

## **Don Cook, Class of 1971, Business Administration**

**Years Attended:** 1971

**Area of Study:** Business Administration

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I thoroughly enjoyed my two years at Yavapai College. As other ex-students have shared it was interesting the first few months of the Fall Semester of 1969 when we spent time driving all over Prescott to attend classes. YC provided me the opportunity to prepare for the academic challenges which followed after I graduated from YC in May 1971. I transferred to ASU where I received a Bachelor of Science degree.



After I graduated I was commissioned a 2nd Lt and spent time serving in the USAF. Pilot training followed in west Texas in 1974. After the USAF I moved to Dallas where I lived/worked for 25 years. I spent the majority of my working career (20 years) working for a electric utility that was headquartered in Dallas. In that position I was involved in SEC financings and employee benefit plans and was fortunate to receive my MBA-Finance in May of 1973. I owned my own business for a time and finally returned to Arizona in 2005.... I am currently working for a major insurance company in the Phoenix area.

I don't remember many of the instructors at YC but there is one who stands out in my mind: Norval Pohl. Dr. Pohl taught me 2 classes in both statistics and economics. I remember Dr. Pohl as a concerned instructor and outstanding advisor/mentor. One of my memories is a comment that Dr. Pohl told me about the academic differences between YC and ASU. I remember being excited about an A that I received in one of his classes. He looked at me and said that for various reasons an A at YC would most likely

be a B or a C at ASU. Dr. Pohl was correct. I took his comment seriously and was prepared for the more difficult atmosphere that was present at ASU.

I think institutions such as YC provide an invaluable service to the communities in which they are located. I also think that it is important for students to realize that there are differences between classes at a Junior College and Freshman/Sophomore classes at a major university. I continued to follow the adventures of Yavapai College while I was living in Texas via the internet.

As far as children...I have four: a son who is teaching mathematics at a Christian High School in Dallas, a daughter who is a registered nurse at a major hospital in Dallas, a daughter who is teaching biology at a Christian Middle/High School in Hawaii, and a son who is a junior in college studying to be a youth minister.

My business travels have taken me from Dallas to New York City to Boston to Chicago to Miami over to San Francisco and up to Denver. My leisure travels have focused on cruises...the Caribbean, the Mexican Riviera, and someday to Hawaii.... Couple of things that I have learned along the way...."try to find a job that you look forward to Monday as much as you look forward to Friday...", second you will only be happy in life when you realize that "life was not intended to be fair"...so quit saying "that is not fair...", and third cherish every moment that you have with your wife, children, friends, and relatives.