

# THE HILLTOP

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Volume XIII : Issue II

SUMMER 2013



## TIME FLIES

BOWERS CONTINUES 44-YEAR  
JOURNEY AT WC

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



No matter how many times I participate in a Weatherford College graduation ceremony, I always experience a sense of euphoria as I join our attendees in celebrating the accomplishments of our students; this year was no exception. With approximately 2,000 family members and friends in attendance, this year's graduation services were once again a wonderful celebration of our students' success. With approximately 1,100 students petitioned for graduation this academic year, I found myself thinking back to 1876, and our first graduating class of six students. I think that is what I love most about Weatherford College, the history that is always there to remind us of what is truly important. As graduation season comes to an end, it gives us an opportunity to look back and

appreciate all of our accomplishments over the past year.

As we reflect back on our accomplishments this year, the following highlights come to mind: the opening of our new Weatherford College Wise County campus; the opening of our new Academic Building on our Weatherford campus; the growth of our Granbury and Mineral Wells campuses; the start of construction on our new Health Science Building on our Weatherford campus; the passing of House Bill 407 that officially places Hood County into the WC service area; being recognized by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for being one of the most financially sound community colleges in the state; and for setting an enrollment record for the spring 2013 semester. Moreover, we have experienced equally incredible results in our athletic programs, with our women's basketball team and our softball team both qualifying for their respective national tournaments. We also had one qualifier for the College National Finals Rodeo. It is clear to see that after 144 years of service to Parker County and our surrounding communities, we just keep getting better.

In closing, I hope that you have a wonderful summer, and I look forward to visiting with many of you in the coming year. As always, I am honored to be a servant of this storied institution.

Kevin J. Eaton, Ed.D.  
President

## CONTENTS

Time Flies .....	3	WC awards highest honors	8
Do you know .....	4	to alumni.....	8
Friends we'll miss .....	4	Class Notes.....	8
WC Instructors honored for		New Trustees ready to	
excellence .....	5	get to work.....	9
Faculty Member of the Year .....	5	Thank you.....	10
Oklahoma teacher saves		Capital Campaign	
student's lives .....	5	enters final stage.....	10
Around Campus.....	6-7	A banner year in WC sports ....	11

### Hilltop Staff

Katie Edwards  
*Editor/Designer/Photographer*

Brent Baker  
*Writer/Photographer*

Linda Brooks Bagwell  
*Writer/Photographer*

Marsha Johnson  
*Friends We'll Miss*

### Weatherford College President

Dr. Kevin Eaton

### Board of Trustees

Frank Martin  
*Chair*

Joel Watson  
*Vice Chair*

Trey Cobb  
*Secretary/Treasurer*

Don Allen  
Dr. Trev Dixon  
Dr. Luke Haynes  
Mac Smith

*Member Emeritus*  
Jean Bryan

### WC Foundation, Inc.

*Board of Directors*  
Dr. Mike White  
*President*

Dr. Steven Wood  
*Vice President*

Jacy Guynes  
*Secretary*

Bob Glenn  
*Treasurer*

Don Chrestman  
Margaret Colton  
Vickie Durant  
Dr. Kevin Eaton  
Roy Eaton  
Dan Feely  
Charlie Gilchrist  
Rep. Phil King  
Ed Kramer  
Lonna Leach  
Doyle Moss  
David Orcutt  
Tom Pritchard  
Mark Riebe  
Mike Scott  
Nancy Stuart  
Jim Wilkinson

*Member Emeritus*  
Dorothy Doss  
Dr. Richard McIntosh

Brent Baker  
*Executive Director*

Marsha Johnson  
*Executive Assistant*

Readers may send comments,  
story ideas or letters to:

THE HILLTOP  
225 College Park Drive  
Weatherford, TX 76086  
817-598-6275  
817-598-6210 fax  
bbaker@wc.edu

© 2013 Weatherford College

Equal Opportunity/Equal access institution



# TIME FLIES BOWERS CONTINUES 44-YEAR JOURNEY AT WC

by Brent Baker

Most Weatherford College faculty members probably don't realize their vice president has been scuba diving with sharks. Or that he has flown his single-engine plane to the Bahamas three times. Or that he encountered a lion while camping in the African Serengeti.

Most know Dr. Richard Bowers, WC's vice president of instruction and student services, as a mild-mannered administrator who spent years teaching physics. So his "daring side" might take some by surprise.

"I don't know, but they probably think I have two identities," Bowers laughed. "I guess my wife and I consider ourselves adventuresome."

Richard and Pat, his high school sweetheart and wife of 45 years, love to travel. They've chipped pieces off the Berlin Wall, walked the Great Wall of China, visited King Tut's tomb in Egypt, climbed the stairs to the top of the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy and kissed the Blarney Stone in Ireland. Their passport

stamp collection would make travel expert Rick Steves proud.

But a trip that changed their life forever was a mere 180-mile drive from Abilene to their hometown of Irving in the summer of 1967. That's the day they stopped off to visit Weatherford College to inquire about a faculty position.

He met Vernon Parrott, WC's president at the time, as well as James Norwood and several others at the original "Old Main" campus. But WC didn't have the funds to hire any new instructors that year, and the Bowers went back to Irving, where they both began teaching in the Irving ISD.

Two years later, that initial visit finally paid off, and WC made an offer to hire him to teach physics.

In the fall of 1969, 1,140 students were enrolled at WC (now approximately 5,700). WC occupied a sparkling new campus on the outskirts of Weatherford, and Bowers was among a group of five fresh-faced new hires, including

Myrlan Coleman, John Fields, Ruth Huse and Max Ratheal.

"I remember we were registering students in the library, and I had my physics textbook out working on lecture notes. President J.C. Nichols walked by, saw me looking at the text and said, 'Now don't be too hard on them.'"

Bowers says that first year at WC was exciting. He is quick to credit a mentor from those days: Raymond Stockard, department chair for Math, Science and Physical Education.

"Raymond made me feel welcome.

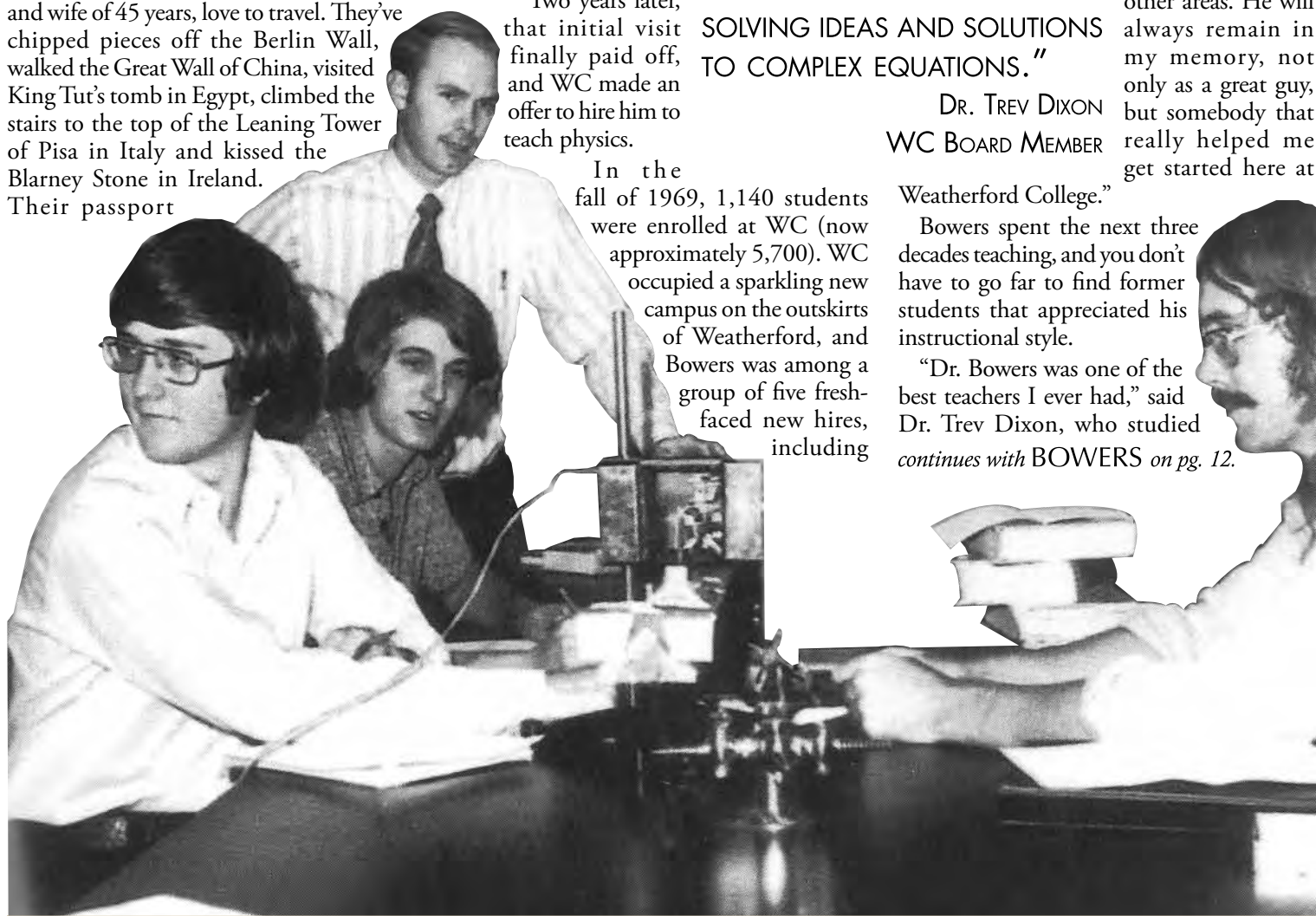
**"DR. BOWERS WAS ONE OF THE BEST TEACHERS I EVER HAD. HE TAUGHT PRACTICAL PROBLEM-SOLVING IDEAS AND SOLUTIONS TO COMPLEX EQUATIONS."**

DR. TREV DIXON  
WC BOARD MEMBER

Weatherford College."

Bowers spent the next three decades teaching, and you don't have to go far to find former students that appreciated his instructional style.

"Dr. Bowers was one of the best teachers I ever had," said Dr. Trev Dixon, who studied *continues with BOWERS on pg. 12.*



# MEMORIES



## DO YOU KNOW...

If you have any memories of this photo, please send a note to Katie Edwards at 225 College Park Drive, Weatherford, TX, 76086, or an email to [kedwards@wc.edu](mailto:kedwards@wc.edu).

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

Yell Leaders from 1940. From left to right is Maxine (Mickey) Queen, Lawrence Rough, Ruth McGee, and Jim Wright, who would become Speaker of the House.



## FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

**Wanda Jo Cramer Allen** of Weatherford passed away March 15. She was 77.

**Deborah Lynn Berkley Cedeno** of Hudson Oaks passed away March 3. She was 58 years old and graduated as valedictorian from WC's Licensed Vocational Nursing Program.

**W.G. (Bill) Coody** of Weatherford passed away March 24. He was 78 and retired from teaching at WC in 2010 when he became Faculty Emeritus.

**Don Forrest Duffield** of Weatherford passed away May 4. He was 78 and a former WC Foundation Board member.

**Annie W. Fielder** of Weatherford passed away April 4. She was 75 and retired from the WC Cafeteria.

**Eva Dell Grote** of Weatherford passed away May 23. She was 61.

**Frances Rebecca (Becky) Hicks** of The Woodlands passed away May 1. She was 92.

**Byron Frederick Golden** of Abilene passed away March 22. He was 77.

**Douglas Reid Grogan** of Irving passed away Jan. 22. He was 89.

**James (Jim) Edward Guthrie** passed away April 4. He was 67.

**Julianna (Julie) Bruce Kallemeyn** of Weatherford passed away March 10. She was 90.

**Johnnie Lee Lind** of Mansfield passed away May 18.

**Jonathan Carl McClendon** of Syracuse, NY, passed away March 20. He was 37.

**Jack Henry McCreary** of Austin passed away Feb. 9. He was 86.

**Thomas Wayne Park, Jr.** of Weatherford passed away Feb. 22. He was 70 and retired in May 2007, after serving 21 years as the director of the WC Bookstore.

**William (Bill) Burr Poteet** of San Angelo passed away Feb. 27. He was 91.

**Helen Gatlin Brogdon Shipley** passed away Jan. 31. She was 84 and served on the WC Board of Trustees from 1983 to 1987.

**Georgianne Simmons** of Weatherford passed away March 6. She was 95.

**Dr. Oren R. (Rudi) Smith, Jr.**, passed away April 13. He was 79 and a former WC instructor.



# ALUMNI, FACULTY & STAFF SPOTLIGHT

## WEATHERFORD COLLEGE INSTRUCTORS HONORED FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE



Eight faculty and staff from Weatherford College have been recognized by The National Institute for Staff & Organizational Development for teaching and leadership excellence and were honored at WC Commencement May 11.

Recognized were: Dr. Marcelo Willcham, Spanish instructor; Kathy Bassham, executive dean of Student Services; Dr. Arleen Atkins, dean of Institutional Effectiveness; Dr. Lisa Welch, instructor of biology; Matt Joiner, WC Wise County associate dean for instruction; Christy Walker, vocational nursing instructor, and Janetta Kruse, director of Workforce and Continuing Education. Not pictured, Christie Daley, government instructor.

NISOD is the outreach vehicle and service arm to the Community College Leadership Program at The University of Texas at Austin and is dedicated to the professional development of faculty, administrators and staff and to the continued improvement of teaching and learning.

## FACULTY MEMBER OF THE YEAR



Tonya Edwards, Respiratory Care program director, was recognized at the WC Commencement May 11 as 2013 Faculty Member of the Year.

Edwards, who earned a A.A.S. from Midland College, a B.S. from Midwestern State University and her M.Ed. at Abilene Christian University, has been with WC since 1998. She has served as president of the Faculty Senate, secretary of the Faculty Advisory Council, chair of the Technical Program Appeals Committee and advisor for the WC Respiratory Club.

## OKLAHOMA TEACHER CREDITED WITH SAVING STUDENTS' LIVES

Rhonda Melton Crosswhite has always been known as a great teacher, and now she's also a hero.

Crosswhite, who attended WC in 1987-88, bravely protected several students as an EF-5 tornado tore through Moore, Oklahoma's Plaza Towers Elementary School on May 20. She shielded the children with her body as they huddled in a restroom while the school was being destroyed all around them.

"I did what teachers aren't supposed to do," Crosswhite said. "I prayed. I prayed out loud."

That statement, which she repeated on NBC's "Today Show," went viral as people around the world heard about the heroism of Crosswhite and her fellow teachers.

Despite a few cuts and bruises, Crosswhite and the others in that restroom were unharmed. Unfortunately, six people in the

school lost their lives, and 23 total died in Moore that day.

Crosswhite continues to try to help others. She returned to Weatherford in June to reunite with her classmates from Weatherford High School and WC, and also to encourage donations to several funds that are helping teachers affected by the tornado.

"I will be fine, but there were a lot of single teachers who not only lost everything in their classrooms, but they lost their homes, too," she said.

Mardel stores are selling T-shirts featuring Crosswhite's "I Prayed" statement, with 100 percent of the proceeds going directly to Moore teachers for the purpose of purchasing new classroom supplies. The shirts are available at [www.mardel.com](http://www.mardel.com). Donations also can be made to the Moore Public Schools Tornado Relief Fund at [www.mooreschools.com](http://www.mooreschools.com). 📧





# WEATHERFORD COLLEGE AROUND CAMPUS



1. In recognition of Richard and Nancy Stuart's significant contribution to WC's "The Time is Now for Your College" capital campaign, the couple was honored at Homecoming during the dedication ceremony of Stuart Field. Pictured with daughter-in-law Keri, grandson Trey, and softball team members Katy Vandewater and Makayla Baeza, the Stuarts were presented a framed autographed team jersey.

2. Former WC baseball player Ryan Brasier made his major league debut in May with the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. Brasier played for WC in 2006-07. He is the third former Coyote to play in the majors. (Photo courtesy of Angels Baseball)

3. At a meeting of the WC Board of Trustees, Dr. Kevin Eaton, president, had the honor of presenting Jean Bryan a crystal plaque, declaring her Board Member Emeritus. Mrs. Bryan retired after more than 14 years of service to the College.



4. More than 300 of 1100 eligible graduates walked the stage at Commencement May 11.

5. First Lt. Jack L. Knight is among 14 Medal of Honor recipients honored at a new memorial in Mineral Wells' Fort Wolters Historical Park. Knight, a WC alumnus, was honored posthumously for meritorious valor on Feb. 2, 1945 in Burma. (Photo by Lance Winter, Weatherford Star-Telegram)





6. As advertised, no one left the 5th annual Taste of Parker County hungry. The May event raised funds for the WC Foundation and featured food samples from vendors like Golden Moon Restaurant, pictured above.

7. The WC Theatre Department's production of "Around the World in 80 Days" won big at the Texas College Theatre Festival held at Lone Star College in Tomball. The play itself won an Excellent in Production, Kylar Dobbs and Lauren McMichael both won Excellent

Awards, and Edna McGill was awarded a Superior in Acting as well as Best Overall in Acting.

8. Plains Capital Bank in Weatherford has announced a \$50,000 pledge to support WC's capital campaign. Pictured are Pat Hamilton, PCB Weatherford president; Bob Glenn, PCB executive vice president and capital campaign chair; and Brent Baker, WC vice president of institutional advancement.

# HOMECOMING 2013

## COLLEGE AWARDS HIGHEST HONORS TO ALUMNI

At its annual Homecoming in April, WC honored three former students with the highest honors bestowed on alumni.

Dr. Christa Johnson Mars, Class of 1971, was recognized as WC Alumnus of the Year. Dr. Eldon Clary Jr., Class of 1960, and Duane Durrett, Class of 1968, were honored as Distinguished Alumni.

Mars graduated from WC as the valedictorian, completing pre-med courses, and enrolled at Texas Wesleyan University. After her junior year, she was accepted into medical school at the University of Texas, where she graduated four years later in the top five of her class. Recognized as the first woman surgeon in the medical honor society, Alpha Omega Alpha, Mars' career through the years finally took her to the Mayo Clinic Health System in Wisconsin, where she was recruited to build a surgical program in that area. Mars has done extensive advanced training in minimally-invasive surgery, endoscopy, ultrasonography and breast surgery. She performs 350-600 surgeries annually.

Clary, a Mineral Wells and Millsap native, is a long-time educator, having received his bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in Education at the University of North Texas. His distinguished career led him to Arkansas Tech University in the late 1960s, where he has held various leadership positions, most recently the dean of the College of Education. Clary has authored and presented numerous papers on educational topics such as curriculum development, teacher education, decision-making and rethinking student teaching, among others. Additionally, he has served on numerous peer-review committees for the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools.



Duane Durrett, Dr. Christa Johnson Mars, and Dr. Eldon Clary, Jr.

Duane Durrett is a familiar name around Weatherford, Weatherford College, and the music industry. He has been a WC employee for more than 38 years, having served in various teaching, management and executive positions. Currently, he is the dean of WC's new Wise County campus. An accomplished drummer, he has shared the stage with some of the biggest names in music, including Stevie Wonder, The Temptations, Chuck Berry, David "Fathead" Newman, Ray Price and many others. He founded and directed the WC Jazz Band from 1970 until 1990, leading the first community college band ever chosen to perform at the Montreux Jazz Festival in Switzerland. 🎷

## CLASS NOTES

**Marcos Barron** ('12) has been accepted into the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York. The Azle native studied drama at WC and will begin his New York studies in the fall. Founded in 1884, the AADA is said to be the "first and finest" acting school in America.

**Dr. Ryan Cate** ('02) has purchased Riverstone Companion Animal Center in Brock. After two years at WC, Cate earned a bachelor's degree at Texas A&M University and his doctorate in veterinary medicine at Michigan State University. He served as a faculty member at St. George's

University in Grenada before moving back to Texas.

**Dr. April Leigh Kinkead** ('99) earned a Ph.D. in English from the University of Texas at Arlington in May. Dr. Kinkead lives in Aledo and teaches English at the University of Texas at Arlington and Tarrant County College.

**Christopher Tucker** ('13) has been hired by Weatherford Regional Medical Center as a certified phlebotomist. Tucker studied in WC's Phlebotomy program, and he is taking the American Society of Clinical Pathology Registry this summer.

Several former WC rodeo athletes are ranked among the top 50 in the world standings of the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association. As of May 29th, **Clayton Haas** is 15th in the All-Around standings. In tie-down roping, **Timber Moore** is 7th, **Randall Carlisle** is 11th and **Reese Riemer** is 43rd. The team roping-header category features **Nick Rawlings** (16th) and **Tate Kirchenschlager** (27th), and team roping-heeler includes **Ryan Motes** (8th) and **Will Woodfin** (24th). **Wil Gasperson** is ranked 43rd in steer roping.



# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

## NEW TRUSTEES READY TO GET TO WORK



The May elections brought two new board members to the WC Board of Trustees. Mac Smith, attorney with Vick, Carney & Smith, ran unopposed for Place 1 after long-time trustee Jean Bryan decided not to run for re-election, and Don Allen, president of the Jerry Durant Auto Group, won the Place 2 election. Smith (pictured on the left) and Allen were sworn into office by Judge Graham Quisenberry May 28.

The two new board members answered a few questions for *The Hilltop*:

### DON ALLEN

**Family:** wife Glenda, sons Delaney & Colby.

**Did you or any member of your family attend WC?** Both sons attended WC for two years after high school.

**What motivated you to run for the College board?** Weatherford College has always been dear to my heart. After being a part of Weatherford for over 40 years, I thought it was time to give something back.

**What do you see as today's greatest challenges facing community colleges like WC?** Overall growth is, I think, the greatest challenge.

**What are some solutions to those challenges?** The Board and the administration need to be proactive in strategy for the College. Everyone needs to try to find ways to help with the growth as long as it results in good, sound business decisions and will benefit the College itself and the students.

**Your vision for WC?** Growth.

**Greatest passion or interest (besides WC):** Working and being with my family.

### MAC SMITH

**Did you or any member of your family attend WC?** My father and both brothers attended WC, as well as my longtime law partner, Dan Carney, and the best paralegal ever, Kim Cherryhomes.

**What motivated you to run for the College board?** I wanted to contribute my time, energy and experience as a lifetime Parker County resident to the important work of the WC Board of Trustees.

**What do you see as today's greatest challenges facing community colleges like WC?** Community colleges are critical components of the college education process. They must provide affordable higher education opportunities to people who have limited time and financial resources as well as other obligations that make obtaining a college degree a challenge.

**What are some solutions to those challenges?** Provide an affordable quality education opportunity and expand community college services to access a larger geographical area – yet, grow responsibly. Educate more people in a larger multi-county setting.

#### **Your vision for WC?**

WC must stress academic excellence yet provide more degree and job certification opportunities in technical and support fields. We must focus on education and also lead the way for developing curriculum and programs for the future. Also, all teaching personnel must possess and provide exceptional instructional skills. Continuing education is a must for our teaching staff.

**Greatest passion or interest (besides WC):** My family and my work as an attorney. I am very fortunate, indeed.

### Attention alumni:

#### We need your email address!

Please send your email address to [bbaker@wc.edu](mailto:bbaker@wc.edu), so WC can send you updates, event notices, etc.

# THANK YOU

to the following donors who gave recent gifts to the WC Foundation (as of May 29, 2013)

Bettye Antwine  
 Stacy Ashbrook  
 Glenda Aslin  
 Dr. Arleen Atkins  
 Linda Bagwell  
 Chester and Virginia Baker  
 Ed and Beth Simmons Baker  
 Kathy Bassham  
 Mildred Beard  
 Michael and Jamie Brinkley  
 Ellie Broughton  
 Mike and Sheryl Brown  
 Merle and Peggy Bull  
 Bush Legacy Republican Women  
 Casey Butler  
 Laura Carousel  
 Dr. Sue and David Casey  
 Central Christian Church  
 Dr. Shirley Chenault  
 Jim and Myrlan Coleman  
 Weldon Cranford Family  
 Dr. David Daniel  
 Doss Heritage and Culture Center

Jim and Susan Duncan  
 Dr. Kevin and Sheila Eaton  
 Roy and Jeannine Eaton  
 Carol Eppright  
 Angela Lipscomb Eubank  
 Hope Farnsworth  
 Dan and Marsha Feely  
 Douglas and Bonnie Finch  
 First Financial Bank  
 First National Bank Weatherford  
 Ned and Nancy Fleming  
 Kristin Flores  
 Arlene Ford  
 Linda Frye  
 GeoDynamics  
 Richard and Marsha Gibson  
 Betty Jo Graber  
 Glenda Grable  
 J.B. and Lori Gross  
 Pat and Sharon Hamilton  
 Jim and Kimberly Hardick  
 Dr. Rickey and Judy Harman  
 Cherish Harmon-Baker

Dr. Luke Haynes  
 Jeanie Hobbs  
 Home Health Professionals, Inc.  
 Ruth Huse  
 James and Dorothy Doss Found.  
 Margaret Johnson  
 Christopher and Lauren Jones  
 Bill and Nancy Jordan  
 Jennifer Jungman  
 Paul and Pamela Kessler  
 E.J. Kopitzke  
 Ed and Patti Kramer  
 William F. Liles  
 Frank and Kaye Martin  
 Nancy McVean  
 L. J. Monaco  
 Doyle Moss  
 Bette Nolen  
 Plains Capital Bank  
 Bill and Nancy Polster  
 Susan Randall  
 Dr. William and Paula Roddy  
 Roy & Jeanne Grogan Foundation

Deborah Savage  
 Dr. Allan Saxe  
 Gary and Linda Snow  
 Southwest Auto Group  
 Steele & Freeman  
 Richard and Nancy Stuart  
 Evelyn Sullivan  
 Dr. James Tatum  
 Dr. Jack and Barbara Terry  
 Brad and D'Linda Tibbitts  
 Joe and Patsy Tison  
 Allen and Peggy Varnon  
 Vick, Carney and Smith, P.C.  
 Kay Vincent  
 WC A.D.N. Class  
 WC Respiratory Care Students  
 Dr. Mike and Avalon White  
 WHS Class of 1953  
 Elizabeth Wright  
 Tracey Yarbrough

## CAPITAL CAMPAIGN ENTERS FINAL STAGE

Apparently, the time really is “now” for Weatherford College.

When the WC Foundation publicly launched its “The Time is Now for Your College” capital campaign last fall, officials announced a \$2 million goal, an amount four times greater than the largest campaign in school history.

Campaign leaders are waiting to announce totals at the Victory Celebration scheduled for early fall 2013, but all indications are that things are going very well.

“As the campaign enters into our final phases, we are all delighted with the response and the progress thus far,” said Bob Glenn, campaign chair. “While we are not yet quite finished, the results have been most gratifying with a tremendous outpouring of support!”

The campaign started with a bang when WC’s employees responded to their \$30,000 goal by committing more than \$118,000, and the Foundation Board and WC Board of Trustees committed more than \$681,000. Since that time, those numbers have ballooned to \$138,336 from the employees and \$994,800 from the boards.

“I’ll be honest with you, I’ve been surprised by the response,” said Brent Baker, vice president of institutional advancement. “I knew we had a lot of passion and commitment in those groups, but these numbers definitely exceeded our expectations. And our alumni and community have also shown a great deal of enthusiasm.”

Baker said the campaign has been boosted by major gifts and pledges from the Jerry Durant Auto Group, Richard and Nancy Stuart, Ed and Patti Kramer, and William F. Liles.

“More than 200 donors have contributed so far overall,” Baker said. “I think people see the impact Weatherford College is having on students’ lives every day. This institution has been serving the community for 144 years, so the reputation is obviously well-established.”

Donors may choose the destination of their gift, whether it be facility upgrades, scholarships, faculty/staff development, or other areas.

“We’re so proud that the final results of the endeavor will have a huge impact on

**THE TIME  
 IS NOW  
 FOR YOUR  
 COLLEGE.**

**THE CAMPAIGN FOR  
 WEATHERFORD COLLEGE**

so many college students for many years to come,” Glenn said.

The Foundation will be sending a direct mail piece in the final stage of the campaign this summer. To participate in the meantime, donors may give online at [www.wc.edu/giving-to-wc](http://www.wc.edu/giving-to-wc) or mail a check to the WC Foundation at 225 College Park Drive, Weatherford, TX 76086. ☐



# 2012-2013

## A BANNER YEAR IN WC SPORTS

By Rick Mauch

Throughout its history, Weatherford College has enjoyed success in sports. But one could argue that the athletic program is coming off its most successful year in school history.

In the 2012-13 academic year, women's basketball and softball advanced to the pinnacle event in their respective competitions as a team, the NJCAA tournament.

"Overall, it was a banner year here," said Athletic Director Bob McKinley. "We not only qualified for nationals, we accomplished something once we got there."

Women's basketball, under McKinley's tutelage, made the program's sixth nationals appearance in Salina, Kansas. They finished 25-6 overall, winning their NJCAA tournament opener before losing a thriller to eventual national champion Trinity Valley Community College.

And, for the first time in team history, two players were named All-Americans in the same season. Bre Brooks was a first-team choice, and Itiana Taylor made the third team. Brooks and Taylor are both returning to WC next season.

McKinley received Conference Coach of the Year honors for a second straight season, giving him the honor 10 times in his career.

The WC softball team wasted no time in grabbing national attention, top-10 attention, in fact. They fashioned a 50-8 record in just their second season of existence, reached the NJCAA Division I National Championships, and went 2-2 in the prestigious tournament in St. George, Utah.

And they did it all with a first-year head coach, Haylee Williams.

"It was pretty surreal and I really don't think the kind of year we had has really set in," Williams said. "It is all very exciting but I think it will probably be a while before I can really reflect and soak in everything that has happened in such a short amount of time."



KYLEE STUDIOSO



CLEYDER BLANCO



LANDON WILLIAMS



2013 WC CHEER SQUAD

Three WC softball players were named the first All-Americans in the program's history: Kortney Koroll and Kylee Studioso were named to the second team, and Katy Vandewater received third-team honors.

In rodeo, sophomore Landon Williams has advanced to the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyo. this summer in team roping as a heeler. It's the ninth consecutive season in which WC will be represented at the CNFR.

In the national college cheerleading competition, the Weatherford College Cheer Squad posted its highest competition score ever, registering a 94.38 in the Junior College Division to finish third.

It's the ninth consecutive year in which WC has finished in the top four in whatever division it is competing, but never have they had a higher competitive score.

The Coyote baseball team ran its streak of postseason appearances to four. They finished 33-25, once again qualifying for the Region V Tournament.

In the 11 years of WC baseball, all under Coach Jeff Lightfoot, the Coyotes have posted eight winning seasons.

The lone sport that did not see the postseason was men's basketball. But there is much optimism in the program thanks to the resurfacing of a familiar face.

Mark Osina, who took over the team midway through the season on an interim basis, has returned to coach the team permanently. Osina coached at WC from 1991-2008 before leaving to become an assistant at NCAA Division I Mercer University. Osina was named Conference Coach of the Year three times. 📧



**Pictured, from left to right: The Bowers scuba diving in the Bahamas. Dr. Bowers at the Berlin Wall in 1989. Dr. Bowers teaching Physics at WC in 1969.**

under Bowers in the 1980s and is now a member of the WC Board of Trustees. “He taught practical problem-solving ideas and solutions to complex equations.”

Dixon recalled a special moment in a physics lab in 1986.

“The national tragedy of the Space Shuttle explosion had occurred, and he piped in TV for us all to watch. He handled that brilliantly as if he was trained to keep us all calm in the wake of an unreal moment. I will always hold him in high regard.”

Ratheal, chemistry instructor from 1969 to 2000, had a daily dose of Bowers’ teaching style.

“Since my office was adjoining the classroom for both physics and chemistry, I listened to many physics lectures,” Ratheal said. “He was good, very good. He had clear explanations, with patience for all of the questions from students. He’s been a good friend and colleague all these years.”

After years of teaching, other opportunities within the institution began to emerge for Bowers. Dr. Jim Boyd asked him to serve as interim academic dean in 1997, an experience that Bowers says was “refreshing, challenging, and gave me a new dimension for my career.” He eventually moved into a full-time dean’s role, and in 2011, Dr. Kevin Eaton promoted him to vice president. He is tasked with

overseeing the College’s 300-plus faculty and their programs of study along with WC’s various student services functions.

“If we lived in a perfect world, we wouldn’t need administrators,” Bowers laughed. “But being surrounded by so many highly-competent, congenial individuals makes my job easy.”

That job has changed throughout the years, but so has the role of Weatherford College as a whole.

“There’s a huge perception change for community colleges — the term ‘junior college’ really doesn’t apply anymore,” he said. “We do so much more for students now, and our courses are just as academically challenging as they are at four-year institutions.

“We’re not ‘junior’ to anybody.”

Richard and Pat have two sons and six grandsons. Both sons, David and Gary, attended WC, earned their bachelor’s degrees and are raising families in the Metroplex area.

In his fourth decade at the College, Richard remains energized by work while still making time to travel with Pat. As this publication went to press, the Bowers were preparing for a trip to Peru to see Machu Picchu, Incan ruins in a mountainous tropical forest known as one of the great natural wonders of the world.

As for his love of flying, you’ll see Richard prepping his 1963 Piper Cherokee at the

Parker County Airport five or six times a month. He’s instrument rated, which means he has undergone enough additional training and logged enough hours to fly his plane without the aid of today’s modern technology, and to fly “blind” in the clouds, if need be.

But if you have any questions about Bowers’ flying skills, just ask Ratheal.

“There was the flight down to San Angelo to attend a Texas Science Fair,” Ratheal said. “Richard was newly-licensed. The flight down was uneventful, but the flight back involved lowering skies, icing conditions, and the windshield freezing over. By the time we broke out at Mineral Wells with the airport right in front of us, I was a basket case.

“As we came in for the landing — the window iced up except for a sliver at each edge — Richard watching the left side of the runway and me watching the right side. At 50 feet we knew it was just water, and he landed us safely. No problem. I’m telling you I left grip marks in the dash of that little plane, and my mouth was so dry, I couldn’t even get up a spit.”

But much like his approach to his long career in higher education, Bowers remains humble when it comes to flying.

“It’s always better to be on the ground wishing you were in the air than in the air wishing you were on the ground,” he laughed. “Also, be sure the number of landings equals the number of take-offs.” ☺