

 Prescott College
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NEWSLETTER FOR ALUMNI
& FRIENDS



Happy 2025,

As we move into this year, we are reminded of the times students faced unknown whitewater, hills that seemed to keep going, and those times faculty or teammates supported each other on a new climbing route. Our students learned to navigate the unknown, overcome fears, and rely on their communication, teamwork, and resilience to keep moving forward. These lessons continue to shape not only our graduates but our entire college as well.

Looking ahead, we know we'll face new challenges, yet we're confident in our preparation—aware that surprises will inevitably come. We are deeply grateful to our alumni, friends, and parents whose year-end gifts have helped equip us for what lies ahead. Your support means the world to us.

We love hearing the stories of triumphs and challenges from our alumni. As you embrace 2025, we encourage you to reconnect with fellow alumni, reach out to our alumni office, and join us at local events that bring together alumni and students in your area. The positive feedback from recent gatherings has been truly inspiring, and we're excited to see this momentum grow.



I am thrilled to introduce Aaron Wilson, who will reach out to alumni in the year ahead. While Julie Munro and Marie Smith's contributions will be hard to match, Aaron's efforts, with your support, will elevate our alumni connections as we gear up for an exciting

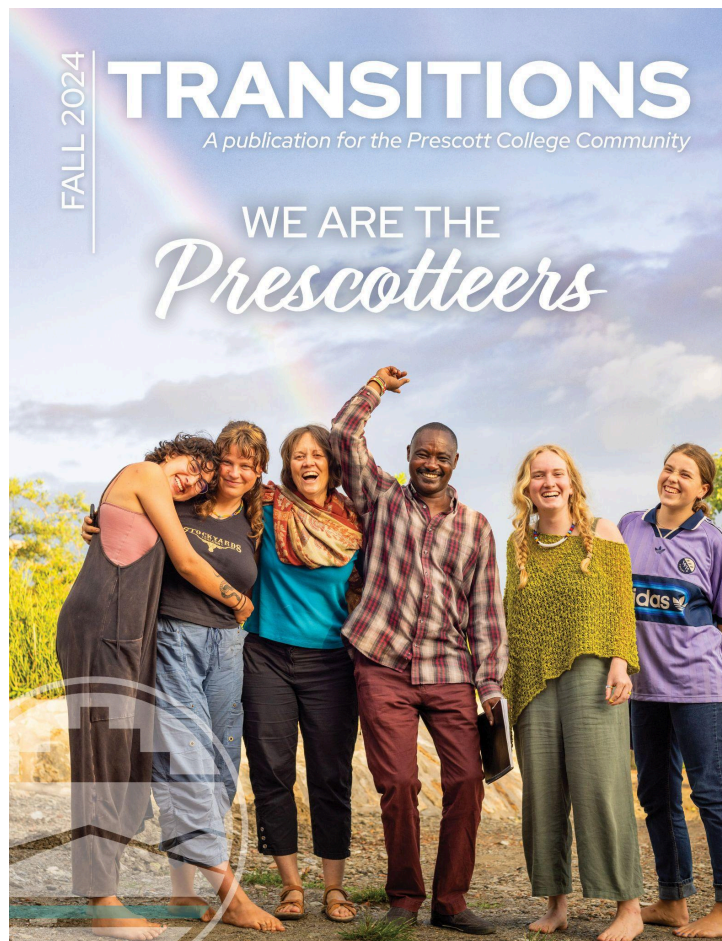
January 2025

2026—our **60th anniversary year!** If you have ideas or thoughts on how we can make our 60th year unforgettable, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Here's to a year of growth, happiness, and new adventures.

Happy Trails,
Jane Ratzlaff and the Advancement Team

Fall 2024 Transitions Magazine



[Take your time and embrace all the fantastic happenings at Prescott College in the Fall 2024 Transitions Magazine.](#)

FreeWill and Ringing in the New Year



As we enter 2025 in the breathtaking natural setting of Northern Arizona, it is a constant reminder of our collective purpose: to work together to challenge the status quo, find innovative solutions to tomorrow's problems, and make a long-lasting impact on social justice and environmental sustainability. In that spirit, I'm sharing an act of care that allows us to grow while making a difference along the way: creating your will. We've partnered with FreeWill to help you write your will in as little as 20 minutes, free of charge.

If you choose to include a gift to Prescott College in your will, you build a legacy that creates interdisciplinary, experiential, and diverse learning environments that inspire future leaders for generations to come. For more information, contact [Jane Ratzlaff](#).

[Harness my willpower](#)

December Match --- Thank you



Tony Ebarb '09 and Liisa Raikonnin '84, who provided a December match for our year-end campaign, are delighted that alumni stepped up to maximize their pledge. We are truly grateful for their match and everyone who came forth and accepted the challenge. We have met their match and see this as a significant assistance for Prescott College to continue to provide a meaningful journey for all that will benefit from your generosity. Thank you.

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 hope to attain at least **8 to 10 canoes**, about \$1,500 each.

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.

Cycling Team Name Announcement

We are still accepting donations to launch our new and exciting cycling club at Prescott College. This activity will attract additional students and embody the active spirit of our College.

We'd also love to take this opportunity to announce the name of our cycling team: The Prescott College Roadrunners.

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.



More information with logos and visuals will be available soon. Thank you for all your support of our new team.

Delta Kappa Gamma Chapter Honors Women Educators

From the Daily Courier



Information and photo provided by Delta Kappa Gamma

The Eta Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma recognized 17 women educators in the Prescott area at its biennial Honors Breakfast on November 16 at Victorian Estates Community Center, Prescott Valley. The educators who had been nominated to be recognized for extraordinary achievements and successes came from a wide range of education positions.

Delta Kappa Gamma (DKG) is an international honor society for women in education with the mission to promote women educators' professional and personal growth and excellence in education. The local Eta Chapter was established in 1941.

Honors recipients are: First row left to right: Seated: Dr. Christina Gabaldon (HUSD- Lake Valley Elementary School Assistant Principal); Christine Dean (PUSD- Taylor Hicks & Lincoln Schools Art Teacher); Dr. Marianna Altrichter (Prescott College Faculty- Environmental Studies & Environmental

Education); Sarah Vincent (Executive Director at the Highlands Center for Natural History, Prescott); and Heather Marriott (ERAU- Associate Professor, Computer Science- College of Engineering)

Standing: Dr. Jantina Russell (HUSD- Bradshaw Mountain High School Assistant Principal, Educational Services); Kaitlin McGill (CVUSD- Heritage Middle School, Principal); Lizzy Kreitinger (CVUSD- Territorial Early Childhood Center Instructional Coach/Reading Interventionist); Melanie Loving (PUSD- Taylor Hicks Elementary School, Kindergarten), Anne Stoxen (Tri-City College Prep Academic Counselor); Dr. Stacey Carrillo (Prescott College- Associate Dean for Counseling and Related Programs); Missy Townsend (PUSD- Prescott High School Athletic Director/Assistant Principal); and Gaylee Chilicky (HUSD — Lake Valley Elementary ELA teacher, 5th grade)

Not Pictured: Dr. Pragati Pradhan (ERAU — Assistant Professor, Physics and Astronomy) and Dr. Preethi Santhanam (ERAU — Assistant Professor, Cyber Intelligence and Security)

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.

Edie Dillon '07

Edie Dillon has been in two recent exhibits. The latest exhibit that Edie was in is a four-person show at [Coconino Center for the Arts in Flagstaff](#). This exhibit was curated by Julie Cornick, a former fine arts faculty member at Prescott College, who is now the Program Director at Coconino Center for the Arts. The other exhibit was this previous fall at the [Whatcom Museum](#). Edie states, "...it was such an honor to be in this national biennial at the Whatcom Museum in Bellingham, Washington, and because I so much loved the theme, Acts of Healing and Repair."



Suzanne Olson '94

Suzanne and some of her neighbors started a band during COVID-19 and released their first album, now streaming on Spotify and Apple Music. Listen to it [here](#).

Karen Hindhede '24

Dr. Karen Hindhede's dissertation article on Diversity, the Environment, and Social and Environmental Justice Picturebook Themes and Portrayals was just turned into a short video on SciTube. Give it a watch [here](#).

Cheli Chimaine '13

Cheli has been selected for inclusion in Marquis Who's Who for her 25 years of experience in therapy and life coaching. Read more [here](#).

Eric Glomski '92

Eric, owner and founder of Page Springs Cellars, is hosting a 5-course wine paring at Park Plaza on January 11 at 6 pm. Purchase your ticket [here](#).

In Memorium

Charles "Monty" Roessel '95

Charles Roessel passed away on the morning of January 7 in Albuquerque. Roessel was the Diné College President, an educator, a driving force for academic innovation, and a leader in higher education. Read more [here](#).

Robin Martin Nicholas '74

Robin "Rob" Martin Nicholas, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly from natural causes on August 15, 2024. Robin's life will be formally celebrated in Santa Fe, NM, on May 3, 2025. Read more [here](#).

Nancy Russotti '90

Nancy peacefully gained her Angel Wings on New Year's Eve, 2024, at her home in Prescott, surrounded by loved ones. It was apparent early on that Nancy was a fearless adventurer, always smiling and ready for fun. Read more [here](#).

Faculty & Staff News

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

Former Prescott College Faculty Member Alan Weisman's Book release

Alan's book "Hope Dies Last: Visionary People Across the World Fighting to Find Us a Future" will be released on Earth Day, April 22. Alan writes, "I was faculty from 1975-1987 in the Humanities and Southwest Studies programs, teaching writing and U.S. Mexico studies, and I was one of the founders of what today is the Kino Bay Center. In my latest book, *Hope Dies Last*, Prescott College alums figure prominently in two chapters with ample description of their academic provenance, and there's a scene set at the Center in Kino." More information will be coming soon.



Prescott College Faculty Members Meitamei Olo Dapash and Mary Poole Book Signing Tour

Meitamei and Mary's recent publication, "Decolonizing Maasai History: A Path to Indigenous African Futures," is set to launch this month. In honor of its release, Prescott College and President Barbara Morris are hosting a book launch and celebration on January 20. Following the book launch, they will go on a book signing tour in New Jersey and New York (more information below).

In this book, they discuss 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 and read a copy [here](#).



Kino Bay Marine Conservation Classes

Prescott College students had the unique opportunity the previous semester to dive deep into the complexities of marine conservation in the Gulf of California at the Kino Bay Center. After studying marine conservation theory in Arizona, the class, led by alumnus Greg Smart, delved into community-based case studies. They engaged with local fishers, learned different fishing techniques, and discussed their observations with resource users, researchers, and managers. They visited a shrimp farm, took a trip aboard a shrimp trawler, visited the island of San Pedro Martir and participated in a mangrove reforestation project, among other immersive experiences, all while exploring the delicate balance between marine conservation and community livelihoods. In the next phase of the class they worked with Lorayne and Kino Bay Center program staff to do applied



conservation projects that contribute to the Kino Bay Center's work. Read more about their final projects [here](#).

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.



Alumni and Prescott College Events

Past Events:

Happy New Year: We hope everyone got to ring in the New Year with love, joy, and laughter. We are very excited to see what 2025 has in store for everyone. Please remember to keep us in your 2025 endeavors, as you will always be with ours.



Upcoming Events:

January 20, 2025: Meitamei OloI Dapash and Mary Poole [book launch](#) and celebration at **Prescott College** (more information coming soon).

The following are the days and locations of Mary's book signing tour:

January 28 at 6 pm: Rutgers University, Newark, NJ, sponsored by the Center for African Studies, the Price Institute, the Institute for the Study of Global Racial Justice, History Department, American Studies Department, and Political Science Department.

January 29 at 4 pm: Columbia University, NYC, hosted by the Center for Science and Society and Institute for African Studies.

February 28 - March 2, 2025: Join us for the Spring 2025 Social Justice Residency at **Prescott College**. Click [here](#) to learn more and to RSVP.

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

October 2026: Prescott College 60th Anniversary Reunion



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 [Aaron Wilson](#) to start the process.

Prescott College Advancement and Alumni Office

Please direct all newsletter responses or corrections to Emerson Wisniewski at emily.wisniewski@prescott.edu

All other alumni questions must be directed to Jane Ratzlaff at jane.ratzlaff@prescott.edu or email the team at development@prescott.edu



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