

YC360

Yavapai College, Your Community & You | Fall 2019



The YC Promise

The new tuition-free program
redefining local education.

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YC360
A Yavapai College Publication

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COVER SHOT:

Savannah Davis, center, is the first student to graduate under YC's new tuition-free program, The YC Promise. YC Early College Advisor Chelsie Klaine and Patrick Wellert, Savannah's AAEC principal join her to celebrate this accomplishment. Photo by Bill Leyden. Read the full story, p. 10.

Dear friends,

I've got a confession to make. I'm one of those people who relishes the start of a new school year. In my mind, there's nothing like a college campus abuzz with men and women pursuing life-changing education, their faces emanating hope, their minds open to unlimited possibilities.

If you haven't experienced this moving phenomena for yourself, I invite you to visit a Yavapai College campus this fall. If you need a reason to walk about with us, I've got you covered.

First, our campuses and centers are awash in fall splendor on par with the most picturesque natural spaces across Yavapai County.

Secondly, our inaugural Homecoming celebration is happening Oct. 17-19. When you wait 51 years to bring together more than 100,000 alumni, you pull out all the stops. Our YC alumni and events team is doing just that, bowing to both tradition and YC's uniqueness. All are welcome for Homecoming activities ranging from a Southwest Wine Center reception, to a parade, fun run, block party, Roughrider soccer and volleyball matches, athletics Hall of Fame inductions and a performance by comedian Louie Anderson. Get all the Homecoming details on our website, www.yc.edu/homecoming.

I look forward to seeing you enjoying our fall colors, celebrating our first Homecoming or any reason you choose. You are always welcome at your community college.

— Dr. Lisa Rhine
President, Yavapai College



“Our inaugural Homecoming celebration is Oct. 17-19. When you wait 51 years to bring alumni together, you pull out all the stops.”

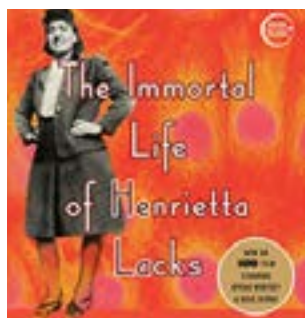
Verde High School Students Learn Cooking Close to Home

Verde Valley high school students who love to cook can turn to YC's Sedona Culinary Institute for training in the culinary field. Dual enrollment students from Mingus Union, Sedona Red Rock, and Camp Verde high schools – as well as homeschooled students – are taking college-level classes like Culinary Principles 101 and Culinary Fundamentals. The classwork combines culinary history with hands-on practice producing stocks, sauces and soups.

"Learning the theory of cooking is the basis for understanding how kitchens work," Culinary and Hospitality Program Director Robert Barr says. All four classes prepare students to pass the ServSafe exam, a basic credential for restaurant management staff.



Chef Robert Barr (left) and his Verde Valley culinary students.



Henrietta Lacks is YC's First 'Riders Read' Selection

Born and raised in poverty, Henrietta Lacks died of cancer before her 39th birthday. But cell samples taken from her, by the doctors of Johns Hopkins, continued to reproduce in the lab. Decades after her death, Henrietta's cells are still aiding disease research and physicians all over the world — a fact that was kept from Henrietta's family. Yavapai College has selected the award-winning account of her story – *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks* – as the first selection in its Riders Read series, which promotes the shared reading of a book across the College community. Dozens of copies will be available across the Yavapai County Library Network. Courses are encouraged to feature the book, and the College will sponsor discussions, panels, essay contests and more to examine this remarkable story. For more on the book and related events, visit: www.yc.edu/ridersread.

YC Names First VP for Strategic Initiatives



Dr. Diane Ryan

In August, Yavapai College appointed Dr. Diane Ryan as Vice President for Strategic Initiatives, a new position created to bring vision and leadership to a broad range of key College objectives.

"I look forward to working with different groups at the college to assess and enhance existing programs," Dr. Ryan said, "or create new ones to increase student access, enrollment and retention."

Dr. Ryan earned her Ph.D. in Community College Leadership from Old Dominion University. She also holds a B.A. and M.A. in Communication from Western Illinois University. She comes to YC from Tidewater Community College in Virginia, where she

served as dean of engineering, science and mathematics and was named 2018 Administrator of the Year.

Poseidon sculpture unveiling set



Yavapai College's Verde Valley Campus is celebrating the installation of the sculpture *Poseidon, Greek god of the seas and protector of the waters*, Friday, October 11. Internationally renowned Sedona artist John M. Soderberg, Ph.D., created the life-size bronze and will attend the dedication. Soderberg believes art is defined by the act of encapsulating empathy in some medium, be it dance or music, painting or sculpture: "The feeling and then the sharing of an emotion or idea — which is the essence of art — is what makes us human."

The installation starts at 4:45 p.m. with a brief ceremony in the Verde Valley Campus Community Room (M-137) followed by the unveiling near the Mabery Pavilion. Guests are invited to the closing reception of the *Visions of the Verde* art show, in the Verde Valley Campus Art Gallery. For more information, call (928) 634.6511.



Photo: J.J. McCormack

Chef Robert Barr takes the children of Russ & Rosemary Rusing on a tour of YC's Sedona Culinary Institute.

'KEEP YOUR EYE ON THE DOUGHNUT...'

First-Ever Culinary Scholarship Honors Prescott Bakers Russ and Rosemary Rusing

By J.J. McCormack

One by one, the children of Russ and Rosemary Rusing arrived at YC's Sedona Center on a rainy day last February for a tour of the Culinary Institute, and a catered lunch with Chef Robert Barr. Randy, Tom, Dan and Mick Rusing and Julie Ann Acklin are not bakers by profession. But they grew up in a baker's home – defined by early hours, hard work and the smell of fresh bread. And today, they will christen the Russ and Rosemary Rusing/Julie Ann's Bakery Culinary Scholarship, and honor their parents' distinguished past by supporting future bakers and chefs.

"You felt good going in there"

Julie Ann's Bakery, Russ and Rosemary's immensely popular shop, fed Prescott from 1961 to the early 1980s. It was a downtown landmark, baking bread, cakes, pastries and more from its home on Goodwin Street. "It was a very busy place and very upbeat," Dan said. "You felt good going in there."

A reputation for freshness, and the Rusings'

own generosity of spirit, made Julie Ann's a success. Russ ran the bakery. Rosemary did the books, then raised their five kids. "The bakery was a big part of our family life and history," Tom, a retired surgeon, recalled.



Rosemary Rusing

Though passionate about baking, the Rusings encouraged their children to make their own mark. "My Dad didn't push any of us into following in his footsteps, because baking was a hard life," Tom explained. "Instead, he encouraged us all to go to college." Tom became a surgeon. Dan became a CPA, then Yavapai County Finance Director. Randy went into construction, Mick became a lawyer and Julie Ann became a bookkeeper and property manager.

When Russ died in 2015, he left behind a flour-speckled recipe book, Prescott Charities – a nonprofit he and Rosemary founded

– and a phrase his children cherish: "As you travel through life, brother, whatever be your goal, keep your eye upon the doughnut and not on the hole."

A Fitting Tribute

As they toured the Culinary Institute's new teaching kitchens, the Rusings agreed that a scholarship for students in the Culinary or Hospitality Arts is a fitting tribute to Russ and Rosemary, now 98.

"It made sense to honor our parents and that business with a scholarship for young folks who want to work in the restaurant or baking industry," Tom said.

The tour concluded over lunch with Stefani Case, the Cornville Culinary student who is the first recipient of the Russ and Rosemary Rusing/Julie Ann's Bakery Culinary Scholarship. **YC**

Learn more about the Rusings, Julie Ann's Bakery and the culinary scholarship in our extended story: www.yc.edu/360.

YCPAC to Unveil the **PERRY & SANDY MASSIE FOUNDATION THEATRE**

By Michael Grady

An iconic local stage and respected College benefactors will join their legacies next year, when the theatre inside Yavapai College Performing Arts Center is re-christened The Perry & Sandy Massie Foundation Theatre. The 1,100-seat theatre will be dedicated at a small ceremony, Sunday, January 26, in the lobby of the Performing Arts Center.

The name honors Perry Massie, former president of the Yavapai College Foundation Board, and his wife, Sandy, who are both active local philanthropists. An entrepreneur, founder and director of The Outdoor Channel, Perry moved his family to Prescott in 2004. The couple become tireless advocates of education in general and YC in particular. Perry and



Perry & Sandy Massie

Sandy were driving forces behind *Education Now!* the Yavapai College scholarship program that makes higher education accessible for an estimated 25 new students each year. In addition to their work with the college, Perry,

Sandy and daughter, Georgia, are all active in a host of local causes, including Yavapai Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Arizona Community Foundation's Arizona Reads Now program.

"The Massies' approach to philanthropy has been to invest in the community," YCF Executive Director Paul Kirchgraber explained, "and the best way to do that is to help its youth transition into successful adults."

The centerpiece of the Yavapai College Performing Arts Center, the The Perry & Sandy Massie Foundation Theatre is home to YCPAC's 25-show season, as well as touring shows, satellite broadcasts and companies like the Phoenix Symphony and Prescott Pops, drawing an estimated 75,000 viewers every year.

Foundation Receives \$1M Estate Gift

Last spring, cherished friend and long-time donor Kati Kelly passed away, leaving Yavapai College a legacy through a generous bequest.

Kati's \$1 million estate gift will benefit the YC Foundation and the YC Performing Arts Center (YCPAC). "Kati's legacy commitment recognizes the important role the Foundation plays in supporting the college, its students and programs – particularly in the area of the Performing Arts," YCF Executive Director Paul Kirchgraber said. Kati first got involved with YC raising restoration funds for the Ft. Whipple gate. She became a supporter of the Performing Arts Center, a YC Foundation Platinum Donor and a member of the Legacy League. "With this planned gift, Kati's passion for Yavapai College will live on in perpetuity," Kirchgraber said.



Arizona Ranger's Diamond Legacy

When Arizona Ranger Sergeant John Bashor passed away in January, the Rangers' Lonesome Valley Company looked for a way to honor "a great guy, and a dedicated Ranger."

Sgt. Bashor always enjoyed coaching girls softball. Several of his players – including his two daughters – tried out for the U.S. Olympic Softball Team. So the Lonesome Valley Company doubled a \$500 donation from John's widow, Patti, and donated it to the Yavapai College Girls' Softball Team, in his memory.

They presented the check in uniform Saturday, April 6, between games of a doubleheader. "John loved girls softball," Lonesome Valley Captain Jerry Prieto said. "It's a nice tribute to him."

Foundation Financials

FY 2019 Expenditures

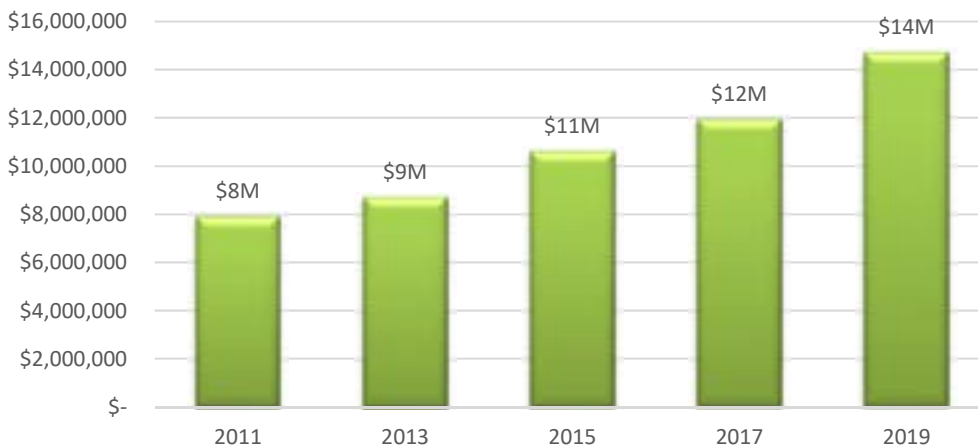


Direct Support of Yavapai College

Including scholarship assistance to students, funding of capital projects and program enhancements



Growth of Endowment



Impact of Wills & Bequests



Balance Sheet

ASSETS	2019	2018
Cash	\$ 677,930	\$ 821,793
Promises to give	1,155,765	139,317
Prepaid expenses	40,225	125,383
Accounts receivable	49,811	-
Fixed assets (net of deprec.)	-	221,476
Investments	16,763,758	15,181,365
Other assets	-	-
Total Assets	\$ 18,687,489	\$ 16,489,334

2019 Assets \$18.7M

LIABILITIES	2019	2018
Accounts payable	\$ 258,939	\$ 312,648
Accrued scholarship expense	580,214	566,754
Accrued payroll	36,936	24,736
Deferred revenue	209,531	231,520
Total Liabilities	\$ 1,085,620	\$ 1,135,658

2019 Liabilities \$1.1M

FUND BALANCE	2019	2018
Without donor restrictions:		
Undesignated	\$ 784,422	\$ 679,135
Designated	981,858	595,510
With donor restrictions	15,835,589	14,079,031
Total Fund Balance	\$ 17,601,869	\$ 15,353,676
Total Liabilities and Fund Balance	\$ 18,687,489	\$ 16,489,334

2019 Fund Balance \$17.6M







Fulfilling the ‘Promise’

By Michael Grady

Savannah Davis wanted to study medicine. But she became a pioneer along the way. “My mom is a nurse,” she explained, “and I always got my inspiration from her.” At 16, Savannah began concurrent enrollment – taking YC courses while still in high school. “At first, I was a little scared. But they really help you out at YC and ensure you’re comfortable.” More than comfortable, she excelled. She aced her classes, outran her own academic timetable, and then christened a revolutionary new program. In May, Savannah graduated from AAEC High School in Prescott Valley. In July, she graduated from Yavapai College—as the first student to fulfill the YC Promise.

“Hey, I could actually do this”

The YC Promise is a new program that allows eligible students to attend college and earn their degree, tuition-free.

“It’s a life-changing opportunity,” College President Dr. Lisa Rhine said. “Not only does the YC Promise signal that a high quality college education is attainable, but with all the additional support and services, the likelihood of obtaining a post-secondary degree is also significantly increased.”

Dr. Clint Ewell, YC’s Vice President of Finance and Administration, has been campaigning for a Promise-like program since 2015. He is proud to be able to offer it to residents of Yavapai County. “We want every Yavapai County high school graduate to say ‘I went to college and I got my degree’ without financial burdens. This program makes that possible.”

Savannah has another term for the Promise: “It’s a blessing. AAEC was a blessing. Yavapai College was a blessing, the YC Promise, and everything.”

Savannah’s charter school, AAEC, pays tuition for students who take college classes



Photo by Bill Leyden

Savannah Davis of Prescott Valley is first to graduate under YC’s new tuition-free program.

while still in high school. Savannah became a concurrent enrollment student in 2016, with counselors from AAEC and Yavapai College working to keep her on track. She graduated high school just a few classes short of her college degree, and then the Promise kicked in.

“As soon as I figured out ‘Hey, I could actually do this,’ I thought, ‘Take that opportunity and run with it.’” She laughed.

With the Promise reimbursement, Savannah’s family can apply her YC tuition costs toward future education expenses. “It’s an amazing thing,” Patrick Wellert, Savannah’s AAEC principal, said. “With all the talk going around about ‘free college,’ well, this is free college, and it’s awesome.”

A Game-Changer

Implemented last spring, the YC Promise is one of the nation’s most ambitious assistance programs – eligible students receive a reimbursement check for their tuition if they graduate from their degree programs on time.

“They don’t have to take out loans for tuition,” YC Early College Advisor Chelsie Klaine explained. “The YC Promise says, ‘Hey, get your degree done and we’ll reimburse you.’”

The Promise could change local education into two important ways: Students who once deemed college unaffordable will suddenly find a degree within reach; and students like Savannah can accelerate their education; graduating faster, reaching their goals younger, and redefining the limits on what they can achieve.

In August, Savannah took her goals and her associate’s degree up to Northern Arizona University. Her interests range from genetics to cardiovascular surgery, but she will thoroughly explore all options. “Right now, the plan is to get my bachelors in Biomedical Science,” she said. “From there, I can branch off into any medical profession I’d like.” Learn more about the YC Promise at www.yc.edu/promise **YC**

WHERE CAREER OPPORTUNITIES ARE CREATED



An Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) student prepares his drone for a mission on the Chino Valley campus.

YC Drone Program Keeps Up with an Evolving Field

By Michael Grady

"A lot of people buy a drone, and think: 'now I know how to do everything.'" UAS Program Director Matthew Mintzmyer said. But they don't – because the demand and uses for drone technologies are expanding even as we speak. Serious pilots need a flexible learning program and a real-world approach in order to keep up.

A Mission-Based Approach

YC's Unmanned Aircraft Systems students are trained to think beyond the logistics of flight and into the objective of each mission. "It's not really the drone that's important," Mintzmyer explained. "It's the payload onboard. Our classes deal not only with construction and flight, but how to plan a mission, how to use the software, how to gather and interpret analytics. Everything behind it."

"Our classes deal not only with construction and flight, but everything behind it."

– Matt Mintzmyer,
UAS Program Director

"Right now (drones are) working in a lot of different industries. We're seeing engineers from big companies start to use them for mapping purposes."

With proper software and training, he said, a drone can scan a parcel of land and accurately measure its elevation, slopes and contours. "We actually have some surveyors starting to take our classes. We work with industry professionals when we do our missions."

Real World Training

The UAS Program doesn't train students

on "canned" classroom exercises with pre-fabricated results. "We do drone missions out in the community, where we don't know the outcome," Mintzmyer said. "We'll call (a business) up: 'Do you have drones?'" If they don't, the program proposes a joint project, which has led to a compelling variety of training missions.

To date, the UAS program has flown thermal-scanning drones to inspect solar panels at local schools; their agricultural drones photograph alfalfa fields to identify areas with draining issues or blight. They have mapped land parcels, measured inventories at building sites and assisted local businesses as their students learn.

"It serves as kind of a partnership," Mintzmyer explains. "We meet with organizations, they learn what drones can do, and our students get exposure to industry experts." **YC**

Tips to Attract Local Customers

By Jeri Denniston, YC Small Business Development Center

Attracting local customers means thinking beyond the usual. Your clientele becomes so accustomed to the same approaches, every day, they eventually become invisible. Here are a few tips businesses can use to break through the blasé:



TIP #1 – A Memorable Window Display

Think about the products in your store. What can you pull together to tell a visual story? For example, if you sell locally-made jewelry, think about real-life moments that feature jewelry. One store used mannequins to show a man proposing on bended knee. If you sell paint, imagine a display with a couple pondering paint samples, or testing various shades in their home. Tableaus like these tell a story, evoke emotion and make people stop.

TIP #2 – A Loyalty Program

Print up loyalty cards for your customers. Starbucks does this, and follows up with email and text messages encouraging customers to return for their rewards. You can do the same. Mark or punch a card each time your customer purchases. Once they reach the magic number – say, 5 or 10 purchases – they get a small amenity, like a free drink. Loyalty programs are an inexpensive way to build buying habits and coax customers back.

The Small Business Development Center offers a free flyer with more tips – including partnerships and internet profiles – that attract local customers. For the full flyer, contact the SBDC at 928-717-7232.

A FAIR TO REMEMBER



22 people were hired from a recent REDC job fair.

REDC creates job fairs that get results

By Michael Grady

Job seekers, you may want to re-evaluate your sources. While websites and word-of-mouth can occasionally offer leads, job fairs are becoming the most effective way to find local employment.

“Twenty-two people came away with jobs from our last job fair,” Katherine Anderson, of Yavapai College’s Regional Economic Development Center, says.

What Makes a Good Job Fair?

Job fairs are nothing new. But under YC’s Regional Economic Development Center (REDC), they are more frequent, more evenly spread throughout the county, and more successful at connecting applicants with employers.

“It’s useful from an employer’s perspective,” says Makenna Bird, a Human Resources representative for Fann Contracting. “You reach a different employee market than you would with just regular advertising.”

Alan Holtz, a prospective employee, agrees. Holtz was contemplating a move from Albuquerque and saw YC’s March 27 job fair advertised on a sign in Prescott Valley.

“The job fair exceeded my expectations both in size of the event and in the quality of employers.”

Working Both Sides of the Table

Anderson and her REDC team have been holding job fairs since 2014. “We always try to improve,” she says. By tracking results and responding to feedback, the REDC has expanded the size and diversity of each event. YC’s last job fair, held April 3 in Cottonwood, attracted 100 registered job seekers. The March 27 fair, in Prescott, drew 384.

A successful job fair requires good communication between companies and applicants. “We’ve created a ‘best practices’ list that we give out to exhibitors,” Anderson says.

The REDC generously publicizes each event, posting a roster of businesses in advance so job seekers can prepare. “It helps if you’re ready to have an in-depth conversation (with an employer) when you get there,” Anderson explains.

The REDC will sponsor 2020 job fairs in Chino Valley Feb. 21 and in Prescott Mar. 25. For details on how to exhibit or attend, please call: (928) 776-2008. **YC**



YAVAPAI COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS TACKLES MUSICAL THEATRE'S BIGGEST SHOW

It started as a lark, back in August 2018. "We were looking at this season, and needed a big show," YCPAC Director Craig Ralston recalls. "We laughed and said, 'What about *Phantom*?' thinking we'd never get the rights."

But they did. So after artfully tackling a series of large-cast productions (*Beauty & The Beast*, *Mary Poppins*), YCPAC decided to climb musical Mount Everest. "We have built up to this," Ralston says. "Not only in student talent, but with community support. We are totally ready."

Phantom of the Opera, Andrew Lloyd Webber's lavish Tony Award-winning musical, is a go-big-or-go-home proposition. The epic scale, work ethic and artistry it demands could break many professional companies. But as opening night nears, YCPAC is rising to the challenge.

"We are building more than we've ever built for a show." But even as Costume Director Joanne Cole lists the logistics – a 60 person cast, 250 costumes, 600+ costume pieces – she delights in the gowns her student workers have built, found, rented and mended. They hang on the large racks that threaten to swallow her shop. "Our big payoff will be the costume parade, when you finally see every costume, and say, 'ooh, that looks great under the lights!'"

Commitment to *Phantom* runs deep. "This has been my dream role since I was 12," Kaela McMahon, who plays Christine, says. "The first song my (singing) teacher gave me was *Think of Me*." The role is a tightrope walk of daunting character questions and super-high notes. But McMahon isn't in it just for herself. "My mom used to sit outside the door and cry when I sang *Think of*



Costume Director Joanne Cole (center) student Adriana Hurtadot (right) and volunteer Holli Paquette model a few of *Phantom's* 250-plus costumes.

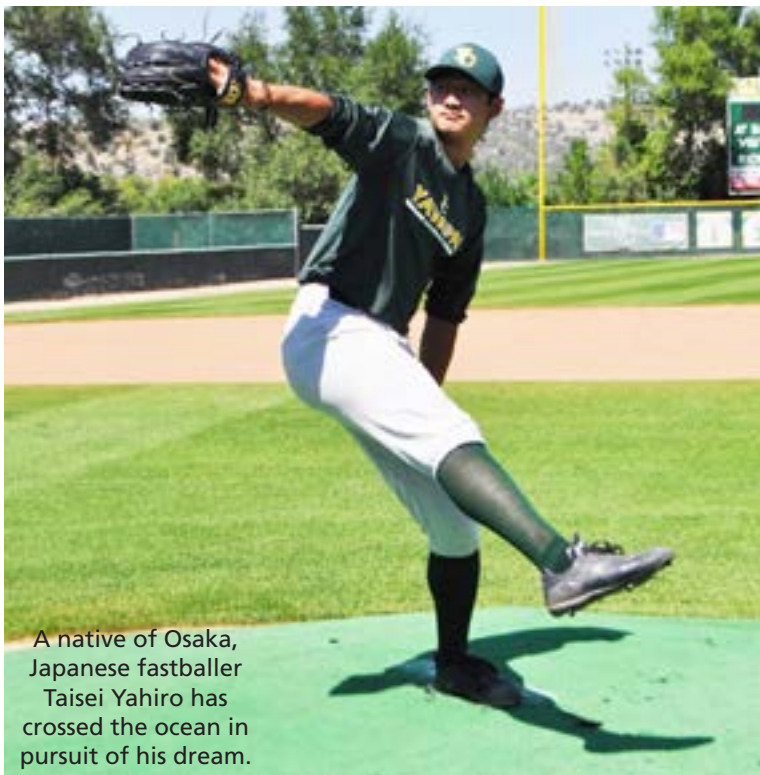
Me. So this is for her, too."

On November 14, *Phantom's* iconic notes will sound and its trademark chandelier will hover over a labor of love for 100 actors, singers, dancers, musicians, volunteers and crew.

"The most enjoyable part has been helping people realize their potential," Ralston says. "Yeah, it's great to sell tickets. To have a wonderful orchestra playing for us. But this is about our students and community members – seeing them grow and perfect their art. That's the best part of it." **YC**

— By Michael Grady

PHANTOM OF THE OPERA RUNS NOV. 14-24. FOR SHOW TIMES AND TICKETS, CALL (928) 776.2000 OR VISIT: WWW.YCPAC.COM



A native of Osaka, Japanese fastballer Taisei Yahiro has crossed the ocean in pursuit of his dream.

'Rider from Afar

Osaka's Taisei Yahiro studies Business and Math when he's not pitching for the Roughriders

By Robin Layton

At 19, Taisei Yahiro has seen quite a bit of the world. Home is Osaka, Japan, but the baseball pitcher has played in Canada, as well as traveled to many tournaments in the U.S.

Taisei has settled in Prescott for now, playing for the Yavapai College Roughriders baseball team.

"I've been playing baseball since I was 10," Taisei shared. "My dad was a huge fan of baseball and that's the reason I started playing. He has always been the best coach for baseball, and in life."

Taisei follows the Toronto Blue Jays, but loves to watch Shohei Ohtani of the Los Angeles Angels – the talented Japanese pitcher and hitter who is nicknamed "Sho Time."

On the mound, Taisei feels his personal strength is in his fastball.

"I like getting fly balls with my fastball and to change the timing."

Taisei liked what he saw of the YC campus and Prescott after a November visit. While at YC, he is studying business and math and he hopes to transfer to a four-year university and, hopefully, go onto Major League Baseball. **YC**

PLENTY OF GAMES LEFT!

There's still time to cheer our Roughrider Soccer and Volleyball teams on to the playoffs

Soccer

Sat. 10/12	6 p.m.	Gateway CC	Prescott
Thu. 10/17	7 p.m.	AZ Western	Yuma
Sat. 10/19	3 p.m.	Pima C.C. (Homecoming)	Prescott
Wed. 10/23	3 p.m.	Scottsdale CC	Prescott
Mon. 10/28	6 p.m.	NJCAA Region I Playoff	AZ SITE TBD
Wed. 10/30	6 p.m.	NJCAA Region I Playoff	AZ SITE TBD
Sat. 11/2	6 p.m.	NJCAA Region I Playoff	AZ SITE TBD
Sat. 11/9	TBA	NJCAA West District Playoff	UT-NV Site
11/18-20	TBA	NJCAA National Group Play	Tyler TX
Fri. 11/22	TBA	NJCAA National Semifinal	Tyler TX
Sat. 11/23	TBA	NJCAA National Championship	Tyler TX

Volleyball

Wed. 10/16	7 p.m.	Glendale CC	Glendale
Fri. 10/18	7 p.m.	Park Univ. (Homecoming)	Yuma
Wed. 10/23	7 p.m.	Scottsdale CC	Scottsdale
Fri. 10/25	7 p.m.	AZ Western College	Yuma
Sat. 10/26	3 p.m.	AZ Western College	Yuma
Wed. 10/30	7 p.m.	Eastern AZ College	Prescott
Fri. 11/1	7 p.m.	Phoenix College	Phoenix
Thu. 11/7	TBA	NJCAA Reg. 1	AZ Site TBA
Tue. 11/12	TBA	NJCAA District Champ.	North TX
11/21-23	TBA	NJCAA Champ. Tourney	Kansas



'Alexa, Ask Ruff ...'

By J.J. McCormack

YC students now have a new way to stay connected.

Alexa, Amazon's voice-activated domestic know-it-all, now answers questions about Yavapai College. Simply find one of these sleek cylinders on the Prescott campus, say: "Alexa, ask Ruff..." and ask – about courses, building locations or upcoming events. Alexa will ask Ruff, the YC mascot, who then imparts his wisdom.



YC Student Ambassador
Alex Daniels

That's how it appears to work. The nuts and bolts of Alexa belong to Alex Daniels, the student putting Amazon Echo technology in the service of YC. "It's kind of fun to be one of the first," he says. A former Chino Valley High School valedictorian and YC Student Ambassador, Daniels studied the interactive technology's immersion at St. Louis (IL) University, and became convinced he could make it work for YC. It required a lot of question-and-answer coding. "I spent a bit of time learning a new trade," he says.

With the help of advisor Janice Souttee, the student ambassadors began developing questions and answers for the Alexa program last March. Daniels worked with facilities and the College's IT Department to address security concerns, and with CTEC's 3D printing students to create a physical shell for Alexa.

Nine Alexae will be dispatched across the Prescott campus this month. If the limited rollout is successful, the units will then extend to the Verde and CTEC this spring. In the meantime, Daniels will continue his classwork and volunteer work, as he eyes graduation and a possible career as a tech entrepreneur. **YC**

YAVAPAI COLLEGE
HOMECOMING
OCT. 17-19, 2019

JOIN US FOR THREE DAYS OF FUN AND COMMUNITY
WITH REUNIONS, LIVE MUSIC, PARADES,
A BLOCK PARTY – AND MORE!

WWW.YC.EDU/HOMECOMING

f @ in

Your Homecoming Invitation

Yavapai College holds its first Homecoming Extravaganza
Oct. 17-19! Here's your quick guide to the key events:

Thursday, October 17

Homecoming Happy Hour Kick-Off Mixer

Southwest Wine Center, Verde Valley
Campus | 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.
Reconnect with faculty and classmates
over a glass of the College's award-winning
wine on the vineyard terrace.

Friday, October 18

Spirit Parade

Prescott Campus | 3:30 p.m.
YC's first Homecoming parade will
feature students, faculty and staff driving
tricked-out golf carts and off-road
vehicles!

Block Party

Prescott Campus | 4 - 7 p.m.
Enjoy games, food trucks, jump houses,
vendor booths and live music from Sugar
& the Mint.

Volleyball: Roughriders vs. Park University

Walraven Gym, Prescott Campus | 7 p.m.
Watch our Roughriders do battle with
the Buccaneers!

Saturday, October 19

Fun Run

Performing Arts Center, Prescott Campus
| 8:30 a.m.
This scenic 1.7 mile trek is dog-friendly,
stroller friendly and ... just plain friendly.
Proceeds benefit scholarships and the
Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Hall of Fame Brunch

Hotel St. Michael, 205 W. Gurley St.,
Prescott | 11 a.m.
Celebrate 'Riders past and present at the
Athletic Award Recognition Brunch.

Soccer: Roughriders vs. Pima Community College

Ken Lindley Field,
Prescott Campus | 3 p.m.
Cheer every GOOOAAALLL!, as our Riders
take on the Aztecs!

Louie Anderson

Performing Arts Center,
Prescott Campus | 7:30 p.m.
He has been dubbed one of Comedy
Central's "100 Best Stand Up Comedians
of All Time." Hear Louie's weirdly
wonderful take on life.

For more information on individual events, visit:
www.yc.edu/homecoming

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Success Story

Eighteen years ago, Genie Gee packed her kids into the car and drove to Arizona to re-set her life. Her story – including her YC degree and her desire to become a teacher – provide the backbone for an inspiring new video. You can find the video at www.yc.edu/360 and you can find Gee at Mingus Union High School, where she is principal.

Photo by Bill Leyden.