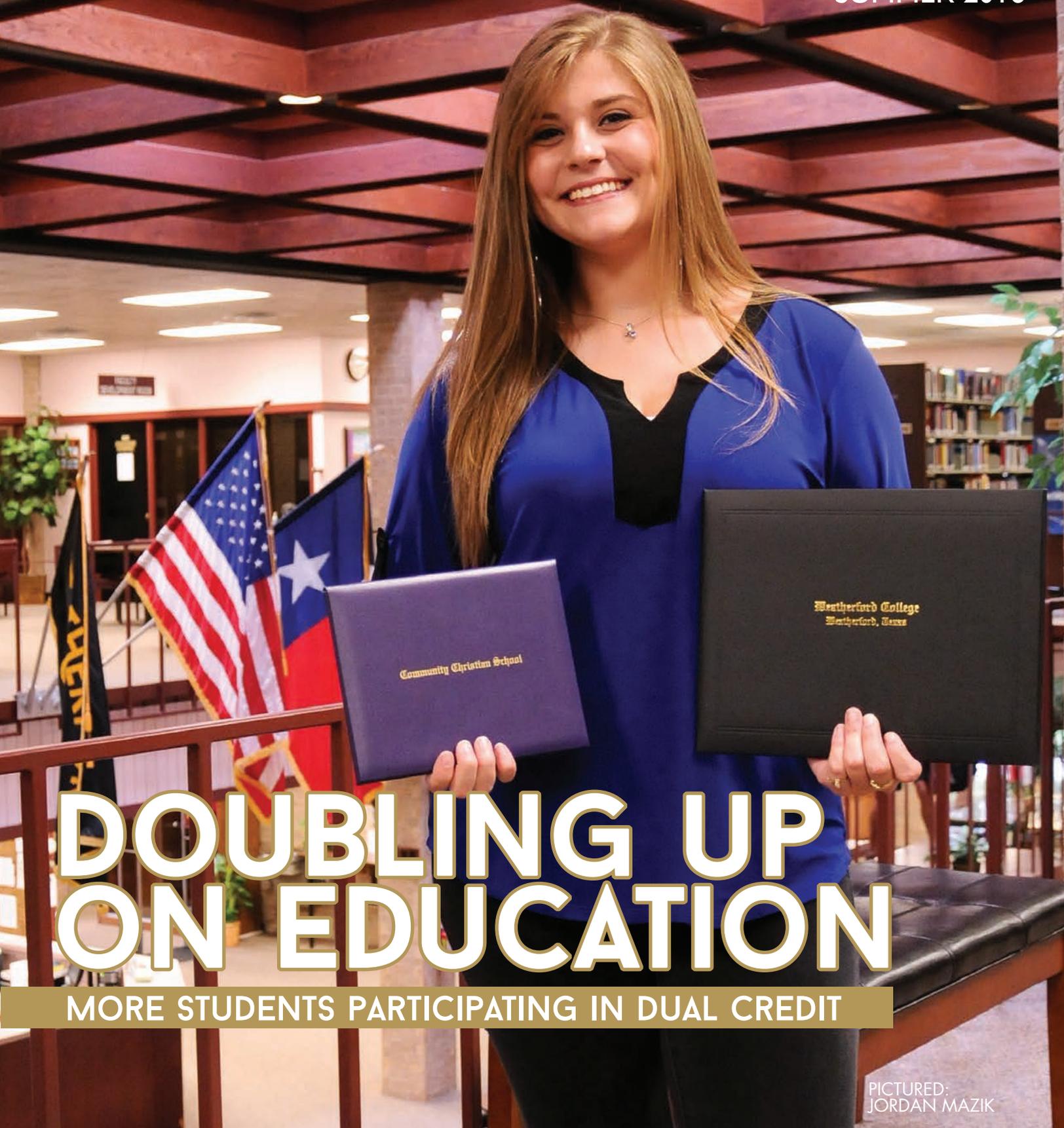


THE HILLTOP

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Volume XVI : Issue I

SUMMER 2016



DOUBLING UP ON EDUCATION

MORE STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN DUAL CREDIT

PICTURED:
JORDAN MAZIK

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Summer is heating up, and so are things at Weatherford College. As each day brings us closer to the start of the fall semester, you can see an increased buzz around campus, which has everyone excited about the coming months.

This issue of The Hilltop brings you detailed information on the status of dual credit across our service area. The number of high school students taking advantage of the opportunities afforded by dual credit has increased over the years, and with changes made by the Texas State

Legislature with House Bill 5 and House Bill 505, even more high school students have the option to enroll in college level course work during their high school years.

Since the last issue we have presented several annual awards including our Alumni Awards in April where Weatherford Fire Marshal Kurt Harris accepted the Alumnus of the Year award. We are proud of the work Kurt has done in the community during his career, and he is a prime example of the type of leaders produced at WC. Wayne Slimp, Prissy Neely and Shaun Martin were also recognized as Distinguished Alumni. We also recognized Dr. Alexander Ibe during the May commencement ceremony as the Faculty Member of the Year. Dr. Ibe is praised by his students and his coworkers and is highly deserving of this award.

In this issue, you'll also find information on Weatherford College's partnership with Midwestern State University allowing the Wichita Falls based university to offer junior and senior level courses at our Wise County campus. It is an honor to have this partnership forged with MSU and we look forward to many successful years.

In closing, I continue to invite all 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 accomplishment 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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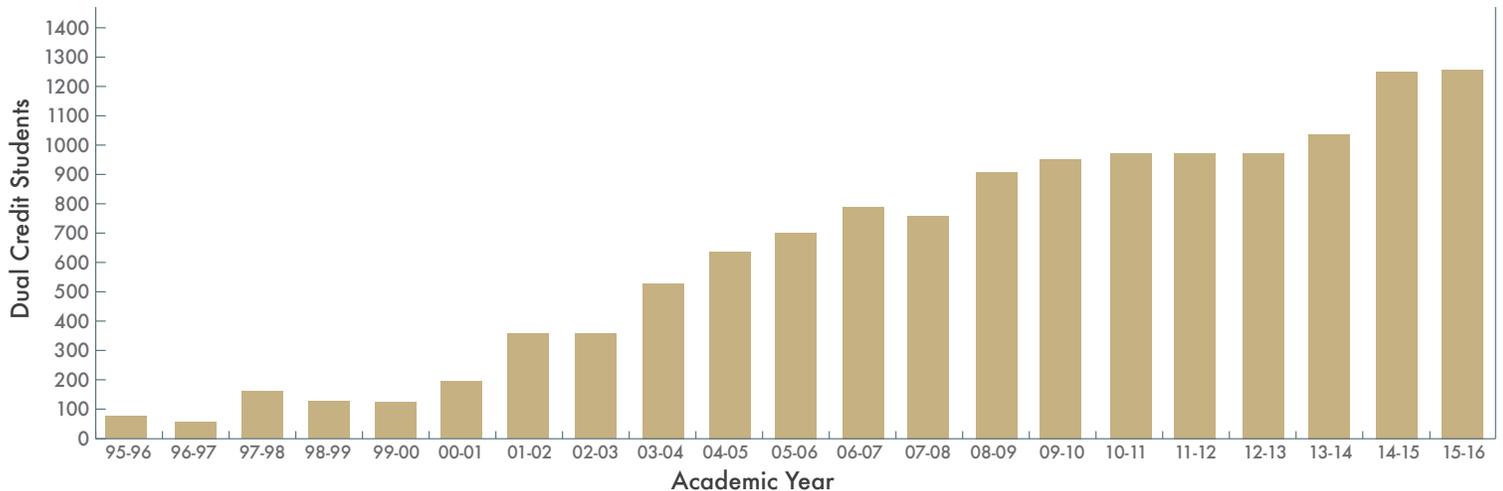
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DOUBLING UP ON EDUCATION

More students participating in dual credit across the WC service area



by Crystal Brown

Jordan Mazik graduated from Weatherford College in May, but, unlike any of her fellow graduates, she didn't receive her high school diploma until two weeks later.

Mazik began taking dual credit classes (earning high school and college credit simultaneously) her sophomore year at Community Christian School in Mineral Wells and starting racking up the 60 hours of college credit required for her associate's degree.

"This experience was such a blessing to me," Mazik said. "I can't even put it into words how grateful I am that I could do all this. At least getting a taste of college classes is so important for high schoolers today. It really puts into perspective what's to come."

Mazik is now headed to Texas State University in San Marcos to continue her education in psychology.

"I'm ready for whatever life throws at me," Mazik said.

The number of dual credit students at Weatherford College has steadily increased over the years. In the 2006-07 academic year, 795 high school students from across the college's five-county service area (Parker, Wise, Palo Pinto, Hood and Jack counties) enrolled in at least one WC dual credit

course. By 2015-16 that number had increased to 1,269 students.

Granbury High School has had the most students enrolled in dual credit courses with WC over the past decade with a total of 1,156, followed by 815 at Decatur High School and 747 at Aledo.

"The locale of Weatherford College and GISD's commitment to on-site dual credit instructors have had a huge impact on our ability to serve students," said Claudia Hurst, counselor at Granbury High School.

505 eliminated the grade and maximum credit hour restriction, and starting this fall high school freshmen can begin taking college courses with fewer limitations.

"All of our district partners are working with their students to determine what dual credit options best serve their needs," said Mike Endy, WC Executive Dean of Academics. "The 29-hour ceiling is gone and we are working to make sure we can offer each institution the courses and hours they will need."

Decatur High School established an Early College Academy a year ago to provide younger students access before the rules changed, and Weatherford High School is implementing a similar academy this year.

"Through our partnership with WC, we are excited we are able to provide a four-year plan that is centered around 42 transferrable core-credit hours that the state of Texas guarantees acceptance by a public four-year university," said Decatur High School counselor Anne Marie Wartes. "Our goal at DHS has been to give every student the opportunity to be educated according to their academic needs and personal interests. This program aims toward preparing students for life-long learning, success in their post-secondary plans, career opportunities and personal success in life."

continues with Dual Credit on page 8.

"GETTING A TASTE OF COLLEGE CLASSES IS SO IMPORTANT FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS TODAY. IT REALLY PUTS INTO PERSPECTIVE WHAT'S TO COME."

- JORDAN MAZIK

Now, thanks to changes made during the 84th legislative session in Austin, the number of dual credit students has the potential to make even greater leaps.

Previously, only high school juniors and seniors were eligible to enroll in dual credit classes without special permission, and then only two courses per semester. House Bill

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.

LAST ISSUE'S DO YOU KNOW...

These ladies are the Coyote Cuties from 1983, whose duties included providing water to the basketball players coming off the court and working the concession stand at games. Pictured here are Rhonda Hewitt, Kelly McClure, Liz Cole, Carol Bothwell, Kalyn New, Lori Gibbs, Twana Parker and Beth Blackman.



FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

Florence Doss of Midland passed away April 11. She was 92.

Faye Irene Bunch Field of Longview passed away Dec. 22, 2011. She was 99.

Sharon K. Towery Grassi of Lewisville passed away April 26. She was 71.

Norma Elizabeth Harris of Weatherford passed away May 31. She was 90.

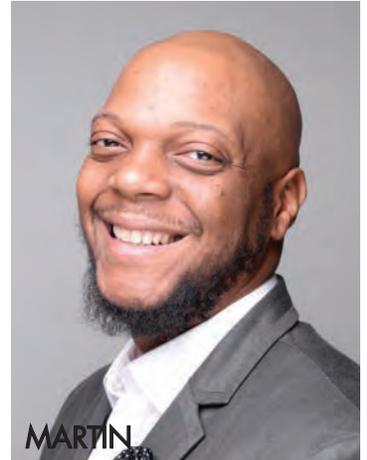
Dorothy "Dot" Faye Platt of Weatherford passed away June 6. She was 90.

Mary Frances Richards of Weatherford passed away June 14. She was 96.

Mark Clifford Stowe of Weatherford passed away April 20. He was 46.

Charles Ray West of Tyler passed away March 15. He was 85.

ALUMNI AWARDS LUNCHEON



Weatherford College honored several outstanding alumni at their Alumni Awards Luncheon in April.

Shaun Martin, Prissy Neely and Wayne Slimp were all recognized as Distinguished Alumni, and retired Weatherford Fire Marshal Kurt Harris was awarded the title Alumnus of the Year.

Harris shared stories about friendships he gained during his time at WC that have lasted his entire lifetime.

“Friendships that have lasted for generations way before me and that will

last way after me are made in this place,” he said. “The administration here is beyond compare, and I am so grateful that they are a part of who we are.”

Harris left WC in 1968, spent six years in the military and then 39 years employed by the Weatherford Fire Department, during which time he earned several promotions and awards. He also served as Assistant State Fire Marshal and is currently Assistant Parker County Fire Marshal.

“Thank you for this honor,” Harris said. “I can’t, in any kind of humility, say I deserve

this. Except that, if the qualification for this is that you love the community that gave it to you, then I’m qualified; because I love each and every one of you. I love the opportunities you have given me as fire marshal and as firefighter before that. And I look forward to serving you further, however God lays it in front of me.”

Neely and Slimp also shared stories about how their days at WC impacted their lives. Martin was not able to attend the luncheon because he was on a nationwide tour with Gospel singer Kirk Franklin. ☞

DR. ALEXANDER IBE NAMED WC FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Dr. Alexander Ibe, Weatherford College Professor of Biology, was announced as the 2016 Faculty Member of the Year during commencement in May.

Ibe said he was surprised, but honored and humbled to be chosen for the recognition from among 14 other nominees.

“I am very grateful to the students, staff and my fellow faculty members for bestowing upon me such an award,” Ibe said. “The award exemplifies confidence by your peers, and I’ll wear the title with grace like those before me.”

He was announced as this year’s recipient of the award by Dr. Allison Stamatis, Associate Professor of Natural Science and last year’s Faculty Member of the Year.

“I was overcome with joy and pride when I learned that Dr. Ibe was the Faculty Member of the Year,” Stamatis said. “He was my department chair when I was hired at the college, and he has been an amazing mentor and one of the best colleagues that I could ever ask for.”



Dr. Alexander Ibe, 2016 Faculty Member of the year, with Dr. Allison Stamatis, 2015 Faculty Member of the year.

Ibe is also highly praised by students who take his courses. He said his teaching philosophy is focused on group learning where complex concepts are explained in a story-line format that each student can replicate to their peers.

The title of Faculty Member of the Year comes with airfare for two to the U.S. destination of his choice and the \$1,000 Gayle and Wanda Grant Award of Teaching Excellence, both provided by the Weatherford College Foundation. ☞

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE AROUND CAMPUS



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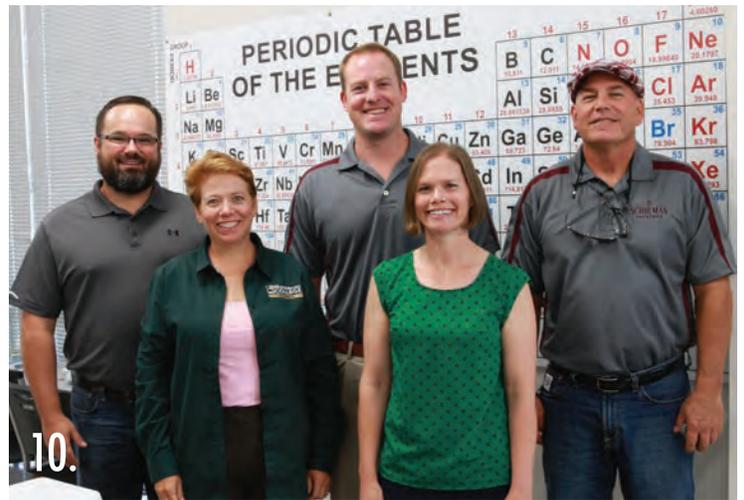
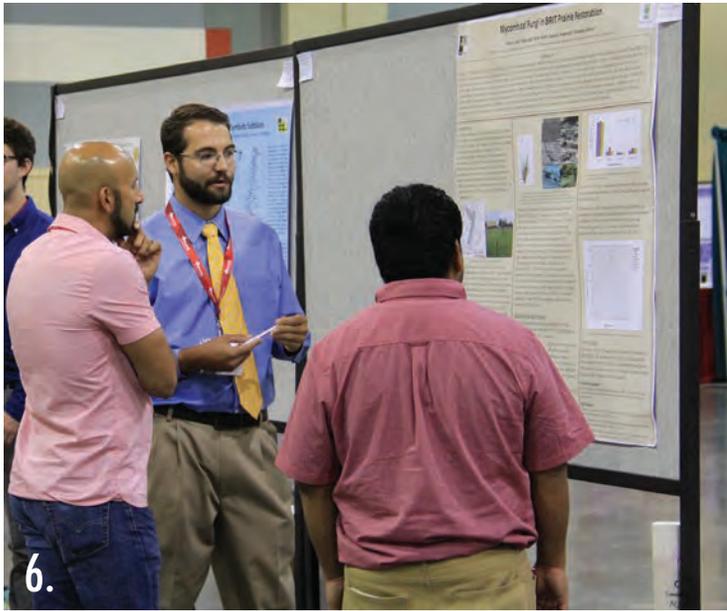
1. A small group of WC students, many of them veterans, participated in a 10-day geology course earlier this summer taught by instructor Lori Gouge. The mini course included a five-day field trip to Palo Duro Canyon, Carlsbad Caverns, Guadalupe Mountains and Caprock Canyon.

2. Pictured are drip irrigation buckets created by Upward Bound students in use in Zimbabwe. WC Upward Bound participated in a weekend academy last October exploring food and power in developing countries and completed 11 drip irrigation kits which they sent overseas. Two kits can be carried in a small field pack and can provide irrigation to feed a family for five to seven years.

3. These Weatherford College medals for mathematics and essay writing dated 1893 were recently donated to the college by Jane and Dr. William Murray of Enola, Pennsylvania. The medals originally belonged to William's grandmother, Lela Martin Massie. Lela grew up in Weatherford, was a teacher in Floydada for many years and was Mary Martin's aunt.

4. Jhett Jackson of Quitman, Texas is the first recipient of the Mike Brown Scholarship. Brown passed away in November after 35 years of distinguished service to WC. Pictured with Jackson are Mike Brown's family: Staci Tyler, Sheryl Brown and Ty Brown.

5. Weatherford Regional Medical Center donated three Stryker hospital beds to WC's Certified Nurse Aid program. Pictured are WC Workforce and Continuing Education Program Coordinator Tracy Butler, WRMC Chief Nursing Officer Donna Boone and WRMC Assistant Chief Nursing Officer Patty Jackson.



6. Students Kane Kellum, Kody Harris and Jake Ward presented their research “Mycorrhizal Fungi in Prairie Restoration in Texas” at a national botany conference in Savannah, Georgia this summer. Their presentation is part of research that began two years ago by Dr. Bishnu Twanabasu in partnership with WC students. Jake Ward also participated in the 2015 botany conference along with two other WC students, Paul Sliffe and Alfredo Olivo, to present the first year of findings from their research.

7. & 8. Mike Endy and Adam Finley are moving into new roles at Weatherford College starting in September. Endy will move into the position of Vice President of Instruction and Student Services following the retirement of Dr. Richard Bowers. Finley will be the new Executive Dean of Student Services after the retirement of Kathy Bassham. Endy was hired on at WC in August of 1997 as an instructor. He has served as Dean of Humanities, Fine Arts, Business and Criminal Justice and most recently as the Executive Dean of Academics. Finley has worked at WC since October 2004. His roles at WC have included Advising Specialist, Director of Advising, Executive Director of Student Engagement and Associate Dean of Student Engagement. More on Bowers and Bassham in the next Hilltop.

9. WC presented an opera workshop featuring “The ‘Mini’ Mikado” and other scenes in May in the Alkek Fine Arts Center.

10. Weatherford College will host its first Weatherford STEMania event in November, thanks to underwriting announced this summer from Schulman Theatres and Imperial Construction. Organizers Dr. Lisa Welch and Dr. Allison Stamatis are preparing for approximately 600 Weatherford ISD fourth graders who will experience fun, interactive learning activities in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math. The successful event began four years ago at WC’s Wise County campus and is now expanding to Weatherford. Pictured are (left to right) Holger Kelley from Imperial, Welch, Jacob Schulman, Stamatis and Morris Schulman.

WC PARTNERS WITH MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY



Students finishing their studies at Weatherford College won't have to travel far to complete a bachelor's degree. Midwestern State University is now offering classes at WC's Wise County campus.

Administrators from the two institutions marked the new partnership with a press conference at WCWC in June. The agreement is aimed to ease the transfer for students moving from WC associate's degrees into selected baccalaureate programs at MSU by allowing students to earn both degrees on the same campus. The agreement also provides residents of Wise County and the surrounding area access to both a quality community college and a quality university.

"Weatherford College is honored to partner with Midwestern State University, and we are looking forward to many successful years together at our Wise County campus," said WC President Dr. Kevin Eaton. "I would like to thank Wise County Judge J.D. Clark for opening the dialog between WCWC and Midwestern

"WEATHERFORD COLLEGE IS HONORED TO PARTNER WITH MIDWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY, AND WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO MANY SUCCESSFUL YEARS TOGETHER AT OUR WISE COUNTY CAMPUS,"

-WC PRESIDENT DR. KEVIN EATON

State. I give him all of the credit for bringing this idea to fruition."

MSU will offer upper level teacher education and respiratory classes this fall at WCWC. The partnership will also provide an online adult completion program for individuals with workforce education, vocational-technical training and/or professional experience in occupational fields. Courses will be delivered in a combination of formats including face-to-face, interactive television, online and hybrid. As the market and partnership evolves, additional programs and course delivery options will be offered.

"Our goal is for our institutions to partner in the same physical space to offer place-bound students new opportunities," said MSU President Dr. Suzanne Shipley. "Working adults and students with family responsibilities can complete these career-oriented degrees to attain professional advancement. Our collaboration will lead to a more educated workforce graduating with lower debt than is common with a traditional educational pathway."

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recently launched its 60x30TX higher education strategic plan to help boost the state's focus on job creation and economic development. The overarching goal of the plan is that by 2030 at least 60 percent of Texans age 25-34 will have a degree or certificate. As such, the WC and MSU partnership will allow for greater participation in the goals by providing high-quality programs for educationally underserved adults and developing practices to encourage individuals with more than 50 semester credit hours to return and complete a degree or certificate.

Another of the 60x30TX goals is that undergraduate student loan debt will not exceed 60 percent of the first-year wages for graduates of Texas public institutions. By sharing locations, Weatherford College and Midwestern State will extend their notable affordability plans to the students. Students taking two years at WC and two years at MSU at the shared location could save as much as \$10,000 in their first two years. ☐

DUAL CREDIT *from page 3.*

Eric Sams, Associate Principal at the Weatherford High School Ninth Grade Center, said the district has had an outpouring of interest and their academy has an inaugural class of 34 students.

"By starting in the freshman year with courses that are developmentally and academically appropriate, we hope to foster a passion for learning and give young students an opportunity to succeed at college level work," Sams said. "The belief is that this success and experience will build on

itself, thereby promoting college readiness and the likelihood of student success."

Endy said studies show students who complete two or more dual credit classes in high school experience higher completion rates in both high school and college than those who do not. As dual credit hours increase, the probability of completion rises significantly. However, he emphasized, dual credit isn't a one-size-fits-all tool, and each student must follow the education path that works for them.

"The question isn't if dual credit helps," Endy said. "The question is how much dual credit and which courses are right for the student. For some students, a few courses in 'the basics' gives them a head start and a sense of confidence without putting them out of step chronologically or socially. For some students, completing the equivalent of an entire year of college makes a huge difference in future planning as well as future success." ☐

WC RODEO SEASON



WC RODEO FINISHES BEST SEASON IN SCHOOL HISTORY

by Rick Mauch

Johnny Emmons said he's been expecting this kind of rodeo season for Weatherford College.

The best in school history, that is.

"I have kind of expected something like that for the last three years," the Coyotes coach said. "We have been fortunate to have the talent we've had here lately."

The Coyotes finished fourth among the men's team standings at the College National Finals Rodeo, held in Casper, Wyoming, in early June. The three participants amassed 525 points, the most in school history.

The Coyotes' week was highlighted by a national championship from Cole Wheeler and Ranger College's Wesley Thorp in team roping. It's the third national title in WC history, along with Cody Tew in 2007 for team roping and Arena Robertson in 2008 as All-Around Female.

"Wheeler and Thorp got off to a great start winning that first round, then coming back and being able to make good solid runs throughout the week, placing along

the way was awesome," Emmons said.

"As I said before the CNFR, Wheeler and Thorp were going to be one of the favorites up there to win. I knew, and like I tried to reiterate to all of our members all week, if they just go out and stay within themselves, do what they know how to do, that would be good enough."

Also during the week, Casey Tew and partner Keely Bonnett of New Mexico Junior College set a national record in team roping. Their time of 3.9 seconds in the third round was the fastest ever posted in the CNFR.

Tew is the first Coyote to reach the CNFR in each of his three seasons competing at the school. He and Wheeler were on the squad in 2014 when WC qualified its entire men's team for the only time in school history.

In all, WC sent four competitors to the CNFR, extending their streak to 12 straight years being represented in the event. Lane Livingston was fifth overall in the men's standings with 155 points, and he joined fellow roper Reno Stuebner of Ranger to take sixth in team roping.

"Livingston and his partner were awesome, too," Emmons said. "If it was not for the hard luck in round three, I believe they would have ended up number two instead of sixth."

Livingston spent the entire season atop the national standings in tie-down roping. He also became the first Southwest Region all-around champion from Weatherford College, setting a school record for overall points (1,405).

Emmons also praised Aspyn Dent for a good showing. She qualified after becoming the first female from WC to win the Southwest Region since 2012, and also being WC's first regional goat tying champion.

"Aspyn represented us very well. I saw her gain confidence during the CNFR, that I think will carry over into next season, that makes me real excited about what she may do next year."

Behind the showing of WC, the Southwest Region won the CNFR's Top Region award. Weatherford College finished the highest of any team in the *continues with Rodeo on page 11.*

COYOTES SELECTED IN MLB DRAFT



Photo by Parker Waters

Two former Coyotes were selected during the Major League Baseball Draft in June, both by the Arizona Diamondbacks. Trevor Simms was drafted in the 32nd round, and Paxton DeLaGarza was selected in the 33rd round.

Simms, who pitched this last season at Tulane University, went 4-1 with a 3.44 ERA in 16 games in 2016, striking out 22 and



Photo courtesy of Angelo State

walking just 11. The Hurst native played for Jeff Lightfoot's Coyotes in the 2013 season.

DeLaGarza helped lead Angelo State to two Division II College World Series berths and was an All-American in 2015. The shortstop from Lubbock Coronado hit .333 this season with a team-high 18 doubles and nine home runs. He was a Coyote in the 2013 and 2014 seasons.

“THE PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY HERE HAVE CHANGED MY LIFE.”

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE
1869

ANJELICA TREVINO
STUDENT GOVERNMENT PRESIDENT, STUDENT
AMBASSADOR, RESIDENT ASSISTANT,
MAY 2016 GRADUATE



CLASS NOTES

Lauren Paige Applegate ('14) graduated from Tarleton State University with honors in December. Lauren has accepted a fifth grade teaching position with Arlington ISD.

Rocco Davidson ('15) earned an Academic Excellence Award from Dallas Baptist University for the 2015-16 academic year. Rocco, WC's former Phi Theta Kappa president, is also a veteran, having served as an infantry soldier in the U.S. Army.

Jarrod Dickey is now Market President

for Community National Bank of Texas in Weatherford. Jarrod is a Weatherford native and is married to Jill Day Dickey.

Benjamin Harris passed the Bar Exam in April. Benjamin graduated with his bachelor's degree from TCU and studied at Baylor Law School.

Joshua Sherman played the lead role of Don Lockwood in Granbury Theatre Company's production of "Singin' in the Rain" in July. The former WC Drama Team member was also the 2016 Bill Garber Young Theatre Artist Award from the Live

Theatre League of Tarrant County.

Kaitlyn Williams ('14) graduated cum laude from Texas A&M in May with a bachelor's degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Science. Kaitlyn is currently working in Capitan, New Mexico, on a Sul Ross State University Montezuma quail research project.

Dannie Anderson Woodard ('43) celebrated her 90 birthday in June. Dannie lives in Weatherford and writes a blog called "The Rocking Chair" (rockingwithdannie.blogspot.com).

THANK YOU

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RODEO *from page 9.*

region, which had six in the top 25.

Now, Emmons and the Coyotes are looking ahead to next season and going for a 13th straight CNFR appearance. He said the best season in school history, on top of the already strong WC rodeo tradition, will help with recruiting.

"Besides the obvious WC has to offer, students want to go to a winning school," he said.

Livingston and Wheeler are moving on

to Tarleton. Tew will pursue a professional rodeo career.

"All are outstanding young men with bright futures ahead of them," Emmons said. "They will all three turn pro soon, and I think all three are future PRCA (Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association) and NFR (National Finals Rodeo) potentials." 📧

Pictured to the left: Lane Livingston carrying the WC flag.

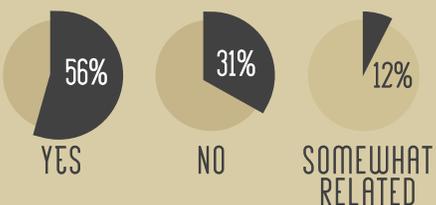
2016 Commencement SURVEY

A SURVEY OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING IN WC'S MAY 2016 COMMENCEMENT

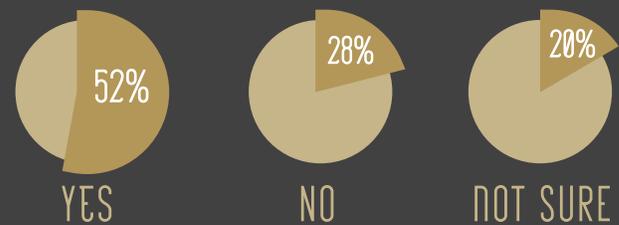
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ARE YOU TRANSFERRING TO A 4-YEAR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY?



WHAT SCHOOLS DID WC GRADS CHOOSE?
(PERCENTAGE OF GRADUATES PLANNING TO TRANSFER TO UNIVERSITIES)

