

November 2021 Board Highlights

Professional Programs & Visual Arts

- **Tara O'Neill**, Education and Early Childhood Education program director, completed her dissertation on Instructor Social Presence and Immediacy in Asynchronous Settings and has completed her PhD in Psychology with an emphasis in Teaching, Learning and Technology.

Nursing, Allied Health, ABE, Mathematics and Science

- On Saturday, October 16th, 2021, members of the Student Nursing Association (SNA) volunteered to assist Los Pinos local Mexican Restaurant in Prescott, in raising funds for cancer patients during Breast Cancer Awareness month in collaboration with YRMC Dignity Health. Will Aldaco, owner of Los Pinos lost his wife to Breast cancer years ago. Their role was to prepare the decorations for the event. Mr. Aldaco raises funds that are donated directly to patients to meet their needs of cancer treatments. <https://www.lospinosmexicanrestaurants.com/> Pictured below are YC students **Amber Heimeyer, Jasmin Ocampo, Natalie Martinez**.



The Office of Instructional Support

- **Assessment Day 2021**

Assessment Day 2021 was held on Friday, September 17th for all full-time faculty at Yavapai College. Yavapai College supports the assessment process by supporting an annual Assessment Day in September hosted by the Office of Instructional Support, the Office of Institutional Effectiveness and Research, and the following faculty committees: Student Learning Outcomes Assessment, Curriculum, and General Education. Activities during assessment day are designed as both professional development in the area of course and program assessment and a work session for faculty to engage in dialogue that allow them to discuss assessment results, complete reports, and to make assessment plans for the coming academic year. **Dr. Amy Stein** provided an overview of the Higher Learning Commission Accreditation process in preparation for September 2022 HLC site visit.

- **AZ State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement Annual Renewal**

Yavapai College's annual renewal application was approved by the AZ State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (AZ SARA) Council on Thursday, September 9th, 2021. The State Authorization Reciprocity Agreement (SARA) is an agreement among member states, districts and territories that establishes comparable national standards for interstate offering of postsecondary distance education courses and programs. This means that Yavapai College has approval for offering distance education courses to students that live outside of Arizona in other SARA approved states.

- **Professional Development Opportunities for Faculty**

The Teaching & eLearning Support (TeLS) department is working with faculty to support YC's online courses to be the best they can be through training and quality assurance. Over the past three months, twenty-five of our amazing YC faculty have completed the Improving Your Online Course (IYOC) workshop, fifteen have participated in the Open Educational Resources (OER) training course, and thirty-five have completed our TEACH Online course, a 2-week course designed for new and experienced teachers who want to hone their online teaching skills.

Library Services

- The first Spanish Cafe (a monthly language exchange) was amazing! Thank you to all the students, staff, faculty, and community members who attended! The next confirmed Spanish Cafe will be on November 3 at 12pm at the Prescott and Verde Valley Campus libraries. Hope to see you there! <https://www.yc.edu/spanishcafe>



- **Dr. Curtis Kleinman**, Spanish Instructor, gave a lecture titled “I Took Two Years of Spanish and all I know is, ¿Dónde está el baño?” at the Prescott Campus library during Hispanic Heritage month. It was well attended in person as well as on Zoom and participants engaged in a vibrant Q&A.



YC Performing Arts Center

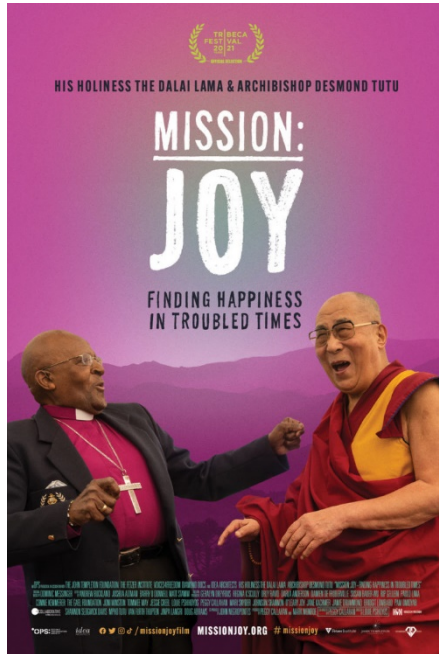
- FMA'S In Focus Film Series worked with Student Services and screened *Tortilla Soup* on the Prescott and VV Campuses.



- The FMA program moved to an 8-week schedule this year and students are completing their group projects for Production I.



- The PAC team is working hard to get the theatre up and running for the re-opening of the theater. The first event is the Prescott Film Festival's Opening Night Film, *Mission: Joy – Finding Happiness in Troubled Times*. YC Philosophy professor Andrew Winters is scheduled to speak at the presentation, along with other guests.



Performing Arts

- **Emily Schuler**, 2021 graduate of YC was the recipient of a \$4500 Yavapai Symphony Association scholarship. She performed music of Bach, Beethoven, Schubert, and Debussy on the piano to receive this honor. She is now continuing her studies at NAU where she is studying music education.



- **Benita Rose**, professor of piano, presented at the SMA conference via Zoom from New York City. The conference had 300 international attendees. Her topic was the importance of music study in neurodiverse populations.



English, Humanities, & Social Sciences

- Psychology professor **Laraine Herring's** ninth book, [*A Constellation of Ghosts: A Speculative Memoir with Ravens*](#), was released from Regal House Press this month. Additionally, her work has appeared this month in [JMWW \("The Air Between Us"\)](#) and in [The Rumpus \("Tick, Tock, Write"\)](#).



Verde Valley Campus

- Dr. Daniel Bright middle school students came to tour the Skilled Trades Center and building L programs. These students also applied to be YC students and registered for STU 101. The students were so excited about their opportunities here at the college. Many shared they could see themselves here in high school. The programs that generated the most interest were 3-D printing and manufacturing, a program we hope to bring to the Verde Valley campus very soon!



- **Heather Mulcaire**, Associate Dean for the Verde Valley Campus and **Aaron Rodriguez**, Skilled Trade Center Construction Instructor, met with Robyn Prud'homme-Bauer, Mayor of Clarkdale, Craig Backus, Mike Lindner from the Historical Society, and Drake Meinke from the Copper Mine Museum about the planned renovations for the TF Miller Building on Main Street in Clarkdale. The TF Miller Building used to be an old grocery store that closed down in the '80s. The building has since been vacant. Drake Meinke is leading the grant writing effort to restore this space which is much needed if the town wants to attract more business to the Main Street area. Restoration will then YC construction students to participate by taking on a few projects, including building walls and the platforms for the window staging areas.



- On September 30, Yavapai College Foundation sponsored a special exhibition event and renaming of the Verde Art Gallery to the Patty Mikles-McMullin Art Gallery.

Over 250 guests viewed never seen ceramic works by deceased Clarkdale artist Don Reitz. His daughter, Donna, attended. Additionally, **Barb Waak**, English faculty, spoke about her friend, long-time art faculty, and founder of the Verde Art Gallery, **Patty Mikles-McMullen**, whose name now graces the Verde Valley Campus Art Gallery.



- On October 8th at the Verde Valley campus, more than 65 attendees appeared in person or via Zoom for the Arizona Town Hall "Creating Vibrant Communities" event.

Arizona Town Hall educates, engages, connects, and empowers people to resolve important issues through consensus, using a process based on dialogue that values diverse perspectives, builds relationships, and fosters leadership development.

Yavapai College Regional Economic Development Center is a member of Arizona Town Hall.

Verde Valley and Sedona participants represented a diverse cross-section of leaders and policymakers, from elected public servants to private and non-profit sectors.

Dr. Tina Redd, Dean of English, Humanities, Social Sciences, and the Verde Valley Campus welcomed the guests, encouraged robust discussion, and introduced Arizona Town Hall President Tara Jackson.

All participants engaged in identifying critical actions structured to make the region healthier and more vibrant. In addition to **Dr. Redd**, Yavapai College adjunct faculty and staff participated in the discussions.



- After several weeks of workshops for participating businesses and entrepreneurs to develop their "pitch," Moonshot Pioneer Pitch, an event sponsored by Verde Valley Regional Economic Organization and Yavapai College, was held on October 16 on the Verde Valley Campus.

This year's pitch event was yet another confirmation of the innovative and driven entrepreneurs in the region who all play a role in strengthening our local economies. The 2021 participants were a dedicated group. Over six weeks, they transformed their ideas and expansion plans, setting goals to move their businesses forward. Having connected with new resources and support systems, including SBDC, VVREO, and NACET, among others, they are all set on a path toward success. Yavapai College Viticulture Student **Kim Schneider** ranked 4th in the competition. **Liquos Corporation's David Flower and Danusia Szumowoski** won the competition and were awarded \$1500 and free support services from local businesses and organizations.

