

THE HILLTOP

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Volume XIX : Issue I

SPRING 2019

SETTING THE STAGE

WC EMBARKS ON ALL-STEINWAY
SCHOOL INITIATIVE



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Exciting things are happening at Weatherford College! For the first time in Weatherford College's distinguished 150 year history, WC was recently named the Educational Partner of the Year by Workforce Solutions of North Central Texas. We are in the final stages of developing a unique partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission and Workforce Solutions to house agency members in a beautiful new workforce facility on our college campus. By leveraging Texas Workforce Commission money, the Weatherford College Board of Trustees will soon be formally considering the construction of a state of the art

workforce facility on our Weatherford campus. Once the details are finalized and approved, we anticipate moving our citizens from unemployment to wage-earning, family-sustaining and taxpaying jobs at unprecedented levels.

Another ongoing exciting initiative is our Steinway piano campaign. We are positioning Weatherford College to become the cultural hub of the five-county WC service area. Our world-class pianist, Dr. Hyeyoung Song, is organizing and leading the inaugural Weatherford College International Piano Competition. We already have a contestant entry from China and several other accomplished pianists from across the United States. Related to this international piano competition is the push to have Weatherford College officially recognized as an official Steinway institution. Such a prestigious designation would catapult both our fine arts programs and our recruiting efforts. Through the generous donations, both large and small, of WC fine arts supporters, we are going to take all of our fine arts programs to the next level.

We are actively growing a culture of excellence at Weatherford College. We are exhibiting excellence in academics, fine arts, athletics and various other facets of our increasingly complex institution. I find myself extremely privileged to be associated with such dynamic people and with such a vibrant institution. Thank you for all that you do to make Weatherford College such an exceptional place!

Tod Allen Farmer

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COVER STORY



SETTING THE STAGE

WC EMBARKS ON ALL-STEINWAY SCHOOL INITIATIVE

Her fingers glide across the black and white keys – dropping, recoiling and then dropping again to create a percussive, yet warm sound.

The freshman is nervous to play on the Steinway grand piano, but her instructor, sitting on the bench next to her, encourages her on with a nod and a grin as she holds the final chord of a Bach standard.

“Very nice,” says the instructor. “Let’s try another piece.”

As the student looks for sheet music for a Chopin etude, the look of intimidation fades and satisfaction takes its place. She knows she’s improving. The instructor notices the growing confidence and thinks to herself about this moment.

“Why can’t all of our students play on an instrument like this?”

The instructor is Dr. Hyeyoung Song, Weatherford College’s artist-in-residence. The renowned concert pianist has played all over the world, including her native South Korea, in Paris and in multiple appearances at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In his first few months as Weatherford College president, Dr. Tod Allen Farmer kept hearing about Song’s incredible abilities and about how fortunate WC was to have someone of her caliber. When he finally heard her play, he knew the college had someone very special. And after he heard Song verbalize her passion for teaching, he knew there was an opportunity to build a dynamic piano program around her.

Duane Durrett, who recently took on the role of dean of fine arts, helped to conduct an analysis of WC’s piano inventory, which

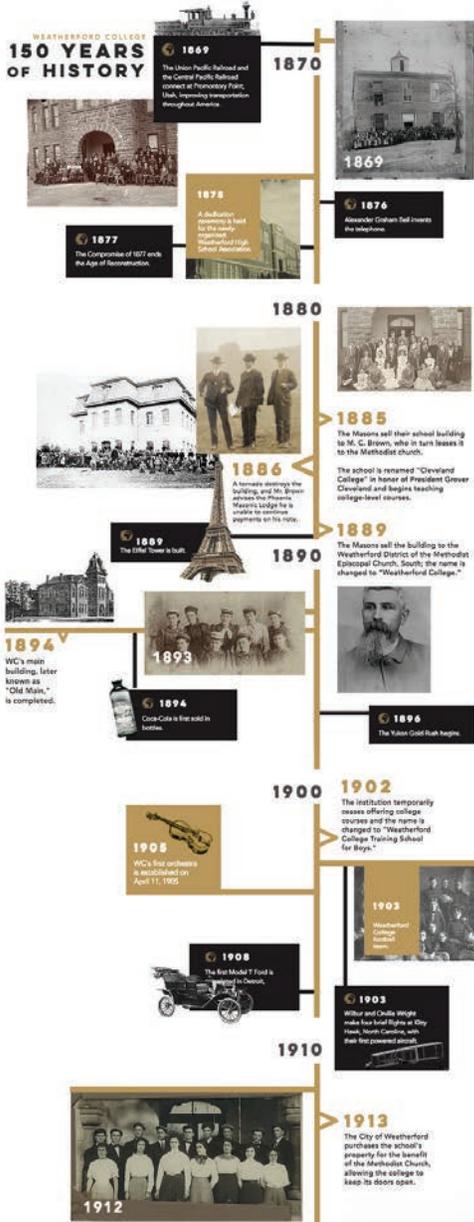
was eye-opening. Besides a beautiful nine-foot Steinway grand donated by Louise McFarland in the late 1990s and a handful of other donated pianos, it was obvious WC didn’t have the piano equipment necessary for a first-class fine arts department, much less a burgeoning piano program.

To meet the challenge, the college and the WC Foundation have embarked on a project to become an “All-Steinway School,” demonstrating a commitment to excellence by providing students and faculty with the best equipment possible for the study of music. More than 200 institutions worldwide carry the All-Steinway School distinction, including 44 community colleges.

“We want the Alkek Fine Arts Center to be the cultural hub of our entire service

continues with STEINWAY on page 5.

WC150.COM



Take a walk down memory lane at our sesquicentennial website, WC150.com. Enjoy a photo timeline (pictured, left) of the highlights of WC's 150 year history, or find a calendar of all of our 150th anniversary events.

You'll see video testimonials from several of our alumni on our "Memories" page. Or, you can be a part of our history by leaving a memory of your own!



Fredrick Sanders, Distinguished Alumnus and Class of 1991.

LAST ISSUE'S DO YOU KNOW...

The 1949 Weatherford College Rodeo Club. Bill Beard, from the class of 1950, wrote in to say the photo includes Weldon Spracklin, Darrell Mayberry, Junior Dixon, Buford Ketchings, Bill Beard, Bill Hudspeth, possibly Portis Ribble, Dub Stewart and Adell Powell among others.



FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

Mildred Beard, 95, of Weatherford, passed away October 21, 2018. Class of 1942 and 2008 Alumnus of the Year.

Michael Byrnes, 82, of Perrin, passed away December 5, 2018.

Royce Hightower, 87, of Abilene, passed away October 22, 2018.

Anthony Jackson, 55, of Houston, passed away December 10, 2018.

Michael Lindsey, 74, of Dallas passed away September 9, 2018. Class of 1968.

Carol Riddle McDaniel, 82, of Weatherford, passed away December 20, 2018. Class of 1957.

Robert Murphey, 65, of Fort Worth, passed away September 14, 2018.

Barbara Michelle Phillips, 35, of Weatherford, passed away December 28, 2018.

Betty Jean King Ratteree, 90, of Irving, passed away January 15, 2019.

Edna Juanita Thomas Reeder, 91, of Abilene, passed away September 23, 2018.

David Robinson, 95, of Richardson, passed away December 24, 2018.

Michael "Mitch" Taylor, 70, of Amarillo, passed away February 8, 2019.



“We hope the competition becomes a ‘mini-Van Cliburn’ for our area,” Farmer said.

To become an All-Steinway School, WC will need to replace nine pianos in total. Seven of the department’s 10 pianos are 40 or more years old, and eight of those are in poor condition. Additions would include Steinway grands as well as Steinway-designed Boston uprights.

Farmer has asked the Foundation to consider raising funds for the All-Steinway initiative, and his request was met with enthusiasm. Durrett and the foundation’s Brent Baker traveled to New York to learn the ins and outs of raising funds for Steinways from colleges and universities who have completed successful campaigns. They even toured the Steinway & Sons factory in Queens to see how the pianos are made first hand.

“What we saw was incredible,” Durrett said. “The craftsmanship and attention to detail in these hand-made instruments are second to none.”

An acclaimed musician himself, Durrett places priority on giving students the tools that the professionals use.

“Ninety-six percent of pianists, when performing with orchestras, chose Steinway for their performances last year,” Durrett said. “We want WC students to practice and perform on the instruments that are used in most major concert halls around the world. Whether it’s choir, jazz band, musical theatre or classical piano, we want to present and expect the very best in performance each time our students and faculty take the stage.”

But with all of the enthusiasm from administrators and community members, there’s no one more excited to see students practicing and performing on top-notch instruments than Song herself.

“The Steinways have a special voice with their warmth, subtlety and richness,” she said. “They will allow our students to create whatever nuances of color, voicing and balance they want to create. They will not only enable students to grow musically but also provide constant inspiration in their studies and lives.”

For more information on WC’s All-Steinway School initiative, contact Brent Baker at bbaker@wc.edu or 817-598-6275. For more information on the Weatherford College International Piano Competition, visit www.wc.edu/wcpiacompetition.

area,” Farmer said. “Our students deserve a first-rate experience, and that’s what Steinway represents.”

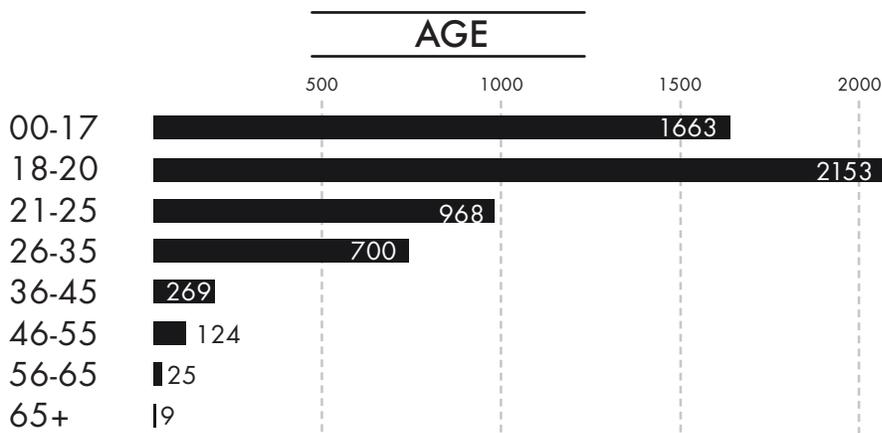
In an effort to seed philanthropy, Farmer has already committed college resources to the effort, approving the purchase of a new upright piano for practice purposes and greenlighting the inaugural Weatherford College International Piano Competition scheduled for April 27.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE BY THE NUMBERS

SPRING 2019

TOTAL STUDENT BODY

5,911



GENDER



3691 | 63%
FEMALE



2192 | 37%
MALE

STATUS OF STUDENTS

FULL TIME
30%

VS.

PART TIME
70%

DUAL CREDIT
32%
of total student population

ELECTRONIC
38%
of total student population

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE AROUND CAMPUS



1. Purchasing Specialist Cindy Clifton was named the 2018 Staff Member of the Year during the annual Employee Awards Dinner held at The Springs on Dec. 13.

2. Workforce Solutions of North Central Texas named Weatherford College their Educational Partner of the Year on Jan. 30 at their 22nd Annual Awards of Excellence in Grand Prairie. Pictured are Tammi White, Health and Human Sciences administrative assistant; Dr. Tod Allen Farmer, WC president; Janetta Kruse, associate dean of Workforce and Economic Development; Dan Curlee, WC general counsel; and Diana Wheeler, Workforce Education Department secretary.

3. Thirty of the finest teachers from across the region were recognized at the 23rd annual Jack Harvey Academy of Exemplary Teachers celebrated on Jan. 25 at the Doss Heritage and Culture Center.



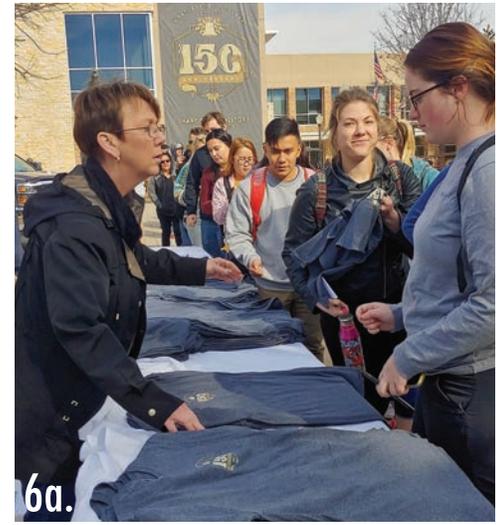
4. WC won the Large Business of the Year Award from the East Parker County Chamber of Commerce at the organization's annual banquet March 8. The college was lauded for being a positive work environment, impacting the economic health of the community through innovative educational programs and a variety of other attributes. President Farmer is pictured with board members Roger Grizzard, Lela Morris, Elaine Carter, Sue Coody, Mac Smith and Judy McAnally.

5. Students, faculty, staff and community members participated in the two-day Interdisciplinary Academic Conference held on the WC campus Feb. 28 and March 1. The conference included a variety of presentations ranging from using interactive technology in the classroom to environmental sustainability in Parker County.

6. A college birthday party was hosted on Jan. 28 in celebration of WC's 150th anniversary. Students enjoyed cake and received free T-shirts,



5a.



6a.



5b.



7.



6b.



8.



9.

and commemorative 150 numbers were decorated by various college departments and put on display during the celebration. A panel of judges voted on the top numbers and named the submission by the Office of Instruction and Student Services as the best overall.

7. Weatherford College was represented by three music students in All-State bands hosted by the Texas Community College Band Directors Association (TCCBDA) at the Texas Music Educators Association conference in San Antonio in February. (Pictured, left to right) Aidan Lewis made the Symphonic Band on French horn, Wilson Baker made the Symphonic Band on trumpet and James Carrizosa qualified for the jazz band on bass trombone. The students, hosted by WC Music Instructor Dutch Ode, played concerts with honorees from across the state and participated in multiple TMEA workshops.

8. Weatherford College students and employees traveled to Austin on Jan. 30 to participate in Community College Day at the Texas State Capitol. Pictured are Adam Finley (executive dean of Student Services), Winston Griffith, Jzavion Evans, Doug Jefferson (associate dean of Student Development), Sarah Smith, Christian Jacobo and Dr. Andra Cantrell (executive vice president of Financial and Administrative Affairs).

9. State Representative Phil King and Senator Pat Fallon recognized Weatherford College's sesquicentennial Feb. 25 with House Bill 503 and Senate Resolution No. 257. Pictured are King, WC Board of Trustees Vice Chair Sue Coody and WC President, Dr. Tod Allen Farmer.



JANUARY & FEBRUARY SESQUICENTENNIAL EVENTS



Weatherford College started off the year-long celebration of its sesquicentennial with a ribbon cutting and kickoff reception in Texas Hall on Jan. 17. A special historic exhibit was on display for the kickoff and was available for viewing through early March. In February, the celebration continued with a basketball reunion on Feb. 16 and a reception for all current and previous board members on Feb. 28. Find information on upcoming 150th events online at WC150.com



Benefactors (\$10,000 and above)

Jerry Durant Auto Group, Morris Family Foundation, Parker County Women's and Newcomers Club, Richard and Nancy Stuart, Jon and Dottie Vandagriff, Jim Wilkinson, Sammie Gay and Robert Williams, Mary Zielinski Estate

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

Ezelle Ashworth Trust, Roy and Jeannine Eaton, Dr. Tod A. and Kathleen Farmer, Dan and Marsha Feely, Brent and Meredith Gough, Film Alley, Imperial Construction, Derek and Lonna Leach, Dr. Barbara and Jim McGregor, Plains Capital Bank, Southwest Auto Group, Spider Web Energy, LLC, Texas Health Neighborhood Care and Wellness in Willow Park, Bob andCarolynn White, Gail Wright

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

Marvin and Amy Adams, Baker's Ribs, Brent and Elizabeth Baker, Dr. Joe and Evelyn Birmingham, Warren Creason, David and Becky Daniel, Dr. Kevin and Sheila Eaton, Lifecare EMS, First Financial Bank, First National Bank of Weatherford, Bob and Carolyn Glenn, Jack Grimes, Roy and Jeanne Grogan, Paula Hibbert, HUB International Insurance Services, Ruth Huse, Independent Order of Oddfellows, Lella F. Austin Estate, Lone Star Coaches Inc., Ben and Dora Long, Mike's Westside Rental, Patrick Mooney, North Side Baptist Church, Rotary Club of Weatherford, Mac and Janice Smith, Snow Garrett Williams, Jim and Rhonda Swan, Dr. James H. Tatum, Scotty Teague, Michael and Anissa Teskey, Texas Book Company, United Rentals, Weatherford High School Class of 1967

Partners (\$500 to \$999)

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continues on pg. 10

CLASS NOTES

Former WC baseball players **Jake Lyons** and **Landon Gray** opened their NCAA careers with a bang in February. Lyons, now at Oklahoma State, threw 4 1/3 innings of shutout ball on opening weekend at UT-Rio Grande Valley, and Gray hit his first NCAA home run for the Tennessee Volunteers on the way to a 3-for-4 day against Appalachian State.

Former Coyote basketball player **Kevin Franceschi** had a record night with his new team, BBC Coburg in the German Pro-B League in his first game in December. He scored 39 points, had 7 rebounds and 3 steals.

Christina Grudzinski ('11) was elected to the White Settlement City Council in a runoff election in December. Christina is a licensed marriage and family therapist associate practicing in Fort Worth.

Craig Peacock won re-election as the Parker County Precinct 2 commissioner in November. Peacock won 79 percent of the general election vote.

Brian Scott ('13) has accepted a position as a pharmacist in Washington state with Rite Aid Pharmacy after graduating with a doctorate in Pharmacy from the University of North Texas Health Science Center in May. He and his wife, **Robin**

(Sterling) Scott, are expecting their first child in April.

Daina M. Wofford ('12) is now a counselor with MHMRTC at The Youth Recovery Campus in Fort Worth.

Jose Pina ('14), also from the WC Human Service Provider/Substance Abuse Counseling Program, is now at S.A.G.E. in Weatherford conducting drug education classes.

Wendy Boswell has earned a master's degree in occupational therapy from Texas Woman's University. Wendy was in WC's first occupational therapy assistant graduating class. She will sit for the national OT licensure exam in March.

Affiliates (\$100 to \$499)

American Legion Post 163, Shirley Ann Anderson, Larry M. Applewhite, VLK Architects, Mildred Beard, Melanye Jefferson Belinda & Marty Diebold, Rick and Sue Berry, Karla Bevel, William Black III, BNSF Railway Foundation, Velda Sue Boardman, Donna Boone, Dr. Richard and Pat Bowers, Jeff and Jennifer Boyd, Dr. Velda Boyd and Don Coan, Greg and Gwen Boyer, Paula Brashear, Elissa Braswell, Wanda Brian, Casey Brooks, Ellie Broughton, Sheryl Ann Brown, Dr. Andra and John Cantrell, Eric and Cindy Cappel, Challenge of Tarrant County, Decatur Lions Club, Myron and Kay Cole, Jim and Myrlan Coleman, Sam Coody, Clay and Sara Crawford, Deborah Cregger, Jessica Cundiff, Dan and Jayne Curlee, Pam Davis, Janice L. Day, Hyle Doss, Judd Duncan, Lynn and Mary Easley, Nancy Edwards, Tonya Edwards, Johnny Emmons, Michael and Christine Endy, Tammy Feimer, John and Myrna Fields, Lisa Flowers, Fort Worth Community Credit Union, Lou Ann Fuller, George, Morgan & Sneed, Jay and Beverly Gibbs, Valarie Gilbert, Bud and Betty Jo Graber, Leah Graber, Paul Gray, Michael W. Guest, John and Cathy E. Gurica, Ruel M. Hamilton, Todd and Susan Hamilton, Dr. Rickey and Judy Harman, Sammie Harris, Pam Hayes, Heritage Pest Control, Gary and Jeanie Hobbs, Darlyne Hughes, Peggy Hutton, Dr. Alexander Ibe, Susan Jackson, Suzanne Jary, Marta Johnson, Kelsey Jones, Kristal Jones, Mark and Janet Jones, Richard Jones, Phil and Kathryn Jordan, Christian Men's Fellowship of Parker County, John D. Kirkpatrick, Kiwanis Club of Weatherford, Skyler Allyn Korgel, Janetta Kruse, Dr. Sumant and Sheela A. Kumar, Laura Landsman, Linda Lindsey, Cheryl Livengood, Dr. Sarah Lock, Cheyenne Lopez, Tom and Becky Loughrey, Perry and Barbara Mader, Meisha Madsen, Nina Mariann Maniotis, Angie Martin, Toni Martin, Toni R. Martin, Melinda Mayes, Selina & Mark McBeth, Howard and Brenda McClurkin, Melvyn McRee, Patricia Melson, Dr. Jim and Iola Messinger, Cheryl Miller, Elaine Miller, Julie A. Moeller, Lela and Butch Morris, Megan Murrell, Leo and Prissy Neely, Jerry and Dr. Janie Neighbors, Parker County Retired Teachers Association, Parker County Sheriff's Posse, Evelyn Payne, Weta Mince Phillips, Arnold Pitchford, Tom and Jane Pritchard, Donnie and Carol Purvis, Jerry Reynolds, Brenda Ridge, Linda Robinson Dr. William and Paula Roddy, Steve and Grace Rothrock, Rada Salomon, Ann Saunders, Dr. Allan Saxe, Robert Schocke, Glenn Seaberry, Debra Sears, Kathy Smith, Gary and Linda Snow, Wilda Ruth Sommer, Marilyn St. Clair, Marnita Stinnett, Stanley Stough, Dr. Joe Strain, Matthew Ticzkus, Joe and Patsy Tison, Rhonda and Leonard Torres, Frances Trussell, Christie Tull, Staci Tyler, Royce and Judith Vick, Weatherford Evening Lions Club, Weatherford Optimist Club, Jo Ellen Welborn, Clay Welch, Tom Wells, Dr. Mike and Avalon White, WHS Class of 1953, Jim Bob Williams, Ralph Willingham, Joy Michelle Wilson, Rena Mae Woody, Kimberly Worthen, Worthington Realty & Investments, Mack and Gloria Young, Cathy Zellers

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Weatherford College: The First 150 Years
by Jon Vandagriff

ORDER TODAY
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2019 WEATHERFORD COLLEGE BASEBALL & SOFTBALL

HOME CONFERENCE PLAY



GRAYSON COLLEGE

[B] 4/17 // 1 P.M.



VERNON COLLEGE

[B] 3/23 // 2 P.M.
[S] 4/6 // 12 & 2 P.M.



MCLENNAN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

[S] 3/9 // 12 & 2 P.M.



HILL COLLEGE

[S] 4/13 // 12 & 2 P.M.
[B] 5/4 // 1 P.M.



TEMPLE COLLEGE

[S] 3/16 // 12 & 2 P.M.
[B] 4/3 // 1 P.M.



NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS COLLEGE

[S] 3/20 // 1 & 3 P.M.
[B] 3/30 // 1 P.M.



CISCO COLLEGE

[B] 4/10 // 1 P.M.
[S] 4/24 // 1 & 3 P.M.



RANGER COLLEGE

[S] 3/27 // 1 & 3 P.M.
[B] 4/27 // 1 P.M.



BASEBALL GAMES ARE PLAYED AT ROGER WILLIAMS BALLPARK. SOFTBALL GAMES ARE PLAYED AT STUART FIELD.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE DEPARTMENT OF FINE ARTS

SPRING FINE ART EVENTS

music

COYOTE JAZZ FEST 2019!

March 22 at 7:30 p.m.

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE MUSIC

April 5 at 7:30 p.m.

WC PIANO FESTIVAL & COMPETITION

DUO AZUL CONCERT | March 19 at 7:30 p.m.

LEONARD HAYES CONCERT | March 29 at 7:30 p.m.

SWANG LIN & HYEYOUNG SONG CONCERT | April 11 at 7:30 p.m.

WC INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION | April 27 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

SPRING CHOIR CONCERT

April 23 at 7:30 p.m.

SPRING JAZZ CONCERT

April 26 at 7:30 p.m.

drama

WC DRAMA DEPARTMENT STUDIO SERIES

April 17 & 18 at 7:30 p.m.

art

STUDENT ART RECEPTION

April 8 at 6 p.m.



UPCOMING 150TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS
ALUMNI AWARDS LUNCHEON

April 12, 2019, 11:30 a.m.
Weatherford College, Doss Center

BASEBALL GAME & FIREWORKS

April 27, 2019, Doubleheader begins at 2 p.m.
Weatherford College, Roger Williams Ballpark

TASTE OF PARKER COUNTY

May 16, 2019 from 5 - 8 p.m. at Heritage Park

For more information, go to WC150.com