

### Donald Ausbrooks (1972 - 1974)

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I retired in 1986, as Fire Chief from the United States Navy at NAS Chase Field located at Beeville, Texas. After retiring I worked in Security for Diamond Shamrock at Three Rivers, Texas for 4c years before moving to Corpus Christi, TX. After I moved to Corpus Christi, I went to work for the City of Corpus Christi for 4 years. After I quit work for the City I quit working except being a house husband doing yard and house work since my wife was and is still working. I enjoyed my work at all the

places I worked but my work in the Fire service was the best thing I could have ever did. I enjoyed it from the first day until my retirement. I never set foot in any Fire Station since my retirement. I went back to school to get my degree in real estate which I never used because at the time of Jimmie Carter was President the bottom dropped out the housing market and you couldn't give a house away. Yavapai College is a wonderful school and anyone who attends will come away with a good education and be a better person for attending.

My memories of Yavapai is mainly about the hard work that it took for me a 42 year old man competing with young people half my age with a clear mind straight out of school. I had the knowledge of firefighting but not on a college level. These people would finish their test in half the time it took me. They were a great bunch to go to school. Hands-on-training was very easy for me since I had been doing it for 20 years. This is where I bested my fellow students. Book smart and math they were the best. They showed me a lot of respect for my age and experience. All GREAT students

My fellow class mates impacted my life with their going out of their way to assist me in some of my math. As I stated before they were great. I had one instructor that taught math that was a excellent instructor. I can't recall his name but he was the Flagstaff Fire Department. At the time I was attending the College I was also the Fire Chief for the City of Page and later for the Navajo Army Depot Flagstaff, Ariz.

May all the students that attend Yavapai College have GREAT and REWARDING life and may you have a great love of education and knowledge gained by attending college at this great school.

### *Elaine Balmes Farr (1973-1975)*

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Elaine Balmes Farr attended Yavapai College from 1973-1975, majoring in Psychology. She completed a Bachelors of Science degree at BYU after leaving YC. She worked as a probation officer for 14 years. Currently living in Cottonwood, she enjoys her hobbies of genealogy, gardening and knitting.

She loved attending Yavapai and was able to play volleyball and basketball with the women's teams while here. She met her husband at YC as well, and they've been married 30 years. Their favorite activity was attending the men's basketball games. A large group of friends 'borrowed' metal trashcan lids, and joyfully clashed them in unison to support our team. "We were nicknamed 'tin pan alley' by the local press. One student, Frank, would jump onto the court between quarters, dancing to the band and rousing the crowd. It was easy to meet people, and kids came from all over the state, but mostly northern Arizona, so we found people we knew from high school sports and things."

Her sister, Debbie Balmes, was one of the first students, starting as a freshman in 1969, when students were meeting in the Prescott Public Library, local church buildings, and elsewhere, before the campus was even complete.

Thanks to Elaine and the [YC Alumni Network](#) for this entry.

### *Frederick Battenfield, 1973-1975; Journalism*

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Fred writes: "Currently Associate Professor of Sport Management at North Greenville University (Tigerville, SC). I earned a Ph.D. in sport management from Florida State University in 2004, a master's of sport administration from the U.S. Sports Academy in 1991 and a Bachelor of Journalism at The University of Texas at Austin in 1978. Worked three Olympic Games in the sport of volleyball; was a sports information director for 22 years at D I and D II schools and won 16 national publishing awards. I have published academic articles in the area of sport communications and marketing.

My sister Nancy (Moorhead), former YC physical education instructor and volleyball coach, tossed me a volleyball rule book one day and said, during my freshman year, and said, "you're my referee." That was the beginning of a long association with volleyball where I became a national referee, played in four national tournaments, coached club volleyball and began the intercollegiate men's and women's programs at the University of Texas at San Antonio, among the many.

Bob Mikulewicz, the journalism instructor, launched me into the school paper, writing the recreation roundup for city Prescott Recreation Dept. in the Daily Courier, among other writing endeavors. His teaching launched me to Texas, where I graduated from one of the best journalism programs in the country and entered a long career in communications. Also, Dave Thayer, geology professor, still impacts my teaching career because he made learning rocks fun and instilled a thirst for creative thinking. Dave Brown, YC basketball coach, also taught me the basics of coaching that I utilized for many years.

People at my high school in Laredo, Texas thought I was nuts when I said I was going 1700 miles away to Yavapai. The best thing was that Willie Bean, another Texan, made me feel very welcome at YC. Maybe I was nuts, but I would do exactly the same thing today. YC gave me a solid academic foundation with its small classes and caring instructors. I actually remember more about my academic instructors at Yavapai than I do at The University of Texas. Although I haven't visited Prescott in many years, I still have a wonderful memory of the school on the hill where Teddy trained. Congrats on launching this Alumni Connection."

Thanks to Fred and the [YC Alumni Network](#) for this entry.

*Ken Bennett (1977-1978)*

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I had looked forward to going to Yavapai College as a child growing up in the Prescott area. I was probably 7 or 8 years old when the College was founded. My earliest memory of Yavapai College was around the idea the Prescott was really something now because it had an indoor swimming pool. For the younger kids in town we thought we had gone up in the world a notch or two because we had an indoor swimming pool...

Robert Sweeney was my instructor for my first accounting class in '77 and '78 when I got back from Japan. I had Tom Snaveley. I had 2 or 3 instructors back in the late '70's who are still here today. I had Jim Hinton for Criminal Justice. I think one of the neat things about Yavapai College was the intimacy of the class sizes and the relationships you could have with teachers. As I ended up eventually at ASU I would end up in some of those large Econ classes, which were for a hundred kids and up. I could probably tell you the name of 1 or 2 of the professors I had at ASU but I could probably tell you 90% of the teachers I had at Yavapai College...

One of the most important aspects of my education at Yavapai College or anyone's here is that you have smaller class sizes; you have a better, more intimate relationship opportunity with your instructors. I had very good instructors. I thought I got a very good education here...

I remember being able to walk in just almost anytime and visit with the President of the College, who was Joe Russo at the time. He knew my parents and I think he had been a teacher and/or a coach of my dad in high school. That's the kind of intimacy that being a student at Yavapai College afforded someone back then.

Excerpts transcribed from an oral history interview of Ken Bennett by Neka Dean, College Honors Student 2007/08



### *Don Burns, 1969 – 1971*

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"I graduated from YC in the first graduating class. After 13 years in my chosen field, I enrolled at ASU taking night classes when I could and then 14 years later received my bachelor's degree. I am now retired after 32 years in computer programming and have moved to the Verde Valley where I took a position as an adjunct faculty for YC teaching computer classes.

Learning programming at YC was a bit challenging to say the least. The college did not have a computer so we students would write our programs, key them in to punched cards and then every weekend would drive to Phoenix and run and madly debug our programs at Maricopa Technical College where YC leased computer time until we got our very own IBM model 25 - it had 24k of memory, what a monster.

I will never forget Bill Rinaldi who was the entire data processing department. He knew computers and was a great teacher.... his ego may have been oversized but we overlooked that. Under his teaching, the students who stuck with him knew virtually every single aspect of the mainframe inside and out.... literally.

I love teaching at YC but to stay in touch with reality I also have an excavation business that lets me get down and dirty. The best job that I ever had in computers was undoubtedly at America West Airlines where I had the sole responsibility for all of their voice response systems. I programmed and maintained the computers in Phoenix, Reno and Kansas City that had 672 telephone lines that answered approximately 400,000 calls per day."

Thanks to Don and the [YC Alumni Network](#) for this entry.

*Rae-Ann (Guethle) Harris (1971 - 1973)*

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I went on to become a Registered Dental Hygienist. I worked as a hygienist on Saturdays and I worked for AT&T Monday through Friday. I retired from AT&T after 30 years of service December 4, 2007.

Special Memories: I was very shy in high school and missed out on a lot so I became involved in college life. I was on the drill team both years and also served as student body secretary/treasurer. I loved Yavapai College because of being so involved in activities on the campus. Also I met my future husband Michael when he serenaded a group of girls at YC with his guitar

### *Bruce Hart II - Associate of Arts, 1972-1974*

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Bruce writes: "I'm a psychologist in private practice, and live in Yuma, Arizona. After graduating from Yavapai College in 1974, I attended NAU receiving a B.S. in psychology in 1976. I then attended Kent State University from 1976 until receiving a Ph.D. in psychology in 1982. I hold a diploma in forensic psychology, and am a fellow with the American College of Forensic Examiners. I've published in the areas of PTSD and psychological testing for the courts.

I live with my wife Janice, and our son attends AWC. I was a member of the Brotherhood, a non-traditional fraternity, and we enjoyed cheering on the Rough Riders Basket Ball team as well as the community service projects we completed.

I really appreciated the college professors, and the personal relationships, which we were able to establish. John Haynes and Ron Adams helped cement a solid academic foundation in English and math respectively."

Thanks to Bruce and the [YC Alumni Network](#) for this entry.

*Don James (1972 - 1974)*

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Don James writes that he now owns a restaurant pub. While at Yavapai he played baseball. "It was two of the best years of my life. Gary Ward was one of the best college baseball coaches in the country."

### *Fraser Jennings (1969 - 1971)*

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I entered the Air Force in 1972 and obtained my BBA from the University of Laverne in 1975. Obtained my MBA from the University of South Dakota in 1981. Retired from the Air Force as a Lt. Col. in 1996 and joined a startup technology company in Silicon Valley California. I am now Vice President of Marketing the company's commercial business unit. I am married with five adult sons and six grandchildren. I spend most of my time traveling for work and enjoyed many trips to China over

the past four years.

**Special Memories:** Starting classes at different locations throughout Prescott and then moving into the fantastic facilities on campus was a great experience. We also had a great time in the coed dorm. Especially the night of the water balloon fight that ended up with the carpet being totally soaked.

**Significant People who influenced him:** There were many special people both students and faculty with the first class. However, Mr. and Mrs. Brown in the science department helped make difficult subjects fun.

*Terry Kassien (1978 - 1979)*

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I am Vice President of Sales in Ontario Ca.

I played on the baseball team in 1978 & 1979. Both years our team went to the JUCO World Series. We finished 2nd and 3rd in the Nation in my 2 years at YC. I transferred to Florida Southern College and we won the NCAA Div II World Series my Senior year-1981. I have many fond memories of my 2 years in Prescott. I am trying to get a contact list together of ex team mates and class mates. Hopefully this site can help with this.

Significant People: Rod Soesbe-the head baseball coach. Mike Lane- asst. coach. There were too many teachers, RAs, etc to mention.

***Rick Kranitz (1976-1978)***

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Rick Kranitz, attended YC 1976-78 and was recently named pitching coach for the Baltimore Orioles.

Thanks to Rick and the [YC Alumni Network](#) for this entry.

*George Lee (1969 - 1971)*

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I work as a Technician on the Verde Campus in Presentation Technology Services. I have a B.A. in Motion Picture TV production and a Masters in Instructional Media. I have also completed the course work for an M.A. in Psychology.

Special Memories: I remember the first semester Yavapai College had opened with a full curriculum. The campus was still under construction. I took English at the V.A. Hospital, Chemistry Lab at the High School and most of my classes were in the basement of a church located downtown on Gurley St. I certified in SCUBA in the first SCUBA class offered at the Yavapai College pool in the spring of 1971. I still dive today. My last dive was in Bonaire in January this year.

Significant People who were an influence: I remember John Duran, my Organismic Biology Instructor the best. He was the one who challenged me to change my study habits. This was a turning point that allowed me to be a successful student. Mrs. Brown, My Organic Chemistry instructor was also instrumental in getting me to exceed my limits.

*Juvenal Lopez (1977 - 1979)*

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I am Principal of Metro Tech High School, Phoenix Union High School District and have a BA in Secondary Education (ASU) and an MA in Educational Leadership (ASU).

Special Memories: Outstanding education throughout my 2.5 years at Yavapai College. Larry Strom opened the doors to outside world to me. I came from Mexico at the age of 6, and then grew up in Bagdad, Arizona.

Larry was an amazing teacher that cared about his students. He took us on trips to California, VICA competitions in Phoenix, and treated us like his own sons & daughters. What a great mentor to have, and yes, his caring attitude and high standards for education have made a significant impact in my career and personal life.

Yavapai is an outstanding institution of higher learning. My hopes are that the leadership of this college will continue to seek and hire outstanding and visionary educators like Larry Strom. And I need to add that the sports programs at Yavapai have a rich history of excellence on the fields and courts. Some of the best times we had as young college students were sitting on the concrete benches just below the men's dorms watching the baseball teams. Go Roughriders.

*Scott McCasland (1971 - 1974)*

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I teach 8th grade Special Education. I graduated from NAU in 1977 with a BSEd, and in 82 completed my Masters. I taught in Wickenburg, AZ for 11 years, and in 87 moved to bush Alaska, and in 97 moved to Juneau.

Special Memories: Lots of very good memories have followed me from YC.

Significant Person who had an Impact: Dr. Hochstetler (spelling?) who taught English

*Robert McMinn (1977 - 1979)*

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I am a V.P. with a large commercial const. company in Charlotte NC. Spent 7 yrs in Clearwater FL as a general contractor. Have BA in Theology & MA in Counseling and do family & marriage counseling through my church.

Special Memories: YC helped me move along in my construction career. I was working as a carpenter when I started taking classes and while taking classes I was hired as a building inspector in Prescott. Later I worked with real estate developers which eventually led into construction management. My experience at YC started me on a path of continuing education which lasted over many of the following years.

Larry Strom was the most significant person who positively impacted me while I was at Yavapai.

***Brad Newman, attended 1970-71, '73***

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Bradley J. Newman has been selected as the President's Outstanding Alumni for 2008 for outstanding contributions to his profession and a commitment to community service.

Brad Newman got his first taste of college as a full time student at Yavapai College from 1970 to 1971, and returned in 1973 to complete undergraduate requirements before entering the University of Arizona in 1974 to pursue his dream of serving people with disabilities. He graduated in 1976 with a degree in Education, majoring in Rehabilitation.

Brad returned to Prescott in 1976 to engage in his dream and became Director of Yavapai Rehabilitation Center, which later became Yavapai Exceptional Industries. Under his direction, several Governors, plus regional and statewide organizations have cited YEI. Brad has created a distinguished list of partnerships with local businesses, such as Strum Ruger, and Better Built Aluminum Products, plus with the community, to instill his "kids" with a sense of responsibility, and that they make an important contribution to the community. YEI has also established their own line of propriety products, like wooden patio furniture, which is all about creating employment for people with disabilities. It has been a win, win situation.



Brad Newman (far r.), with Alumni Coordinator Barbara Claybaugh, receiving his award as the President's Outstanding Alumni for 2008.

Brad volunteers his time to many organizations in the community. He is a Big Brother, plus supports Big Brothers/Big Sisters with his personal services. He speaks to a wide array of service

clubs, and charitable functions. Recently, he spoke to the VA Medical Center on "Humor in the Workplace."

He has also made numerous appearances as host of KYCA PM Show. One of Brad's secret passions is to be an entertainer. He has participated in the Acker Music Night, plus many appearances in Prescott Fine Arts productions. If you have a need for support of a worthy cause, many people say "Call Brad Newman." Brad helped in the formation of Prescott Charities. It has been the benefactor behind so many local charitable organizations such as YEI, Prescott Child Development Center, and the Church on the Street Men's Shelter. The value of their property is well over \$6,000,000 with no debt or overhead.

Brad's career has emphasized the important part that an institution, like Yavapai College, can play in your life and business career. YC was the incubator for Brad's dream of serving people with disabilities. YC is a continual source for learning, and in fact, he is currently enrolled in a Business Management class.

Yavapai College has provided additional opportunities for YEI through their leadership in the formation of SLIM. "THE SPECIALTY/LIGHT MANUFACTURES ASSOCIATION" of the Yavapai Region works with YC in aligning training requirements specific to local manufactures needs. YEI, as an institutional member of SLIM, has been able to learn the techniques of "Lean Manufacturing," which emphasizes using less of everything; less human effort, less manufacturing space, less waste, and less investment in tools.

Thanks to Brad and the [YC Alumni Network](#) for this entry.

*Dale Tersey (1969 - 1971)*

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Dale Tersey writes that he received a B.S. in Hydrology from the University of Arizona. He is currently the Assistant IT Director for Arizona operations for Statistical Research Inc. the oldest archaeology firm in the U.S.

He remembers from his days at Yavapai "attending classes at facilities all over town from the Congregational Church to the Armory to the buildings at Fort Whipple while waiting for the new campus to be finished. The two most significant people who positively impacted me were Tom and Karen Brown. Tom taught Inorganic Chemistry and Geology and Karen taught Organic Chemistry. They changed my outlook on what I wanted to do in my life and set me on a varied and wonderful journey of learning."

*Bill Wallace, Class of 1977/78*

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William H. Wallace III "TUNA"

Bill contacted us to wish us good luck with the Alumni Outreach venture. He was one of so many that returned from military service and attended Yavapai College on the G.I. Bill. He's proud to be a Navy veteran. He was in student government and chief justice of the student court. He has many great memories at the Prescott campus.

His field of endeavor for 33 years was Food Service Management! It disappointed him many times. The pay and advancement was not all it was cracked-up to be. So you students out there – talk with him if you are thinking this field as a career. He would love to hear from his old classmates.

He is currently retired and living in Wilhoit, AZ.

Thanks to Bill and the [YC Alumni Network](#) for this entry.

### Chuck Weeks, attended 1971

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I am married and between my wife and me, we have 4 children and 3 grandchildren.

I was meant to play music and I am so happy to still be doing so. I played and sang at Orientation in 1971.

My biggest influence at Yavapai College was my choir director, Jim Burns.

He was the one who formed the YC Folk Group. I continued playing music in many rock, country, bluegrass, blues and jazz bands throughout my life. I started playing guitar in 1964, the year The Beatles hit America. I've been in many bands since. I started recording my songs for my current album in 2003. The album is called "Songs of Love & Other Stuff".



Photo caption: Sunrise Lions were entertained by the Yavapai College Folk Group recently. Tom Lyman (left), Melanie Ewart, Phyllis Walker and Chuck Weeks performed under the direction of Mr. Jim Burns, college choir director. (Courier Photo, Dec. '71)

Currently I work for a student loan guarantor agency in Northern California and I have been in the student loan industry for 13 years. This allows me to create, write, play and record my own music in my home studio.

This year I have placed my music on the web for download at the following sites:

- <http://www.tunecore.com/music/chuckweeks>

- <http://www.myspace.com/chuckweeksmusic>

Thanks to Chuck and the [YC Alumni Network](#) for this entry.