

# THE HILLTOP

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Volume XVI : Issue III

FALL 2016

## Hidden Talent

ACCOMPLISHED MUSICIANS  
COMPRISE WC ADJUNCT FACULTY



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



The Fall Semester at Weatherford College is nearing the midway point, and we're proud to report our enrollment numbers are once again on the increase. The official count for the semester is 5,629 students, a 2.4 percent increase year-over-year.

We have bragged about the quality of our faculty and staff for years, but I truly believe a large part of the enrollment increase is a by-product of the outstanding work performed on a daily basis by these outstanding professionals. Our positive reputation continues to grow both locally and nationally, and that is a direct reflection on the quality of instruction and services that our students receive.

In this issue of *The Hilltop*, we feature some of our outstanding adjunct music instructors. These top-notch artists not only teach WC students the art of music, but many of them perform free for the community several times a year in our Alkek Fine Arts Center. We also feature alumnus Warren Creason, a former Coyote basketball scholarship student-athlete who graduated from WC in 1976 and went on to a successful career in commercial real estate and consulting.

We also highlight the pushup challenge spearheaded by our Veterans Organization, a scholarship donation by Imperial Construction and the selection of Dr. Alexander Ibe as our new Dean of Academics in the Around Campus section.

In closing, I continue to invite those interested in visiting WC to come tour our beautiful campus. This is your college, and we look forward to the opportunity to share our accomplishments with you.

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.  
President

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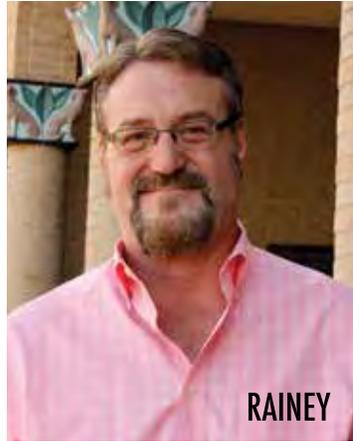
# COVER STORY

## HIDDEN TALENT

Accomplished musicians comprise WC adjunct faculty



SONG



RAINEY



FLAUDING



DOUGLAS

by Crystal Brown

One of the best kept secrets in Weatherford is the level of talent residing in Weatherford College's adjunct music faculty.

Among this group of musicians are a world renowned pianist, an accomplished opera enthusiast, a chart-topping jazz composer and a classical guitarist working to expand the visibility of WC through establishing a world-recognized guitar competition.

Pianist Dr. Hyeyoung Song has performed from New York to Korea, and most recently at the American Cathedral in Paris. For the past nine years, she has enthusiastically passed on her knowledge of the piano to students at WC.

Song discovered her musical talent at a young age, and describes her first piano lesson as a magical moment that changed her life.

"As a child, I strongly believed music to be the highest form of art," she said, "something beyond literature, science, morals."

Besides the desire to play the piano, Song also felt a calling to teach that was solidified by the positive feedback of her supervisor and students when she first began teaching piano at the University of Texas. Her goal as an instructor is to open her students up to the world of classical music.

"It is true joy to see my students grow in music every day," she said. "I'm thrilled to hear when my students fall in love with music."

Voice instructor Rick Rainey also lights up when he sees his students gain an increased appreciation for music. For the past 10 years, Rainey has offered private voice lessons at WC as well as organized several opera workshops showcasing the talent of his students.

"There are many talented students who pass through this school, and it is very gratifying to be able to watch them progress," he said.

**"IT IS TRUE JOY TO SEE MY STUDENTS GROW IN MUSIC EVERY DAY."**

**- DR. HYEYOUNG SONG**

Rainey's introduction to the world of music began with piano lessons in the fourth grade followed by the school choir and private voice lessons. He went on to participate in the Fort Worth Opera Chorus and the Dallas Opera Chorus. For several years he also participated in the Fort Worth Opera children's opera performing for thousands of elementary school children across the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex including Weatherford.

As an instructor, he strives to provide the highest musical standards of teaching, a welcome atmosphere for learning and encouragement to anyone who wishes to

learn about singing and opera.

In addition to encouragement and a creative atmosphere, jazz musician Rick Flauding's philosophy is centered on teaching students to teach themselves.

"Learning to get a grade is one thing; learning because you have a great passion for something is another," he said. "Truly, I love being at WC. It's a best-fit situation for me based on my teaching philosophies."

Flauding began writing music and performing for recording studios in Los Angeles right out of high school. For the past three years, he has instructed a variety of jazz courses including improvisation, small instrumental ensemble and theory.

His career highlights include an American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers Award for film scoring, working with the London Symphony Orchestra, and the success of his own compositions charting on worldwide radio and being used in television shows. He recently completed an arrangement for the Plano Symphony Orchestra which will be performed in December.

Classical guitarist Will Douglas joined the adjunct staff at WC less than three years ago and jumped right into establishing the Lone Star Guitar Festival and Competition. In its short lifespan, the festival has already gained *continues with Hidden Talent on page 11.*

# MEMORIES



## DO YOU KNOW...

If you have any information about this photo, please send a note to Katie Edwards at 225 College Park Drive, Weatherford, TX, 76086, or an email to [kedwards@wc.edu](mailto:kedwards@wc.edu).

## LAST ISSUE'S DO YOU KNOW...

This is a photo of the founding members of the Political Science Club from the 1935 Oakleaf yearbook. The club's purpose was to "discuss political and economic problems of local, national and international import and futhering the free expression of opinions concerning governmental policies in this country and elsewhere."



## FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

**Pauline Cranford Brinkley**, 90, of North Richland Hills, passed away Aug. 16.

**Amy Latimer Buzzard**, 94, of El Paso passed away Sept. 7.

**Herbert H. Carter**, 87, of Springtown passed away Aug. 23.

**Bobby Coggins**, 59, of Tolar passed away July 30.

**Derald Coomer**, 78, of Azle passed away Aug. 26.

**James Nicklas**, 72, of Denton passed away Sept. 4.

**Robert Poynter**, 47, of Royce City passed away Sept. 9.

**Wanda Ratliff**, 69, of Conway, Ark. passed away Sept. 17.

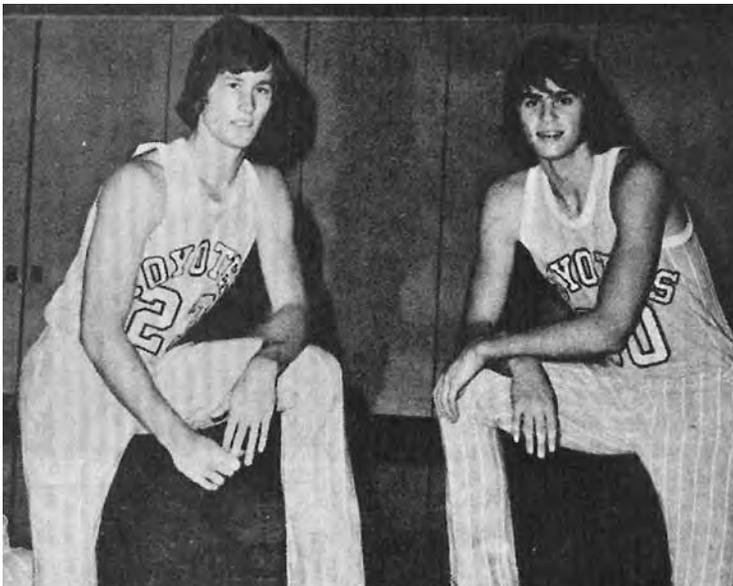
**Margery Nell Jordan Scherer**, 89, of Weatherford passed away Aug. 28.

**Nelda Jane Smith**, 76, of Gober passed away Sept. 7.

**Kenneth Stavenhagen**, 68, of Fort Worth passed away Aug. 3.

**Barksdale Waller**, 101, of Shreveport passed away Sept. 29.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: WARREN CREASON



Dick Pool and Creason, 1975

by Brent Baker

Warren Creason ('76) is hard to miss.

Not just because he's 6-foot-6-inches tall. Even if he was a foot shorter, his enthusiasm, zest for life and otherwise big personality would catch your attention anyway.

It's hard to believe this successful real estate professional began his life bouncing from family to family in foster homes.

The Deming, New Mexico, native was all set to attend New Mexico Military Institute on a basketball scholarship in the fall of 1974. But fellow basketball player Dick Pool encouraged him to reconsider his decision and to visit another school 675 miles to the east.

"Coach (Dave) Neely took me from the airplane to the WC gym, and put me on the court to play three games of one-on-one against his best player at the time, Greg 'Popgun' Perry, and said if I could win any of the three games he would give me a scholarship," Creason said. "I lost the first game, then won the second--and my scholarship--before losing the third game.

"So basically, I visited, fell in love with Weatherford College and love WC more with each passing year."

Creason eventually moved on Texas A&I University in Kingsville on a basketball scholarship, earned his bachelor's degree and eventually his MBA. He entered the commercial real estate business, running development programs for Pier 1 Imports and Barnes & Noble Booksellers. He later started his own consulting firm, and has worked on millions of square feet of development projects for the likes of Home Depot, Cabela's, United Supermarkets and many other well-known companies.

Creason said the transition from rural New Mexico to a broader experience at WC changed his life.

"WC introduced me to so many different kinds of people from different communities and cultures," he said. "All of these invaluable life lessons prepared and motivated me to work hard to be the best person and citizen I can be."

Being a basketball player brought many hours of hard work, but a lot of laughs as well, including one incident where he was pressed into service as a bus driver.

"One afternoon I got an urgent message from Coach Neely saying the bus driver was ill and that I needed to report to the gym ASAP to take a 'crash course' in driving the bus because I was driving the Lady Coyotes to their game in Abilene that night," he said. "I learned a whole new meaning to the word 'pressure' that afternoon. Despite the daunting challenge of downshifting repeatedly to make it up 'Ranger Hill,' which seemed like Mount Everest that day, we made it safely to Abilene and back.

"I still think I deserved a three-hour academic credit in 'women's studies' for the things I experienced driving the bus that unforgettable day!"

When asked about individuals who impacted his life during those two years, Creason mentioned Neely, faculty member/administrator Brad Tibbitts, art instructor Myrlan Coleman and Mary Whitsitt from the Business Office.

*continues with Spotlight on page 10.*

# WEATHERFORD COLLEGE AROUND CAMPUS

1.



2.

1. Students, faculty and staff gathered at the Memorial Plaza on Oct. 5 to perform 22 pushups as a representation of the 22 veterans who commit suicide each day nationwide. They have continued and will continue meeting at the Plaza at 10:45 a.m. Monday through Friday until Veterans Day performing one less pushup until they reach zero, symbolizing an end to veteran suicide. This is the WC Veterans Organization's twist on the national #22Kill pushup challenge.



3.

2. WC instructors discuss the meaning of "God-given rights" mentioned in the Declaration of Independence and how that plays into the US Constitution. Pictured speaking is Social Science Department Chair Dr. Scott Tarnowiecky.

3. Weatherford College's Touring Theatre Troupe presented "The Three Little Pigs" this semester. Written by WC's Joe Nicikowski, the story is told from the perspective of a group of actors who are supposed to produce an entirely different theatre show but can't due to missing



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.

props, missing costumes and missing voices. The production ran Oct. 14 and 15 at WC before the troupe took the show on the road to area elementary schools.

4. Imperial Construction has established a new Weatherford College scholarship with a \$10,000 gift to the WC Foundation. The scholarship is earmarked for students from WC's five county service area (Parker, Palo Pinto, Hood, Jack and Wise counties). Pictured are (left to right) Mark Tucker, Imperial Vice President of Pre-Construction; Brent Baker, WC Foundation Executive Director; Jeff

Jones, Imperial CEO; and Kelvin Mullins, Imperial Vice President of Operations.

5. First Financial Bank served free hotdogs, chips and drinks during lunch for two days during Welcome Week this semester. The lunches were organized by the Academic Support Center to introduce students to the Center's services and location.

6. The fall semester campus cookout was a great success thanks to the work of the WC Police Department, Office of Student Life, employees of the cafeteria and CBRE maintenance staff.

7. Bellevue University held a grand opening ceremony at Weatherford College in September. The Nebraska-based private university opened an office on the WC campus over the summer. Pictured are Bellevue President Dr. Mary B. Hawkins and WC President Dr. Kevin Eaton.

8. Dr. Alexander Ibe was recently selected as the next Dean of Academics. His new role will start in January. Ibe started working at WC in 2002 as an instructor and from 2007 to 2011 was the Department Chair of Life Sciences. He was also named the 2016 Faculty Member of the Year.

# WC BIDS FAREWELL TO TWO LONGTIME LEADERS



Two of Weatherford College's key administrators, Dr. Richard Bowers and Kathy Bassham, retired at the end of August.

A reception was held in honor of Bowers, Vice President of Instruction, in Texas Hall of the Alkek Fine Arts Center. Bowers served WC for 47 years.

He concluded his remarks on retirement by happily smashing an alarm clock.

"That was payback," Bowers said happily. "For years that thing would not let me have that extra 30 minutes of blissful sleep. It was sweet revenge!"

Bowers, who is a pilot, SCUBA diver and avid traveler, has many plans in store for his retirement years with his wife Pat, a retired educator herself.

"Pat and I plan to remain active and continue to seek new adventures," Bowers said. "Retirement now provides us with more time to do both."

Bowers began his career at Weatherford College in 1969 when the campus on the hilltop was first completed. He started as a physics instructor and worked his way up the ranks taking on the role

of Academic Dean in 1997 and Vice President in 2011.

He said there are too many memories from his years at WC to select a favorite.

"Each and every one is special to me, and I will enjoy reflecting back on them for the rest of my days."

Bowers is now "Vice President Emeritus" after a special presentation from WC President Dr. Kevin Eaton.

Bassham, Executive Dean of Student Services, celebrated her retirement, after 23 years at WC, with a reception Aug 30. Members of the Student Veterans Organization presented her with a special shadow box for her effort in establishing the Veterans Center on campus.

"I was so overwhelmed that they gave me such a thoughtful gift," Bassham said. "I had no idea that they knew me so well. I have such a tremendous amount of respect for these students and now I have a tangible reminder of them and all they do for each of us as Americans."

While Bassham retired so she could devote more quality time to her family, she is also able to continue long-lasting

friendships with her WC family.

"I also feel so blessed to know that one of the best things about working for and retiring from WC is that I am still part of the WC family," she said. "Working with such a talented and caring group of faculty and staff who have helped me become the person I am today has been incredible."

Bassham said one of her special memories of her time at WC was representing the college and its students as the president of the Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators.

"In that capacity I was able to provide training and testimony for state legislators as well as national legislators and their aides," she said. "Those were experiences that not everyone gets and they are such special memories." 📷

**Pictured above:**

**1. Pat and Dr. Richard Bowers.**

**2. The sacrificial alarm clock.**

**3. Kathy Bassham.**

**4. The "Fab Five": Max Ratheal, Myrlan Coleman, Bowers, Ruth Huse, John Fields**

**5. Bassham and well-wishers.**

# COYOTE BASKETBALL

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE • 2016-2017 HOME SCHEDULE

DATE	OPPONENTS	TIME
11.1.16	ANGELINA	5:30 P.M. (W)
11.2.16	CYM	6:30 P.M. (M)
11.5.16	RICHLAND	2:00 & 4:00 P.M.
11.12.16	BLINN	2:00 & 4:00 P.M.
11.15.16	HOWARD	5:00 & 7:00 P.M.
11.17.16	BROOKHAVEN	5:00 P.M. (M)
11.21.16	GHP	1:00 P.M. (M)
11.22.16	TEXAS WESLEYAN	1:00 P.M. (M)
12.1.16	MOUNTAIN VIEW	5:00 & 7:00 P.M.
12.5.16	GHP	1:00 P.M. (M)
12.9.16	WESTERN TEXAS	Noon & 2:00 P.M.
12.10.16	DALLAS DIESEL	1:00 P.M. (W)
1.7.17	DALLAS DIESEL (SCRIMMAGE)	Noon & 2:00 P.M.
1.10.17	CYM	6:30 P.M. (M)
1.14.17	SW CHRISTIAN*	2:00 & 4:00 P.M.
1.21.17	TEMPLE*	2:00 & 4:00 P.M.
2.1.17	HILL*	5:00 & 7:00 P.M.
2.4.17	RANGER*	2:00 & 4:00 P.M.
2.11.17	McLENNAN*	2:00 & 4:00 P.M.
2.18.17	COLLIN*	2:00 & 4:00 P.M.
2.22.17	CISCO*	6:00 P.M. (W)

ALL LISTED ARE HOME GAMES

\*NTJCAC Conference games

Check our website for the full schedule:

[www.wcathletics.com](http://www.wcathletics.com)

Home games played in the Betty Jo  
Crumm Graber Athletic Center



# ENROLLMENT NUMBERS UP AT WC



Official enrollment numbers for Weatherford College are in for the fall 2016 semester, and the figures show growth for the college.

The college-wide count for the semester is 5,629 students, a 2.4 percent increase year-over-year. Both the Weatherford and Wise County campuses saw an increase in overall enrollment.

The largest enrollment increases occurred among dual credit students, up 8 percent,

and in online courses, up nearly 4 percent.

Looking at the ethnicity breakdown, WC increased the amount of Hispanic students by 6.8 percent and African-American student enrollment increased by 3.3 percent.

Female students continue to outnumber male students, 3,464 to 2,159 respectively, but a larger increase in enrollment was seen this semester by male students, up 3.5 percent compared to 1.6 percent for females.

“We are pleased with the growth this semester,” WC President Dr. Kevin Eaton said. “We have bragged about the quality of our faculty and staff for years, but I truly believe a large part of the enrollment increase is a by-product of the outstanding work performed on a daily basis by our faculty and staff. Our positive reputation continues to grow both locally and nationally, and that is a direct reflection on the quality of education our students receive.”

## SPOTLIGHT *from page 5.*

“Coach Neely worked just as hard to develop me as a responsible human being and Christian as he did representing WC on the basketball court,” he said. “Brad Tibbitts influenced my life outside of the classroom in the same caring and unique way he did in his classroom. Myrlan Coleman’s spirit and uplifting attitude compelled me to reduce some of the walls I had put up around

myself and to think more openly and creatively about life. And Mary Whitsitt was my ‘Coyote mother figure,’...she made me feel like I was truly at home at Weatherford College.”

Creason is a tireless worker, on his phone and laptop nearly 365 days a year. He makes his home in Coppell but he loves to unwind in his condo at Possum Kingdom Lake, and

several times a year you can find him stopping by the WC campus on his way to PK.

“My ultimate goal is to someday return to the academic community, so I can try to give back to young people,” he said, “and help prepare them for their adult lives, in the same comprehensive way that Weatherford College contributed to making me who I am today.”

## CLASS NOTES

**Tejay Antone** ('14), a former Coyote pitcher, was promoted to the Cincinnati Reds' Triple-A affiliate in Louisville, Ky. this summer. Over his last ten games of the season, Tejay was 7-2 with a 2.66 ERA, 47 strikeouts and only 14 walks.

**Lynn Easley** and **Donna Murphree Tillman** were recognized as Weatherford High School Distinguished Alumni at the WHS Homecoming Lunch in September. Former WC Board of

Trustees member Roger Grizzard was also recognized with the Distinguished Service Award for his years of teaching at WHS.

**Kate Henderson** ('98) is now an assistant basketball coach at the University of New Orleans. Kate spent 10 years at the University of the Incarnate Word, including three as head coach.

**Kutter Miller** is now working for Mansfield ISD as a teacher and football coach.

**Sarah Thornton** is now working as a corrections officer for the Parker County Sheriff's Office.

**Paige Pethtel** ('15) is working for Mental Health Mental Retardation of Tarrant County as a Community Health Worker in their Street Outreach Program. She is also currently enrolled in a master's degree program at UT-Arlington after completing her bachelor's degree at UNT.

# THANK YOU

to the following donors who gave recent gifts to the WC Foundation (as of September 28, 2016)

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## HAVE YOU MADE A SCHOLARSHIP GIFT LATELY?

Now would be a great time to donate to the Weatherford College Foundation to support scholarships. Many students will not realize their dream of higher education, and a better future, without help from donors like you.

Give online today—[www.wc.edu](http://www.wc.edu), and click on “Give to WC.”

*Thank you* for investing in the future at Weatherford College!

### HIDDEN TALENT *from page 3.*

notoriety among guitarists in Europe, South America and China.

Douglas first picked up a guitar at age 8 and began playing rock and blues. Then, at age 18, he met Michael Dailey and his musical styling underwent a rebirth.

“Mr. Dailey was a student of the great Andres Segovia, a name with which I was not yet familiar,” Douglas said. “I soon

learned that this great man was the father of all guitarists and it was upon hearing a recording of his that I fell in love with the beauty, complexity and sheer physical skill behind the classical guitar.”

Douglas moved to Weatherford more than 20 years ago, and said the choice to teach at WC came out of a belief in the mission of the college and the sense of

obligation to give back to the community that provided him a wonderful childhood.

“WC has given me the freedom to craft a real guitar department and set standards that will help students achieve the level of play needed to pursue university and conservatory studies,” he said. “That kind of freedom is rare.”

# FINE ARTS • FALL 2016

# EVENTS

## INFORMATION

Located at the Marjorie Black Alkek Fine Arts Center  
Doors open half-hour prior to start • Free admission

## ART

### Art Show & Reception

Reception: November 14 • 6 p.m.  
Show: November 9 - 27

## DRAMA

### “Man of La Mancha”

November 17-19 • 7:30 p.m.  
November 20 • 2 p.m.

## MUSIC

### Fall Jazz Band Concert

November 4 • 7:30 p.m.

### Classical Guitar Concert

November 5 • 7:30 p.m.

### Fall Choir Concert

November 8 • 7:30 p.m.

### Duo Azul Piano Concert

November 11 • 7:30 p.m.

### Handel’s Messiah

December 5 • 7:30 p.m.

### Student Piano Recital

December 6 • 7:30 p.m.

### Student Voice Recital

December 3 • Time TBD

### Opera Workshop

December 10 • Time TBD