



Dear reader,

This fall is shaping up to be an exciting time for Prescott College. There is so much energy on campus around the regenerative curricular process, with faculty coming together to reimagine curriculum for the student of tomorrow within our core values and the new deans facilitating lots of discussions. It is fun watching, and we look forward to sharing more in this newsletter, on Zoom, and in Transitions.

Our ribbon-cutting event and introduction of our new deans was a great experience. For those of you who haven't been on campus for a while, you would be so impressed. We are making tremendous progress thanks to those stepping forward to improve our "Base Camp."

The planning of our 60TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION IN **OCTOBER 2026** is underway. **STAY TUNED AND LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE IDEAS FOR MAKING IT A LIFETIME EXPERIENCE.**



Happy Trails,  
Jane Ratzlaff and the Advancement Team

## Prescott College Announces Curriculum Regeneration to Enhance Experiential Learning Opportunities



Prescott College has over a half-century of leadership in developing and refining experiential place-based and online educational models that have kept the college at the forefront of institutions seeking to address urgent issues currently facing human societies. Collaborative learning, transdisciplinary studies, and experiential and field-based learning are hallmarks of the Prescott educational experience. Prescott College is proud to announce a transformative curriculum launch emphasizing its long-standing commitment to place-based, collaborative, and regenerative learning.

Prescott College is introducing new opportunities for the 2025/26 academic year that reflect the growing demand for innovative, practice-led transformative education and outcomes-focused skills development, aligning with the College's mission to create a healthy, just, and sustainable world through transdisciplinary, hands-on education.

Read more [here](#).

## Cycling at Prescott College

We are super excited to share a project in which we seek donations to launch a cycling club. This great activity will be a great way to attract additional students and embody the active spirit of our College.

Prescott College would be in the ***Southwest Cycling Conference***, allowing incoming students to participate in nationally sanctioned collegiate events through the [USA Cycling](#) organization.

Our goal is to raise \$30,000 toward a coach, equipment, and uniforms to kick off this program. For more information, contact [Jane Ratzlaff](#).



## Canoes Donations Needed and Appreciated



In a recent warehouse equipment intake, Kathy Young '85, Prescott College Field Equipment Warehouse Manager, asked us to share the school's need for some "new" canoes. Our current canoes are getting old and beaten up from past journeys, so they must be replaced this year.

We are preparing them for block one on their San Juan River Trip and would appreciate any canoe donations. Please email [Kathy Young](#) for further inquiries. Thank you.

## Save Slivan Canyon

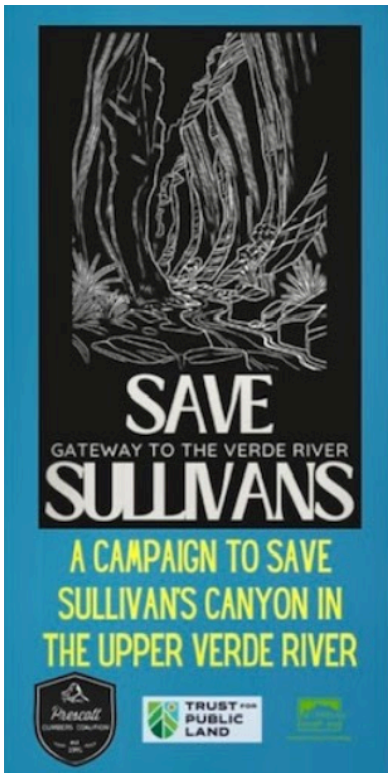
Submitted by David Lovejoy '73



Prescott Climbers Coalition, in partnership with The Access Fund and the Trust for Public Lands (TPL), is raising money to purchase 10 acres of private land known by rock climbers as Sullivan Canyon. Geographically, Sullivan Canyon is the gateway to the Verde River, located below historic Sullivan Lake, and defines the location where Big Chino Wash becomes the Verde River. The Canyon is a narrow slot through a basaltic lava flow featuring pristine water-polished rock divided by beautiful vertical cracks (columnar joins). The canyon is not only aesthetically stunning but also hosts classic central Arizona riparian flora, fauna, and prehistoric rock art. Rock climbers are drawn to the canyon to attempt to ascend the spectacular, clean cracks. The canyon is a technical rescue training venue for local emergency services personnel. The relatively short cliffs create ideal conditions for top rope climbing. This fact, combined with the abundance of natural rock anchors, has rendered the area a “Fixed Anchor Free Zone,” adding to the canyon’s aesthetic purity. After purchase, the land will become the property of the City of Chino Valley, which will manage it as a park with guaranteed recreation easement into perpetuity. Without this protection, the property will be on the chopping block for commercial or residential development.


Help Save Sullivan Canyon by donating at [savesullivans.org](https://savesullivans.org).

Note: All contributions of \$100 or more will be fully refunded if the campaign is unsuccessful in purchasing the property.



**SAVE**  
GATEWAY TO THE VERDE RIVER  
**SULLIVANS**  
A CAMPAIGN TO SAVE  
SULLIVAN'S CANYON IN  
THE UPPER VERDE RIVER

Prescott Climbers Coalition  
TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND  
Upper Verde River




Sullivan's Canyon is at the headwaters of the Verde River and it is part of the riparian corridor linking Sullivan Lake to the Upper Verde River. The parcel that contains the canyon is for sale. If purchased for development, it will put at risk not only the ecological and cultural values therein contained, but access to the public will be lost.

The Prescott Climbers Coalition, in partnership with the Trust for Public Land and Access Fund, is raising funds to acquire this parcel and promote environmental conservation and educational programs for future generations.

**Learn more about the campaign, get involved, and help us spread the word.**

Contact us at:  
[prescottclimberscoalition@gmail.com](mailto:prescottclimberscoalition@gmail.com)



## Harness Your Willpower with FreeWill



As we move into year-end giving, it is important to remind people that appreciated stock, gifts of equipment, and donor-advised funds are great ways to support Prescott College. Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

([jane.ratzlaff@prescott.edu](mailto:jane.ratzlaff@prescott.edu))

[Harness my willpower](#)

## Prescott College Recently Named Among The Best College Dorms in Arizona



Prescott College was recently named among the best college dormitories in Arizona by University Magazine for our commitment to sustainability and students' outdoor access to recreational activities while enjoying some modern living spaces that foster independence and community. We are truly honored for this recognition.

Read more [here](#).

## Class Notes

Prescott College Alumni, send us a Class Note or update your information [here](#).

The following people are featured in this month's Class Notes.

### Alex Martin '09

Alex and Yotaka's downtown Phoenix restaurant, Mr. Baan's Bar and Mookata, was recently named among the best in a New York Times article. Brian Gallagher wrote in the article, "Three things to know: You will need an appetite. You will be better off with a big group. And you will want cocktails." Read more about AZ Central's cover of the restaurant [here](#).

### Andrea Lewis '06

Andrea and a friend of her created a GoFundMe for friends and family dealing with the aftermath of Helene. She is also going to Asheville with supplies, but they need help with funds. Consider donating [here](#).



### Maxi Matuschka ('74)

Maxi's poster, "Vote For Yourself," has recently been acquired by The Museum of the City of New York. Maxi created this poster during the 1992 election with W.H.A.M.!, an activist group located in NYC, before pink ribbons represented breast cancer. Her poster caught the attention of the New York Times editors in 1993, and they published her iconic photograph, "Beauty out Damage" on their Sunday Magazine Cover, which helped launch the breast cancer awareness movement.

### In Memorium

#### Kirk S. Thomas-Olsen '13

Kirk S. Thomas-Olsen passed away on September 14, 2024, at the age of 60, in Yosemite, CA. Born on November 15, 1963, in Ventura, California, Kirk's early years by the beaches and mountains fostered a profound connection with the natural world, a passion that deeply influenced his personal and professional life. Kirk attended Loma Vista Elementary School and Ventura High School before pursuing higher education in Veterinary Technology at Feather River College and obtaining a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Education from Prescott College. His academic pursuits reflected his dedication to nature and education, which seamlessly transitioned into his career. Read more [here](#).

#### Remembering Cathy Sposito

On September 28, some PC Alumni came together at Willow Lake Park to honor Cathy Sposito's vibrant and playful energy. A bench was made in dedication to Cathy, and you can see it there today, with a beautiful view.



Left photo: Cathy's memorial bench, along Willow Lake Trail, in Prescott, AZ

Right, top photo: Cathy Sposito and John Donohie '91 following final tour in Backcountry Skiing, January 1986

Right, bottom photo: Back row, left to right: Lisa Marcusson '86, Tracy Gibson '90, Cathy Sposito, Eric Frank, John Schneider '88, John Jacobs ('86), and David Lovejoy '73 (instructor)

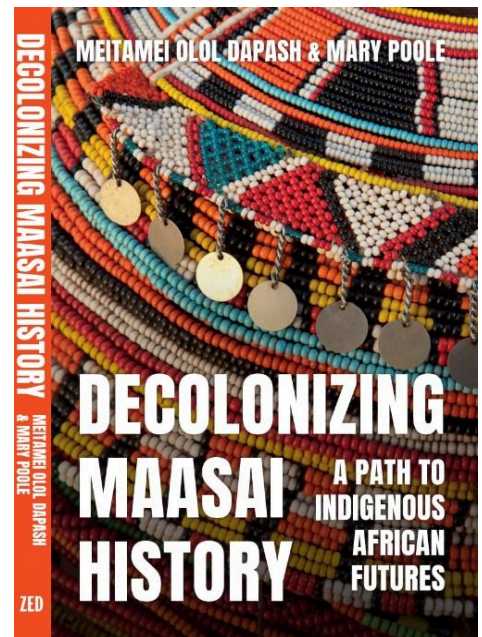
Front row, left to right: Deborah von Gonten ('96), Peter Later '88, John Donohie '91, Jesse Burton (TA), David Kline (TA), Julie Stetter, Amparo Rifá '89.

## Faculty & Staff News

(includes full-time faculty and staff members, former members, adjunct faculty members, and instructor news)

### Prescott College Faculty Members Mary Poole and Meitamei OloI Dapash Recent Publication

This book presents a groundbreaking approach to writing the history of an Indigenous East African community by prioritizing their own historical knowledge and cultural insights. It explores the detrimental effects of a colonized historical narrative on Maasailand and highlights how a decolonized perspective can fuel land justice movements. By adopting a Maasai viewpoint, the book challenges prevailing narratives in African history and reveals the untold stories of colonial violence, the myths surrounding Kenyan independence, and the ongoing neocolonial exploitation of Maasailand. It argues that Maasai pastoralism, which respects the rights of nature and wildlife, opposes capitalist land and resource exploitation, shaping current conflicts over Maasai identity and self-representation. You can purchase a copy [here](#).



### Prescott College Faculty Emeritus Mark Riegner Recent Publication

Dr. Mark Riegner, Faculty Emeritus, Environmental Studies, recently had a chapter published in an edited collection by Humans and Nature Press. The multi-volume box set is titled *Elementals* (2024), which explores the four earthly elements. Mark's contribution, "The Many Faces of Water," appears in the water volume and is a phenomenological study of the rhythmic dynamics of water movement. He draws from his own observations as well as from the insights of Theodor Schwenk's marvelous book *Sensitive Chaos: The Creation of Flowing Forms in Water and Air* (1976; Schocken Books, NY). Mark also describes his experience as a student of British sculptor John Wilkes, who discovered unique flow patterns in water and went on to invent and design Flowforms, which are sculptured basins that



generate rhythmical movements in flowing water. Prescott College alumni who have taken Mark's popular course "Form and Pattern in Nature" will find these themes familiar! With permission of the publisher, the chapter is available on the Nature Institute's author website (note: Dr. Craig Holdrege, a PhD Program PC alumnus, is Director of the Institute). Here is the link:

<https://www.natureinstitute.org/about/mark-riegner>

The chapter is also available on Mark's ResearchGate website.

## Prescott College Centers

(the following links are stories, social media posts, or webpages that relate to the happenings at each center)



Click either center above to view their content.

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## Alumni and Prescott College Events

### Past Events:

**Campus Celebration and Ribbon Cutting:** Thank you to everyone who came and put together the special ribbon-cutting event honoring Betsy Bolding, the Healing Garden, and the fantastic work for the Butte Creek Restoration Project. It was an excellent time for people in our community to come together and to hear more about what is in store for Prescott College with our new deans, Dean of Student Affairs and Enrollment Michelle Relyea, and Dean of Academic Affairs Pavel Cenkl.



## Upcoming Events:

**November 13-17:** Friends and Family Trip to **Kino Bay**. For more information, contact [Ana Martinez](#).

**July 17, 2025:** Stay tuned for a gathering in **West Burke, Vermont**, on Thursday, July 17.

Others have mentioned wanting to have events in their hometowns, and we would love to help you promote those activities to alumni in your area and through our website. Please reach out to [Jane Ratzlaff](#) to start the process.

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October 2024

**Prescott College Advancement and Alumni Office**

Please direct all newsletter responses or corrections to Em Wisniewski at

[emily.wisniewski@prescott.edu](mailto:emily.wisniewski@prescott.edu)

All other alumni questions must be directed to Jane Ratzlaff at [jane.ratzlaff@prescott.edu](mailto:jane.ratzlaff@prescott.edu) or

email the team at [development@prescott.edu](mailto:development@prescott.edu)

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