

THE HILLTOP

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

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STRATEGIC EXPANSION:

WC ADDS KEY HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

One of the reasons that Weatherford College remains the fastest growing college in North Texas is because of our ever-expanding academic programs. In addition to our five affordable bachelor's degree programs, we have dramatically expanded our associate degrees and workforce programs. This coming fall, we plan to continue that trend by adding dental hygiene, ophthalmic technician, and renal/dialysis programs. This edition of *The Hilltop* details this continued expansion of our academic program offerings.

Holden and Hart Hering are also featured in this edition. This father/son baseball pitcher legacy is an interesting facet of WC athletic history. Additionally featured are our recent alumni awards winners. Our amazing alumni are helping to transform WC into an even greater institution.

Finally, we are proud to feature Tom Vick as the Outstanding Citizen of Weatherford and Donna Dickinson as the most recent recipient of the James H. Doss Award. Collectively, these WC stakeholders are great representatives of our larger WC family. Weatherford College is a truly special place where ordinary people do extraordinary things. Please enjoy this edition of *The Hilltop*.



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COVER STORY



STRATEGIC EXPANSION: WC ADDS KEY HEALTHCARE PROGRAMS

by Brent Baker

While many colleges and universities across the state are cutting academic programs, Weatherford College continues to build.

WC has announced the launch of three new programs in the healthcare space: the Associate of Applied Science degree in Dental Hygiene, the Associate of Applied Science in Ophthalmic Technology and the Dialysis Technician Workforce Certificate, pending accreditation approval.

Known for its highly-rated Alesia Armstrong Wiggs School of Nursing, WC's deeper expansion into healthcare builds upon a solid base. The combination of aging baby boomers and an influx of new families into the area create fertile ground for careers in the medical field.

A CLEAR WIN: DENTAL HYGIENE

Administrators see dental hygiene as a slam dunk. Dentists, like Dr. Tom Novak of Weatherford, have been encouraging WC to consider the program for years.

“Dental hygienists are in incredibly high demand,” said Novak, a former WC trustee. “Programs across the country are full and are difficult to enter. Most of the dentists I know would eagerly hire an additional hygienist almost immediately.”

WC's dental hygiene program will be offered at the Wise County campus, and Novak said the program will flourish.

“The new program at Weatherford College will position graduates in a predictable and very rewarding career. Dentists in

**Source: American Academy of Ophthalmology | **Source: Zippia.com*

Parker and Wise counties as well as most of North Texas will be eager to support the new program at WC.”

HIGH-DEMAND CAREERS YOU DON'T HEAR ABOUT EVERY DAY

While dental hygiene is widely recognized, two other roles—ophthalmic technicians and dialysis technicians—are rapidly emerging as essential components of modern medical care.

WC'S DEEPER EXPANSION INTO HEALTHCARE BUILDS UPON A SOLID BASE.

Ophthalmic technicians work side-by-side with ophthalmologists to perform vision testing, imaging and patient care. Demand for these professionals is growing sharply; by

2034, there are expected to be 30% more openings than qualified candidates in the field.*

“The demand for ophthalmic technicians is high,” said Kathy Boswell, dean of health and human sciences. “Salaries range between \$51,300 and \$81,400, depending on experience and certification.”

Dialysis technicians provide hands-on care to patients with kidney failure, operating highly specialized dialysis equipment. There are currently more than 100,000 active dialysis technician job openings across the United States.**

These are careers with strong futures—fields where WC graduates will be prepared to step in on day one.

A COMMITMENT TO OPPORTUNITY

“One of the reasons that Weatherford College remains the fastest growing college in North Texas is our relentless commitment

continues with Expansion on page 11



FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

Antwain Demethris Bates, 46, of Alvarado, passed away January 10.

Freddie Nelson Bruton, 87, of Weatherford, passed away February 2. Former history professor.

Dr. Noel Allen Bryan, 98, of Weatherford, passed away November 5.

Joyce Jean Clark, 88, of Azle, passed away January 26.

Walter Elmo Clark, 85, of Fort Worth, passed away January 5.

Tommie Jane Coalson, 85, of Mineral Wells, passed away October 11.

Lynn Dale Easley, 84, of Arlington, passed away March 5, 2025.

Elizabeth Ann "Beth" Fallis, 51, of Weatherford, passed away July 14.

Phillip Frazier, 78, of Weatherford, passed away November 9.

Allen Quentin Gratts, Jr., 58, of Mansfield, passed away February 8.

Michael Ray Harvey, 67, of Springtown, passed away December 9.

Kolby Wayne Hughes, 28, of Azle, passed away October 4.

Michael Stephen "Steve" Hughes, 72, of Weatherford, passed away February 12.

Evan David Jones, 77, of Weatherford, passed away December 14.

Amberly Kamp, 37, of Burleson, passed away January 22.

Doyle Karg, 52, of Weatherford, passed away January 2.

Martha Jean "Massie" Lancaster, 87, of Haltom City, passed away December 9. Class of 1957.

Darlyn Liddell, 85, of Argyle, passed away November 12.

Stormy Mullins, 72, of Mineral Wells, passed away February 6. Former rodeo coach at WC.

David Nash, 85, of Weatherford, passed away January 28.

Judy Ann Prachyl, 73, of Weatherford, passed away December 18.

Nelson T. Rowls, 54, of Aledo, passed away December 23. Assistant basketball coach at Weatherford College.

Tony Don Sidwell, 66, of Texline, passed away February 11.

Catherine Caveness Smith, 100, of Renton, Washington, passed away February 3.

Dr. James Harvey Tatum, 83, of Norwich, Vermont, passed away February 6. WC 1981 Alumnus of the Year.

Ronald Dean Toles, 83, of Weatherford, passed away October 11.

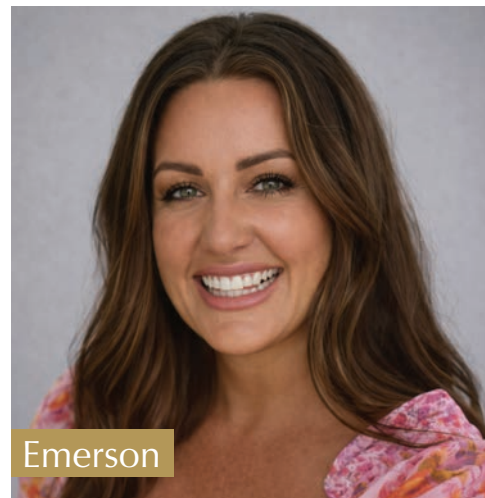
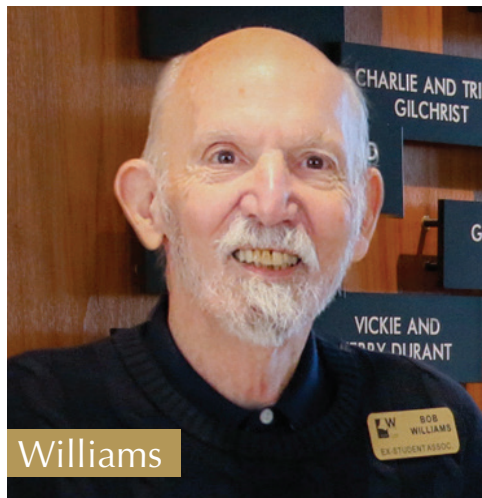
Marilyn Voorhies, 88, of Weatherford, passed away January 16.

Ronald Marion Walker, 91, of Weatherford, passed away December 27.

Sally Elizabeth Woody, 75, of Weatherford, passed away January 2.

WIGGS NAMED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

WILLIAMS, EMERSON HONORED AS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI



Weatherford College honored Bruce Wiggs as the 2026 Alumnus of the Year and Robert Williams and Sierra Emerson as Distinguished Alumni at the annual Alumni Awards Luncheon on Friday, March 27.

Wiggs' personal connection to Weatherford College spans more than seven decades. After graduating from Weatherford High School in 1953, he enrolled at WC and graduated in 1955. During his time on campus, he served as student body president, managed the basketball team and contributed to the yearbook. He credited Dr. Vernon Parrott for helping him find jobs, from painting the gym to picking peaches, so he could afford to continue his education.

After WC, Wiggs completed his degree at the University of Texas at Austin in 1959, working multiple jobs throughout his studies, including as an assistant to a Texas legislator. He went on to build a distinguished career in banking and, by age 29, became the youngest bank president in Texas, leading Stonewall Bank in Corpus Christi.

Over the decades that followed, he led or supervised banks across Texas and Louisiana, gaining a reputation for turning around troubled institutions. He eventually returned to Weatherford to serve as president of the former M&F State Bank, later TexasBank.

After retiring from banking in 1991, Wiggs spent more than 30 years in a second career acquiring, renovating and selling homes across Texas, New Mexico and Louisiana before settling permanently back in Weatherford in 2025.

The Wiggs family is an influential philanthropic champion for WC. In 2021, his son and daughter-in-law, Brett and Alesia Wiggs, made a \$1 million gift to the college, the largest single cash donation in WC history at the time. Bruce and his wife, Laura, have supported WC through multiple endowments and ongoing scholarship gifts. In recognition of their commitment to advancing philanthropy at the college, the couple received the Carlos Hartnett Award in 2022, one of the WC Foundation's highest honors.

Williams is a decorated veteran, accomplished aviator and generous supporter of WC students. A WC graduate from the

Class of 1971, Williams first came to Texas for flight school at Fort Wolters in Mineral Wells, where he met Sammie Gay Neill, a Weatherford native. The two married before he deployed to Vietnam, where he served as an Army helicopter pilot and completed two tours of duty.

Following his military service, Williams and Sammie enrolled at WC, taking courses in both Weatherford and at Fort Wolters. He went on to earn a degree in aerospace engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington. Williams served 20 years in the U.S. Army, spending most of his career as a helicopter test pilot and retired as a chief warrant officer.

After leaving the military, he continued his aviation career with Bell Helicopter and later launched his own helicopter-testing business. His lifelong commitment to aviation safety earned him the FAA's Wright Brothers Master Pilot Award, recognizing more than 50 years of continuous safe flight operations.

The Williams have contributed more than \$100,000 to WC Foundation scholarships over the past 15 years. The Sammie Gay Neill Williams Scholarship supports single mothers of nontraditional age, with the Williams personally following their recipients' progress and ensuring they have the resources needed to graduate.

Emerson completed her cosmetology certification at WC in August 2011, where she was a dedicated student-athlete on the rodeo team.

Since graduating, she and her husband moved to Marble Falls, where she has built an extraordinary professional career as a 15-time award-winning stylist, recognized for her technical expertise, innovation and influence in the beauty industry. She has leveraged her platform to mentor fellow hair professionals, helping them build financially independent careers.

Emerson's loyalty to WC is reflected in her establishing a scholarship in her name to assist cosmetology students who also pursue rodeo or other athletic endeavors. She remains engaged in her community, mentoring young women, advocating for Western heritage and supporting charitable initiatives.



WC, UNT HEALTH AT FORT WORTH LAUNCH PRIMARY CARE PATHWAY PROGRAM

Weatherford College and UNT Health Fort Worth's Texas College of Osteopathic Medicine announced a partnership that provides students with an accelerated path to becoming an osteopathic physician during a signing ceremony in Weatherford.

The new Primary Care Pathway Program will allow selected WC students to complete medical school through a seven-year 2+1+4 plan.

The program is designed to address the growing shortage of primary care physicians in rural and medically underserved areas across Texas. The first cohort of students is expected to begin at Weatherford College in the fall.

"As a graduate of both Weatherford College and the University of North Texas System, I am extremely excited that our shared students will now have a seamless pathway to become physicians," said WC President Tod Allen Farmer. "These two noble institutions are doing great things for Texas."

Christopher Ray, Ph.D., UNT Health's provost and senior vice president, echoed Farmer's excitement.

"We are thrilled to start this new pathway program with Weatherford College," Ray said. "We all know there is a critical shortage of primary care providers in the state of Texas and in our rural communities. This pathway program is designed specifically to address those underserved areas and bring more primary care physicians into rural parts of Texas. There is no better medical school prepared for this than TCOM."

According to data from Texas 2036 and the Texas Department of State Health Services, 224 of Texas' 254 counties have shortages of primary care providers. Parker, Jack, Wise and Palo Pinto counties, from which WC draws many students, are among those experiencing shortages, with the problem expected to worsen. More than six million Texans currently live in a Health Professional Shortage Area.

"The shortage of primary care physicians in Texas is getting worse, and TCOM is stepping up to address this problem," said Dr. Lisa Nash, TCOM dean and vice president for clinical affairs at UNT Health. "As a family physician, I know how important it is for communities to have access to primary care providers, and I'm so proud of this new partnership with Weatherford College. We are going to turn local students into local physicians who will serve their communities for years."

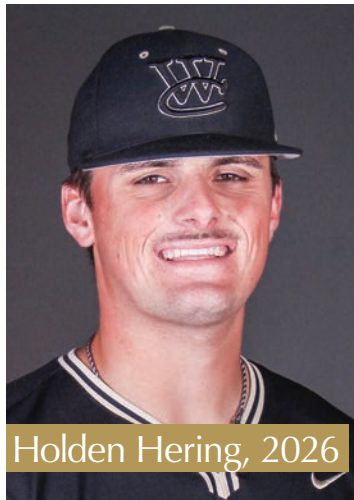
Students will complete their first two years of undergraduate study at Weatherford College before transitioning to their third year at UNT Health's College of Biomedical and Transitional Sciences in Fort Worth. After finishing their third year, students will enroll in TCOM at UNT Health as first-year medical students.

Students must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.75 or higher during their undergraduate studies and complete the course requirements for both Weatherford College and UNT Health before matriculating to TCOM.

FROM FIRST PITCH TO NEXT GENERATION: HOLDEN HERING REVIVES A FAMILY LEGACY AT WC



Hart Hering, 2003



Holden Hering, 2026

by Rick Mauch

His father is in the annals of Weatherford College baseball history. Now, Holden Hering is looking to create his own legacy with the Coyotes.

Hart Hering threw the first pitch ever as the number one starter for the Coyotes in the 2003 inaugural season. That was the start of a program that is now one of the most renowned in the nation.

“My dad being a part of the first-ever baseball team here and throwing the first-ever pitch of the program was a big thing. With Coach (Jeff) Lightfoot being the coach for that team and staying here as the coach for all that time, we had a strong connection to him and his family,” Holden, also a pitcher, said.

“Also, being in the area and my dad being a coach allowed him to coach Lightfoot’s oldest son, so through all of that, our families have stayed pretty close to one another. Having a lot of ties to this place through my dad and the connections we’ve had with all of the coaches, that 100% influenced me to come to WC.”

Holden graduated from Mineral Wells High School as one of the highest-ranked pitching prospects in Texas. He posted a 0.93 ERA in his senior season, allowing only 37 hits, 10 earned runs, 19 walks and 144 strikeouts in 74.2 innings.

He helped the Rams reach a regional final for the first time in 67 years.

In 2024, he was also one of only nine players in the nation to receive the ABCA/Rawlings High School Gold Glove Award. The award acknowledges the top defensive high school baseball players in the country. He was the sole pitcher to earn the award that season, as well as the only player from Texas on the list.

Holden originally committed to pitch for Texas Tech University before changing his mind and making the short trip down the road to WC.

“I committed to Texas Tech when I was pretty young, and at the time it felt like a great fit for me,” he said. “Getting drafted last year was a big possibility for me, but unfortunately, it just didn’t work out. So after that happened, I wasn’t really in love with Texas Tech anymore, and I knew that JUCO was going to be my move because it allowed for a lot of different opportunities to open.

“So once I made that decision, I knew Weatherford College was going to be the place that I was going to go.”

It was a decision that first-year Coyotes head coach - and former long-time assistant - Jud Kinzy welcomed mightily. Kinzy said it also speaks highly about how far the Coyote program has come since the elder Hering helped get things started with Lightfoot, who moved into the full-time athletic director role after last season, following 23 years at the helm.

“It definitely says a lot about where this program continues to head talent-wise,” Kinzy said. “This one means a little more, and it happened because this is a Coyote family.

“Coach Lightfoot coaching Hart and continuing to be there for him throughout his life has helped impact this situation. It says a lot about how strong this bond is. When you become a Coyote, you’re a Coyote for life!”

Hart Hering went on to play for Texas A&M and, after, became a successful high school baseball coach, leading Brock to the 2021 state tournament. In fact, he coached Holden as an assistant at Mineral Wells.

“Being able to play for my dad in my last year of high school was a huge blessing. Seeing him coach all of my younger years and then coming back to coach and being able to play for him was very special,” Holden said. “The best part about it was my brother was a freshman last year, so I got to play with him for a year as well, so it was a very cool moment.

“I think my dad has inspired me in a lot of ways, just from hearing stories about how he was as a player and how hard he had to work to get to the level he got is very inspiring.”

The elder Hering was, naturally, excited when he learned of his son’s decision to come to WC. However, he stressed it was totally Holden’s choice.

“I think Holden knew if he ever landed at a junior college, it would be at WC. It’s kinda neat to have a second generation

continues with Coyote for Life on page 13.

**“WHEN YOU BECOME
A COYOTE, YOU’RE A
COYOTE FOR LIFE!”**

**- JUD KINZY,
HEAD COACH**

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE AROUND CAMPUS



1.



2a.



2b.



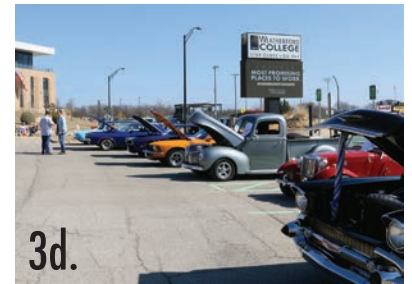
3a.



3b.



3c.



3d.



4.



5.

1. Phi Beta Delta, WC's international honor society, held its inaugural induction on Dec. 9, adding 23 students and 10 faculty and staff members to the new chapter. Phi Beta Delta is an academic and professional organization that recognizes the scholarly achievements of international students and those involved in international activities.

2a. & b. Jazz, costumes, and great food abounded at the annual Mardi Gras Festival held Feb. 17 in the Alkek Fine Arts Center, featuring guest artists Shelley Carrol and Todd Parsnow.

3a.-d. The 8th annual Interdisciplinary Academic Conference was a huge success. This year's theme, "America 250: Honoring our Past, Courageously Imagining our Future," brought an array of speakers together, including faculty, staff, elected officials, and historians, to campus. The Parker County Cruisers hosted a car show to add to the Americana ambiance.

4. Dirt work is moving along at the construction site for WC's new student union building. A groundbreaking celebration was held on March 11 to commemorate the start of the construction.



5. Library staff helped students with their research and writing projects during their semesterly research party in the Streib Center.

6. The January freeze led to the campus being closed for several days and created a picturesque winter scene.

7. Class 73 of the WC Regional Fire Academy started in January. The program is active on its Facebook page, highlighting students' weekly progress as they move from knot tying to ventilation and search training.

8. A student-loved event, the Fall semester casino night was well attended.

9. WC celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month last semester with dance lessons, trivia and great food.

10. The High Steppers are highly visible as the college dance team returned to campus this year. The dancers are seen regularly at athletic events, including volleyball and basketball games.

FROM COYOTE TO WC CORNERSTONE

DOUG JEFFERSON ON FAITH, SERVICE AND WHAT IT MEANS TO FOLLOW YOUR CALLING

by Crystal Woerly

Weatherford College is a staple of the Weatherford community, and Doug Jefferson is a staple of WC.

With 35 years of service and as a former Coyote himself, Jefferson has become the face of the college to thousands of students, past and present. He first arrived, taking summer classes while on a football scholarship at Stephen F. Austin, and after earning his bachelor's degree there, he reversed transferred to WC and finished his associate degree as well. In the fall of 1990, a job posting for housing supervisor caught his eye, and he's been here ever since.

Today, Jefferson serves as the dean of student life and development, a title that provides limited insight into his truly robust list of duties. Under his umbrella of administration, Jefferson oversees student housing for the 391 residents of Vickie and Jerry Durant Hall and Coyote Village, the Coyote Care Clinic, student clubs and organizations, the full calendar of student life events and the WC spirit groups.

And he will tell you, without hesitation, that none of it feels like work.

It doesn't feel like work when he's at Walgreens buying sweats for a student at 11 at night because the pipes in their dorm burst during a freeze. It doesn't feel like work when he takes a student to the emergency room and waits with them until their parents can arrive. It doesn't feel like work when he transports a student in a mental health crisis to a facility in Fort Worth or even as far away as Wichita Falls, so they can get the help they need.

None of it feels like work because this job is Jefferson's calling.

"My job is a lot of different things. It starts at 7 in the morning when I get up and can go all the way to 12 at night," he said. "But I love it. It's my calling, my mission. This is my ministry."

Jefferson's approach to his work is rooted in the faith-filled home where he grew up. His father, Curtis Jefferson, was the founding pastor of New Hope Baptist Church. After his passing, Jefferson and his brother took over leadership of the congregation.

Growing up in a household strongly rooted in its faith, Jefferson learned to not only take care of himself but also his brothers and sisters, both biological and those in Christ. And most importantly, follow the golden rule.

"I'm glad they taught us that," he said, "because I see so many people downgrading and embarrassing and insulting each other, and it's so important that we lift each other up."

It's with those lessons that Jefferson approached his job. Whether he's counseling a student or disciplining them, he leads with patience rather than intimidation.

"I don't have to scream and yell to get the desired results, and the students learn from that," he said. "You want them to learn boundaries, responsibility and how to deal with their emotions."

Jefferson, who also has a master's in counseling from Tarleton State University, not only oversees the Coyote Care Clinic, but he also assists full-time counselor Amy Schwartz-Jarett on the mental health side of the clinic, serving a caseload of more than 200 students per month.


"If they can see that you are truly concerned about them, the response is so much better," he said. "When they leave my office smiling, that's when I know there was a connection."

Outside the counseling office, most people see Jefferson's job as being fun with students at campus events like cookouts and casino nights. At one point in his career, Jefferson took WC's competitive cheerleading squad to Daytona Beach, Florida, where they took the national title in 2007.

"You know, taking 30 cheerleaders to Daytona's not a fun job," he said, laughing. "Well, it is fun, but it's a stressful job getting them to the airport and being responsible for them in the hotel."

The squad discontinued its competitive side in 2014, but Jefferson still directs the group and can be seen and heard on the sidelines at basketball games, cheering on his "DubC."

After 35 years, Jefferson's vision for WC is simple. He wants it to remain a place where the faculty and staff genuinely care about the students, no matter how much the college grows.

"WC gave me a chance to grow in education, in thought process, in spirit, and in God," Jefferson said, "and also showed me how to care for my fellow man and to always love because that's what Christ did." 





VOLLEYBALL DOMINATES WITH 34-4 SEASON

In just four years, the WC volleyball program has emerged as one of the nation's best.

This fall marked the strongest campaign yet under head coach Kailee May. She guided the Coyotes to a 34-4 record and a fourth-place finish at the NJCAA Division I National Tournament in Clarksville, Tennessee. Her peers took notice: The American Volleyball Coaches Association named May the Southwest Region Coach of the Year, and she earned her conference's Coach of the Year honor for the fourth consecutive season.

The Coyotes also produced two NJCAA All-Americans. Beline Thibaut earned first-team recognition, while Weronika Urbanska claimed second-team honors. Urbanska became the program's first two-time All-American after also earning the distinction in 2024.

WC dominated its schedule, finishing 18-0 in conference play and 11-0 at home. Thirty of the team's victories came via 3-0 sweeps.

Even brighter for the program is what lies ahead: Ten players on this year's roster were freshmen, signaling that WC's rapid rise may be only the beginning.

EXPANSION *from page 3.*

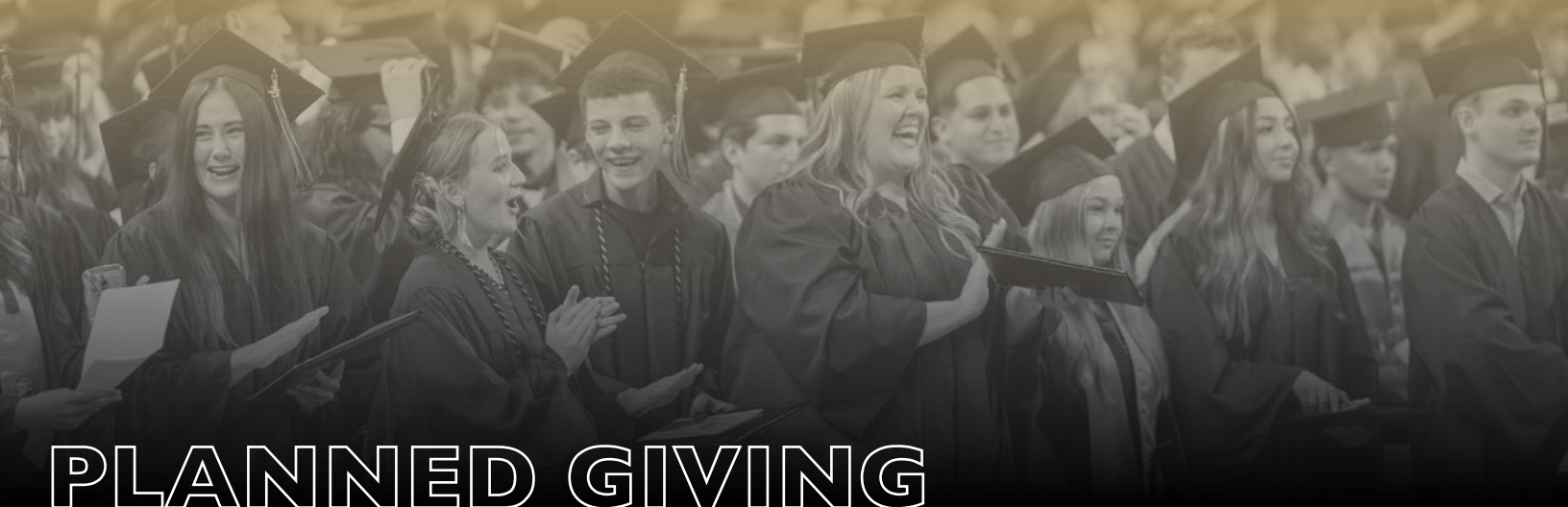
to academic program expansion," said WC President Tod Allen Farmer. "WC students now have more academic opportunities that lead to high paying jobs than ever before."

In a landscape where many institutions face contraction, Weatherford College continues to invest—strategically, boldly and with an eye toward the needs of the region. For students, families and community partners, this represents a commitment to expanding opportunity, and the best is yet to come. 📖

SCAN TO SEE MORE ABOUT WC ATHLETICS

at wcatletics.com





PLANNED GIVING

WC FOUNDATION EXPANDS EMPHASIS ON PLANNED GIVING

The Weatherford College Foundation is increasing its focus on planned giving, underscoring the long-term impact legacy gifts can have on students, programs and the institution’s future.

Planned gifts—often established through wills, trusts or beneficiary designations—allow donors to make significant contributions without affecting their current financial situation. Foundation leaders say these commitments provide stability and create opportunities that would not otherwise be possible.

“Planned gifts are perhaps the greatest legacy a family can leave to a college or institution,” said Lin Bearden, chairman of the foundation’s Planned Giving Committee. “They are truly transformative. One estate gift can propel an entire college to the next level.”

Marking a new chapter for the organization, the foundation has published—for the first time—a list of donors who have included Weatherford College or the WC Foundation in their estate plans. Officials say the list reflects both gratitude and a sense of shared purpose among those committed to securing the college’s future.

The foundation is also expanding its educational resources, launching a new planned giving website, wc.planmygift.org, which provides tools and information for donors exploring legacy-giving options. The site includes explanations of common planned-giving vehicles, examples of their impact and calculators that help supporters determine what approach fits their goals.

While the WCF continues to rely on annual giving, scholarships and fundraising events, leaders say planned giving offers a powerful complement. Estate gifts can establish endowed scholarships, strengthen academic programs, support capital projects and build long-term financial security.

To broaden awareness, the Foundation is increasing outreach to alumni, friends and community supporters. The goal is to help more people understand the accessibility of planned giving and the substantial, lasting difference a legacy gift can make.

As the college grows and its needs evolve, the foundation’s renewed emphasis positions planned giving as a cornerstone of its vision—an investment that will support Weatherford College and its students for generations.

WC is blessed to have generous donors who have remembered the college in their estate planning, funding scholarship endowments and other transformational support.

This list includes both completed gifts and confirmed future gifts.

Marjorie Black Alkek
Anonymous
Ezelle Ashworth
Lella Frances Stepken Austin
Lillian E. Beach
Hubert and Willie Bennett
Charles and Pauline Brinkley
Gordie Carter
Frank and Sandra Daras
Juanita Davis
Marjorie Kimbrough Dome
Reanelle Robinson Dudley
Margaret Gentry
Dale and Jo Ann Glenn
Betty Jo Graber

Margaret Prince Graham
Wanda Kincaid Grant
Verna Gray
Dorotha “Dot” Guess
Josephine Terrell Smith Hudson
Harold M. Jacklin, Jr. and
Cumile Pope Jacklin
Lawrence and Rita Jernigan
John C. Johnson
Donovan Worth King
Mayola Lasater
Dr. Hubert F. Leach and Eva
Crawford Leach
Lyndon R. Lesch
Sheryl and Donald Lesch

William F. Liles
Dr. Barbara and Jim McGregor
Robert McMahan
Mary O’Con
Dr. Nelse and Mildred Olson
James (Jimmie) M. Piester
Ruby Lee Piester
Fern Stevens Plevins
Nelda Reynolds
Shirley Sanders
Marilyn St. Clair
Clair Steeves
Edna Strickland
Bill Webber
Charles and Imogene York
Mary M. Zielinski

come through the program. I had such an incredible experience, and I hope the same for my son,” Hart said. “I think of it as Jeff Lightfoot and myself as the past era of Coyote Baseball, and Jud Kinzy and Holden as the future era.”

Hart said Holden would ask about his experiences at WC. He said he simply shared how he felt that being a student athlete at WC helped him get a solid foundation for his academic and athletic careers.

“For me, Weatherford College has always been about the people and the relationships. To me, that’s what sets it apart from others,” Hart said. “Some of my favorite memories were playing on the inaugural team in 2003, opening up the brand new Roger Williams Ballpark, winning the conference championship in our second season of competition, and playing in the NJCAA Region V Tournament in 2004, where we were so close to going to Grand Junction.”

Holden comes to a program that is performing at its highest level ever. Over the past five seasons, the Coyotes have won 221 games, finished third in the NJCAA Division I College World Series in 2023 (with a program-best-ever record of 53-11), reached the Southwest District championship round in 2025, advanced

to the final three in the regional tournament in 2024 and reached the regional semifinals in 2021 and 2022.

The Coyotes have not had a losing season since 2007.

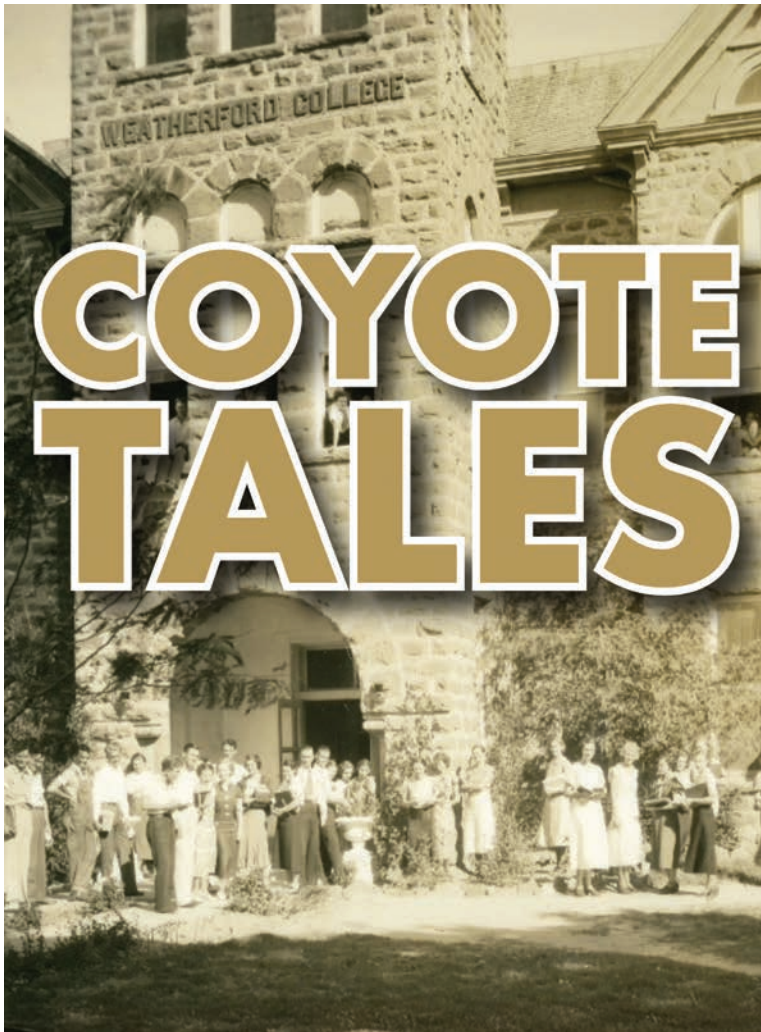
“I was very excited that I was able to come here to play this year. I was mainly excited because I knew the level of the program and I knew that we were going to win and win a lot while I was here,” Holden said. “Everybody’s goal is to win a national championship, and I knew that this team would have a really good chance at doing that this year.”

The Coyotes came into the season ranked No. 7 in the nation.

“I am very excited to take the next step and the next jump up,” he said, noting the first couple of weeks were “a big reality check and seeing that this is a whole other level and you can’t get away with a lot of stuff that you could in high school on the field.”

Holden plans to attend the University of Arkansas next and play baseball for the Razorbacks. He hopes to one day make it to the big leagues, but said, “I’m a big believer in everything happens for a reason, so whatever plan God has for me, I’m going to ride with that.”

He’s currently taking general studies and plans to major in sports management next year. 📺



A PODCAST OF LIFE STORIES FROM WEATHERFORD COLLEGE ALUMNI AND FRIENDS

OUR LATEST GUESTS:

World Series champion Ryan Brasier
Paleontologist Jessica Cundiff
Professional jazz musician Keith Loftis
WC dean Doug Jefferson
Former Miss Texas Gloria Gilbert
Former NBA player Harvey Catchings
The Fort Worth Stock Show's Matt Brockman

LISTEN TODAY ON THE COYOTE RADIO
SMARTPHONE APP UNDER "PODCASTS"



TRUSTEE, ALUMNA WIN PRESTIGIOUS CHAMBER AWARDS

At the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet in October, WC Trustee Tom Vick was named the Outstanding Citizen of 2025, presented by Board Chair Dan Carney, the 2023 honoree. WC alumna Donna Dickinson won the James H. Doss Award for philanthropy.



MORRIS FAMILY DONATES SADDLE RACK



Butch and Lela Morris donated a custom saddle rack to the WC Alumni House in honor of Johnny Emmons. Coach Emmons had previously donated his 2003 Texas Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association Tie Down Roping Champion saddle, and the Morrises made this beautiful wooden rack.

Presented by  

Taste of PARKER COUNTY

TUESDAY, APRIL 21
4:30 TO 7:30 P.M. AT HERITAGE PARK
RAIN DATE: APRIL 28

SCAN TO BUY TICKETS OR GO TO WC.EDU/TASTE

TICKETS ARE \$40 IN ADVANCE, \$45 AT THE DOOR




CLASS NOTES

Wilson Baker ('19) and his wife, Korede, welcomed their first baby boy, Ezra, in January in Hinesville, Georgia.

Marcie Caldwell ('23) began working at Weatherford College in October of 2025.

MiMi Farr ('21) has launched a new business, MiMico Virtual Support, a virtual support and personal assistant service.

Lindsey Fox joined Plains Capital Bank in Aledo/Willow Park as vice president, commercial loan officer.

Winston Griffith ('19) began a new position as research associate at John Peter Smith Hospital in Fort Worth. Griffith recently graduated from George Washington University with a master's degree in Public Health in Biostatistics.

Chandler Lacefield ('13) was promoted to chief marketing officer at Baker Firm – Fidelity National Title in October.

Christi Mills was recently awarded the 2025 Outstanding PTA Faculty Award by the Texas Physical Therapy Association.

Ashtyn Sweatt ('21) and Hunter Anderson were married Oct. 25 in Weatherford.

Donna Tillman won the Administrator of the Year Award from HMG Healthcare, LLC in February. Tillman is administrator for Holland Lake Rehabilitation & Wellness Center in Weatherford.

THANK YOU

to the following donors who gave recent gifts to the WC Foundation (as of March 1, 2026)

Debbie Alexander
 Elizabeth and Brent Baker
 Ted and Gert Beard
 Lin and Tiffany Bearden
 John and Marilyn Bedwell
 Terry and Karla Bevel
 Joe and Evelyn Birmingham
 Renita Bishop
 Jack Christopher Blair
 Rebecca James and Jason Blair
 Carolyn Boggs
 Kathy Boswell
 Subrahmanyam and Subhashini Boyareddigari
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 WCPD
 Nancy Wester
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 Laura and Bruce Wiggs
 Joe and Karen Wilkinson
 Billie Williams
 Bob and Sammie Gay Williams
 Lauren Wolf
 Gail Wright
 Bill, Lynda, Lana and Adrian Wright
 Dr. Shannon and Damian Ydoyaga

SCHOLARSHIP DONORS



Wally & Bonnie Wallace

Wally and Bonnie Wallace have established the Bonnie Wallace Scholarship in the WC Foundation. The new scholarship will be earmarked for student-athletes in the new women's cross country program, which will launch this fall.



John Burgoyne

John Burgoyne has established a new permanent scholarship endowment at WC. The Nancy Burgoyne Scholarship is named in honor of John's late wife.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 1 Softball home game vs. McLennan

April 3 Baseball home game vs. McLennan

April 7 Summer/Fall 2026 Registration opens for current & returning students

April 7 Jazz Orchestra Tribute to Jazz Composers

April 8 Baseball home game vs. DFW Post Grad

April 10-11 WC International Piano Competition

April 15 Baseball home game vs. Vernon

April 16-18 Theatre production: "Wait Until Dark"

April 18 Softball home game vs. Vernon

April 21 Taste of Parker County

April 22 Baseball home game vs. North Central Texas

April 25 Softball home game vs. North Central Texas

April 27 Baseball home game vs. Tyler

April 28 Summer/Fall 2026 Registration opens for everyone

April 29 Softball home game vs. Temple

April 30 Generations Jazz concert

May 2 Baseball home game vs. Temple

May 6 Choir concert

May 6 Softball home game vs. Cisco

May 7 Student Art Exhibition & Student Voice Recital

May 18 Commencement Ceremony

May 29-31 Summer Stage Teen Musical Theatre Camp

Production: "High School Musical Jr."

June 1 Summer I Classes Begin

June 11-14 Summer Stage Shakespeare Production:
"The Taming of the Shrew"



**SCAN QR CODE FOR
WC CALENDAR**

WC's calendar page is the best way to stay up-to-date with all WC events.