

THE HILLTOP

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

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SUMMER 2026



ALWAYS AN AMBASSADOR

JAMIE BODIFORD BRINKLEY CHAMPIONS
HER COLLEGE, HER COMMUNITY AND
THE CONNECTIONS THAT BIND THEM

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Records, records, and more records. This spring we yet again had record high enrollment, record levels of student achievement measures, a record number of coaches of the year, and set many additional records! This edition of The Hilltop features one of our many valued alumni, a story on one of our graduates, coverage of our new dance team and new basketball coaches, and highlights from a New Orleans performance of our jazz orchestra. Last but not least, our WC day of service in tornado-struck Springtown is showcased.

WC Foundation Board Member and distinguished alumna Jamie Bodiford Brinkley is one of WC's greatest advocates. Whether spreading the good news of WC in the community, attending the President's Christmas Ball, or embarking on the Travel with the President trip, Jamie is all about Weatherford College.

John Crews is a graduate of our fast-growing Bachelor of Science in Nursing Program. John works in the emergency room at Harris Methodist Hospital in downtown Fort Worth. He loves to talk about his great experience at WC.

Our new High Steppers dance squad is kicking up some dust on the basketball courts and on the Marjorie Alkek Fine Arts stage. Our new basketball coaches are also well positioned to bring our gym to life. These new additions are coming to WC at a time of record athletic accomplishments.

The arts are also alive and well at WC. The WC Jazz Orchestra received an invitation to perform at the prestigious New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival. Like our international piano competition, the jazz orchestra is raising our institutional profile.

In keeping with the higher education mission of teaching, scholarship, and service, a group from WC recently spent a day cleaning up storm damage in Springtown. Our WC culture of caring extends beyond our campus borders into the communities we serve and beyond.

Please enjoy this edition of The Hilltop.



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ALWAYS AN AMBASSADOR

JAMIE BODIFORD BRINKLEY CHAMPIONS HER COLLEGE, HER COMMUNITY AND THE CONNECTIONS THAT BIND THEM

by Brent Baker



Jamie Bodiford Brinkley gets things done.

When Weatherford College's historic "Old Main" building was torn down, she helped to start the Parker County Heritage Society.

When Chandor Gardens came up for sale, she spearheaded the City of Weatherford's effort that secured the beautiful landmark as a public treasure.

When actor Larry Hagman passed away, Jamie and friend Marsha Brown envisioned a lasting tribute—a life-size bronze statue honoring the Weatherford native—and helped raise the funds to make it a reality.

And when former House Speaker Jim Wright's boyhood home hit the market, Jamie again stepped in, helping to bring the City of Weatherford and Parker County together to create a home for the Parker County Historical Commission.

That instinct to build, connect and preserve has deep roots.

Spending countless hours in the presence of Wright probably ignited that desire to be a change agent. She grew up next door to the congressman, and her mother worked for Wright for 35 years. For five of those years, Jamie worked for Wright herself, seeing how the sausage is made firsthand.

"I remember the day that Ross Perot, Jr. went into the office and met with Jim about his dream for Alliance Airport," she said. "And I remember the day that Robert Bass, who was a member of the Texas Transportation Commission, came into the office, talking about their plans and needing federal support for downtown Fort Worth. It was really fun."

Jamie saw things happen, which spurred her on to make things happen in her own career.

"You know, there are some congressmen who go to Washington, and I hate to say it, but they're furniture. They don't do much," she said. "Whether you like him or not, Republican or Democrat, he was a statesman. He got Dallas and Fort Worth together on DFW Airport. He brought the Bureau of Engraving and Printing plant to Fort Worth. I saw a lot."

She later had the opportunity to work for another legislator for whom she had great respect, State Senator Bob Glasgow. She was his district representative, covering 21 counties.

"I think one spring I went to 47 chamber of commerce dinners. I ate so much chicken, I was about ready to cluck."

Jamie then spent five years in banking, working in Fort Worth on SBA loans. Her problem-solving skills were sharpened.

Then came her true professional calling: real estate. But it started by accident, as she was sitting at a Fort Worth nail salon, with a snowstorm on its way.

"I said, 'I've gotta hurry up and get home, I'm gonna be stuck in the weather. I live in Weatherford.' A lady was sitting nearby, and she said, 'Oh, I've always wanted to live in Weatherford.' I told her that some good friends were about to put their house on the market. I put her in touch with those friends...it was Jerry and Vickie Durant."

The woman, from Mansfield, bought the house and has lived there for two decades.

"I wasn't able to take a commission for that," Jamie said. "But I thought, 'You know what? That would be fun.' It's another situation I could just talk to anybody, anytime, anywhere, and parlayed that into a career of more than 24 years."

Now she's known as one of the top realtors in the area. But she doesn't just acquire clients, she makes friends.

"When I moved to Parker County, I didn't know one soul," said Linda Murdock, after moving to Weatherford from Coppell in 2008. "Now she's one of my best friends. She's just a delight to be around, and she's Parker County's biggest cheerleader."

Jamie can now add "hall of famer" to her resume, as she was inducted into the Century 21 Dick Loughlin International Hall of Fame in May, reserved for an "elite group of real estate professionals who exemplify the highest standards of production, leadership and service while making a lasting impact on their communities."

Ashley Conlon, president of Century 21 Judge Fite Company, couldn't agree more.

"Jamie is an amazing realtor and asset to our community," Conlon said. "She is a giver beyond measure, with an unmatched commitment to her community and her clients."

Weatherford College has benefited from that commitment to community. Jamie is an active member of the WC Foundation Board of Directors and serves on its Planned Giving Committee, encouraging donors to consider scholarships and other support when estate planning. She and her husband, Michael, consistently

continues with ALUM AMBASSADOR on page 11

MEMORIES

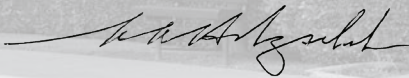
To: Dr. Tod Allen Farmer, President

Sir,

In 1963-64, I attended night classes at Camp Wolters in Mineral Wells. While names escape me, your faculty members represented your institution well and clearly instilled the value of a sound education.

Although my brief connection to Weatherford was 62 years in the past, I continue to benefit from the experience. Hopefully, it is not too late to say thank you.

Personal regards,



Al Holzschuh
Ponce de Leon, Florida



WC AND FORT WOLTERS

Camp Wolters, named after World War I hero and legislator Jacob Franklin Wolters, was established in 1925 east of Mineral Wells. Later renamed Fort Wolters, the 8,500 acre site became a training ground for just about every U.S. helicopter pilot in the Vietnam War. By 1973, 40,000 pilots trained at Fort Wolters.

The Army allowed Weatherford College to teach classes on the base for a number of years before the federal government shut down Fort

Wolters and donated 90 acres and several buildings to the college. The Education Center at Mineral Wells operated for more than 40 years. In the early 2000s it housed WC's Cosmetology, Emergency Medical Professions, Truck Driving, Occupational Therapy Assistant and Physical Therapist Assistant programs. Although WC no longer offers courses at the former base, it continues to partner with the Mineral Wells ISD to offer dual credit courses.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do you have any notes, memories or photos you can share with The Hilltop readers? Please send them to Katie Edwards at kedwards@wc.edu or mail to Attn: Katie Edwards, Weatherford College, 225 College Park Dr., Weatherford, TX, 76086.

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

Blake Barron, 35, of Aledo, passed away March 20.

Ruby Jane Diaz, 82, of North Richland Hills, passed away April 9.

Thomas Eaton, 72, of Coppell, passed away March 3.

Donna G. Freymuth, 64, of Weatherford, passed away March 20.

George Jay Hester, 72, of Fort Worth, passed away March 24.

Dr. David Sumant Kumar, 85, of Hudson Oaks, passed away March 28. WC Foundation Board Member and scholarship donor.

Roscoe "Arnold" Pitchford, 99, of Millsap, passed away March 26. Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient.

Isabel Rodriguez, 22, of Strawn, passed away April 28.



THREE DEGREES, ONE PURPOSE

WC SHAPES NURSING JOURNEY OF JOHN CREWS

by Crystal Woerly

John Crews is proof that you can level up your education without ever leaving Parker County.

Crews is a three-time Weatherford College graduate, earning his EMT certification in 2015, followed by his Associate Degree in Nursing in 2022 and his Bachelor of Science in Nursing in December 2024. Today, he works as a registered nurse in the emergency department at Harris Methodist Hospital in downtown Fort Worth in a fast-paced environment that suits his calm demeanor.

“All of my medical training has been done here right at Weatherford College,” Crews said. “I’ve always enjoyed the atmosphere here.”

After finishing his EMT certification one summer, Crews came back for nursing school. He was drawn by the quality of teaching and the sense of community in the Alesia Armstrong Wiggs School of Nursing.

“Everybody I’ve worked with always has great things to say about graduates from Weatherford’s nursing program,” he said.

After graduating from the ADN program, Crews took a year off before enrolling in the BSN program in January 2024. The program’s affordability and structure made advancing his education possible while continuing to work.

“It is so nice to only have to pay community college prices to receive a bachelor’s degree in nursing,” Crews said. “And the BSN here holds up the same as a BSN from any other university in this country.”

Crews said the BSN program expanded his focus beyond bedside nursing. With ADN already completed, the coursework emphasized research, leadership and evidence-based practice.

As part of the program, he shadowed a nursing manager during a leadership clinical, which gave him insight into how hospitals run. He uses what he learned every day in the emergency department.

Crews has built his career on staying calm, whether he’s working on ambulances as an EMT or caring for seriously ill patients in the ER, and especially when others are facing their toughest moments.

“I had a patient one time who came in with a hemorrhagic stroke. It was quite literally the worst day of his life,” Crews said. “And I was able to be there and, in addition to doing the medical treatment as a nurse, I was also able to help calm him... and he knew we were there to help him.”

Looking ahead, Crews wants to earn a doctoral degree and become a certified registered nurse anesthetist. In that role, he would work in the operating room alongside anesthesiologists during surgeries.

This goal gives new meaning to a memory from his childhood. In first grade, Crews was asked to draw his hero, and he chose his aunt, who was a nurse. His drawing showed a hospital, an ambulance, a helicopter, an emergency room and an operating room.

At the time, it was simply admiration. Looking back, it feels more like a roadmap.

“I guess in a sense, that sort of is prophetic, isn’t it?” he said.

For students considering nursing, Crews offers simple advice: apply broadly, but keep Weatherford College at the top of your list.

“Weatherford College still produces some of the best nurses,” he said. “Don’t give up. You’re in the right place. It’s worth it in the end.” 📖



WC JAZZ STUDENTS FIND THEIR SOUND AT NOLA JAZZ FEST

A four-day trip to New Orleans was more than a learning experience for three Weatherford College jazz students. It was eye-opening and for some, life-changing.

Latavia Brown, Jeremy Corum and Teddy Cook traveled with the Weatherford College Jazz Orchestra to represent the college at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival in April, immersing themselves in the city widely regarded as the birthplace of American music. The experience included performance, education and cultural exposure.

“Those short four days definitely elevated my playing,” Brown said. “Just stepping onto the ground and smelling the food and hearing the music, it’s completely different from what I’m used to here in Texas.”

Brown, a bassist and vocalist, graduated in May with an associate degree and certificate in audio engineering. She said the trip reshaped her confidence as a musician. After years of questioning whether she belonged in the industry, performing alongside seasoned New Orleans musicians and receiving their encouragement changed her perspective.

“Being there and playing with those musicians solidified that I do belong,” Brown said. “It showed me that if I keep working hard, I can really go far.”

The group’s itinerary blended academic and real-world learning. At Southern University in Baton Rouge, students recorded rehearsals in a professional studio and participated in a workshop with industry professionals, including composer and producer G Sharp, gaining firsthand insight into modern audio production.

They also rehearsed at the University of New Orleans with guest artist Amina Scott, an accomplished bassist and composer with the New Orleans Jazz Orchestra.

“Our norm in our jazz studies department is always to bridge the gap between formal and non-formal learning,” said Fredrick

Sanders, jazz instructor and director of the WCJO. “This will hopefully include more travel so students can see other processes of creating art regionally, nationally and internationally.”

For Corum, a trombonist who also graduated in May with an associate degree and a certificate in audio engineering, New Orleans was unlike anywhere he had experienced.

“The culture just hits you,” Corum said. “There’s music everywhere, all the time. You walk outside, and you’re living in a jazz world.”

While visiting jazz halls and clubs, students witnessed how Sanders and Quamon Fowler, a WC alumnus and saxophone instructor traveling with them, were widely known in the music scene. Their celebrity led to the WC students being invited onstage to play with local musicians, an experience Corum described as both humbling and inspiring.

“They’re incredibly welcoming,” he said. “If you make a mistake, they don’t shut you down. They support you and help you grow.”

Cook, a drummer and first-year WC student, was hooked on New Orleans’ deep historical influence on American music. He described the city as a cultural crossroads shaped by centuries of global influence and noted how experiencing that history firsthand strengthened his understanding of jazz and its roots.

After soaking up the sights and sounds, the students took the stage at the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival to represent WC. Playing early in the day, the students performed for a rotating crowd of festivalgoers, many dancing and moving freely to the music.

For all three students, the trip reinforced the value of experiential learning.

“New Orleans is a global city,” Cook wrote. “Sitting at the table with the people who carry that history changed how we understand our own voices as musicians.”

PETREE AND PUTYRSKI: WC INTRODUCES NEW HEAD BASKETBALL COACHES



COACH
CAYLA PETREE

COACH
JOHN PUTYRSKI

Weatherford College has ushered in a new era for its basketball programs, naming Cayla Petree as head women's coach and John Putyrski as head men's coach.

Petree is best known for her success at South Plains College, where she posted a 127-36 record and guided the program to three NJCAA national tournament appearances. In 2020, the NJCAA named her National Coach of the Year.

She continued that success at Gulf Coast State College, leading the program to a national tournament appearance and a runner-up finish. She later led Angelo State University, recruiting a freshman class that went on to win three conference championships while developing elite talent, including a conference Freshman of the Year and a future WNBA draft pick.

Most recently, Petree served as head coach at Morehead State University, an NCAA Division I program in Kentucky. In three seasons, the Eagles dramatically improved their win percentage and earned their first conference tournament win in five years.

A Cisco native, Petree previously rebuilt the program at Cisco Junior College, transforming a team that had gone winless for two seasons into a consistent winner.

On the men's side, Putyrski arrives at Weatherford with experience across the NJCAA, NCAA Division I and professional basketball. Most recently, he served as head coach of BKM Lučenec, competing in Slovakia's top professional league. During the 2025-26 season, he guided the club to a top six finish, its highest win total in nearly a decade, and its first playoff appearance since 2022.

Prior to coaching overseas, Putyrski led Florida State College at Jacksonville to historic success. From 2023 to 2025, FSCJ posted a 58-15 record, captured back-to-back region and district championships, made the first two NJCAA national tournament appearances in school history and earned the program's first national ranking. He also emphasized academic excellence, helping raise the team GPA to a program record 3.53.

Both Petree and Putyrski joined WC full time in April, leading off-season workouts and recruiting athletes for the 2026-27 season.



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WEATHERFORD COLLEGE AROUND CAMPUS



1. The 8th annual Weatherford College International Piano Competition concluded in the Alkek Fine Arts Center in early April. Turkish pianist Korkmaz Can Sağlam claimed first place which included a \$10,000 prize, funded by private donations and contest entry fees. South Korean pianist Jihyung Youn earned second prize (\$5,000), followed by Russian-American pianist Daria Podorozhnova in third place (\$3,000) and South Korean pianist Dongju Kim in fourth place (\$2,000).

2. Convocation, held in early May, recognized top students from across programs and academic disciplines with a special ceremony in the Alkek.

3. WC's Phi Beta Delta chapter held its second induction of the academic year during an end-of-semester luncheon. Phi Beta Delta is an international honor society. Students are eligible for

membership with a minimum 3.2 GPA and at least 30 credit hours. International students must be non-immigrant visa holders, while domestic students demonstrate their interest through a commitment to global citizenship.

4. In April, theatre students presented the 1960s thriller, "Wait Until Dark," written by Fredrick Knott

5. Three of this year's Creative Writing Contest winners read their original works during an award recognition this semester. This year's winners are: Poetry, 1st Place: DJ Mack - "Like Icarus and his Sun," 2nd Place: Gabrielle Ortiz - "The Presence of the Sea," 3rd Place: Jakob Wesley Prater - "Testimony of a Husk" and Fiction/Memoir, 1st Place: Anthony Custance - "No Discharge in the War," 2nd Place: Ryan Courtney - "Cradle to Grave," 3rd Place: Amy Michelle Beamon - "Sixteen." Pictured are Prater, Mack and Courtney.



6. The WC choir during a rehearsal for its spring concert, “Choral Kaleidoscope,” which featured music from early madrigals to Mozart, Mendelssohn, spirituals and contemporary works by John Rutter.

7. The Academic Support Center continues to be the best place for students to seek out free one-on-one tutoring throughout the semester and especially during finals.

8a & b. After being rescheduled due to rain, the Spring Campus Cookout was another success, bringing students, faculty and staff together for a great meal.

9. The Spring Student Art Exhibition featured works from students in drawing, design, painting and digital media courses.

10. Greg Trickett, WC associate professor and organizer of the Philosophy of Religion and Ethics Conference, presents at the annual conference.

11. Taste of Parker County celebrated another successful year with Bush League Bar & Grill taking the award for Best Entrée.



WC VOLUNTEERS HELP CLEAR STORM DEBRIS IN SPRINGTOWN

Several late April storms that spawned tornadoes and straight-line winds left widespread damage across Springtown and Mineral Wells. On Thursday, May 7, Weatherford College volunteers stepped in to help neighbors in Springtown with the cleanup process.

About 25 Weatherford College students, faculty and staff participated in a day of service organized by Grant Mills, student life coordinator. After connecting with local disaster relief organizers, the college was asked to assist with debris removal at several residential properties.

“A lot of my classmates were affected by the tornadoes, so being able to step in and help their community is one of the reasons WC feels different in the best way,” said student Machi Myers.

Volunteers worked at nine homes, focusing primarily on fence clearing, debris removal and chainsaw work. The effort targeted properties where residents were unable to complete the work on their own.

“We spent the day clearing debris and assisting families in any way we could,” said student Kate Barrington. “It was really meaningful to come together as students and support people in our neighboring community during such a hard and difficult time.

Experiences like this show how much Weatherford College truly cares for the people around them.”

Christy Grady, a Springtown resident whose family property was impacted by the storms, shared appreciation for the volunteers’ work.

“The farm has been in our family for three generations and there was so much devastation it is so hard to know where to start the cleanup process,” Grady said. “What a wonderful surprise when the group offered to help do anything that I needed. They got to work right away and when they finished cleaning the field they asked if I knew if anyone else who might need help.”

She directed them to her sister’s home next door and to a 93-year-old resident up the road who also needed assistance, underscoring the day of service’s focus on meeting immediate community needs while giving students a meaningful way to respond to the storm’s impact.

“It was also an opportunity for the WC community to demonstrate compassion, leadership and resilience beyond the classroom,” Mills said. “More than just volunteer work, the day reflected the heart of Weatherford College and the strength of our campus community. WC was proud to leave a positive impact while standing alongside those rebuilding and recovering.”

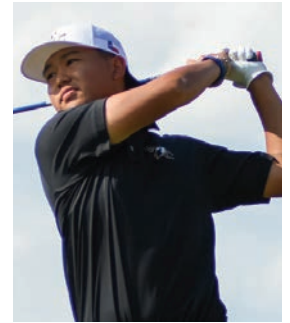
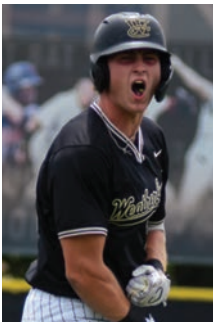
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ATHLETICS UPDATE

TEAMS MAKE NATIONAL STRIDES IN SPRING SPORTS



WC's athletic programs made significant gains on the national stage this spring, with multiple teams climbing the rankings and earning top honors.

The women's golf team made the biggest improvement, finishing fourth at the NJCAA National Tournament in Coal Valley, Illinois—an impressive jump of 11 places from their 2025 finish. The Coyotes also captured the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference (NTJCAC) championship, highlighted by Corrina Haros earning the Conference Player of the Year Award.

Men's golf delivered a similarly strong performance, placing fifth at their national tournament in Newton, Kansas, after finishing 15th the previous year. The team swept both the conference and regional championships. Michael Mayer was recognized as a PING NJCAA All-American and earned conference Player of the Year honors.

On the courts, Coyote tennis continued its upward trajectory. The men's team improved to a sixth-place finish at the national tournament in Plano, a significant rise from 14th in 2025, while the women's team secured ninth place at nationals in Sumter, South Carolina.

Softball turned in an impressive 40-16 record, with seven more wins than the previous season. The Coyotes finished No. 23 in the final national poll and advanced to the regional tournament finals, highlighted by an upset victory over No. 8 McLennan.

Under first-year head coach Jud Kinzy, the baseball team maintained its competitive edge, returning to the super regional finals after a strong conference season that earned the program hosting rights for the tournament. WC closed the year 41-20 and ranked No. 21 nationally.

WC rodeo is set to make history in June, as both the men's and women's teams have qualified for the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming—the first time both programs have advanced in the same year.

“Our goal is to create a championship culture across all of our programs and establish a consistent national presence,” said Jeff Lightfoot, WC athletic director. “It's exciting to see our teams take another step in that direction this spring. The future is bright for WC athletics.”

For more information, visit wcatletics.com.

ALUM AMBASSADOR *from page 3.*

give to build their scholarship endowment in the foundation.

“Another one of my greatest mentors was Jack Borden,” she said. “Jack always instilled in me how we should encourage people in our community to give to WC. He inspired many endowments that are still with us today.”

A WC Distinguished Alumna Award winner, she also loves to attend the college's Ex-Students meetings at the Alumni House on the second Monday of each month. And this summer, she and Michael will celebrate their 20th

wedding anniversary with a group led by President Tod Allen Farmer on WC's first-ever “Travel with the President” cruise in the Mediterranean.

“I wanted to go to Weatherford College before they had all these fancy buildings and classes... I was in the last class at Old Main,” she said. “I had Jack Harvey for English, and it was just wonderful. Everybody was so nice. It made a real impact, and I enjoyed it.”

And in true Jamie fashion, she saw an opportunity for positive change this past spring at her alma mater. She organized host homes for competitors coming to

town for the WC International Piano Competition. The Brinkleys hosted a Turkish competitor in their home—one who ended up winning first place.

“I was at an event not too long ago, and I was talking about our more than 30 Grammy Award winners, and more than 50 former Coyotes who have played professional baseball, and someone said, ‘Are you in business development for Weatherford College?’ and I said, ‘Yes, I am, we all are!’ Being an ambassador for the college... I love that.” 📧



COMMENCEMENT 2026



WEATHERFORD COLLEGE COYOTE ALUMNI MIXER

TUESDAY, AUGUST 11 | 5 P.M. - 7 P.M.

ALUMNI HOUSE

1869 WEATHERFORD
COLLEGE

PLEASE RSVP TO SUSAN SODEK AT [SSODEK@WC.EDU](mailto:ssodek@wc.edu)

COYOTE TALES

A PODCAST OF LIFE STORIES FROM WC ALUMNI & 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
Jamie Bodiford Brinkley

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



CLASS NOTES

Shelby Bossaller, Allie Mori, and Avery Shifflett Pool have formed a marketing firm, Three Spur Studio.

JC Davis and Tanner Wiggins, both now baseball players at Rice University, were each honored by the American Conference in its annual awards. Wiggins (4.02 ERA, 38 conference strikeouts) won the Newcomer Pitcher of the Year Award, and Davis, Rice's batting average leader (.335), was named second team all-conference.

Dr. Deborah Liles was honored with the Mary Jon and J.P. Bryan Leadership in Education Award by the Texas State Historical Association, recognizing outstanding history educators.

Jacey and Grant Mills welcomed a new baby girl, Emersyn Jade Mills, on May 18. Emersyn is WC faculty member Christi Mills' eighth grandchild.

Kyle Phelps ('25) had an essay published in Tarleton State University's first volume of *The Texan Writer* with "The Soul of

a Poet: The Character of Hamlet," an essay he wrote while a student at WC.

Sara Quarles ('17) graduated with her Master of Science in Medical Science degree from UNT Health.

Manny Salas ('25) was named to the Sun Belt Baseball All-Conference Second Team. Now at Texas State University, Salas hit .316 in the regular season with 50 runs, 38 RBI, 14 homers and 13 doubles.

Dr. Arleen Atkins
Elizabeth and Brent Baker
Carolyn Bass
Anthony Bigongiari
J. Chris Blair
Katherine Boswell
Dr. Dana Byrd
Sam Cadwallader
Alka Chokshi
Bettie Cline
Bennet Creed
Jo-Alice Davis
Diamond Oaks Women's Social Club
Roy and Jeanine Eaton
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Eidson Family Charitable Foundation
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Dr. Ponniah and Parasakthi Mohan
Dr. Kalman Narayan
Brianna Newton
Michelle Owens
Parker County Hospital District

Weta Mince Phillips
Plains Capital Bank
Zan Prince
Reilly Family Foundation
Dr. William and Paula Roddy
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Southwest Ford
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Shannon Stoker
Brenda Lee Stout-Powell
Richard and Nancy Stuart
Dr. Scott Tarnowiecky
TexasBank
Gwynet Tidwell
Matt and Staci Tyler
Wally and Bonnie Wallace
Bruce and Laura Wiggs
Kathy Williams
Dr. Shannon and Damian Ydoyaga

WIGGS FAMILY AT SEVEN WC SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS ... AND COUNTING

Poet William Butler Yeats once wrote, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."

Laura Wiggs loves to light fires at Weatherford College.

A former faculty member and WC Foundation board member, Laura, along with her husband, Bruce, began their philanthropic journey at WC by establishing the Mac Wiggs Scholarship Endowment in honor of Bruce's father. What started as a single tribute has grown into a lasting legacy of generosity.

Since that first gift, the Wiggs family has created six additional scholarship endowments, honoring loved ones, mentors and friends who have shaped their lives.

"It gives us great joy to know their influence and memory will live on through students who benefit from scholarships in their honor," Laura said.

Today, five endowed scholarships bearing the Wiggs name—named for Mac, Bruce, Guy, Laura and Brett & Alesia Wiggs—are part of WC's permanent funds in the Bob Glenn Endowment Program.

This spring, Laura and Bruce expanded that impact even further by establishing two new endowments in honor of individuals whose lives of service left a lasting mark on others.

One honors Vernon D. Parrott, WC president from 1950 to 1968, remembered for his mentorship and commitment to students.

"Vernon Parrott was a mentor to Bruce and so many others, offering encouragement and even helping students find jobs," Laura said.



The second recognizes longtime friends Bill and Nancy Jordan.

"Bill and Nancy touched countless lives through their Sunday School classes and the opportunities they provided through Bill's road-building business," she said.

Through each endowed scholarship, the Wiggs family continues to invest in future generations—ensuring that the memory of those they honor live on with every student who benefits.

"We love to give endowed scholarships because we see a double value," Laura said. "Students benefit and the memories of special people are preserved each time a scholarship is given. It's also such a huge pleasure to meet the students who benefit."

For more information about supporting scholarships at Weatherford College, visit wc.edu/foundation.



NEW DANCE TEAM STEPPING INTO BRIGHT FUTURE

by Rick Mauch

Having established itself as a leader in many other areas, it comes as no surprise that Weatherford College's dance team, the High Steppers, is off to a great start in its inaugural year.

"The first year of the High Steppers has been defined by hard work, creativity, and meaningful growth," said coordinator Marlo Harris. "What began as a vision without existing materials—no photos, videos, or established roster—quickly became an opportunity to build something from the ground up."

Harris noted that through demanding practices, real-time problem-solving and shared experiences at games, the group has evolved into a cohesive and connected team.

"This first year has been as much about personal growth as it has been about performance. Leadership, particularly within a group of young women navigating new stages of independence, requires a careful balance of high expectations and understanding," Harris said.

Recruitment presented an initial challenge, Harris said, as there was no team in residence to showcase. It was through strong relationships that she cultivated within the dance community, and outreach efforts focused on high school directors across WC's service area, that she shared the simple message: "Weatherford College has a dance team—and we are ready to welcome new talent."

Beyond the stage and sidelines, the program has a larger purpose, developing well-rounded dancers who are equally prepared to lead.

"The vision is to develop passionate individuals who can pursue opportunities at the next level—whether performing for a Division I program, dancing professionally or contributing to the field through directing, choreography and instruction," Harris said.

Each member plays an active role in teaching, choreographing and

offering constructive feedback. Harris said this shared responsibility fosters a strong sense of ownership, while also building professional skills such as communication, leadership and creative problem-solving.

"Being a part of this team has made me feel like I have a place, and it has opened so many doors for me," said freshman Bella Colsson. "I have been faced with abundant leadership opportunities, and I have been able to make connections with so many wonderful individuals.

At present, the High Steppers are focused on performance and campus engagement rather than competition, Harris said—but that is the next step.

"There is a great amount of interest in the new program," said Doug Jefferson, dean of student life and development. "Ms. Harris is working very hard to implement a standard that encourages participants to be committed, respectful and proud to be a Coyote. We look forward to increasing the number of members and performances this upcoming year."

Harris said with additional scholarship opportunities now available, there is a goal to grow the team from 10 members to as many as 15.

"Entering the competitive landscape will require recruiting dancers with strong technical training and competitive experience," Harris continued. "The world of competitive dance differs significantly from recreational performance. It calls for rigorous preparation, extended practice hours, advanced technical execution, and a cohesive team dynamic built on both skill and mindset."

"The future looks bright for the group," Jefferson said. "They all have high energy and love displaying their strengths and personalities through dancing." 📷



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 8	Summer II classes begin
July 11 & 12	“Peter Pan” Children’s Play
July 13-15	Volleyball Camp
July 18 & 19	“Peter Pan” Children’s Play
July 24 -26	“Into the Woods” Community Musical
July 31-Aug. 2	“Into the Woods” Community Musical

Aug. 11	Alumni Mixer
Aug. 18	Tuition Payment deadline for Fall 2026
Aug. 21	Registration ends for Fall 2026
Aug. 24	Fall 2026 classes begin



**SCAN QR CODE FOR
WC CALENDAR**

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