

THE HILLTOP

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Volume XXIV : Issue II

SUMMER 2024



MIRROR IMAGE

TANNER TWIN STRAVERSE
NURSING FROM DUAL
CREDIT TO BSN

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

This edition of The Hilltop highlights our recent record-breaking graduating class, a sample of the success of our alumni and the recent accomplishments of our athletic programs. Thank you for following and supporting our noble institution.

More WC students are earning degrees and certificates than ever before. This spring, we had a record 1,115 students graduate. Not only are they earning valuable credentials, but they are also landing jobs that pay family-sustaining wages. Additionally, they are helping to meet the growing labor needs of our expanding business community. Recent graduate twin sisters Emily and Erin Tanner are highlighted for their amazing accomplishments in this edition of The Hilltop.

WC alumna Chaeun Lee is also highlighted as an example of what our recent graduates are accomplishing in their professional lives. When Chaeun arrived at WC, the concert pianist earned the reputation of being a “gym rat” because of her dedicated practice routine. She went on to graduate from TCU and is now opening a new chapter in her professional life.

Finally, our Coyote athletic teams continue to excel at the highest levels. Our rodeo team appeared at the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming, for the 19th consecutive year. Our baseball team won another conference championship, and our tennis teams performed well at their national tournaments.

Our great college continues to prosper because of our amazing community stakeholders, our dynamic alumni and our hard-working students. Please enjoy the pages that follow!



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MIRROR IMAGE

TANNER TWINS TRAVERSE NURSING FROM DUAL CREDIT TO BSN



by Crystal Woerly

Emily and Erin Tanner are the quintessential identical twins. Their striking resemblance in appearance, especially in voice, had the author of this article running in circles, deciphering both handwritten and recorded notes.

For instance, as they talked about their experience at Weatherford Christian School and the small class sizes:

“When you think about college and opportunities like that...” Erin said.

“...You have to push yourself because our school didn’t rank,” Emily continued. “So if you wanted more opportunities, you needed to score better and get better grades. It was a different world moving from a class of 20 students in your little uniforms up to the college, but it’s still like...”

“...Even though [WC] was bigger, the campus and the amount of people, it didn’t feel like we got lost,” Erin finished.

Their uncanny resemblance in appearance and voice aside, these sisters are forging their paths while leaning on each other for support. Their shared passion for helping others and a healthy dose of sibling rivalry led them to Weatherford College’s Alesia Armstrong Wiggs School of Nursing, where they are thriving as the youngest members of their cohort.

They’ve held each other accountable for completing their schoolwork since they started kindergarten in Springtown, and their competitive rivalry propelled them to success. Emily earned the title of valedictorian, and Erin followed closely as salutatorian of Weatherford Christian School’s class of 2021, with a difference of only a .02 grade point average.

Thanks to dual credit classes they took in high school, they completed their first associate degrees from Weatherford College the following year. This May, they graduated with a second set of degrees, their Associate Degrees in Nursing, and are wrapping up classes this summer to complete their Bachelor of Science degrees in Nursing.

Their decision to attend WC was more about practicality and self-awareness than following the crowd. Emily acknowledges that a large university might have been overwhelming for the pair.

“The original plan was to get our associates or get our basics done and then go off to Tarleton or somewhere still in the area,” she said. “But then they started offering a four-year nursing program here, and we were like, ‘Okay, we’ll stay here!’”

“Why would we go somewhere else,” Erin asked. “We already like Weatherford College. We’re already on campus here.”

continues with Tanner Twins on page 13.

MEMORIES



Former students have been enjoying the new Alumni House the past few months, viewing the many pieces of WC memorabilia on display:

Mark L. Davis donated his 1966 WC letter jacket, which is now on display in the WC Alumni House.

A WC diploma written entirely in Latin hangs in the Alumni House. Janice Smith, who taught Latin and French at Weatherford High School, helped translate the document, revealing a date of 1899. The diploma, awarded to Zoe Switzer, was donated to the college years ago by Elaine Vandagriff.

Thresea Killian Tabor dropped by because she heard her old WC cheerleading uniform was on display. She was right! She cheered on the Coyotes from 1961 to 1963.

If you have any WC memorabilia you would like to donate or loan to the Alumni House, please contact Michelle Owens at mowens@wc.edu or 817-598-6291.

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

Bethany Nicole Allen, 28, of Mineral Wells, passed away April 12. All-Conference and All-Region shortstop in softball at WC.

Frankie Belcher, 79, of Chillicothe, passed away March 19.

Hailey Bright, 18, of Weatherford, passed away March 25.

Aurelio Castillo, 60, of Dallas, passed away May 6.

Sue Coody, 89, of Weatherford, passed away April 22. Former WC instructor, Faculty member emeritus and WC Board of Trustees member.

Pat Davis, 66, of Aledo, passed away April 16.

Darleen Garrett, of Mineral Wells, passed away April 30. Former WC psychology instructor.

Sammie Ruth Harris, 96, of Oklahoma City, Okla., passed away April 9.

Robert George Jacobs, 89, of Mineral Wells, passed away May 20.

Leuell Jernigan, 76, of Weatherford, passed away Feb. 25.

Judy Bell Leaverton, 81, of Knox City, passed away Feb. 14.

Traci McKinley, 53, of Weatherford, passed away April 7. Served as speech instructor before transitioning to director of institutional assessment and QEP. Recipient of the 2023 WC Presidential Service Award.

Jadon Menchaca, 22, of Mineral Wells, passed away April 20.

Robert Shannon, 78, of Weatherford, passed away Feb. 29.

Jackie Sneed, 71, of Lipan, passed away Feb. 24.

Wilda Sommer, 100, of Fort Worth, passed away April 25.

Weldon Turner, 79, of Weatherford, passed away March 9.

Billie Walker, 61, of Abilene, passed away April 14.

Joseph L. Wright ('68), of Weatherford, passed away Oct. 23, 2023.

RODEO ATHLETES EXTENDING THEIR TIME AT WC IN BACHELOR'S PROGRAM



The recent addition of bachelor's degrees ushered in a new era at Weatherford College, but one program in particular is reaping some unanticipated rewards.

WC's rodeo program is unique among the college's sports in many ways. In the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association, student-athletes are not limited to two years of eligibility in college rodeo, as WC competes against both community colleges and universities. Previously, head coach Johnny Emmons only had athletes on his team for two or sometimes three years each, eventually losing them to his four-year competition.

But with the advent of bachelor's degree programs at WC, that all changed. Now, several of Emmons' student-athletes are taking advantage of the WC's organizational leadership curriculum, earning four-year degrees from a respected academic program while continuing to compete in one of the country's top college rodeo teams.

"It's great for the kids that want to stay in Weatherford, which is most of my team. They really like and enjoy it here," Emmons said. "It's also great for our program. I feel like we've done a good

job of getting freshmen and sophomores ready for college rodeo, only to have them leave and go start winning for a university. Now we get to enjoy the benefits of the older, mature kids, like the university coaches have become accustomed to."

Dr. Philip Mathew's organizational leadership bachelor's degree program is also benefits from the arrangement, teaching a new "crop" of students with high aptitude.

"In working with the student-athletes from our rodeo program, I've noticed how the same attributes that allow them to be champions in the arena—such as a positive mindset, critical thinking, teamwork, and grit—are needed for success in a leadership role as well," Mathew said.

"In this degree, they apply those qualities toward accomplishing organizational goals. They diagnose problems, engage in collaborative discussions and use research to propose solutions to real-world problems. In bringing these two worlds together, they develop the confidence to lead positive change in the workplace and community—and it's wonderful to see!"

Team roper Luke Williams walked the WC Commencement stage in May this year, celebrating his second college degree. The Brock High School graduate originally came to WC in 2020 as a team roper after winning the Junior World Finals championship. After earning his associate's degree in 2022, he was planning on transferring to Texas Tech University, but when Emmons told him about the new bachelor's option, he changed course.

"Honestly, it was the smartest move on my behalf," Williams said. "Being able to stay home, close to friends and family, and continuing to compete for Johnny was great."

In addition to being a collegiate athlete and earning his bachelor's degree, Williams also recently earned his commercial pilot's license. He said the skills he learned in organizational leadership will help him in just about any field that requires people skills.

"Understanding workplace environments and dealing with difficult people and issues are some of the most valuable skills I've learned," he said. "Knowing how to get the most success out of a team will pay off."

Note: In addition to the organizational leadership degree, WC also offers bachelor's degrees in nursing, early childhood education and teaching, and medical and health services management. The college is applying for a fifth bachelor's program in computer science. For more information, go to wc.edu.

Q&A WITH RYAN SKAGGS

We recently sat down with 2024 Weatherford College graduate Ryan Skaggs to discuss his WC experience. Here's how it went.

Tell me about how you came to Weatherford College.

I came to Weatherford College wanting to start my college career by saving some money and thinking "getting-through-these-next-two-years-will-be-a-breeze" mentality. Instead, this was a journey that made me many memories and changed me altogether.

What motivated you to go for a criminal justice degree?

I chose to pursue a degree in criminal justice because I am passionate about upholding justice and positively impacting my community. I want to contribute to creating a fair and safe society for everyone.

What organizations have you been involved in, and what roles have you played in those groups?

I have been involved in the Honors Program and in Phi Theta Kappa, where I served as president. PTK taught me leadership and the ability to step out of my comfort zone even when I didn't feel like doing so. I was also a part of the Spanish Club and served briefly as a Student Ambassador, where I got to know the college like the back of my hand and met some great people.

Why has it been necessary for you to be active in these organizations?



I have been able to contribute to causes I am passionate about and work alongside dedicated individuals who share similar values. Additionally, being involved in these organizations has broadened my networking abilities and given me valuable experiences that have further enriched my personal and professional growth.

How do you feel your experiences in Phi Theta Kappa and as a Student Ambassador have shaped your experience at WC?

Both roles have allowed me to develop strong leadership and communication skills and a deeper understanding of the college community. Getting past the social anxiety barrier allowed me to trust in myself and have more confidence when it came to speaking. Overall, both programs allowed me to see a side of myself I never knew I had.

The honors program at Weatherford College is still relatively new, and you're part of its second graduating cohort. What has your experience been like as an honors student?

There have been nothing short of unique experiences and great overall memories. As an honors student, I've had the opportunity to engage in more challenging and stimulating coursework, work closely with dedicated professors and collaborate with other driven and passionate students. The program provided a supportive and intellectually inviting environment that enriched my college experience.

What are your plans for post-graduation? Are there any career goals or aspirations you're looking to pursue in criminal justice?

I plan to go to Tarleton State University for my bachelor's degree in criminal justice with a minor in fraud examination. I want to get my master's degree eventually, but instead of criminal justice, I would like to pursue a business perspective with a lens around my CJ degree.

As you prepare to transition from student to alumnus, how do you envision staying connected with the Weatherford College community in the future?

I will stay in touch by visiting the campus at certain events the college hosts semesterly, saying hello to my favorite faculty and staff, or even just coming to sporting events. This was not just another chapter for me; it was a growing point that made me into the person I am today.

What message would you like to share with your fellow graduates as you all embark on this new chapter in your lives?

Congratulations, and remember where you came from, as this journey was not easy. We all did this together in some way or form. I might not know who you are, but just know I am proud of what you did. This is only the beginning for us.

ALUMNA PIANIST ACCEPTED INTO PRESTIGIOUS GRADUATE PROGRAM



Former Weatherford College piano student Chaeun Lee is taking her talents to one of the finest music institutions in the country, the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York.

Lee, a native of South Korea, recently graduated from TCU with her bachelor's degree in piano performance and will study in Eastman's graduate program in collaborative piano.

"I'm very excited," she said. "I didn't expect to be accepted because it's a very good music school. I'm really looking forward to studying there."

Lee came to Weatherford College to study with Dr. Hyeyoung Song, another Korean who understands the transition from rigid competitive playing to more expressive musicality.

"A lot of Korean music students tend to be in 'box A' and can't get out from there," Lee said. "Dr. Song really helped me to get

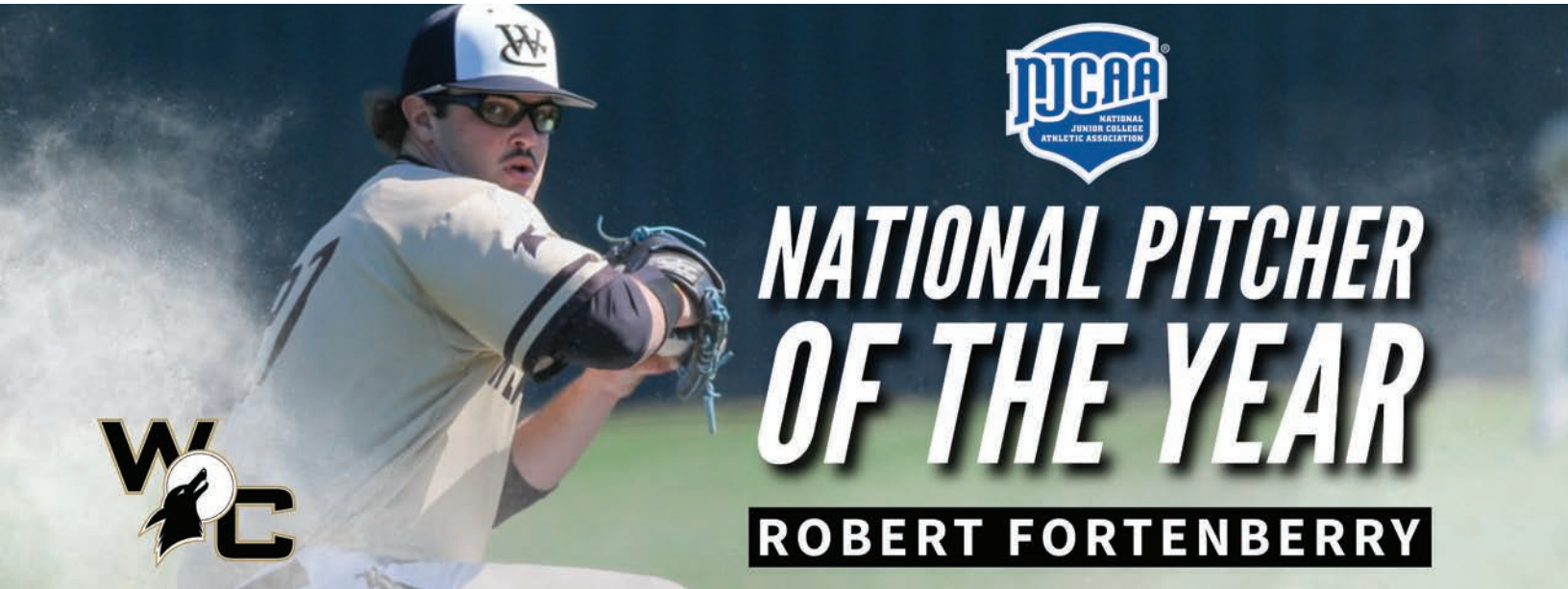
out of the box and experience my emotion more freely and have freedom musically. I started to express my personal musical thoughts more easily."

Duane Durrett, WC's dean of fine arts, said he saw Lee grow musically over her two years at the college.

"When Chaeun first came to Weatherford College, she said she didn't like jazz," he said. "She now loves jazz after being exposed to Gershwin and Ellington. She will accomplish all goals she sets thanks to her love and dedication to her art."

Although she's moving to the Northeast, Lee said she's glad she started her collegiate career in Texas.

"Weatherford College was my first experience to study in the U.S. The two years were very important for me to learn English and experience American culture. Coming to WC was a great decision for me."



The NJCAA has named Robert Fortenberry its 2024 Division I Pitcher of the Year. This is first NJCAA award of this magnitude for any WC student-athlete.

The sophomore from Frisco led the nation in regular season wins, going 13-0 with a 2.19 earned run average and 75 strikeouts over 74 innings.

Fortenberry, a Mississippi State signee, was also named first team NJCAA All-America, the third WC All-American this academic year (Selanny Puente, first team in volleyball; Jared Washington, honorable mention in men's basketball).

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE AROUND CAMPUS



1. The day turned to twilight as students gathered in the quad to view the solar eclipse in April.

2. Dr. Bishnu Twanabasu, biology professor, and two students conducted measurements on the stately live oak tree at the Alumni House, determining the tree's age to be between 275 and 300 years!

3. MacKenzie Moore poses with her oil on canvas painting "In These Hands" at the spring student art reception.

4. WC's annual Creative Writing Contest winners: -- Poetry -- 1st place Adrianna Linder, "Like a Dog"; 2nd place Nicholas Browning, "Gas Station Magnets"; 3rd place Miguel Olvera,

"N FM 51"; -- Prose -- 1st place Haven Hendrik, "A Tale of Two Babies"; 2nd place Caleb Turner, "A Letter to the Universe"; 3rd place Finnegan Cole, "My Side of the River".

5. Respiratory Care Club members exhibit their hard-earned skills to fellow Coyotes at their annual Spring Fling event.

6. Tammy Peters, Staff Member of the Year, and Emily Yager, Faculty Member of the Year, threw out the first pitches at Faculty/Staff Day in April.

7. A delegation from the nation of Tajikistan toured the WC campus. The group members were hosted by the Rotary Club of



Aledo in the Open World Program, bringing together emerging social media influencers, community leaders and local Rotary Club members to explore the intersection of social media and civic engagement.

8. WC Honors Program graduates celebrated the end of their capstone presentation week with a special dinner with their family and friends, recognizing their academic accomplishments.

9. The Alkek Fine Arts Center was overflowing with Ogre-loving theatre patrons who were there to view WC's Teen Summer Musical production of Shrek The Musical JR. The production was

the culmination of several Saturday rehearsals and one week-long camp in Alkek.

10. Alumnus Paul Gray and his son, Levi, enjoyed some free barbeque and free tickets to the WC baseball game during an alumni mixer in May.

11. The second cohort of WC's organizational leadership students completed their bachelor's degree this May.

FROM DOUBT TO TRIUMPH

Watching the interactions between Weatherford College graduate Santos Lara and the college's faculty, staff, and students on the day of the 2024 commencement made it clear why he won this year's graduation cap decorating contest.

Hosted on social media and with votes collected over five days on Facebook, Lara's submission, featuring "I tried my best, and God did the rest," had nearly 400 reactions.

Backstage at the Fort Worth Convention Center on graduation day, Lara was frequently addressed by numerous faculty and staff to congratulate him on his achievements and was constantly surrounded by friends.

"I met Santos when he first started WC," said Dawn Kahlden, WC's director of special populations. "He was nervous because he was older than other students and had not been in school for some time. He shared with us that he had not been a good student in high school, and we offered encouragement."

Lara decided to return to his hometown in 2021 after being handicapped for nearly eight years.

"I remember the first day of class; I was so nervous about not being smart enough to graduate with my associate degree as a first-generation college student," he said. "But I met wonderful people like Melissa Butler, Dawn Kahlden, Claire Varnon, John Turntine, Amy Malugani and Darrell Castillo. The support from professors and staff was invaluable."

Kahlden said Lara became a mentor and role model to many as he attended school, worked at Home Depot, attended tutoring and campus events, and maintained good grades.

"He was an ideal student," Kahlden bragged. "He has never come to me with problems or excuses. He always comes asking for directions to the best resources for his needs. I truly believe his mindset and ability to look for help when needed pushed him and made him such an excellent student!"

Lara credits his tutor and counselor with helping him build confidence in himself, and he gives special thanks to the TRIO program for changing his life. But above all, he credits his faith in God for his success.

"I highly recommend Weatherford College to anyone dealing with identity or disability issues," he said. "Weatherford College felt like home, and I will miss it dearly. This is not a goodbye but until next time. God bless everyone."

Lara will continue his education in the fall at the University of Texas at Arlington. 📖



DO YOU RECEIVE THE MONTHLY COYOTE CONNECTION EMAIL BLAST?

If not, we need your email address! Go to wc.edu/alumni and click on "Alumni Contact Form."

COYOTE ATHLETICS REVIEW



Since the last edition of The Hilltop was published in early April, WC has racked up another conference championship, hosted another collegiate tournament and finished higher than expected in two national tournaments.

The Coyote baseball team won its second straight conference championship, clinching the title over rival McLennan at Roger Williams Ballpark in early May. The Coyotes, ranked No. 5 in the final NJCAA poll, finished the season in the regional tournament with a 45-15 overall record, the second-most wins in the 22-year history of the program.

In the first year of the relaunched men's tennis program, the Coyotes finished in 11th place at the NJCAA National Tournament in Plano. Bruno Britz advanced to the semifinals in Flight 1 singles, losing to the eventual national champion.

The women's tennis team finished tied for 12th at nationals, the third consecutive year of national top-15 finishes for the program. WC tied with Mississippi Gulf Coast College and edged out rival Collin by half a point.

WC softball turned in a 31-21 overall record and advanced to the Region V-North Tournament. Haylee Williams surpassed the 400-win plateau as the Coyotes' head coach.

For the first time, WC hosted a collegiate golf tournament this spring. The NJCAA Southwest District Championship was held at Canyon West Golf Club in late April/early May. It was the sixth regional/district athletic tournament the college has hosted in the last three years (2022 softball at Stuart Field, 2023 baseball at Williams Ballpark, 2023 volleyball at the Betty Jo Graber Athletic Center, men's/women's basketball at the Graber Center in March).

As this publication was going to press, the WC rodeo team was sending three competitors to the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming. Kadence Tindall won the Southwest Region championship in breakaway roping, Jett Stewart won the region title as the team roping header and Harley Megeed qualified for the CNFR in breakaway roping. For the latest results and videos of the competition, see the WC Rodeo Facebook page.

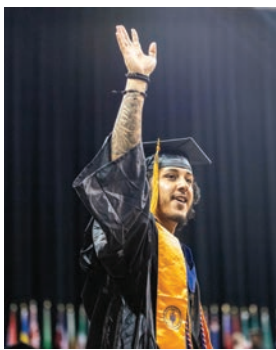
In the National Finals Steer Roping, Trent Sorey finished third in the nation in the College Division. Catcher Gasperson was eighth and Cash Fretwell was 11th. The event was held in May in Clarendon.



SCAN CODE TO GO TO
THE WC ATHLETICS SITE
TO STAY UP-TO-DATE
WITH ATHLETIC NEWS.



COMMENCEMENT 2024



Congratulations to the Weatherford College class of 2024. Some highlights about this year's graduates:

A total of 1,115 student completed their degrees in the 2023-24 academic year. There were 642 graduates who finished in May of which 450 walked the stage. Twenty-six earned bachelor's degrees. Eight students graduated from the Honors Program. Twenty-two dual-credit grads finished BEFORE high school!

ALUMNA PUBLISHES BOOK ON CHILDHOOD CANCER BATTLE



Kelli Stahl ('14) has written and published “My Fight, My Story,” about her battle with childhood cancer, the strength found in community and the life-altering power of faith.

When diagnosed with acute lymphocytic leukemia at the age of 8, her world turned into hospital rooms, chemotherapy sessions and the unwavering support of her mother, Donna Boone (WC Class of '75).

Stahl said she felt called to write her story.

“There have been several opportunities to speak about my situation and to write short essays, but I felt like God prompted me to write this book,” she said. “As a mom, I wanted to have something like this for my children.”

Boone also contributed her point of view to the book, recalling the very difficult journey of watching her daughter go through painful treatments and seeing the joy of remission.

Following in her mother’s footsteps, Stahl is now a nurse, having earned her licensed vocational nurse and associate degree nurse credentials at WC. Years of treatment at Cook Children’s Medical Center with assistance from St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital were instrumental in her career path.

“My Fight, My Story” is available on amazon.com, or by contacting Stahl directly at kstahl0620@gmail.com.

TANNER TWINS *from page 3.*

The twins’ decision to pursue nursing at WC was a natural fit. Affordability and the convenience of staying close to home were top priorities for them. Erin initially sparked the idea of nursing, and Emily, who had long dreamt of a career helping others, agreed to give it a try. The college’s reputable nursing program and supportive environment sealed the deal.

“And [WC] offered good scholarships,” Erin said. “The bigger universities will give you \$40,000, but that doesn’t go that far when you look at their tuition, whereas Weatherford will give you actual money towards your tuition, which makes a difference.”

And even though the campus is larger than their experience in Springtown and WCS, the nursing cohort they joined was a small, cohesive group that created a similar educational experience.

“Being in a cohort, you learn together and fail together,” Erin said. “Everybody goes through the struggles together. They were very encouraging, like, ‘Hey, are you struggling? Let me help you,’ or ‘Hey, I know we all did badly on this test, but let’s all get together and figure out what we can do better.’”

Being identical twins pursuing the same degree did present some unique challenges. Early in the program, instructors attempted to separate them to proactively prevent cheating, a common misconception about twins. However, Emily and Erin have proven their individuality through their distinct learning styles and strengths, complementing each other while maintaining their identities.

One significant shift has been spending more time apart, although they believe they’ve never gone 24 hours without seeing each other.

“I did night clinics, and she did day clinics,” Emily said. “So she would be at clinical from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., and then as she was getting off of clinical, I was going to clinical, and it was like ...”

“... When can I see my twin,” Erin said. “So, this year it’s just been...”

“... Learning life without the other one,” Emily said.

Their experiences at Weatherford College, particularly the diverse clinical rotations, have exposed them to various specialties, fueling their interest in areas like neonatal intensive care and labor and delivery.

As Emily and Erin each approach completing their third degree from WC, they envision a future where they continue to learn and grow personally and professionally. While they hope to work in the same field, they understand the realities of individual career paths. Regardless of where their journeys take them, they remain steadfast in their commitment to positively impact their patients and community.

As first-generation college students, Emily and Erin are passionate about inspiring others to pursue higher education. They actively encourage friends and family to consider dual credit courses and summer classes, sharing their success stories to motivate others.

“We always encourage people to take dual credit and summer classes,” Erin said. “We did it, and it really helped because now we’re 21 and done.”

“In our nursing program, we’ve been taking the BSN concurrently [with the Associate Degree Nursing classes],” Emily said. “So we’ve had friends in our class ask about the workload. We’ve been able to help those nursing students,”

“... And they’ve been able to help us,” Erin said. ☺

WOOTEN NAMED WC TENNIS COACH



Weatherford College has announced Stephanie Wooten as its new head tennis coach. She will coach both women's and men's tennis at WC.

Wooten, a native of Crandall, Texas, comes to WC with head coaching experience from the University of New Mexico, the University of Texas Rio Grande

Valley, Stephen F. Austin State University, Lee College, and, most recently, Butler University in Indianapolis.

In addition to her collegiate coaching experience, Wooten served as a tennis coach at Brookhaven Country Club in Dallas, working with nationally and internationally ranked players in their junior tennis academy.

"It is such a blessing to get to come back home so close to my family and to where I fell in love with the game of tennis," she said. "I'm very thankful to the hiring committee for giving me this opportunity to lead the Weatherford College tennis programs and continue to build on a strong tennis tradition and develop a family environment."

In her single season at UTRGV (2015-16), she led the program to the Western Athletic Conference Tournament title, the university's first WAC championship in any sport.

In her two seasons at SFA (2011-13), beginning as an assistant before becoming head coach, the Lumberjacks won the first conference championship in program history and earned their highest national ranking (No. 35).

Wooten began her coaching career as interim head coach at Lee College in 2010-11. Her team finished as runners-up at the NJCAA National Tournament. She moved on to the University of Houston, where, as an assistant, she helped her team to a runner-up finish at the American Athletic Conference Tournament.

"We are very excited to welcome Coach Wooten to WC," said Jeff Lightfoot, who is serving as WC's acting athletic director while Bob McKinley is on temporary leave. "She brings a wealth of experience and a recruiting network that will allow her to impact our tennis program immediately."

"Weatherford College is investing heavily into tennis and putting our programs into a great position to recruit world-class student-athletes and compete for championships," Wooten said. "I'm excited for the challenge and thrilled to be here. It's an exciting time to be a Coyote!"

CLASS NOTES

Jake Ainsworth is now manager of Dillard's in Texarkana. He celebrated his five year anniversary with Dillard's June 2.

Byron Benitez ('10), **Crystal Hale** ('18), **Missi Knust** ('16), **Zoe Loth** ('11), **Elizabeth Lytle** ('22), and **Amanda Pruet** ('18) are all LCDCs, Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselors, at MHMR of Tarrant County.

Taylor Calhoun ('20) will open Rock 'N Kids hair salon in July.

Sierra Emerson ('09) was featured in Cowgirl Magazine as a top hairstylist. Her salon was voted Best Hair Salon and she was voted Best Hairstylist by Locals Who Love Us – Marble Falls.

Byron Garner and his wife **Joleen Devin Garner** recently opened Major's Hometown Barber Shop in Weatherford.

Austin Green ('22), former WC baseball player, was Big 12 Conference Player of

the Week the week of April 22. Green plays for Texas Tech University.

Samantha Grimsley recently spoke at the Texas EMS Educators Conference in Galveston where she presented four topics. She was also invited to present a course in Oklahoma City that facilitates preceptor training from an accreditation standpoint.

Charlene Hering ('05) won \$15,600 and a trip to Belize on the Wheel of Fortune episode that aired May 2.

Keith Loftis, professional saxophonist, performed with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and the Chicago Jazz Orchestra in February at Symphony Center. "The Movement Revisited" was a collaborative project inspired by the words of civil rights icons.

Darlene Montoya, former WC softball player, was named to the Ohio Valley Conference All-Newcomer Team. Montoya plays for the Morehead State Eagles.

Jessica Morar ('11) a WC phlebotomy graduate; assumed ownership of Any Lab Test Now, Bellaire location in Fort Worth.

Claire Spencer ('23) married **Tristan Wright** ('24) on May 30 in Weatherford. Claire is currently studying at Baylor University.

Noelle Nugent Urbina ('18) WC phlebotomy graduate, is now the laboratory coordinator for Oncology Research at Johns Hopkins in Washington DC.

Dale Young ('64), received the Alumni Service Award from Texas Christian University as part of the TCU Leadership Awards in April. A past recipient of the WC Alumnus of the Year Award, Young retired from TCU after 35 years with the university.

THANK YOU

to the following donors who gave recent gifts to the WC Foundation (as of June 4, 2024)

Elizabeth and Brent Baker
Challenge of Tarrant County/Follow Our Lead
David and Becky Daniel
Doug and Kristy Dowd
Stephanie Edwards
Eidson Family Charitable Foundation
John and Myrna Fields

Chris Hlavinka
Gary and Jeanie Hobbs
Ben and Dora Long
Dr. Laura McBride
National Board of Respiratory Care
Parker County Active Democrats
Parker County Democratic Party

Brenda Lee Stout Powell
Gary and Linda Snow
Jared Stewart
TexasBank
Matt and Staci Tyler
Laura and Bruce Wiggs
Gail Wright

FOUNDATION UPDATE



TexasBank makes \$25K annual commitment for WC scholarships

TexasBank has donated \$25,000 to the Weatherford College Foundation for student scholarships. The bank and the Doss-Knight Family, longtime WC benefactors, are committing to fund the scholarship with a similar gift each year into the future. Pictured are (left to right) Mark Riebe, TexasBank chairman of the board; Dr. Tod Allen Farmer, WC president; Lin Bearden, TexasBank chief lending officer and WC Foundation Board member; and Tim Mitchell, TexasBank Parker County market manager.

WCPAAA gives \$45K scholarship

The Weatherford Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association has established a new permanent scholarship endowment with \$45,000 in donations to the Weatherford College Foundation. The new scholarship will be earmarked for WC Police Academy students as part of the foundation's Bob Glenn Endowment Program. Pictured are WC President Tod Allen Farmer, Barbara and Chris Hummel from the WCPAAA, and Sharon Johnson, WC department chair of public safety professions.



FREE STICKER
Grab a new WC alumni car window sticker! Drop by the Alumni House (301 East Park in Weatherford) or email mowens@wc.edu.



UPCOMING EVENTS

July 10	Classes begin for Summer II
July 13 - 14	Robin Hood children's play
July 15-19	Coyote Volleyball Camp
July 19-21	The Wizard of Oz
July 26-28	The Wizard of Oz
July 30	CORE Orientation
August 7	Durant Hall Grand Opening
August 12	Ex-Student Lunch
August 20	Tuition payment deadline for Fall 2024
August 26	Classes begin for Fall 2024
September 9	Ex-Student Lunch
October 3	WC Foundation Golf Tournament
October 14	Ex-Student Lunch
November 5	Spring 2025 registration opens for current & returning students
November 11	Ex-Student Lunch
November 16	Coyote Chase Race
December 3	Spring 2025 registration open for new & transfer students
December 9	Ex-Student Lunch
December 12-18	Final Exams for Fall 2024



**SCAN QR CODE FOR
WC CALENDAR**

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