

***Toni DeBolt Baker, attended 1978-81; Ed Major, Cheerleader***

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Photo left: As a YC Cheerleader (bottom w/glasses).

Toni attended Yavapai College from 1978-1980 as an Education Major. Toni is currently working for Southern California Edison as a supervisor. She has four daughters, 1 stepson, 1 stepdaughter, 1 grandson, 1 granddaughter (one more on the way). She has been living in Southern California for 22 years now and loves it.

She enjoyed rooming with Lori, Cheryl and Heidi and being part of the Cheerleading program, and she still has a love for basketball. One professor – she can't remember his name, told her not to be a teacher but to get into the computer field, and that totally changed her future.



Toni today living in S. California.



Toni living at YC in the dorms.

Thanks to Toni and the [YC Alumni Network](#) for this entry.

### *Keith Haynes (1983-1985)*

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I did all my schooling here [Prescott] and then after I graduated high school I got an AA from Yavapai in 1985. So, I was a student here in 1983, 1984, and 1985

I would say in the late 60's/early 70's it was very dicey here as far as [my father's] employment situation here. There were really no protections whatsoever for faculty in their careers and employment with the College. The administration was extremely authoritarian... Male faculty were prohibited from having beards. I've heard one story that any faculty caught on Whiskey Row would be terminated. I'm sure that was kind of a reaction against a lot of the social turmoil of the 1960's & "we're not going to let those long-hairs come to Prescott and ruin our town..."

One of my best memories of Yavapai [as a student] during my last semester here was the College Honors Program trip. We went over to California and went to the Scripps Aquarium, went out on boats to Catalina Island, Santa Barbara Channel. It was kind of an oceanographic-themed trip to Southern California. Dr. Jim Pence was the Honors Program coordinator at that time. He was an English instructor. He moved on from Yavapai within a couple years after that and I think he's actually a College President or pretty high up in Administration at a college in the north Midwest. Beth Boyd who teaches Geology right now and is currently a faculty member also went on that trip.

That was a real good memory how those people kind of bonded on that trip and did things that college students typically do—staying up late, having fun, bending the rules. That was definitely my best memory as far as the social life. I remember that trip being more exhausting than I had ever been in my life. When we got back from that trip I slept for 3 days after being up for 5 days. That Honors Program really offered something nice to bring the extracurricular and social activities with the academic. I was always thankful for the Honors Program...

I got on a Humanities/English track. A big part of getting on that Humanities/English track was a fabulous class I had with a man named David Hochstetler, who's one of the Yavapai icons. He retired about my first year that I taught here '92-'93. He ending up retiring sometime about then. First Dave was in the faculty at the College in the '70's, then he was in Administration, kind of an Academic Vice-President/Campus Dean, then he went back to

faculty. His Humanities class that I had, I think is was called Arts and Ideas, was really influential [to me].

Transcribed excerpt from an oral history interview of Keith Haynes with Kali Park, a College Honors Student, 2007/08

### *Reita (Holloway) Deane 1975-1984; Art Department*

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Reita shares with us the following story:

"I had the time of my life, taking all the art courses I could. Through the years in retirement, I still do stain glass, weaving, woodworking, pottery, cooking classes, etc. I had a great time at Yavapai College. I can't remember their names, but I didn't have a teacher I didn't like. I wish I could remember all my teachers...such a great time. We had great yearly

art trips to California, with the Art Club, of which I was a member.

I was born and raised in Kansas, though I lived in Prescott for 35 years. I went there to work for a Doctor in 1954 and later married. I moved back to Kansas in 1987, 5 years after my husband died, to take care of my parents, until their deaths. I married my high school sweetheart, 21 years ago.

While in Prescott, my husband and I owned a service pharmacy for a number of years. I was a lab and x-ray tech for 18 years. I have 2 children, Jim Holloway is a pharmacist at desert Samaritan Hospital in Mesa, AZ, and has been there since 1980. My daughter Julie Holloway Weldon is married to United Airline pilot, a graduate of Emory Riddle, and they live in Omaha, Neb. I'm blessed with 4 grandchildren. Oldest just received his masters in filmmaking, UNC, Greensboro, North Carolina; the youngest is a junior in high school.

I'm 75, and going strong. I took up golf, since I retired, and keep active doing volunteer work with the VFW and the country club. I really miss Prescott, but can see how much it has grown. In 1954, the population was 10,500. I have the courier on my computer, so check it every day, to keep up."

Thanks to Reita and the [YC Alumni Network](#) for this entry.

## Andre Jackson - Attended 1980

### FEATURED YC ALUM



Meet Andre Jackson  
'The Player'  
Attended 1980

Attending Yavapai College in 1980 Andre Jackson was a gifted athlete but did not continue his schooling here. Andre was and still is a very good athlete. He had more than 25 scholarship offers but because of his disability, which was not discovered until 1986, he could not take advantage of these different opportunities. Andre was born into an environment that challenged him; he was born with a handicap and suffers from ADD and dyslexia. He was always under the impression that he is not accepted in society, that people do not take him seriously because he can hardly read and write.

After being discovered in the movie "Major League," Andre played baseball for the California Angels. This experience changed his life. In 1988, he had the chance to play as an extra in the movie "Major League 1" with Charlie Sheen and Wesley Snipes. Andre did the hitting for Cerrano, the voodoo character in that famous baseball movie. What was very important: he impressed Charlie Sheen. With his help, Andre signed with the California Angels in 1989.

Andre later went to Australia and New Zealand to play professional baseball there. He discovered his love for music and started to plan a professional career in that business. To this very day he plays baseball, the last two seasons (2006 and 2007) for the Goeppingen Green Sox in Germany. Andre's message is very simple: he wants to stand for something in his life and he has always tried to contribute to society even though he felt like the outcast. Andre wants to encourage people, especially people with disabilities, to live their dreams and to stand for something. We hope to bring him back to campus to share his amazing success story. He certainly is an inspiration to those with handicaps.

In 2003, he was a contestant on American Idol. Andre did not make it on the show but he impressed Antonio Brown Production with his talent and his energy. They decided to sponsor him. "The Player" went back into the studio in Atlanta last month in order to record with Seth Warren from Coalition Recordings Inc. He is also signed to that new and hot label! The music that can be heard on Myspace is not finished yet but it gives an idea of the style and the slamming beat.

Andre continues to achieve his goals, to which he is extremely dedicated. He is not only trying to release his music, but he continues as an athlete in Germany. Andre brings out the best in people with his huge heart, warm smile and outstanding charisma. Read more about this amazing alum by visiting his website at [www.myspace.com/andretheplayerjackson](http://www.myspace.com/andretheplayerjackson).

Thanks to Andre and the [YC Alumni Network](#) for this entry.

## *Ken Lain*

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### FEATURED YC ALUM



Meet Ken Lain  
'The Garden Guy'  
Class of 1983

Ken was a local boy who graduated from Prescott High School and used Yavapai College as a stepping stone onto bigger and better things. Working his way through college, Yavapai gave him the opportunity to keep the cost down through lower tuition and living at home. He graduated from ASU in 1986 with a BS in Business Management. Yavapai College set the stage for his business savvy and he feels he could not have moved up the university ladder without the College's help.

Rising to Director of Marketing in the corporate world his Yavapai College sweetheart and he began to miss their small town of Prescott. They moved back in 1992 and began working in the family business. You guessed it, his wife's maiden name is

Watters and they now own Watter's Family Garden Center.

Ken is known by his friends as 'The Garden Guy'. He's been gardening in the Prescott mile high cities for 30 years, and knows the best techniques for gardening in the high mountain climates of Northern Arizona. His local garden advice is published each Saturday in 'The Daily Courier' and can also be heard Saturdays as the host of 'Gardening in Granite' talk show on KYCA radio and again on KJAZ 89.5 FM each Sunday. Ken is passionate about plants, proper landscape designs, and spreading the good news that gardening can be easy and fun.

Ken's gardening credentials are those of Master Gardener, Certified Nursery Professional, and owner of Watters Design and Garden Centers located on Iron Springs Road in Prescott. Ken is currently serving on the YC Alumni Outreach Steering Committee.

Thanks to Ken and the [YC Alumni Network](#) for this entry.

## *Tania Sheldahl*

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When I look back on my life and say those were the best time of my life, I don't look back at high school that way but I look at my 2 years at Yavapai College that way. This was my best experience when I look back at my education...

It really was a smaller community. Everybody from athletics came to games; the whole town came to games. You were kind of known around town. I remember we went to Nationals that year and they had a big reception for us before we went. Signing autographs like the Soccer Team now. It was very small—very nice...

What was it like going to Nationals in basketball? It was awesome. We didn't win but lost the 1<sup>st</sup> two games. It was a great experience. A lot of us were recruited from outside Arizona. There were a few Arizona girls on the team but we didn't know a lot about the history. Central Arizona still had that dynasty even way back then. They were the ones to beat. But we didn't know any better. Most of us were from somewhere else and were like, "Central Arizona who are they?"

I think that was part of it, not being afraid of a certain team. It was great to go to Nationals; to be able to experience that in a bigger realm. I think we had more fun visiting Graceland, Elvis's house and all that stuff. I think that's why we didn't go very far we were a little distracted...

I think I got such a great education here. Fortunately, I came from a high school background that was really good academically so that certainly helped. But I think Yavapai really prepared me well for that next level. I didn't feel like I was lacking in coming to the community college and moving on to the university which is why I am a great proponent not just of this institution but of community colleges in general...

To have that connection to faculty –you know, it was a small school and a small town what else is there to do but go to the basketball game. To have that other connection in the classroom with the instructor, that's why we always recommend in Advising that students

need to make that connection with their instructors all the time because it makes a world of difference. When you're struggling they're there to help you. So I think the rewarding part is being in a small place. That's the best thing I can recommend...

Transcribed excerpt from an oral history interview of Tania Sheldahl with T. J. Berge, College Honors Student, 2007/08

*Sheryl Spark (1987-2003)*

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I work as a civilian for the United States Government.

Special Memories: Hanging out with Raylene. Working on Graphic Design assignments.

Significant Person Who Had an Impact: Bonnie Stauffer. She respects all of her students and works with us until we understand the assignment no matter how long it takes and never gets upset with us; at least she never shows that she is.

### *Featured Alum: John Summers, attended 1986-1990*

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I graduated from Bradshaw Mountain High School (in Dewey) in 1983. After that, I went to work at various entry-level jobs. After doing this for a couple of years, I decided that I needed more for my life and that I needed to further my education. In 1986, I decided to start taking a few classes at Yavapai College. I didn't have a clue what I wanted to do with my life, so I just took a variety of technical classes (diesel and auto mechanics, welding and so forth). I still didn't really know what I wanted to do so I continued to take various classes without a real goal.

In the variety of classes that I was taking at the time, I happened to take a course in Dr. Larry Strom's mechanical engineering program- he was instrumental in my career choice of mechanical design. He was an inspirational instructor with a passion for his students and he empowered them with knowledge and the ability to "think outside of the box". Even though his degree program was only a two-year program, he would pride himself on teaching the program like a four-year course. I believe he left a tremendous impact on many of his students.

I graduated from YC in 1990- it was the busiest time of my life! I got married the year before, bought a house in Prescott Valley, had my first child on the way, was taking several college classes each semester and on top of that, I was working 50-60 hours per week! I was getting very little sleep, but it was worth it to earn my degree (I was the first in my family to achieve this goal).

I was working for Ruger Firearms at the time- they were very gracious at supporting my schooling. They promoted me to the engineering department a couple of months before I graduated from YC. I continued to use the skills that I had learned at YC until 1997 when I moved to Texas.

I started out in Texas as an AutoCAD mechanical designer helping to design oil field equipment. I begin to learn other software programs such as Solid Edge and Solidworks 3d design packages- this vastly improved the ability to bring complex mechanical solutions and ideas to reality. I also worked for a military contractor that designed ship cranes and elevators- mostly for the US Navy LPD-17 project.

In 2005, I joined a company here in Fort Collins, Colorado utilizing my solid modeling skills. But instead of modeling complex mechanical components and assemblies, I would be modeling buildings. It was an interesting switch using my modeling skills to model architectural models instead of mechanical components. The buildings that we model are some of the most complex, premiere buildings in the world today. The company is CPP Wind Engineering, Inc. We build scale portions of cities and test our clients' buildings in large wind tunnels to examine the pressures that winds apply to the building surfaces. We also perform environmental wind tunnel testing and CFD (computational fluid dynamics).

Recently, I flew out to San Diego to attend Solidworks World 2008- a yearly event where Solidworks Corporation showcases the latest technologies and innovations in design. While I was there, I tested (and passed) the Solidworks Professional Certification test. It is a challenging test that ensures that a user has the necessary skills to be proficient with Solidworks.

I owe a lot to Yavapai College- the skills that I learned through the degree program propelled me into a career that I could only dream about without the education.

Thanks to John and the [YC Alumni Network](#) for this entry.