

Featured Alum: Beverly Krause, 1989, General Studies

Years Attended: 1989

Area of Study: General Studies

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In the mid 1980's, I returned to the United States after living in Germany with my son who was in the military. This experience was so wonderful that I decided that I would love to return there. I secured employment at the Prescott Veterans Administration and while working there a co-worker informed me about the U.S. State Department Foreign Service – so I began my investigation regarding employment with them. I discovered that if I wanted this to happen for me I needed a college degree so this is where Yavapai College entered my life.

The education I received over the next three years was exceptional and I loved every minute of my experience. Since I had never had the opportunity to attend college, I needed to start with the basics, so at age 53, I enrolled in night school. I was a very dedicated, serious and motivated student – I had a goal; The United States Department of State Foreign Service! My grades in all classes were excellent and at the end of three years I graduated with a 3.9 grade point average and as an honor student. I was extremely proud of this accomplishment.



Photo left: With Ambassador Shirley Temple Black

My classes prepared me for the application, tests, and the myriad of paper work and interviews. All of this preparation seemed to take forever, but at the end of a year, I found myself at the Embassy in Prague, Czechoslovakia; my first assignment with Diplomatic Security. This was a communist country and very secretive and undercover. Prague was also considered a "hardship post" due to a lack of food supplies – we had to travel

into Germany to purchase fresh food and also from the air base Commissary. After a few months in Prague, Yavapai College forwarded my cap, gown, and diploma to the Embassy where the Ambassador presented it to me at a special champagne party. I was also fortunate to work for Ambassador Shirley Temple Black for two and a half of the three and a half years I was posted there.

Since my assignment was with Diplomatic Security, I was privileged to meet visitors to the Embassy and to Ambassador Black personally. These were Presidents Bush, Nixon, and Reagan along with many congressmen, senators and also entertainment personalities.



Photo above: With Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, right

Upon leaving Prague in 1991, I was assigned to the Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan. This was a very dangerous and troubling post of 2 years. I did get to see many interesting, historical and beautiful sights along the Arabian Sea. This made up for the daily living in garbage and filth – an extremely unclean environment which was everywhere.

The stench from the open sewage was always in the air and it was very hot and humid all year long. I lived on the 8th floor of a State Department apartment building where the corridors were infested with mosquitoes – no elevators. Everyone was on Malaria medication while living there. My apartment had a safe haven within it and if needed, I could survive there for many days as it was supplied with food, water, cooling, sleeping facilities, etc. Security problems at this post were passport fraud, counterfeiting, and kidnapping for ransom. One had to be on guard at all times.

My next and final assignment was to the embassy in Maseru, Lesotho, in Southern Africa – another dangerous post due to poverty. Armed Security guards provided protection 24 /7 at home, at work and when traveling. Travel around South Africa was easy and I was able to visit Cape Town and several other locations. The necessity of protection became especially apparent when my neighbor was shot and killed because militants desired his vehicle.

You may not have any extra talent, but maybe you are just paying more attention to what you are doing.

We, as Americans living in our United States, do not know poverty until living amongst the people in third-world countries. When I came home to Prescott on vacation and visiting one of our super markets, I just looked around me and cried – there was so much food.

My travels and experiences while working in these various Embassies and Consulates were so many it would fill pages and pages – it could be a book. However, I do want to say again that I give credit to my years at Yavapai College for my education and subsequently a wonderful career. Special thanks to several of the teachers who gave special time and help to me so that I could attain my goal.

Students, prospective students, or anyone who might be interested in more detailed information regarding my career, please feel free to call me or email me anytime as I would love to share.

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