

THE HILLTOP



A Medallion Award
winning publication

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

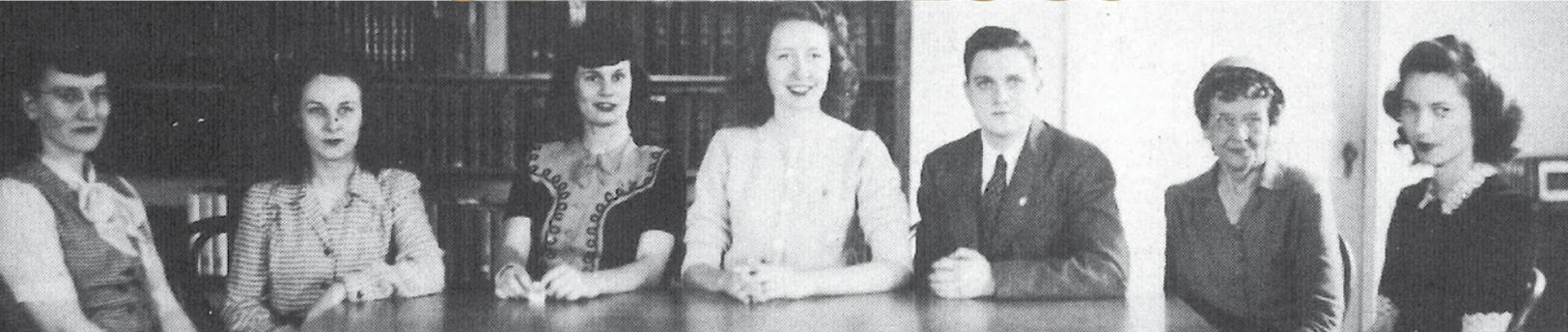
Volume XIV : Issue I

SPRING 2014

PHI THETA KAPPA



CELEBRATES 85



YEARS AT WC



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Graduation is just around the corner! This is always a very interesting time of year at Weatherford College. We experience the exhilaration of knowing many of our students are celebrating the completion of this stage of their education, but we are also saddened to see so many of our WC family leaving our campuses to continue their education at the university level or to start their professional careers. However, we feel a great sense of pride in knowing we have played a major role in preparing each of these students for whatever may come next.

Another point of pride at Weatherford College is the vast improvement of our campus infrastructure. It's hard to believe, but our new Academic Building has been open for two years, and our new Don Allen Health Science Building will be completed in May. Moreover, we have completed our irrigation upgrades and energy conservation projects. Within the next few weeks you should start seeing beautiful green grass where only bare ground has been in the past. We truly believe our facilities are now some of the best in the state. Many of these improvements would not have been possible without the support many of you gave to our WC Foundation's "The Time is Now for Your College" capital campaign, so thank you once again.

In closing, with summer on the horizon, I would like to invite all of you to come tour our campus. You will be amazed at all that has changed over the past few years. I know you are going to be as proud of our improvements as we are. I look forward to seeing you very soon.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin J. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kevin J. Eaton, Ed.D.
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PHI THETA KAPPA CELEBRATES 85 YEARS AT WC

by Crystal Brown

As the oldest continuing community college in the Southwest, Weatherford College boasts organizations and traditions that have lasted through generations of students. But not many of those organizations can say it's the oldest of its kind in the State of Texas.

Phi Theta Kappa, the honor society for two-year colleges, is celebrating 85 years on the WC campus this April.

The flagship group was founded in 1918 by the presidents of eight Missouri junior colleges for women and grew from there. It reached Weatherford College in 1929, and the WC group is the oldest continuously active Phi Theta Kappa chapter in the state and one of the oldest in the nation.

Now averaging about 150 students each semester, the beginnings of Phi Theta Kappa at WC were much more modest. The 1930 Oak Leaf yearbook describes the selection process for potential Phi Theta Kappa members: "All students who have a scholastic rating in the upper twenty-five percent are eligible to membership...Citizenship, personality, loyalty and leadership are further considerations after scholarship."

Today's rules of acceptance have been streamlined – Weatherford College students who have a 3.5 GPA or higher after completing 12 hours of coursework receive invitations to join Phi Theta Kappa. Those who are invited to join comprise about 10 percent of students at WC.

Once accepted into the organization, members work on the four hallmarks of Phi Theta Kappa: Scholarship, Leadership, Service and Fellowship. They do this through two main projects. The first is "Honors and Action," a research-based service project. The second is a "college project" which is an activity that the entire campus supports.

"For Honors and Action this year they researched the culture of competition," chapter advisor Dr. Molly Harris said.

"They chose to research the history of Phi Theta Kappa and to search for an answer to 'Does competition influence innovation?' The end result was a survey distributed to regional and chapter leaders that gauged the perception of the importance of competition in Phi Theta Kappa."

For their college project, members worked with CollegeFish.org and "C4" – Community College Completion Corps. Members used these initiatives as tools to encourage college completion.

"We had about 100 students create a profile," Harris said. "CollegeFish.org is like Match.com for the transfer process. After students create a profile including specific desires for a four-year institution, CollegeFish links the student to their matching institution and scholarship opportunities. A student can place up to 10 universities in their 'fish bowl.' From there the university can help the student track his/her transfer process."

Phi Theta Kappa members also represent Weatherford College at three regional events and one international event each year. You can also find them donating their time to events around campus including the Taste of Parker County, the Coyote Chase Race, WC Live, Veteran's Day activities and commencement.

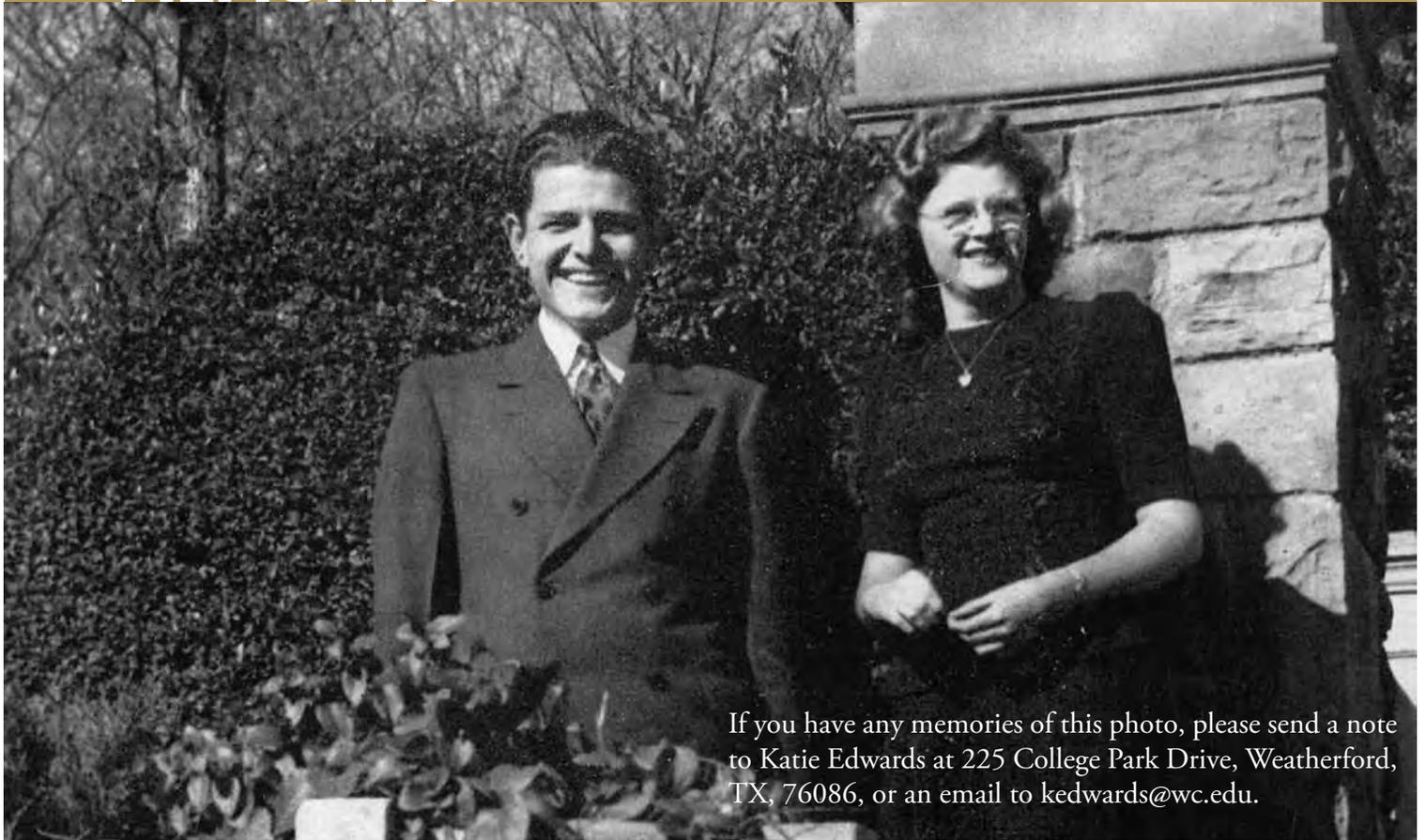
"The students in Phi Theta Kappa serve as role models to other students through their leadership activities and community service," said Dr. Arleen Atkins, Dean of Institutional Effectiveness and honorary Phi Theta Kappa member. "Phi Theta Kappa has a real presence and high visibility on campus and can be relied upon to help with campus events even when they are not sponsoring them."

Back in the 1940s, the activities of Phi Theta Kappa were focused on the fellowship. In the 1942 Oak Leaf, the group's activities for the year included a get-together and the start of the school year where they enjoyed "popcorn, candy and a grand time," a

continues with ΦΘΚ on page 5.



MEMORIES



If you have any memories of this photo, please send a note to Katie Edwards at 225 College Park Drive, Weatherford, TX, 76086, or an email to kedwards@wc.edu.

LAST ISSUE'S DO YOU KNOW...

"As the sun rises on our new campus, a new dimension opens for Weatherford College. New growth and new activities widen the scope of the future of W.C." - 1968 Oak Leaf



FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

James Earl "Jim" Austin of Weatherford passed away Jan. 3. He was 66 and had taught many years in the WC Nursing Program.

Tommy Lee Long passed away on Jan. 16. He was 30.

Cheryl "Dixie" Harrison passed away Feb. 22. She was 54. She was WC's Learning Management System Administrator and was a

longtime employee in WC's Technology Department.

Richard Leo Moore passed away on Jan. 26. He was 66.

Vada Marie Nail of Fort Worth passed away Dec. 12. She was 53.

Charlotte Maritha Newsome passed away Jan. 12. She was 56.

William Brandon "Boomer" Peyton of Weatherford passed away Nov. 27. He was 30.

Bill C. Prichard of Weatherford passed away Feb. 4. He was 76.

Dr. Levon L. Ray of Waco passed away Jan. 7. He was 95.

Ethan L. Smith of Garland passed away Dec. 2. He was 87.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



Photo courtesy of Ropeadope

WC ALUMNI TAKE HOME GRAMMY

Two Weatherford College alumni walked away from the 56th Grammys winners of the prestigious recording arts award.

With Robert “Sput” Searight on drums and Shaun Martin on keyboards, the jazz fusion group Snarky Puppy with Lalah Hathaway won the 2014 Grammy for Best R&B Performance for *Something*.

Searight and Martin were members of the WC Jazz Band in the late 1990s. Snarky Puppy originated in Denton but is now based in New York City.

Searight has also performed with Celine Dion, Justin Timberlake, Kirk Franklin and Snoop Dogg.

Martin’s list of performances includes playing with Chaka Kahn, Erykah Badu and God’s Property. He is also minister of worship music at Friendship West Baptist Church in Dallas.

Martin has received three previous Grammy awards for co-producing albums by Kirk Franklin – 2006 Best Contemporary R&B Gospel Album, *Hero*; 2008 Best Contemporary R&B Gospel Album, *The Fight of My Life*; and the 2011 Best Gospel Album, *Hello Fear*.

The day following their big win, Snarky Puppy reached out to fans via Facebook where they posted: “The way that we all feel right now is inexpressible. I can’t emphasize enough that we were only able to win this as a result of you all listening, supporting and sharing our music with your friends . . . the underdogs somehow pulled it out after 10 years of grinding it out on the road, and it’s because of you.”

Snarky Puppy released their eighth album/live DVD *We Like It Here* in February and are preparing for a European tour this April and May. 🎷

ΦΘΚ *from page 3.*

Homecoming coffee, an introduction of nine new candidates during chapel time at the Methodist Church, a picnic party in April and a farewell sunrise breakfast to close out the year.

While Phi Theta Kappa has grown over the past 85 years, the mission has not

changed, Harris said.

“Programs and initiatives have grown to further support the mission, but the mission of Phi Theta Kappa has always been to promote scholarship and fellowship among its students.”

Kelley Belding, current WC Phi Theta Kappa member and the group’s fundraising

chair, said she is grateful for the opportunities she has received through membership.

“My favorite part of Phi Theta Kappa is the friendships I have gained,” Belding said. “Before I got really involved with Phi my college life was a bit dull. I was keeping more to myself and had not made many friends, until I started to get involved.” 🎷

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE AROUND CAMPUS



1. More than 600 graduates received diplomas from WC Board Chair Frank Martin at the GED graduation held in December at the Jerry Durant Auditorium at Weatherford High School.

2. Sheila Kinkead was honored as the 2013 Staff Member of the Year at WC's annual Employee Awards Dinner in December. Beginning her WC career in 1994, Kinkead most recently served as Secretary for the Department of Fine Arts and Mathematics before she retired in early 2014.

3 & 4. The inaugural 3-D Archery Tournament was a success with 21 shooters participating in the Coyote Softball Booster Club fundraiser.

5. Warm Bowls, hosted by the WC Wise County Student Nurses Association and the WC Jazz Band, raised more than \$3,800 in early March. The money benefits the Wise Area Relief Mission, the largest food pantry in Wise County.

6. The 20th annual Coyote Chase Race broke a record with 719 registered runners despite postponing from November to January due to icy conditions. More than 500 of those runners were children and parents from area schools participating in the "School Challenge."

7. Weatherford College math instructor Shirley Brown and Brent

Hankins, the featured speaker, at the 12th Annual Coyote Area Math Championship held Feb. 21.

8. Safe Spring Break: A WC student "drives drunk" at the Memorial Plaza aided by special goggles. Due to her simulated impairment she found it difficult to maneuver around obstacle cones.

9. Four students competed in the annual Joe Tison Outstanding Speech Student Competition on the Weatherford College campus on March 25. Shelbie Green (third from left) won with a speech on the dangers of the beauty industry on the self-esteem of women and young girls. Melody Hurd, Dajung Jun and Michael Moreno also participated in the event.

10. After their third conference championship in a row, the WC women's basketball team might have a first this year: a National Player of the Year.

Sophomore forward Itiana Taylor is one of three nominees for the Women's Basketball Coaches Association Player of the Year Award in the Junior/Community College division.

The Lady Coyotes finished the season at the Region V Tournament with a 21-4 overall record. Head Coach and Athletic Director Bob McKinley won Conference Coach of the Year honors for the 11th time.



6.



7.



8.



9.



10.

ALUMNI AWARD HONOREES ANNOUNCED



Vickie Durant, Jamie Bodiford Brinkley, Kenton Harvey and Gary Snow will receive special recognition at the upcoming WC Alumni Awards Luncheon scheduled for 11:30 a.m. Friday, April 25, in the Doss Student Center.

Durant ('66) will be honored as the Weatherford College Alumnus of the Year. She is a founding member of the Project Opportunity Board of Directors, an organization that has awarded thousands of dollars in scholarship funds to Weatherford High School graduates attending WC. Durant is also one of the longest-serving members of the WC Foundation Board of Directors, having joined in 1999.

Vickie and her husband, Jerry, recently contributed \$400,000 to support the construction of WC's new Don Allen Health Science Building, the largest single monetary gift from a living donor in school history. The \$6 million building is scheduled for completion in early May.

Brinkley, Harvey and Snow will also be honored at the luncheon as Distinguished Alumni Award winners.

A realtor with Century 21 Judge Fite, Brinkley ('67) was named a Centurion Hall of Fame member for the production of \$6 million a year in real estate sales.

She has served as a member of the Weatherford ISD Board of Trustees, the Parker County Hospital District Board of Directors and in many other positions of leadership. She received the 2011 Athena

Award for Leadership from the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce.

Jamie and her husband, Michael, recently established an endowed scholarship with the WC Foundation in honor of Michael's parents, Charles and Polly Brinkley. She also helped organize a 2001 luncheon which raised more than \$20,000 in scholarships in honor of Speaker Jim Wright.

Harvey ('58) served as State President of the Future Farmers of America in 1956-57. He went on to become the State President of Texas Young Farmers.

For 31 years, Harvey served as the preacher for Aledo Church of Christ, retiring in 2008. During his ministry career, he officiated more than 200 weddings, conducted more than 300 funerals and preached in more than 20 cities across the country.

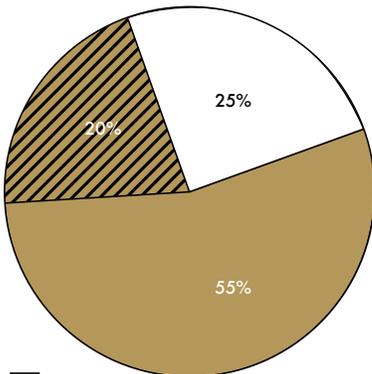
Snow ('66), with fellow WC alumnus Wayne Garrett, established the CPA firm Snow, Garrett & Company in 1978. Now known as Snow Garrett Williams, the company has grown to 30 employees and has more than 2,500 clients.

Snow received the 2011 James H. Doss Award for philanthropy from the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce.

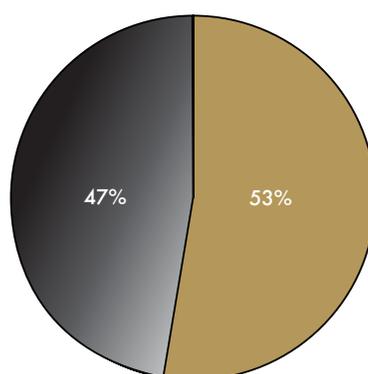
Gary and his wife, Linda, recently made a significant donation to the WC Foundation, and the WC Board of Trustees named a classroom in the Academic Building the Gary and Linda Snow Classroom. ☐

WC ENROLLMENT STATS

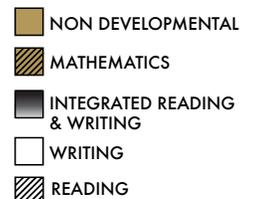
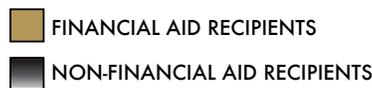
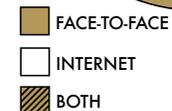
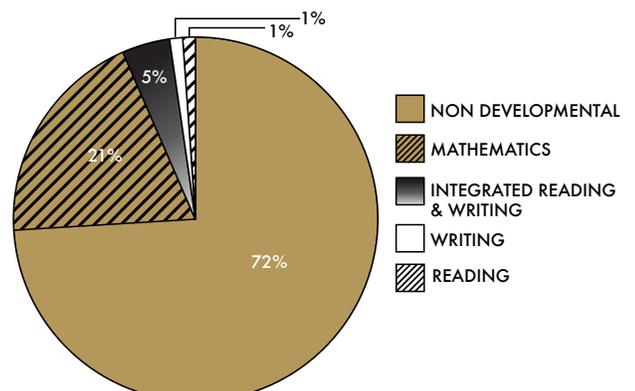
2013-2014 Percentage of Enrollment by Delivery Mode



2013-2014 Percentage of Financial Aid Awardees



2013-2014 Percentage of Developmental Students



Benefactors (\$10,000 and above)

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Continued on next page

CLASS NOTES

Leta Andrews ('57) announced she is retiring from coaching high school basketball after 51 seasons. Currently at Granbury High School, she is the winningest high school basketball coach in the nation's history, with more than 1,416 victories. Her teams reached 14 state tournaments and her 1990 Corpus Christi Calallen team won the state title. She was named a WC Distinguished Alumnus in 2005.

Bob and Carolyn Glenn celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Feb. 22. The couple was married at Greenwood Baptist Church in

Parker County on Feb. 22, 1964. Bob is a former WC Alumnus of the Year honoree and served as chairman of the WC Foundation's "The Time is Now for Your College" capital campaign.

Rosie Mucino was named executive director of the Weatherford Housing Authority in February. The Weatherford native was a case worker for the WHA for seven years before accepting the executive director position on Feb. 18.

In the Parker County Republican primary election in March, two former WC students won their respective races. **Jeane Brunson** won re-election

as County Clerk and **Jenny Barnwell** retained her seat as County Treasurer.

Several former WC students were honored at Parker County Today Magazine's "Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes" awards event in February, spotlighting young community leaders: **Brandy Cole** (V.A. Littleton Artist Award), **John Forrest** (Jack Borden Attorney Award), **Clarín Gniffke** (Zan Prince Community Leader Award), **Dr. Molly Harris** (Dr. E.W. Mince Education Award) and **Wynn Williams** (Mac Curtis Musician Award).

Affiliates (\$100 to \$499)

Debbie Alexander, Jolene Applegate, Glenda Aslin, Dr. Arleen Atkins, Angela Atkins, Linda and J. A. Bagwell, Chester and Virginia Baker, Christel Brenner, Terry Brock, Mike and Sheryl Brown, Merle and Peggy Bull, Tracey Butler, Rebecca Byrd, Bob and Glenda Carter, Winnie R. Chastain, Dr. Shirley Chenault, Rebecca Ciolek, Myrlan and Jim Coleman, Sue Coody and Family, Shirley Copeland, Donna Cox, Darla Cox, Wayne and Mable Davee, Decatur Lions Club, Garland and Mickey Dixon, Doss Heritage and Culture Center, Tiare Edmundson, Johnny Emmons, Stephenie Fields, Adam Finley, Joe Flanagan, Ned and Nancy Fleming, C. B. Fletcher, Arlene Ford, Paul and Ann Fuller, Richard and Marsha Gibson, Go4 Him Ministries Inc., Roger and Jeanine Grizzard, J.B. and Lori Gross, Kyle Hahn, Nikki Harless, Richard Hartman, Jr., Home Health Professionals Inc., Loretta Huddleston, Theresa Hutchison, Dr. Alexander Ibe, James and Dorothy Doss Foundation, Catherine Johnson, Christopher and Lauren Jones, Gene and Mary Jo Jordan, Janetta Kruse, Kay Landrum, Lonna and Derek Leach, Joseph A. Lewis, Tom Loughrey, Michael McCoy, Lou Ann McKenzie, Julie Moeller, Butch and Lela Morris, Doyle Moss, Janice Odom, Palo Pinto Area Foundation, Carol Patak, Evelyn Payne, Norma Plowman, Dr. William and Paula Roddy, Steven Sandidge, Deborah Savage, Lisa Simons, Frances Skiles, Diane Slocum, Teresa Smith, Kathy Smith, Charlsta Smith, Theresa Smith, Snow Garrett Williams, Stanley Stough, The Hahn Family, Helen Tidwell, Phyllis Tiffin, Joe and Patsy Tison, Rhonda Torres, Stephanie and Robert Turner, Jon and Dottie Vandagriff, Allen and Peggy Varnon, J. D. Walker, Jo Ellen Welborn, Lisa Welch, Bruce and Laura Wiggs, Michael Willhite, Mary Williams, Gary B. Williams, James Wood, Dr. Alan and Mrs. Rae Wooten Hall, Linda Wynn

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Photo by Zachary Peterson

WC THESPIANS EARN HIGH PRAISE AT FESTIVAL

WC thespians were triumphant at the Texas Community College Theatre Festival held at Blinn College in late February where their performance of "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer" won an overall Excellent rating.

Kylar Dobbs, Seth O'Bannon and Delace McMahan each received an Excellent rating for their acting. Stephen Sullivan was rated Superior in acting, Kelsie Bruce was rated Superior in stage management and the costumes were recognized as Excellent.

"We were loved by all," Director Nancy McVean said. "We all had a great time and made new friends."

During their on-campus performances prior to the festival, they held a food drive to benefit the Center of Hope and the Weatherford/Parker County Animal Shelter.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPOTLIGHT



BETTY JO GRABER

I started teaching and coaching there. I was asked to submit my name for consideration to the board, and I was selected to fill a vacancy.

What do you see as today's greatest challenge facing community colleges like WC? The greatest challenges facing WC and other community colleges are to meet the ever changing needs for the future, selecting and providing facilities for the programs and courses for students in their service district, and, also, to continue with the best academic programs.

What are some solutions for those challenges? Continued research is needed of the needs in the local area including businesses, technology updates, manufacturing industry, health, education, etc.; to consider facilities, finances and faculty.

What is your vision for WC? I believe WC will continue to lead the way in Texas colleges of our size and enrollment to provide the best education possible for the students in the Parker County Junior College District.

What is your greatest passion or interest (besides WC)? Some would say basketball,

but God, family, organizations, travel, helping others and enjoying each day to the fullest are all my passions.

Editor's Note: Betty Jo Graber is a long-time supporter of Weatherford College, especially WC athletics. She retired from WC in 1991 after coaching basketball for more than 35 years. She is an active member of the Coyote Basketball Booster Club and a mentor for student-athletes.

During her coaching career, Graber chaired the Women's Basketball Committee from the inception of the NJCAA Women's Division in 1975 until her retirement. Her other accomplishments include serving as an assistant coach for the 1977 USA Junior Select Team, the 1978 National Junior Team, the 1979 World Championship and Pan American Teams and the 1982 U.S. National Team. Additionally, she helped establish the NJCAA Women's Basketball Coaches Association and stands second on the all-time win list for inactive coaches in NJCAA Women's Basketball, leading the Lady Coyotes to two national tournaments. Graber was voted National Junior College Coach of the Year in 1980. 📧

Husband: Bud Graber

Do you have any family who attended WC? Three nephews and one great-niece.

What motivated you to accept a position on the WC Board of Trustees? (Grabber was appointed to a vacant seat in December 2013.) Weatherford College has been a significant part of my life since 1956 when

CONSTRUCTION CONCLUDING ON THE DON ALLEN HEALTH SCIENCE BUILDING

Construction on the Don Allen Health Science Building began only eight short months ago, but the finishing touches on the new 31,000-square-foot facility are being put in place. The building will be turned over to the college to furnish on May 9.

Weatherford College President Dr. Kevin Eaton is optimistic classes for the Summer I semester will be held in the new building which will house most of WC's allied health programs including nursing, respiratory therapy, radiologic technology, sonography and phlebotomy.

"The last part of construction is the best part to me," Eaton said excitedly. "Every day you see changes; you see it get that much closer to completion."

Cold winter weather did delay construction by about a week, but extra time was built into the schedule for just such an occurrence leaving the project ahead of schedule.

Following the completion of the Don Allen Health Science Building, the next project to tackle is the renovation of the existing Allied Health building and the first floor of the Business Building to create office space.

"Once we complete the renovations, we should be done with construction for the next few years," Eaton said. 📧





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ALUMNI AWARDS LUNCHEON

FRIDAY, APRIL 25 AT 11:30 A.M.
DOSS STUDENT CENTER - \$15

JOIN US IN HONORING:

VICKIE DURANT, ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR
JAMIE BODIFORD BRINKLEY, DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS
KENTON HARVEY, DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS
GARY SNOW, DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS

THE CLASSES OF 1944, 1954, 1964, 1974, ETC. WILL ALSO BE RECOGNIZED.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE



PLEASE RSVP TO MARSHA JOHNSON AT
MJOHNSON@WC.EDU OR 817-598-6272.

