

Art Anderson



Typical of many of the retired folks in Yavapai County, Art Anderson has been attending classes at YC for seven years. He feels that he and his wife, Eliza, have received many benefits from the college. The most important, by far, was the “Weight Management” course taught by Cathy. The course and the teacher convinced them to become vegans, with real positive consequences for their health. Art also makes time to serve on the Yavapai College Foundation Board and the Alumni Outreach Project Planning & Oversight Committee.

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

Michael Berlowe



Michael Berlowe started his career in nursing after working in several other fields. He graduated from the nursing program at Yavapai College in May 2007 and earned his registered nursing license in July. He now works in Prescott on the medical surgery floor at the YRMC West Campus and part-time at Cedars Cardiovascular Center. Recently he was given the Nursing Student Award from the Arizona Nurses Association.

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

Roger Espinoza



Image from The Daily Courier Friday, January 18, 2008

Former Yavapai College soccer player Roger Espinoza went in the first round of Friday's MLS Draft, becoming the fifth former Roughrider to reach professional soccer's summit in America.

The Kansas City Wizards, who also selected Chance Myers with the No. 1 pick, chose Espinoza with the 11th overall pick. Espinoza played 50 games in his two-year Yavapai career (2005-06) earning first team All-America honors and the Region 1 Player of the Year.

After YC, Espinoza played at Ohio State, leading the Buckeyes to the NCAA Championship game this past fall. He will forgo his senior season at OSU to join the MLS. "To me that's an unbelievable accomplishment for a kid just one year removed from Yavapai College, being drafted in the first round in the highest professional league in the United States," Yavapai head coach Mike Pantalione said Friday.

Espinoza, 21, joins YC alumni Alan Gordon, Mike Randolph and Avery John currently playing in the MLS.

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

Pavla Pletková – Athlete and Electrical Engineer (2003-2005)



Pavla Pletková - Associate of Science, focus in electrical engineering.

Pavla writes to us: I currently play professional basketball in Germany, DBBL Division 2-North, for TSV Quakenbrueck, in Quakenbrueck, Germany. I left Yavapai for a basketball scholarship to IPFW in Fort Wayne, IN and played 2 more years of D1-NCAA collegiate basketball, graduating from Purdue University with a bachelor's in electrical engineering and a minor in mathematics. I also presided as Vice President of IPFW's chapter of the

National Society of Black Engineers, and am currently an active Region IV alumni member. I am also an INROADS alumna from the Great Lakes Region, having worked two summers for the Carrier Corporation, a subsidiary of United Technologies, as an industrial quality engineer and as an electrical and software engineer in advanced manufacturing. I look to continue spending my summers working as an engineer in the states as well as continuing my career as a basketball player in the coming years.

One of the first and most significant memories of Yavapai College came immediately after arriving at Yavapai when we beat Central at home in our home opener, on a buzzer beater by Chelsea Dermeyer. It was just a special basketball memory that I will always have. Meeting two of my best friends in the world, Tarryn Montgomery, and Charity Renfro has changed my life significantly. They are lifelong teammates, friends, and sisters to me, and if it were not for YC, I would have never met them. I also still have a close bond with Katie Schrader, and still talk to several other Yavapai teammates because of the bond we developed while playing there.

I also had an excellent time participating in the Honors Program, which allowed me to travel with my classmates to Prague, CZ, which is my birthplace. This was another group of people that I had a great bond with, including a great relationship that I currently have with Dr. Kathryn Reisdorfer, one of my favorite and most influential teachers.

Coach Cliff was the first coach I had that really took a genuine interest in making me a better player and I still quote him to this day with some of the quirky things he used to say to us. He was one of the best coaches I have ever had, and I will always remember my playing days at YC. Dr. Reisdorfer helped me grow as a person but, like all great teachers, was also a great listener. Her life story, knowledge, and big heart have significantly changed my views of the world and given me perspective.

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

Dawn Stone-Epperson



Dawn Stone-Epperson ran cross-country at Yavapai College from 1999-2001. She was an NJCCA All-American. Currently working as an emergency room nurse at Yavapai Regional, she still finds time to run. She has qualified for the Olympic Marathon will compete in Boston this April against 134 other qualifiers for a spot on the team. Dawn is married and has two young children.

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

Jaymie Swift, Class of 2004



Jaymie shares with us this story that I know you will find interesting. “My two years at Yavapai College seemed like, well minutes. My time in Prescott flew by so quickly, but was a vital part of my life. It was my first years living the college life on my own and away from home. Not only did I gain knowledge as a student but also as an athlete. I signed my letter of intent on signing date of December, 2001, on a full scholarship to the Lady Roughriders volleyball team. So my experience at Yavapai was fun and new.

All my professors and coaches were great people who really cared and respected you as an individual. Fay Matsumoto was the most helpful of them all. She was one of my best mentors at YC. Fay really helped me to grow as a person and player. Another person that I really looked up to was LouVina Maho, she was always there with a smile to help with any question that I had. As a Native American mentor, Ms. Maho was understanding and encouraging during my years at Yavapai. Yavapai helped me to grow in all aspects educational, athletically, and socially. It really helped me adjust to the whole college life experience.

After finishing at Yavapai, I moved to El Paso, Texas and attended The University of Texas. I received my bachelor’s degree of Health Science in Health promotion with a concentration in Kinesiology. I completed my degree in June, 2007.

Finishing my time in El Paso, I moved back to the rural area I grew up in and lived from about a month. I was a college graduate and I wasn’t sure what I wanted to. I ended up taking a leap to an unknown area across the country. I was offered an assistant coaching position at Dartmouth College. I had never been to New England and didn’t know much about the Ivy League. I was thrilled that the volleyball program considered and wanted me as part of their coaching staff. It took me a few days to think about it but I really wanted the experience.

I took the job; this is where I am today. I am very glad that I did accept this position; I learned so much about coaching at the Division I level. We finished our season November 10th, finishing 4th in Ivy League. We did well and I am looking forward spending another season here with the Big Green of Dartmouth!”

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