

# THE HILLTOP

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Volume XVIII : Issue I

WINTER 2018



20  
YEARS  
AT THE  
ALKEK

## THE HEART OF WC FINE ARTS

ALKEK FINE ARTS CENTER CELEBRATES  
20TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2018

# MESSAGE FROM THE INTERIM PRESIDENT



Greetings from Weatherford College!

2018 is looking to be a tremendous year for WC. This year, our board will name a new college president, we will celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Alkek Fine Arts Center and we'll turn our attention to our 150th anniversary. Not to mention the excitement and challenges of

educating more than 6,300 students.

These pages highlight our students, employees, donors and friends, but this barely scratches the surface of how Weatherford College changes lives every day. It is an honor and a pleasure to be a part of this process.

If you're in the area, please come by and say hello. We would love to show you what WC is doing in person.

Thank you again for your support!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brent Baker". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Brent Baker  
Interim President

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# COVER STORY

## THE HEART OF WC FINE ARTS

ALKEK FINE ARTS CENTER CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2018



by Crystal Brown

With its coyote mosaic wrapping around the outside of the building and stars lining the ceiling inside the 500-plus seat theatre, the easily recognizable Marjorie Alkek Fine Arts Center has become the heart of fine arts at Weatherford College.

Built in 1998, the Alkek has hosted a variety of nationally-acclaimed performers including The Dixie Chicks, Pat Green, Larry Gatlin, Asleep at the Wheel, Barry Corbin, Broadway star Betty Buckley, jazz great David “Fathead” Newman among others. It has most recently become the home of the Lone Star Guitar Festival which attracts top classical guitarists from across the globe each summer, not to mention top-notch student performances each semester.

“To say that a veritable plethora of musical sounds have permeated the halls of the Alkek in the past 20 years is to state the obvious,” said Cal Lewiston, chair of fine arts and communications. “What may not be quite so clear is the pleasure derived by those who have enjoyed them and returned to WC for more.”

To ring in its 20th anniversary, a variety of events are scheduled for the spring semester including a night of Mozart performed by the Fort Worth Symphony Chamber Orchestra (April 21), a reunion performance of members of the acclaimed WC Jazz Band (April 28), and four performances of “Into the Woods,” the first musical produced in the building in 1998.

Many of the cast members chosen for the 2018 production of “Into the Woods” were involved in some way with the show 20 years ago, including current WC theatre instructor James Brownlee who was a WC student in 1998 and was cast as Prince Charming. His wife, Erin, played the Baker’s Wife. This time around, Brownlee is directing the show.

**“THE ALKEK CENTER BROUGHT TO WC WHAT ITS NAMING BENEFACTOR HOPED, A BEAUTIFUL AND WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT FOR THE FINE ARTS AND THE STUDENTS WHO STUDY THEM.”**

**- MIKE ENDY**

“It was incredibly exciting when we had our first tour of the Alkek,” Brownlee said, recalling his time as a student. “Finally, we had a real theater with a scene shop and dressing rooms. We were able to learn things that hadn’t been previously available to us because we hadn’t had the facility or the equipment. It profoundly expanded my knowledge of theatre.”

The 2018 cast of “Into the Woods” also includes sixth grader Ellie Hayes, who will play Granny and is the daughter of Michelle Hayes, who played the Witch in 1998; Hayle and Mia Vantine, who will play the Baker’s Wife and Sleeping Beauty, are the daughters of Carol Vantine, who played one of Cinderella’s step-sisters 20 years ago; and Rob Laney, who played Jack and directed the singers in the original Alkek production, is the musical director this go-around.

“We are coming full circle on the building and this production really brings that home

for me,” said Mike Endy, WC Vice President of Instruction and Student Services. “The Alkek Center brought to WC what its naming benefactor hoped, a beautiful and welcoming environment for the fine arts and the students who study them.

“Its success is evident when you walk in the front door as, at almost any time of the day or day of the week, there are students working in the building. One walks through the door expecting to hear music coming from down the hall, the voices of actors on the stage, and see artworks in Texas Hall. It has become the norm of the building and a vital part of our college community.”

The facility was the vision of Dr. Jim Boyd, WC’s president from 1993 to 1998. Funded by a bond issue approved by Parker County voters in 1996, the facility opened in 1998 with a fine arts faculty that included Tom Burchill (jazz band), Myrlan Coleman (visual arts), Laney (choir) and Nancy McVean (theatre). Endy was the chair of fine arts and communications at the time.

The WC Development Foundation, led by Executive Director Lin Bearden, brought multiple generous private gifts to the table, allowing the college to add several amenities, including the Texas Hall banquet area. But it was a \$750,000 estate gift from Marjorie Black Alkek, a WC alumnus and ardent supporter of the arts, that prompted the

*continues with Fine Arts on page 5.*

# MEMORIES



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

This image was found in the 1941 Oak Leaf Yearbook. For many years, students celebrated Pioneer Days with a week of fun-filled activities, including a parade in period dress. To celebrate the 150th anniversary of WC in 2019, faculty and staff hope to recreate some of the Pioneer Days festivities for WC students.



## FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

**Melody Jo Jones Brown**, 67, of Weatherford, passed away June 14.

**Ellis "Merle" Bull**, 80, retired biology instructor, passed away Oct. 28.

**Patsy Barton Carr**, 87, of Wichita Falls, passed away Oct. 7.

**Guylene Lasater Daugherty**, 86, of Aledo, passed away June 19.

**Dovie Mirl Garner Springfield**, 103, of Mineral Wells, passed away June 20.

**Deborah Walker Gilbert**, 65, of Breckenridge, passed away Aug. 28.

**Willis Lee Knight**, 73, of Arlington, passed away July 6.

**Ethan McNelly**, 27, of Shallowater, passed away Oct. 9.

**Doyle Clinton Middlebrooks**, 96, of Lilburn, GA, passed away July 6.

**Barbara Ellen Nevil**, 73, of Millsap, passed away Oct. 7.

**Gerald David (Bubba) Puckett**, 67, of Farmington, NM, passed away Sept. 7.

**Bobby Ray White**, 34, of Wichita Falls, passed away Aug. 11.

# WC PASSES 6,000 STUDENT MARK FOR FIRST TIME

Weatherford College reached a record enrollment of 6,357 students in the fall 2017 semester. Not only was this a 12.9 percent increase over the fall of 2016, it was the first time in WC's history to boast more than 6,000 students.

This is the largest year-to-year enrollment increase for the college since 2009 when the number of students jumped 13 percent.

"Passing the 6,000 student mark is very exciting for everyone at Weatherford College," Interim President Baker said. "Every single person at our college impacts enrollment. From bringing in new students to retaining current students with a great college experience, it's all very important. I'm proud of what all of our folks have been able to do to contribute to these impressive numbers."

Contact hours, the number of course hours taken by students, also increased by 11.4 percent year to year.

The enrollment increase was felt college-wide with the largest jump belonging to dual credit students which increased by 46 percent. A total of 1,850 students earned WC credit while in high school, an increase of 580 over last fall.

The second largest increase came from online classes, up 12.9 percent with a total enrollment of 2,013.

WC's traditional, "brick and mortar" campuses came in with the following enrollment figures: Weatherford campus--2,991 students, up 1.7 percent; Wise County campus--576, up 4.9 percent; Education Center at Granbury--323, up 8.7 percent; and the Education Center at Mineral Wells--102, identical to fall 2016. 📖

## WC FALL 2017 BY THE NUMBERS

AGE	STUDENTS	PERCENT
14-17	1,898	30%
18-21	2,494	39%
22-25	680	11%
26-29	430	7%
30-39	517	8%
40-49	241	4%
50-59	81	1%
60 +	17	0.3%



Approximately 45 percent of WC's students reside in Parker County.



39% 61%



### FINE ARTS *from page 3.*

college board to rename the facility in her honor in 1999.

In the past 20 years, the building has become more than a college instructional site and performance venue. It has become a gathering place for multiple community organizations and non-profit events, constantly used for a variety of purposes.

Its community-building aspect was never as apparent as it was following the infamous attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, when the Alkek was used as a space for students, faculty and staff to gather and watch the events unfold.

"Mike was masterful in handling this horrendous tragedy with the

faculty and the students," said Coleman, WC's art instructor since 1969. "Everyone felt that somehow we would emerge as a stronger nation and that everything would be okay."

The Alkek was again used as a gathering spot following Hurricane Katrina as the college worked to raise money for relief efforts.

"I remember the fine arts center as a place where people shared their wisdom, compassion, appreciation, respect and love for others," Endy said. "That's the Alkek Center to me."

*For more details and ticket information for the Alkek 20th celebration, go to [www.wc.edu/Alkek20](http://www.wc.edu/Alkek20). For a list of performances, see the back cover of this edition of The Hilltop.*

# WEATHERFORD COLLEGE AROUND CAMPUS



1. Cheryl Rodriguez was named the 2017 WC Staff Member of the Year at the college's annual Employee Awards Dinner. Rodriguez is WC's Learning Management System Administrator and, as such, is in charge of online classrooms. The honor includes round-trip airfare for two to anywhere in the continental United States and \$1,000. This year's award was underwritten by Texas Health Neighborhood Care and Wellness in Willow Park.

2. Both the Weatherford and Wise County campuses held their annual STEMania events this fall. Hundreds of local fourth graders attended and participated in dozens of science, technology, engineering and math related activities.

3. English professor Lisa D'Amica recently celebrated the publication of her first novel, "Heart of Malice," under the pen name Lisa Edmonds. The book found success on Amazon's fantasy charts which led to a contract for an audiobook version of the novel. The next book in her series will be published in March 2018. Photo courtesy of Lisa Edmonds.

4. Six WC jazz band students were recently selected for the All-State Community College Symphonic Band and the All-State Jazz Ensemble. The All-State bands will perform in February at the Texas Music Educators Association conference in San Antonio. The WC honorees are Mark Matkovich, Louis Corona, Wilson Baker, Calvin Hughes, James Carrizos and Jordyn Sonne (not pictured).



5.



6.



7.



8.



9.

5. These two Top Guns were joined by approximately 7,000 other local trick-or-treaters at the college's 20th annual Safe Halloween.

6. WC Interim President Brent Baker was awarded Outstanding Citizen of the Year at the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce annual banquet in October. He is pictured with his wife, Elizabeth.

7. Kay Young, Dean of Workforce and Continuing Education, retired in August. A retirement party was held on Aug. 31 in the Allene Strain Community Room. She is pictured with Interim Dean Janetta Kruse.

8. WC agriculture hosted its second annual Leadership Development Event in October which brought hundreds of high school students from across the state to the Weatherford campus. The contest was conducted by WC students and volunteers from faculty and staff.

9. Cosmetology instructor Colleen Walker retired in September. A party wishing her well was held at the Mineral Wells campus on Sept. 27.

The Weatherford College Foundation would like to thank all of its donors from the past year. Your generosity is changing the lives of students every day at WC.

Thank you for the following gifts to the foundation during the 2017 calendar year...

## Benefactors (\$10,000 and above)

Imperial Construction, Dr. Sumant and Sheela A. Kumar, Shannon McNabb, Southwest Auto Group, Richard and Nancy Stuart, Sammie Gay and Robert Williams

## Patrons (\$2,500 to \$9,999)

Ben Hogan Foundation, Roy and Jeannine Eaton, First Financial Bank, Brent and Meredith Gough, Jerry Durant Auto Group, Marjorie Kimbrough Dome, Dr. Barbara and Jim McGregor, Parker County Sheriff's Office, Plains Capital Bank, Schulman Theatres, Texas Health Neighborhood Care and Wellness in Willow Park, United Supermarkets, Weatherford Regional Medical Center, Gail Wright, Mary Zielinski Estate

## Associates (\$1,000 to \$2,499)

Brent and Elizabeth Baker, Ben E. Keith Company, Dr. Joe and Evelyn Birmingham, Dr. Richard and Pat Bowers, CBRE, Warren Creason, David and Becky Daniel, Dan and Marsha Feely, Bob and Carolyn Glenn, Hillwood Alliance Group, Dennis Hooks, Ruth Huse, Independent Order of Oddfellows, Lone Star Coaches, Inc., Mike's Westside Rental, Jerry and Dr. Janie Neighbors, North Side Baptist Church, David and Jennifer Orcutt, Mark and Debby Riebe, Dan J. Sanders, Mac and Janice Smith, Snow Garrett Williams Employees, Dr. Hyeyoung Song, Marilyn St. Clair, Steele & Freeman, Inc., Dr. James H. Tatum, Teskey's Circle T. Saddlery, Texas Bank Financial, Thompson & Horton, Stephen Tuttle, United Rentals

## Partners (\$500 to \$999)

Dr. Velda Boyd and Don Coan, Daniel Callahan, Dr. Andra and John Cantrell, Deborah Cascino, Dave and Nancy Deison, Lifecare EMS, First Financial Trust and Asset Management, James and Susan Fletcher, Wayne Garrett, Hahnfeld Hoffer Stanford, Rep. Phil and Terry King, Clark and Michelle McNabb, Pulliam Pools, Gary and Linda Snow, Texas Book Company, Texas Organization of Rural & Community Hospitals, Larry Don Walden, WC Associate Degree Nursing Students

*Continued on next page*

## CLASS NOTES

**Bethann Coldiron** is now assistant managing editor of the Burses Star newspaper. Bethann graduated from WC with an A.A.S. degree in equine science and then graduated from Tarleton State University with a bachelor's degree.

**Linda Hutton** completed her Bachelor's of Applied Arts and Sciences degree at

Tarleton State University in December. Linda serves as an assistant in WC's Career and Transfer Center.

**Jonathan Peacock** is now assistant fire chief for the City of Weatherford. Jonathan has served the WFD since 1999. He holds two associate degrees from WC.

**Paige Pethtel** ('15), received the Dan Rawlins Street Outreach Worker of the Year Award at the annual HIV Outreach & Case Management Conference in Austin. Paige is a community health worker at MHMR Tarrant Behavioral Health Services in Fort Worth.

**Affiliates (\$100 to \$499)**

Craig and Kim Bagley, Barbara Baker-Morrison, Mildred Beard, Karen Benson, Christel Brenner, Robert Carey, The Honorable Don and Melinda Chrestman, Chris' Service Muffler Shop, Decatur Lions Club, Sam Coody, DATCU Credit Union, Pam Davis, Buddy and Ann Duncan, Judd Duncan, Tonya Edwards, EOG Resources, Tammy Feimer, Laura Ferguson, John and Myrna Fields, Jay and Beverly Gibbs, Bud and Betty Jo Graber, Roger and Jeanine Grizzard, Dorotha Guess, Jacy and Charles Guynes, Gary and Jeanie Hobbs, Joy Hudson, Darlyne Hughes, Suzanne Jary, Mark and Janet Jones, Marnita Langford, Tom and Becky Loughrey, Nina Maniotis, Gaylyn Mendoza, Jenny Miller, Tammy Miller, Casey Mitchell, Doyle and Linda Moss, Terry & Carol Nelson, Paschall Insurance Group, LLC, Evelyn Payne, Phoenix Transmission Products, Prosperity Bank, Donnie and Carol Purvis, Kathy Renken, Carol Hand Ritter, Debra Sears, Charlsta Smith, Jeffrey Smith, Kathy Smith, Stanley Stough, Brenda Lee Stout Powell, Teague, Nall and Perkins, Joe and Patsy Tison, Rhonda and Leonard Torres, Frances Trussell, Staci Tyler, Jon and Dottie Vandagriff, Royce and Judith Vick, Charles and Linda Wakefield, Waste Connections, Weatherford Optimist Club, Jo Ellen Welborn, Williams Cleaners, Kathy and Jeff Williams, Rena Mae Woody

**Supporters (up to \$99)**

Bill Beard, William Black III, Bobby and Jeni D. Brunson, Stephen Coffee, Teresa Davis, Carole Duffield, Carolene English, Melody Fleming, Sara Gambrell, Joy George, Michelle Gist, Anna C. Gordon, Leah Graber, Great White Washing LLC, Lori Hall, Hayden Hill, Dr. Janie Humphries, Kelsey Jones, Pauline Jones, Phil and Kathryn Jordan, Lindsey Kennimer, Dr. Sarah Lock, Jenny London, Lone Star Pain Medicine, Lela and Butch Morris, Jonathan and Melissa J. Musser, Carol Patak, Hollis Sellman, Elizabeth Stewart, Nancy Wester, Billie Williams, Melinda Wilson, Dinah Wren

**FOUNDATION DONORS CONTINUE SUPPORT OF WC STUDENTS**



Brent and Meredith Gough have established a new scholarship with the Weatherford College Foundation. The scholarship is earmarked for WC students from Brock High School. Mr. Gough, also a member of the WC Foundation Board, is pictured with WC Foundation President Bob Glenn.



Mac and Janice Smith have funded a semester scholarship through a recent gift to the WC Foundation. Mr. Smith is chair of the WC Board of Trustees.



Bob and Sammie Gay Williams have established a scholarship with multiple gifts to the WC Foundation. The Sammie Gay Neill Williams Scholarship is earmarked for graduates of Weatherford High School. Pictured with the Williams is Interim President Brent Baker.

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES SPOTLIGHT

Two newly-appointed members of the Weatherford College Board of Trustees were sworn in this past fall. Here is a look at each of them and their hopes for WC:

## ROBERT MARLETT, Ed.D

**Family:** My wife, Carolyn, our two sons and four grandchildren

**Career background:** Emeritus, Texas Tech University; Retired US Army Reserves, Lt. Colonel

**What motivated you to serve on the board?** This is an opportunity to serve in the educational growth and progress of Weatherford College and this community.

**What do you see as today's greatest challenges facing community colleges like WC?** The greatest challenge is to make changes now that will meet the dynamic demands of robotics, AI and expanding communications, medical services, human services, environmental services and other ventures facing our students of any age and background. WC must stay in tune, involved and invigorated to take on and maintain leadership in these areas of responsibility.

**What is your vision for WC?** I envision an even better day for WC as it accepts and surpasses the above challenges.

**What is your greatest passion or interest besides WC?** My family, country and state and its rich history.



## ROGER GRIZZARD



**Family:** Married to Jeanine Grizzard, two children (Holly and Tyler), three grandchildren

**Career background:** Two years as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army, a Vietnam veteran, 25 years as a teacher at Ennis and Weatherford high schools, owner of The Pizza Place for 41 years.

**Did you or any member of your family attend WC?** Both my son and my daughter attended WC.

**What motivated you to serve on the board?** The opportunity to help as many people in our service area to improve their lives by enhancing their opportunity to improve their income level, to help those students who cannot afford to leave Parker County obtain their first two years of college at a reasonable price and to help vocational students earn a certificate which will enhance their employment opportunities.

**What do you see as today's greatest challenges facing community colleges like WC?** To educate the government leaders on why community colleges are the best option for many students, and as result funding should be increased, not decreased. I also believe community colleges should continue to make sure that the taxpayers are getting a good return on their tax dollars.

**What is your vision for WC?** I would hope that Weatherford College would become the first option for students leaving high school and the first option for adults who are seeking more training in other fields.

**What is your greatest passion or interest besides WC?** Using whatever resources I have to be a positive influence on everyone that I come in contact with every day, whether it's in my church, my business or my college.



# 2018 BASEBALL & SOFTBALL HOME GAMES

## JANUARY

31 Northeast TX 3 p.m.

## FEBRUARY

3 Navarro 1 p.m.  
 7 Northeast TX 3&5  
 10 Navarro 1&3  
 16 Coyote Chillout TBA  
 17 Coyote Chillout TBA  
 17 Seminole 1 p.m.

## MARCH

3 New Mexico 2 p.m.  
 7 Vernon\* 1&3  
 7 Ranger\* 3 p.m.  
 14 Hill\* 3 p.m.  
 19 Hill\* 1&3  
 19 Tyler 6 p.m.

## MARCH CONT.

24 Cisco\* 12&2  
 24 McLennan\* 1 p.m.  
 30 Grayson\* 12&2

## APRIL

2 Brookhaven 7 p.m.  
 4 Vernon\* 3 p.m.  
 11 McLennan\* 1&3  
 11 North Central Texas\* 1 p.m.  
 18 Temple\* 1&3  
 21 North Central Texas\* 12&2  
 21 Temple\* 1 p.m.  
 28 Ranger\* 12&2  
 28 Cisco\* 1 p.m.

## MAY

5 Grayson\* 3 p.m.



BASEBALL (Roger Williams Ballpark) | SOFTBALL (Stuart Field)

\*Conference games

# 20 YEARS AT THE ALKEK

## LOCATION

Marjorie Black Alkek  
Fine Arts Center

## INFO

Programs begin at 7:30 p.m.  
unless otherwise noted.  
Doors open half-hour prior to start.

[WC.EDU/ALKEK20](http://WC.EDU/ALKEK20)

# *Celebrate with us!* SPRING 2018

**FEBRUARY 9 | FRIDAY** Emma Rush Classical Guitar Recital

**MARCH 23 | FRIDAY** Coyote Jazz Fest

**APRIL 7 | SATURDAY** Celebrating the American Songbook  
Featuring Rob Laney, Dr. Hyeyoung Song &  
Miss Sandra Kaye & her trio

**APRIL 9 | MONDAY | 6 P.M.** Student Art Reception

**APRIL 12-14 | THU. - SAT. | 7:30 P.M.** "Into the Woods"  
**APRIL 15 | SUNDAY | 2 P.M.**

**APRIL 17 | TUESDAY** Spring Choir Concert

**APRIL 20 | FRIDAY** N'Awlins Gumbo Kings

**APRIL 21 | SATURDAY** Alkek 20th Recognition Night & Concert,  
Fort Worth Symphony Chamber Orchestra  
"A Night of Mozart"  
Directed by Maestro John Giordano  
Featuring Dr. Hyeyoung Song

**APRIL 28 | SATURDAY** WC Jazz Band Alumni Concert

**TBA** Dr. Hyeyoung Song Piano Recital