

## **Jana Whittington – Graduate, Class of 1991**

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**Years Attended:** 1991

**Area of Study:** Art Department

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I recently attended the Yavapai College Alumni Art Show with great enthusiasm, not only for the opportunity to reconnect with friends and colleagues, but also because YC has proven to be stellar college! When I first started at YC, the art department had just purchased two computers and an early version of a pixel image program. The enthusiasm of the faculty to grow with the available technology was exhilarating and contagious. The campus' progress while attending YC was exceptional, but upon my return visit I see that the campus, and specifically the art department, still has a future focus approach to art education.

None of this would be possible without the great faculty and staff at the YC art department. The professional support, encouragement and motivation I received from the YC faculty and staff in the art department helped to consolidate and launch my academic and artistic endeavors to new career directions. The education and support that went beyond the YC classroom provided me with the experience and knowledge to pursue lifelong learning. My time at YC included opportunities for exhibition, funding to develop an online course when web course delivery was at its infancy, developing, experimenting and expanding on teaching and learning endeavors, and experiential employment.

Since my time at YC I have had the chance to explore academia in other universities, and also to participate in graphic and artistic national organizations. The education I received at YC has provided a solid foundation for my career since leaving YC. Recently I have had the opportunity to participate in the development of a new bachelors degree computer graphics program, as well as three undergraduate certificates in web, design and animation. The YC college-acquired skill of learning how to learn helped me when developing and teaching more than thirteen different courses over a five year growth

period for the new degree. After visiting YC in Jan. 2008, I am confident that the quality which made my YC experiences so valuable still hold true and will provide a solid foundation of knowledge for its future graduates.

Since leaving YC, I have gone on to become an Associate Professor of Computer Graphics Technology at a regional campus of a large and well-known state university. During my career since leaving YC, I have taught a wide variety of courses in graphics, Art, and Humanities. Specifically, I have had the opportunity to teach digital video, digital audio, motion graphics, web design, multimedia production, drawing, painting, sculpture, art history and specialized humanities art history courses. My research and publication areas relate to computer graphics, critique and assessments, curriculum development and online delivery. I have also exhibited and juried international exhibitions. My time at YC has made it possible for me to continue my academic studies, and I am currently completing my PhD studies in Educational Psychology with an emphasis on Instructional Design for Online Learning. I appreciate the opportunities YC gave me to continue lifelong learning and develop as an educator and an artist.

My current artistic endeavors include digital video art productions, which include movement and sound. I am also interested in global digital collaborations within the global artistic and educational community. My scholarly activities include research in to interactive multimedia learning theory, visualization and technologies.