

## **Darren Gagnon, Biology, 1993-1995**

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**Years Attended:** 1993-95

**Area of Study:** Biology

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Darren writes: After Yavapai, I transferred to Grace College in Winona Lake, Indiana. Grace is a small Christian Liberal Arts College in northern Indiana, and while there I earned my B. A. in Biology. After I graduated, I had the honor of filling in for Coach Cunningham after he stepped down as the Men and Women's Assistant Coach at YC during the 1997-1998 season. What a terrific experience to learn the finer points of coaching from Coach Clifford and Coach Carroll, two men that I still admire greatly. After my year back at YC, I was fortunate enough to marry Stacey Jackson, whom I met while she was playing volleyball at Yavapai. We have now been married 10 years this year (2008) and have two children. Our son Silas is 4 and our daughter Bailey will be 7 in May. After we were married, we moved to Camp Verde, where we have lived ever since. Currently, I am teaching 6th grade at a small charter school in Camp Verde, and coaching the boy's Varsity program at Camp Verde High School.

Darren listed three people with positively impacted him while he was at YC - Bob Hoskovec, Dolph Carroll and Vince Fornara. At the time, Bob was the dorm director, and living in Supai Hall. Bob has always been a great guy and a true friend. He was always encouraging and helping all of us poor college students. He really helped make our college experience a fun time. Dolph Carroll also made quite an impression. Even though it has been a lot of years since I last spoke to Coach Carroll, I often remember the fiery-red face, the non-stop #\*@&! cursing, the early morning practices (and if I remember right, early morning was about 4am...), and the 6-hour practices. But more than anything, I will always think of Coach Carroll as my 2nd father. He played that role very well, and made me BELIEVE in so much more than basketball. Vince Fornara has become a valued friend over the years, and is someone I look up to...sort of. Even though short of stature, he had a big impact on me while at YC. Vinny was always smiling, and loved to come to the college and get us all fired up and ready to play.

I will never forget the good times I was lucky enough to have with all of the friends and teammates during my time at YC. I still am in contact on a regular basis with so many guys I played with. Our time was truly special. I would like to say 'thank you' to YC, and to Coach Clifford, Coach Carroll, Bob Hoskovec, Vince Fornara, and all the other people that invested their time in our lives. Thanks for the good memories.