

THE HILLTOP
A newsletter for alumni and friends of Weatherford College

In this issue:
Basketball Schedule...
Class Notes...
Annual Campus...

Classrooms, calendars full for fall

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In this issue:
Money from the President...
Banking on WC...
Winter 2010

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Ivy League Coyote
Distinguished professor catches 1st Ivy at WC.

Also inside:
A Family Affair...
WC's Your community's leaders

Winter 2007

Fall 2004

Weatherford College THE HILLTOP
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In this issue:
Call Chat...
The 14th annual Coyote Chase Race...
Plus, a number of fine arts events...
The Drama Department presents A Flea in Her Ear...
Sounds of the Sacred Harp...
Red, Hot and Blues featuring the WC Jazz Band...
And the traditional singing of selections from Handel's Messiah...

Winter 2010

Also inside:
A Family Affair...
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Fall 2003

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Also inside:
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Summer 2010

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BOOMING DURING A BUST

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Meet the new board

Fall 2009

Weatherford College THE HILLTOP
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Thank You...

Summer 2003

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Re-Wright
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Summer 2007

10 years of The Hilltop

Weatherford College THE HILLTOP
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Friends Will Miss...
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Thank You...

Spring 2006

Weatherford College THE HILLTOP
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Big day at WC: Homecoming 2006

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
40 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Also inside:
A Family Affair...
WC's Your community's leaders

Spring 2008

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Alumni Ambassador
Mildred Beard, 20th Alumna of the Year carries the torch for WC.

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Spring 2008

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Technology Transforms the Classroom

Also inside:
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Fall 2010

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Over 3,600 students pack WC facilities

Weatherford College Fall Enrollment (1994-2002)

Fall Semester	No. of students enrolled
1994	2,880
1995	2,826
1996	2,860
1997	2,877
1998	2,871
1999	2,874
2000	2,877
2001	2,874
2002	2,874
2003	2,874
2004	2,874
2005	2,874
2006	2,874
2007	2,874
2008	2,874
2009	2,874
2010	2,874
2011	2,874
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2014	2,874
2015	2,874
2016	2,874
2017	2,874
2018	2,874
2019	2,874
2020	2,874
2021	2,874
2022	2,874
2023	2,874
2024	2,874
2025	2,874
2026	2,874
2027	2,874
2028	2,874
2029	2,874
2030	2,874

Also inside:
A Family Affair...
WC's Your community's leaders

Fall 2002

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From Weatherford to Washington

Also inside:
A Family Affair...
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Winter 2006

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WC Homecoming scheduled for April 22-23

Also inside:
A Family Affair...
WC's Your community's leaders

Fall 2011
Volume XI : Issue III

Spring 2004

Message from the President



The past few months have been a whirlwind here at Weatherford College, and I'm proud to report that your College is having a great 2011-12 academic year. With several major construction projects currently under way, a successful reaffirmation visit from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools behind us, and the challenge of working within a very tight budget, we have stayed very busy here at WC.

Throughout the business of these important tasks, rest assured that we continue to focus on our mission, "to provide effective learning opportunities that enrich the lives of our students and the communities we serve." In other words, students always come first at Weatherford College.

As I mentioned in the last edition of *The Hilltop*, please don't hesitate to stop by my office when you are on campus, or tap me on the shoulder at one of our events and say hello.

I am thankful every day for the blessings that have been given to me, and I am honored to serve the Weatherford College family.

Sincerely,

Kevin J. Eaton, Ed.D.
President

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10 years of The Hilltop

by Brent Baker

Where are they now? That might be the obvious question as you scan the past covers of *The Hilltop* in this 10th anniversary edition. For a decade, *The Hilltop* has been spotlighting Weatherford College alumni, promoting the college's programs and events, and recognizing those associated with WC for all of their accomplishments.

We caught up with a handful of the WC family members we've highlighted over the past 10 years...



Left to right: Jim Wilkinson, Laurie Vanzura, a.k.a. Lori Wilde, Dr. James H. Tatum, Dr. Jim Messinger.

Jim Wilkinson (Cover story, Winter 2006)

When we visited with Jim Wilkinson for this story in his Washington, D.C. office, moving boxes were scattered throughout the Treasury Building. It was three days after the 2008 presidential election, and Wilkinson was packing, leaving his most recent government position, ready to venture into the private sector.

After serving as chief of staff for the U.S. Treasury Department, deputy national security advisor for communications in The White House, senior policy and communications strategist for the State Department and other posts, he had amassed an incredible resume.

These days, he's a partner in the Brunswick Group, LLC, an international corporate communications partnership that helps businesses and other organizations address critical communications challenges. Wilkinson is managing partner for international business and financial strategy. He has opened a Brunswick office in Dallas, although he continues to add to his passport stamps. When we emailed him recently, he replied from his laptop in London.

"I'm loving the private sector," Wilkinson said. "The work is challenging,

I'm learning a lot, and I feel like I'm contributing to the economy. It is so good to be back home in Texas!"

Wilkinson was honored with WC's Distinguished Alumnus Award in 2004 and recently joined the WC Foundation Board of Directors.

Laurie Vanzura, a.k.a. Lori Wilde (Spring 2002 alumni spotlight)

Author Laurie Blalock Vanzura ('78) is known to her fans around the world as Lori Wilde, a prolific romance author who has taken her career to a new level since we spotlighted her nearly a decade ago.

"Wow, a lot has happened since 2002," Vanzura said.

She's hit both the *USA Today* and *New York Times* bestseller lists with her breakout series about Twilight, Texas...a fictional town based loosely on Granbury.

"Right now, I'm working on my 64th novel. My upcoming series is about cutting horse cowboys in the fictional town of Jubilee, that's loosely based on Weatherford."

A three-time winner of the "Golden Quill Award" from the Romance Writers of America, her books have been published in 32 countries and translated into 25 languages.

The WC nursing graduate also has managed to earn a certificate in nursing forensics, is working on a master's degree at TCU, and is now volunteering with Freedom House in Weatherford.

WC honored her in 2007 with the Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Dr. James H. Tatum (Winter 2007 cover story)

Since he retired from Dartmouth University as professor emeritus in 2009, Dr. James Tatum ('61) has been anything but idle.

His most recent book, "African-American Writers and Classical Tradition," co-authored with William W. Cook, won the American Book Award for 2011, presented at the University of California, Berkeley. Currently, Tatum is working on a project on Shakespeare's knowledge of Latin and Roman comedy.

But his activities aren't confined to the written word. This fall, Tatum is using his skills on the piano to give a performance piece about ragtime and classical music based on the work of James Weldon Johnson. He's performed the piece at *continues with Where are they? on page 11.*

MEMORIES

Last issue's Do you know...

Memorial Plaza Groundbreaking



We heard from several people, including Charles Thompson, Randall Young and Glenda Reynolds who correctly recognized the event. This photo was taken in 1996 during the groundbreaking for the Memorial Plaza that stands between the E.W. Mince Administration Building and the Student Services Building.

Do you know...

If you have any memories or knowledge of the person in this photo, please send a note to Katie Edwards at 225 College Park Drive, Weatherford, TX, 76086, or send an e-mail to kedwards@wc.edu.



Friends we'll miss

Ronny Adams of Lawton, OK, passed away on July 30.

Quinton Lee Berry of La Porte passed away on August 13. He was 91.

Martha Angeline Brown, formerly of Fort Worth, passed away on November 6. She was 90.

Bishop Monk Bryan passed away on August 20. He was 97.

Ronald Mack Carter of Weatherford passed away on August 23. He was 61. Ronnie's wife, **Elaine Carter** serves on the Weatherford College Board of Trustees.

Jim Donovan of Decatur passed away on August 23. He was 74. Jim was an instructor at Weatherford College.

Rebecca Jean Durham of Robinson passed away on September 10. She was 44.

Joe Herndon of Cleburne passed away Nov. 19. He was WC's on-site manager of maintenance for Johnson Controls, Inc. He was 68.

Christopher Manuel Hooper of Weatherford passed away on August 8. He was 28.

James O. Norwood of Corpus Christi passed away on October 1. He was 86. James was a math professor and head of the Math Department at

Weatherford College, where he taught for 22 years.

Opal Pendleton of Grand Prairie passed away on September 25. She was 81.

Tyler Blake Riale passed away on August 29. He was 25.

William LeRoy Rice of Azle passed away on October 25. He was 56.

Bobbie Morrel Robinson of Weatherford passed away on October 2. She was 84. Bobbie was an adjunct instructor for WC.

Mildred Schultz of Waco passed away on August 21. She was 92.

Nursing program holds high standards, attracts hundreds

by Linda Brooks Bagwell

They're easy to spot on campus and in the classrooms and in the hospital corridors. Their bright red scrubs with the black and white sleeve patches readily identify them as Weatherford College nursing students. What may go unnoticed, however, until you talk with one or see them in action is the underlying personal sense of dedication and commitment each must have - now, to a challenging academic and clinical curriculum and, later, to a demanding career.

"Nursing is hard," Cheryl Livengood, coordinator for the WC associate degree nursing program. "We want to see a true passion in our students. You'll hear most of them say that they came into nursing because they want to help people. But they must have the heart inside, too, (to persevere) and to take on great responsibility for others' lives and well-being."

Mary LeBeck, ADN instructor, echoed Livengood's assessment, adding, "Nurses must be able to think 24/7 on their feet - in an instant, in a flash, they must process situations and make immediate decisions and be confident they're right."

"We can teach the facts and how to perform procedures they need," said Livengood, "but they must learn to think critically and analyze on their own and to apply what they know to clinical scenarios."

With the current group of caregivers heading toward retirement and a greater demand for health services for the Baby Boomer population, experts forecast a shortage of more than 800,000 full-time nurses in America by 2020. Hospitals and other health-related institutions promise excellent benefits and working conditions to the next generation of nurses. Flexible hours, good salaries,



ADN instructor Mary LeBeck works with student Tyler Adair on a patient-simulation model. Simulated activities, such as this, help students build communication and leadership skills, use information management and apply and use patient care technology and practice clinical reasoning skills.

"This little guy even talks to you," said Adair. "Get away from me. Don't do that.' Just like a real sick kid."

and a variety of opportunities are very attractive incentives, and WC's nursing program feels that effect.

WC's available classroom space and off-site clinical opportunities limit the class size to about 80 per year, and competitive placement leaves a waiting list of hundreds some semesters.

With a combined 70 years' experience on the hospital floor, in health care administrative positions and in the classroom, both Livengood and LeBeck are dedicated career nursing professionals themselves, and now, they are training that next generation. They and the faculty in the

ADN program - 10 in all - are turning out classes of nurses that consistently score 90 percent to 100 percent pass rates for required state and national board certifications.

Since the ADN program began in 2000, between 300 and 400 students have graduated and have begun careers in various areas of nursing, many in the

same hospitals and clinics where they performed their clinical rotations.

"But we cannot rest on our laurels," said Livengood. "We march to at least three sets of drums to teach applicable curriculum and integrated learning strategies - state and national boards and SACS (Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). Our nursing program must constantly evolve in this challenging environment. WC is fortunate to have an extremely qualified and well-diversified faculty with different areas of expertise - ICU, surgery, case management - and we strive to bring the latest technology into instruction."

Tyler Adair is benefiting from that expertise now. With a first thought to a career in firefighting, perhaps a small degree of influence from his mother, April, who is an instructor in the vocational nursing program, helped turn Tyler to nursing.

Recently topping national polls that indicate nursing is among the highest rated professions in "honesty and ethical standards," Tyler agrees: "I think it is an extremely rewarding profession," the

continues with Nursing on page 11.

"We want to see a true passion in our students."

- Cheryl Livengood
WC Associate Degree
Nursing Program Coordinator

Weatherford College AROUND CAMPUS



Academic Building groundbreaking indoor affair

With the threat of inclement weather on the horizon and for the comfort of attendees, Weatherford College officials chose to move the ground-breaking ceremony for its new Academic Building indoors in October. The unusual location for such an affair did not detract from the enthusiasm and spirit of celebration shown by the more than 100 attendees, who, collectively, loudly applauded and endorsed both the need for and the design of the new construction that will house new classrooms and labs, as well as faculty offices and other amenities. Construction will begin early November and the expected completion date is fall 2012.

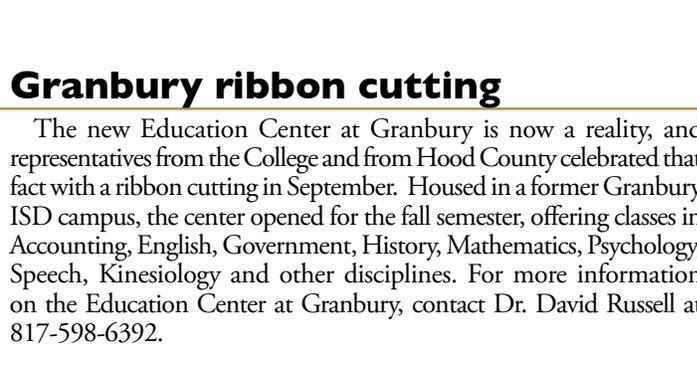
Dr. Kevin Eaton, president of Weatherford College, welcomes the crowd.

Weatherford College officials, joined by City and County officials, all got into the spirit of the occasion of a true “ground-breaking,” marking the beginning of construction of the College’s new Academic Building. Left to right, WC Board of Trustees Chairman Frank Martin; Trustees Luke Haynes, Trey Cobb, Jean Bryan and Elaine Carter; Weatherford Mayor Dennis Hooks; Weatherford City Manager Jerry Blaisdell and Parker County Judge Mark Riley.



Wise County Construction update

Construction on the WC Wise County campus is on schedule, and the excitement is building as the steel beams, walls and rooflines begin to appear at the site. Located between Bridgeport and Decatur, the campus is slated to open in time for fall 2012 classes. Funded by a branch campus maintenance tax approved by Wise County voters, the site will feature a new, 90,000 square-foot facility and a renovated 18,000 square-foot existing building. Photo by: Duane Durrett



Granbury ribbon cutting

The new Education Center at Granbury is now a reality, and representatives from the College and from Hood County celebrated that fact with a ribbon cutting in September. Housed in a former Granbury ISD campus, the center opened for the fall semester, offering classes in Accounting, English, Government, History, Mathematics, Psychology, Speech, Kinesiology and other disciplines. For more information on the Education Center at Granbury, contact Dr. David Russell at 817-598-6392.





Fall 2011 Musical

Nancy McVean, WC's long-time theatre director, bottom row, and her cast for the fall musical, "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," enjoyed a successful four-day run of the popular production.

Safe Halloween 2011

Ghouls to cuties made quite the frightful sight Monday night as thousands invaded the Roger Williams Ballpark for the annual Safe Halloween.



Softball field progress report

WC's new softball complex is almost complete. At press time, the grass and clay for the field were already in place, the clubhouse/locker/office area was nearing completion, and the stands were in the beginning stages of construction. Officials say the complex should be ready in time for the Coyotes to play their first-ever game on Jan. 28.

Coyote Chase Race 2011

Tyra Miller encourages her 3-year-old son, Dakota, to cross the finish line at the Coyote Chase Race in November. 581 runners participated, the second-largest field in the 18-year history of the race.

Accreditation process positive for WC

WC completed its on-site accreditation visit from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) with very few recommendations and no issues on any "core requirements."

WC and all other accredited higher education institutions are evaluated every 10 years by peer review teams made up of representatives from other similar institutions and are evaluated on their performance in 70 standards.

"Our SACS visit was an unprecedented success," said Dr. Kevin Eaton, WC president. "The overall scope of the report showed that WC is doing an outstanding job of serving the needs of our students and our local community. I was actually told that our institution should be a model for other institutions to emulate."



Golf tournament raises thousands for WC scholarships

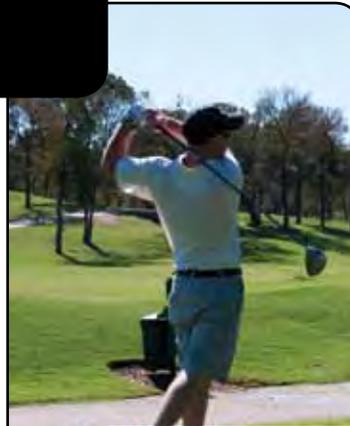
Golfers and sponsors raised more than \$25,000 for Weatherford College Scholarships at the 11th annual WC Foundation Scholarship Golf Tournament Oct. 15. Coupled with a Title III matching grant program, the fundraiser added over \$50,000 to the Foundation's scholarship endowment.

The event drew 116 golfers on 29 teams for a beautiful fall day at Sugar Tree. Previously named the Tech Prep Scholarship Tournament, the event is known for its valuable raffle items that included shotguns, electronics, and other prizes.

"What a great day," said Brent Baker, WC Foundation Executive Director. "This is a very busy time of year, but these players and sponsors took the time to come out and support a great cause – we're appreciative."

The Abilene-based team of David Gage, Faith Gage, Logan Gage and Christopher Gage won the tournament with an overall score of 53, or 17-under. 🏆

Photos from top to bottom: Derek Peterson tees off at the Weatherford College Foundation Scholarship Golf Tournament. Title sponsors gathered at the end of the tournament, including (pictured, left to right) Jared Jones of Steele & Freeman, Michael Hoffer of Hahnfeld Hoffer Stanford, Jimmy Tuley of Imperial Construction, Matt Shem of Hill & Wilkinson, and Darren Croom of Texas Book Company.



Class notes

Dusty Benthall was among the more than 300 firefighters that participated in the Dallas Stair Climb on the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks. The firefighters climbed 110 flights of stairs in downtown Dallas to represent the bravery of first responders on that tragic day. Benthall is a Mineral Wells firefighter and an instructor in the WC Fire Academy.

Emily Blair ('02) earned her Licensed Professional Counselor certification in September from the State of Texas. Emily graduated with a master's degree in counseling psychology from Tarleton State University in May.

Eddie Burns, Fire-Rescue chief for the City of Dallas, announced his retirement in July. Burns spent five years as the head of the department after serving many years with the City of Fort Worth Fire Department. He earned his associate's degree in fire science administration at WC after earning bachelor's and master's degrees at Dallas Baptist University.

Jamie Bodiford Brinkley ('67) won the Athena Award, **Bob Glenn ('73)** won the Outstanding Citizen Award, and **Gary Snow ('68)** won the James H. Doss Award for philanthropy at the annual Weatherford Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet in October.

Tammy Gazzola ('91) and the late **Thomas Riddle** were honored as Weatherford High School Distinguished Alumni in October. Gazzola is the president of the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce and Riddle enjoyed a long career in his family excavation and paving business and as a community leader and volunteer.

Laurie Hughes ('02) is now a communications and programs fellow at the Faith and Politics Institute on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. Hughes recently worked on the re-election campaign of Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley. She was the first recipient of WC's Jim Wright Scholarship.

Rod Newberry was inducted into the Weatherford High School Athletic Hall

of Fame in October. In addition to his prowess as a four-sport letterman at WHS, Newberry played basketball and tennis at WC. He went on to a long career at Chevron-Plexco Corporation, and is currently employed with the City of Fort Worth as a construction inspector.

Oleg Reztsov ('97) became a U.S. citizen in a Citizenship and Immigration Services ceremony in September. Reztsov came to WC from Russia on a basketball scholarship, moving on to play at the University of Oklahoma. He is married and writes software for financial organizations around the world.

Deepak Silwal ('09) has accepted an accounting position with Ernst and Young. Silwal is completing his master's degree at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Cody Stephens and Candace Huffman were married Oct. 15 in Wichita Falls. Stephens attended WC after graduating from Olney High School.

2011-2012
Weatherford College
Coyotes
Home Schedules



Basketball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME (WOMEN/MEN)
NOV. 1	LON MORRIS	5:30 PM/7:30 PM
NOV. 5	TEXAS WESLEYAN	7:00 PM
NOV. 21	OBU JV/SW ADVENTIST	5:30 PM/7:30 PM
NOV. 23	WESTERN TEXAS	NOON/2:00 PM
NOV. 29	TEXAS WESLEYAN	5:30 PM/7:30 PM
DEC. 3	DALLAS DIESEL	4:00 PM/6:00 PM
DEC. 7	MIDLAND	4:00 PM/6:00 PM
JAN. 18	SWCC*	5:30 PM/7:30 PM
JAN. 25	CISCO*	5:30 PM
FEB. 1	COLLIN*	5:30 PM/7:30 PM
FEB. 4	TEMPLE*	2:00 PM/4:00 PM
FEB. 8	MCLENNAN*	5:30 PM/7:30 PM
FEB. 15	HILL*	5:30 PM/7:30 PM
FEB. 22	RANGER*	5:30 PM/7:30 PM

* denotes conference play (North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference)
All home games played at the Betty Jo Crumm Graber Athletic Center.

Baseball

DATE	OPPONENT	GAMES	TIME
FEB. 4	NAVARRO	7/9	1:00 PM
FEB. 14	NORTHEAST TEXAS	9	3:00 PM
FEB. 21	PANOLA	7/9	3:00 PM
MARCH 3	TYLER	7/9	1:00 PM
MARCH 7	NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS*	7/9	2:00 PM
MARCH 14	VERNON*	7/9	3:00 PM
MARCH 24	HILL*	7/9	1:00 PM
MARCH 31	RANGER*	7/9	1:00 PM
APRIL 3	CISCO*	7/9	3:00 PM
APRIL 14	TEMPLE*	7/9	1:00 PM
APRIL 18	MCLENNAN*	7/9	1:00 PM
APRIL 28	GRAYSON*	7/9	3:00 PM
MAY 2	SAN JACINTO	7/9	TBA

*denotes conference play | All home games played at Roger Williams Ballpark.

Softball

DATE	OPPONENT	TIME
JAN. 28	NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS	1:00 PM/3:00 PM
FEB. 8	NAVARRO	TBA
FEB. 22	HOWARD	1:00 PM/3:00 PM
FEB. 29	VERNON*	1:00 PM/3:00 PM
MARCH 21	NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS*	1:00 PM/3:00 PM
MARCH 24	RANGER*	1:00 PM/3:00 PM
MARCH 28	HILL*	1:00 PM/3:00 PM
APRIL 7	CISCO*	1:00 PM/3:00 PM
APRIL 9	WESTERN OK. ST. *	TBA
APRIL 11	GRAYSON*	1:00 PM/3:00 PM
APRIL 14	TEMPLE*	1:00 PM/3:00 PM
APRIL 18	MCLENNAN*	1:00 PM/3:00 PM

*denotes conference play | All home games played at WC Softball Field.

Rodeo

MARCH 1-3 PARKER COUNTY SHERIFF'S POSSE ARENA
WEATHERFORD

American State Bank
J.A. and Linda Bagwell
Brent and Elizabeth Baker
Nancy Barrett
Kathy and Gary Bassham
Beta Sigma Phi
Dr. Richard Bowers
Dr. Veleda Boyd
Don and Diane Brawley
Christel Brenner
Merle and Peggy Bull
Mark and Ruth Campfield
Cargill Associates
Wanda M. Carpenter
Chicken Express
Rebecca Ciolek
Lila N. Clark
Myrlan Coleman
Compass Bank
Bill and Sue Coody and Family
Roger and Verna Coomer
David and Becky Daniel
Wayne and Mable Davee
Dr. Richard K. Ditto
Documation North Texas

Naulon and Vaudean Smith Eades
Dr. Kevin and Sheila Eaton
Roy and Jeannine Eaton
Tonya Edwards
Carol Eppright
Family and Community
Education Country Crossroads Club
Dan and Marsha Feely
John and Stephenie Fields
First Financial Bank
First Financial Trust Co.
First National Bank of Weatherford
Fisher & Phillips
Fort Worth Community Credit Union
L.E. and Joyce Gathings
Beverly and Jay Gibbs
Bud and Betty Jo Graber
Roger and Jeanine Grizzard
Hahnfeld Hoffer Stanford
Dr. Rickey L. Harman
Dr. Molly Harris
Hill & Wilkinson General Contractors
Carl and Sherry Holmes
Ruth Huse
Imperial Construction Inc.

Jerry Durant Auto Group
Johnson Controls
John Johnson
Marsha Johnson
Rep. Phil King
Janetta and Darrell Kruse
Kay Landrum
Julie Lundy
McDonald Sanders
Butch and Lela Morris
Lydia J. Osborne
Parker County
Physical Therapy
Parker County Women's
and Newcomers Club
Evelyn and Leon Payne
Phil Luker State Farm
Plains Capital Bank
Pulliam Pools
Donnie and Carol Purvis
QuestCare
Dr. William and Paula Roddy
Rosa's Café
SMF-Inc. Fabricating
Lisa Smith

Snow, Garrett & Co.
State Bank of Weatherford
Steele & Freeman Contractors
Jackie Stockard
Martha and Frank Tandy
Scott Tarnowiecky
Texas Book Company
Brad and D'Linda Tibbitts
Helen Tidwell
Leonard and Rhonda Torres
VLK Architects
Jon and Dottie Vandagriff
Kay Vincent
WHS Class of 1953
Charles and Linda Wakefield
Kevin and Keri Waller
Weatherford Aerospace
Weatherford Regional
Medical Center
James and Gloria Westfall
Dr. Mike White, O.D.
Wood Orthodontics
Tracey Yarbrough
Kay Young
Frances Zellers

Save the Date...

Homecoming 2012 is April 14.

Visit www.wc.edu/alumni for more information.

Call for Alumni Nominations

- **Alumnus of the Year**
- **Distinguished Alumni**

For a nomination form, go to www.wc.edu/alumni or call 817-598-6275.

Nominations due to WC's Institutional Advancement Office by Feb. 1, 2012.

Where are they now? from page 3.

Dartmouth, UCLA, and the University of Texas at Austin, with planned dates at Emory University and the University of Michigan in the winter.

“After 40 years on the Dartmouth faculty, all the clichés about retirement are true,” he said. “Busier than ever, not enough hours in the day, etc. etc. No wonder professors stop teaching so they can get their work done.”

WC named Tatum Alumnus of the Year in 1981, and he continues to support WC with gifts to benefit the annual Jack Harvey Academy of Exemplary Teachers, an event named after his late uncle.

Dr. Jim Messinger (Fall 2006 cover story)

A WC computer information systems instructor by day, Dr. Jim Messinger stays

busy on nights and weekends as one of the primary organizers and fundraisers for the National Vietnam War Museum in Mineral Wells.

The Mineral Wells location is significant because approximately 95 percent of Vietnam’s helicopter pilots attended flight training school at Fort Wolters, now home to a WC Education Center.

The museum site was an empty field when we interviewed Messinger in 2006. Since then, it’s seen a flurry of activity: the completion of a meditation garden, the installation of an actual Huey helicopter overlooking the site, the construction of a half-sized replica of the Vietnam Memorial Wall, and the opening of a visitors center. Phases one and two of the reflection garden were completed this year, with phase three to begin in 2012.

“As you can see, things began to happen in 2006 and haven’t slowed down,”

Messinger said. “We just acquired a Marine amphibious vehicle that was used in Vietnam, and we are beginning to design a garden around it. Lots more work to do; lots of room for volunteers (and donations)!”

For more on the museum, go to www.nationalvnwarmuseum.org.

Editor’s note: The Hilltop was honored this fall with a Silver Medallion Award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations, District 4. The Medallion competition includes entries from community colleges from six states: Texas, Arkansas, Colorado, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Wyoming. ☐

Nursing from page 5.



third-semester student said, “especially in pediatrics. I’ve always enjoyed working with kids.” And with an eye toward a future career, perhaps as a nurse practitioner, Adair said, “I’d like to open my own pediatric clinic someday.”

An important aspect of their training, said LeBeck, is interaction with the community – service learning projects that take the students into various locations. Students have worked with school nurses in health assessments and health and safety guidance at Trinity Christian Academy and schools in Weatherford, Mineral Wells, Saginaw and Birdville, as well as various health fairs.

“It connects them to humanity and shows them that nurses can be in a variety of settings,” said LeBeck. “It also demonstrates to the public that we are here and doing a fantastic job.”

“We cannot open their eyes to every single aspect of nursing,” said Livengood, “but we try.” ☐

Pictured top to bottom: Student Ashley Tipton measures and weighs a student at Trinity Christian Academy. Students Rebecca Von Behrens, Jenifer Clack, Leisa Edwardes, Jennifer Peavy, Mallory Fairbairn, Holly Winegardner, Denise Holbrook, and Kelly Wells volunteer at Center of Hope.



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- Supporting the College and receiving fixed payments for life
- The easiest way to make an impact with your gift

Go to www.wc.edu, click on “Giving to WC” and then click on “Planned Giving.”

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PRESENTED BY THE FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT



SPRING 2012 FINE ARTS CALENDAR



ALL SHOWS START AT 7:30 P.M.

FEBRUARY 24 - 25: SPRING DRAMA FESTIVAL SHOW-
"THE TEMPEST"- BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

FEBRUARY 29 - MARCH 3: SPRING DRAMA THEATRE FESTIVAL
(EVENT WILL RUN ALL DAY)

MARCH 22 - APRIL 5: STUDENT PHOTO SHOW

MARCH 22: COYOTE JAZZ FEST CONCERT

MARCH 23: COYOTE JAZZ FEST (EVENT WILL RUN ALL DAY)

APRIL 11- 22: STUDENT ART SHOW

APRIL 16: STUDENT ART SHOW RECEPTION
(STARTS AT 6:00 P.M.)

APRIL 24: SPRING CHOIR CONCERT

APRIL 26, 27, 28: SPRING DRAMA SHOW, TBA

Free admission, doors open half hour prior to start
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