

Scott Farnsworth



What was your most rewarding experience as the trainer here?

I don't know that I've got one. I think one of the most memorable was accompanying the soccer team when they won their first National Championship, back in Mercer County, New Jersey. This was the second year of our program and just essentially really came out of nowhere to go all the way to the championship game and win the National Championship was really, really something special.

I've also been fortunate to help out with the Cross Country Team; they've won two National Championships. Baseball's won a National Championship. I accompanied them in '93 to Grand Junction, Colorado when they won the College World Series. Then also recently when they were back there 2 years ago for the College World Series again and they were in the Championship game and ended up as runners-up. Again, there's not just one memory or special experience but there's been a lot...

Transcribed excerpt from an oral history interview of Scott Farnsworth with Denton Brown, College Honors Student 2007/08

Will Fisher



I moved to Prescott and taught for 2 years at Prescott High School and then the former choir director, the gentleman who started the music program at Yavapai College is named Jim Burns, retired. I was just fortunate enough to be in the right place at the right time to get that job here. That was the Fall of 1984...

One of the very first things they did at Yavapai College was to establish a music program which Mr. Burns was both the band director and the choir director at that time...

The first major international trip to Mexico City back in 1988 was a huge intrigue... We prepared a concert that included some of that early music that had not been performed and had been sitting down in the Archives since perhaps 1620. As part of our trip we had been in contact with the Mexican government. We received an invitation to do a performance right there in the National Cathedral in Mexico City and to do authentic European music written in Mexico. It was amazing.

That concert was something I will always, always remember partly because as we were flying into Mexico City there was a big thunderstorm right over Mexico City. The plane had trouble landing. At one time as we were trying to approach the landing strip we hit an air pocket. The plane flips up on its side and the guy pulls out of the landing and we circle around and we just can't land. We're all in there thinking we're going to crash. Then he finally says we're about out of gas and we're going to have to fly to Acapulco. We got to Acapulco. Of course, this was 1:00 in the morning and we have to catch another flight back in the middle of the night to Mexico City. We get to Mexico City about 2 in the morning and get onto a bus that's taking us to our motel.

On the freeway, some cars stop in front of the bus. We stop and some Nationals get out and start arguing with the bus driver. A guy outside of the bus reaches down and grabs a rock and smashes the front window out of the bus. All of the Yavapai College musicians are sitting there going, Wow; we just about crashed in a plane, got lost in Acapulco. We finally got to bed about 4:00 that morning. Then we had to get up and sing this concert.

The concert was so incredibly beautiful in the Cathedral. The music was so exquisite. Our feelings were so close to the surface that when we finished our concert everybody in the choir started to weep. In part, I suppose it was joy but just somehow one's feelings and emotions were so at the surface level. That was an incredible, incredible concert. Probably the most moving concert of my career at Yavapai...

Over those 24 years there's been wonderful growth at Yavapai College. It's been a pleasure to be a part of this institution for all those years and hopefully I'll still be here for a little while longer.

Excerpted from an oral history interview of Dr. Will Fisher, Music Faculty by Ian Kline, College Honors Student.

Susan Lang



I really love the learning and seeing people be transformed. A lot of my students have gone on to publish and even the ones who don't are still committed and they're around the community. But I love it when I look in journals or pick up a literary journal based in California or Oregon and I see one of my former student's stories in it. That's exciting.

Transcribed excerpt from an oral history interview of Susan Lang with Pamela Brought, College Honors Student, 2007/08

Brent Roberts



I'm back to doing the thing that was the most rewarding position I ever held here which was coordinating the Honors Program. When I stopped doing it in 1999 it was with a great deal of regret. I knew it was time to do other things at that particular point but I never really figured I'd have a chance to be back in that position. There's really not much at this point that I would want to do that I haven't done and I feel like I'm back doing the thing that was the most rewarding and most challenging for me. I'm happy to be doing what I'm doing right now...

Facility-wise, there's certainly been some big changes. I think I would just have to say that the role that technology is playing in education has been the #1 change. When I first came here there was this mysterious thing people would talk about called the Internet and there were just a couple places on campus where you could actually go and experience the Internet. Every office, every student with a laptop is connected to this huge electronic community. I just remember that the first semester I was here just getting to a computer to type tests or type documents was a pretty big thing. To have a computer in your office, you were obviously recognized as an important person in the institution.

It's been pretty amazing how much technology is just part of the background now. I couldn't conceive of doing my job without walking in and turning on the computer in the morning and communications between colleagues and between students and teachers. The material has changed a little bit and the way we teach has changed obviously but in some ways it's not that different. We're still having the same conversations about what is effective, how do you measure success in the classroom wherever the classroom is...

Transcribed excerpt of an oral history interview of Brent Roberts with Megan Stetler, College Honors Student, 2007/08



What was the [senior] fitness program like [when you started]?

The program did not exist when I came here and I noticed that as far as the people who used the Fitness Center were primarily [young people]. We really didn't seem to be serving the population that was the majority of Yavapai County which is older adults. I would watch them go by where the Training Room is now, you can imagine the windows looking in on the Fitness Center rather than the Training Room, if you've been down there. I noticed the older population would look by and wistfully stare in and probably be a little intimidated by the young, hard bodies. So I decided to create a Senior Fitness Class I tailored more to their needs and also to give them the privacy of a class of their own without worrying about getting bowled over or somewhat intimidated by younger folks. There were I believe about 26-28 people in that initial class and it has since grown to 3 sections of over 100 students currently enrolled.

What was your most rewarding experience here at Yavapai College?

There have been a multitude of rewarding experiences. I think a lot of them have been senior-related. One of the things you have to do when you have multiple certifications is you have to keep them renewed and you do that through continuing education. I'm a life-long learner and I love to do it. But learning enough and along with the seniors helping them overcome things like chronic pain issues that are really a result of muscle imbalances, poor posture, etc.

Another really rewarding time is my association with the Women's Cross Country. Cylinda Bray is a phenomenal coach and Terra Schmidt is an athletic trainer who is top-notch. I coached over 20 years collegiately; I think I'm somewhat of a judge of those. We worked as a wonderful team. Cylinda recruited young women who were god academically as well as pretty decent athletes. Working with that team that first full year with them in the weight room as their strength and conditioning coach and having them go on and win Nationals was extremely rewarding. When they came back and said thanks they were recognizing the efforts of all of us working together as a team to help them achieve that.

We don't have the Cross Country Team anymore.

That was an administrative decision, correct. They wanted to start softball, which was more of a participant's sport. I wasn't consulted, so let's just say that when you have an environment that's at elevation, has mountain trails galore, a dining hall and dorms, it's nirvana for runners. And the fact that they were consistently in the top 10 in the United States I hated to see the program go.

Transcribed excerpt from an oral history interview of Cathy Schiller with Andrea Estrada, College Honors Student, 2007/08

Bonny Stauffer



Here we identify people who have certain abilities & we open things up for them. That still happens and it's pretty exciting to be a part of that...

For a college that's not in a huge metropolitan area we do an amazing job. We offer a specter, a great array of courses. I think we're really sensitive to the community because we are the Community College in Prescott; we are the Community College in Clarkdale. It's not like we're part of a huge system. So I think that a little bit smaller size than say Pima College or Maricopa Community College District, I just think there's more of a connect between instructors and students. I know for sure because of the feedback we get from students who have gone through our Graphic Design Program that our students leave Yavapai and go for instance to U of A which is a very competitive design program and they get in. The numbers that get selected are very small and they are very well prepared. That's the message we get back...

We always keep in mind that these people are coming here to get an education. We have a fantastic opportunity to be able to offer them and to be a part of that that affects their lives. That's been here since the day that I took my first class. It's still here. We've grown on the outside; we've grown in numbers, expanded into the county, but that same core reason for serving the students, for partnering to teach, that's there. It's been here all along. It's cool! It's a great place to be; I love being here...

Transcribed excerpt from an oral history interview of Bonny Stauffer with Cody Watson, College Honors Student, 2007/08