectory of my life."

First order of business, re-establishing a cohesive team culture in the wake of the pandemic. "The College has done a good job of setting [COVID-19] parameters," he said. Players moved into the dorms in early March, "and you have to be careful how you physically manage guys who've been off for 15 months." Some are in game-shape, some less so. "Many have to get

acclimated to playing at 5,300 feet. Right now, they're split into small groups. We don't know what the whole pie looks like. The players are more anxious than I am to get going." He laughs.

That's a spirit that's felt across the program: Let's get going. "I spent the last two years coaching youth sports in Las Vegas," he said. "Practice became the normal for those kids. They wanted those routines and that social interaction."

Luciano plans to continue YC Soccer's approach of developing the whole player: person, student and athlete: "We're going to have a hard-working, blue-collar team that is also skilled." He said. "We're going to have young men who are going to fight really hard for the name on the front of the jersey. We're going to have an up-tempo game and a team that produces on-the-field and off-the field, as well."

# Q&A

## WITH ROZIE DEWEESE WOMEN'S SOCCER COACH



*"Soccer has provided me so many invaluable opportunities," Rozie DeWeese says. YC's new Women's Soccer Coach has made the most of those opportunities: an All-Conference Midfielder at Cal State San Bernardino, she earned her bachelors degree there and her masters in Physical Education/Coaching from Indiana State. She has been an Associate Head Coach at UC Davis, an assistant coach at Sacramento State and Indiana State and participated in coaching education gigs as far away as the Netherlands and Spain. She talked with YC360 about the new program.*

**Q: What drew you to YC? What makes it a good place for Women's Soccer?**

**A:** The opportunity to be a head coach at the Junior College level and the challenge of starting a program is what initially caught my attention. The ability to relocate to the beautiful Prescott area was also a big draw for me and my family. YC already has a rich athletic tradition with the success of the men's soccer program, and all the athletic programs. I think adding a women's soccer program is well overdue. Women's soccer in Arizona and the surrounding states is continuing to grow, and YC is a great opportunity for players to continue their academic and athletic careers in a tough conference (ACCAC).

**Q: You've been scouting recruits across the region. Aside from the ability to play soccer, what do you look for?**

**A:** I look at where players are now, and what their potential may be. I look at consistency of attitude, effort, athleticism, tactical and technical abilities. What is YOUR strength and what separates YOU from everyone else? How do you manage, minimize and learn from mistakes? How are YOU going to contribute to the team's success?

**Q: I understand you've been working hard to recruit within the Hispanic community. How important is diversity as you assemble a team?**

**A:** Providing positive opportunities for ALL aspiring players to continue their soccer and academic careers, is an important aspect of the community college environment. Diverse backgrounds, abilities and experiences provide an environment for limitless growth, collaboration and success.

**Q: What kind of team should fans look for when your players take the field?**

**A:** Soccer-wise, we will strive to be fit, disciplined in defense, quick in transition and patient-yet-aggressive when attacking the goal. We hope to provide a fun, family atmosphere at every game, where we can engage the fans and the community. We hope to have many of the community youth players at our upcoming camps and clinics and we hope to see many Prescott area families at our women's and men's soccer games!

# A CAREGIVER'S GUIDE TO SUCCESS

## Spectrum Healthcare CEO Remembers Her YC Roots

by Michael Grady

**I**t has definitely been a wild year.” April Rhodes, MBA, LAMFT and President CEO of Spectrum Healthcare, is calling from Florida. She’s attending a long-postponed national meeting before returning to the helm of Arizona’s 65-year-old primary care, psychiatry and pediatric care provider. “On a normal day, we’d be moving rapidly,” she says. But COVID-19 has required a higher gear. “Just about the time we secured curbside testing, the vaccine comes online – which is great, but there’s a whole new set of logistical and strategic challenges.” As a former family therapist, she sees the pandemic as a test of both body and spirit. “It’s like the whole world has experienced a traumatic event, and we’ve had to manage from that perspective.”

It all seems a world away from 2008, when the chaos was internal, and April – a 29-year-old student and mother of two young children – set foot on YC’s campus, uncertain of the road ahead.

### Prescott and Possibilities

“That was a pivotal time,” she recalls. “I had done everything in reverse. I’d had children, gotten married, and moved to a new state all at once.” She started out in the Valley, working in childcare so her kids got the discount. “No one in my family had gone to college. I’d drive past ASU’s Tempe campus, wondering, ‘what would that be like?’”

She moved to Prescott with the kids, found work as a phlebotomist, and enrolled at YC. There, April found she not only belonged in college, but excelled here. “At YC, they started talking to me about possibilities.” It fueled her work ethic: up at 5 a.m. to draw blood at nursing homes, a



YC Alumna and Spectrum Healthcare CEO April Rhodes, left, at an event with Camp Verde Mayor Charles German.

full day of school, then back to close up the lab for the day. “Education started seeming more attainable.”

She graduated YC just when ASU opened their first online bachelor’s degree program. “I got accepted and studied family and human development online for 18 months. The very first time I set foot on ASU’s Tempe Campus was to graduate.”

### A Therapeutic Approach

She followed her bachelors with a Master’s Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy, driving down to Phoenix twice per week every week for 18 months to complete clinicals. As her career progressed, from direct care to supervision to administration, that therapeutic perspective served her well. “You see people as part of a system. Whether you’re working with parents and children, or AHCCCS or care providers, you’re managing the dynamics of a team. It’s emotional intelligence but with a business focus.”

When she isn’t on the frontlines of Healthcare, April can be found in the Prescott home she shares with her husband, Yavapai County Sheriff David Rhodes. “We definitely air things out to each other,” she laughs. “It’s good, for both of us, having a partner with a high-pressure job. He knows a lot of about mental health because of me, and I have learned about law enforcement.”

As she catches her breath between Healthcare initiatives, does April have any advice for students at the threshold of their first college experience? “Be bold. If you’re aspiring to something, make it known. Speak up, ask questions. Make sure that people know,” she says, “and the rest will follow.”

# Community Impact

Continued from page 7

## SCHOOL OF ARTS & HUMANITIES



### Dr. Joshua Harper Choral Music

Singing is a lifelong passion for Joshua Harper. The Associate Professor of Choral Music shares that passion with aspiring singers, young and old.

His courses attract students working toward associate degrees in Fine Arts as well as older adults who simply cherish the expressive power of the voice. He offers a unique approach. "I encourage students to make big mistakes—without mistakes, we cannot learn."

Community outreach is vital to YC's music programs. "The College maintains close relationships with state high school choral groups," Harper explains. Knowing there is no substitute for personal contact, Harper joined instrumental music colleague Chris Tenney on a statewide tour in 2019. "We visited a different high school twice a month and performed while recruiting for our programs." Suspended during the pandemic, Harper and Tenney hope to hit the road again soon. "I believe everyone is capable of singing," Harper says. "Some simply need a little help in learning how."

Learn more at: [www.yc.edu/v6/schools/arts/performing-arts.html](http://www.yc.edu/v6/schools/arts/performing-arts.html).



Digital athletes, male and female, will compete in single and multi-player formats.

# Game On!

## Roughrider eSports Team Launches an Era of Digital Athletics

### A new kind of student athlete is coming to Yavapai College.

eSports, a digital gaming program, will join the Roughrider Athletic Department in the Fall 2021. Yavapai College will field a co-ed eSports team and battle rival teams at other community colleges and NCAA Division I schools like Northern Arizona University, Grand Canyon University, and Arizona State University.

"This offers both men and women a chance to compete at the highest level of gaming, which is new to us, but it is a special opportunity to offer this at a community college," said YC Director of Athletics Brad Clifford. "We are on the cutting edge of the fastest-growing sport in the world, that will bring visibility to Prescott and the Yavapai County community."

Athletics has hired Chris Willis to be the first coach of the Roughrider eSports team. A veteran Army Medic, with years of experience hosting

eSports tournaments and gaming on multiple platforms, Willis is excited to help Roughrider eSports achieve its full potential.

The Roughriders will compete in a newly renovated digital arena in Building 19 on the Prescott Campus, and pursue membership in the National Junior College Athletic Association eSports (NJCAA) league, which currently competes in 12 different games, including single player, 2-on-2 or 6-on-6 formats.

Recruitment has already begun for student-athletes with a commitment to academics as well as the advanced skills to play competitive eSports. Any current or future Yavapai College student interested in pioneering a brand-new kind of sports team should complete an eSports recruiting form on the athletic web site, [www.roughriders.com](http://www.roughriders.com).



## A MOMENT OF EQUINE MAJESTY AT THE COLLEGE'S HEART

The many students and visitors who have stopped in their tracks to gaze at the proud stallion in the Prescott Campus Admin Building have Prescott sculptor and YC adjunct instructor Carl Dahl to thank. Using glazed, fired clay, metal wire and wood, Dahl's work fuses classic Greek sculpture motifs with the rough-hewn subjects of the desert and the American West. The sculpture is his gift to the College. "Teaching at Yavapai has been/is one of the most meaningful experiences of my life," he said. "Teaching opened my eyes to other ways of seeing and shortcomings in my own work [and] brought me some amazing friends, as well." See more of Carl Dahl's work at: [www.carl.dahl.com](http://www.carl.dahl.com)