

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

Years Attended: 2003-05

Area of Study: Associate of Science- Electrical Engineering

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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.

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Pavla gives us this update:

“I’m signing full-time this summer with Rockwell Collins in Sterling, VA. I’ll be working in the flight simulator division, and continue playing basketball overseas during the season, taking a sabbatical leave in the autumn. I’m really excited because they have stuck in there with me during the last year and a half and continued to support my playing career, so I thought it would be important to add that in there.”