

THE HILLTOP

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Volume XXIV : Issue I

SPRING 2024



RUNNING A NEW RACE

MARATHON EDUCATOR LEADS
THE WAY FOR FUTURE TEACHERS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In this edition of the Hilltop, you will learn of the Weatherford College effort to help relieve the teacher shortage in our great state of Texas. Our new bachelor's degree in teaching is designed to be friendly to both traditional students and to adults currently working in school settings who want to complete their teaching degree. You will also learn about Dr. Steve Wood, a local orthodontist who came back to college to study cybersecurity at WC. Cybersecurity is one of our many new high-tech programs that is growing exponentially.

WC alumni continue to grow and prosper in many fields and locations. Alumna Clarin Gniffke recently provided some insight into her success with a start-up company in New York City. Alumna Vickie Durant and her husband Jerry provided an extremely generous gift that made the splendor of our new Vickie and Jerry Durant Hall a reality. The Weatherford College Board of Trustees recently received a first-glimpse tour of our beautiful new residence hall. We are so proud of our alumni, both for their personal prosperity and the positive difference they are making in the world.

And finally, the career-level accomplishment of WC basketball coach Bob McKinley is highlighted. We recently celebrated Coach Bob's 1,000 wins. While WC has a long tradition of athletic success, our athletic programs have recently reached new heights. Excellence is our norm, both in the classrooms and on the competition surfaces.

Please enjoy this edition of the Hilltop. Thank you for being a part of the Weatherford College family!



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RUNNING A NEW RACE

MARATHON EDUCATOR LEADS THE WAY FOR FUTURE TEACHERS



by **Crystal Woerly**

Building a new bachelor's degree program from the ground up is a marathon, not a sprint. Lucky for Weatherford College, a dedicated lifelong educator who's also completed over 100 marathons was selected for the job.

Dr. Leslie Hancock, program director for WC's Bachelor of Applied Arts and Science in Early Childhood Education and Teaching, grew up in the classroom. The daughter of a schoolteacher, she helped create bulletin boards and read every book in her mom's class.

She completed her undergraduate degree at Texas A&M University, her master's degree at the University of Texas and her doctorate at Baylor University.

"I got a really comprehensive public school education from two philosophical lenses, and then my personal values were really validated when I went to Baylor," Hancock said.

After completing her education, she moved to Dallas to be near her mom, who had just wrapped up cancer treatments, and a Christmas break jog took a devastating turn. While doing laps around her apartment complex, a car slid on the pavement and hit Hancock, shattering her ankle. What came next was a wheelchair, metal rods and pins in her legs, and lots of physical therapy.

"It was miraculous I was alive," Hancock said, "But teaching high school in a wheelchair, I was feeling very sorry for myself. And my physical therapist said they'd have me running marathons when she was done with me."

That comment planted a seed that grew into Hancock completing a 5K and eventually a marathon and then a goal to complete 40 marathons before her 40th birthday.

"Every time I go to run, it's a prayer of thanksgiving because I know what it's like to not be able to walk or to be able to do much of anything for yourself," she said. "It's prayer, meditation, and celebration."

In her 13-year career as a public school teacher, Hancock taught elementary, middle, and high school English, reading, and English for Speakers of Other Languages and was an ESL specialist. As she advanced into roles as an instructional coach and member of the administrative team, she realized she missed the classroom.

She also nurtured a desire to teach in higher education, however, when the chance to take on a full-time faculty role at the University of North Texas presented itself, she was unsure.

Contemplating this possible career change while taking a jog on a familiar, twisty path, she came across a sign that said, "Blind curve ahead."

continues with Dr. Hancock on page 12.

MEMORIES



With Bob McKinley reaching 1,000 wins (see p. 6), this edition of “Memories” takes us through several moments from Coach McKinley’s 47 years at Weatherford College.

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

Janie Barbee, 93, of Weatherford, passed away December 7.

James Blair, 70, of Flower Mound, passed away January 13.

Eddy Fryer, 71, of Mineral Wells, passed away February 9. A developer and instructor in the WC Fire Academy.

Michael Goins, 74, of White Settlement, passed away January 12.

Ann Neugent Halligan, 73, of Dallas, passed away February 7. Served in the WC Library.

Judy Bell Leaverton, 81, of Knox City, passed away February 14. Served as a WC instructor.

Robert Long, 68, of Weatherford, passed away December 24.

Dorothy “Dottie” McEntire, 82, of Weatherford, passed away February 21.

James Mellott, 79, of Fort Worth, passed away January 10. Former Weatherford College instructor.

Betty Earle McLin, 90, of Graham, passed away December 9.

Ron Plumlee, 82, of Big Spring, passed away January 3.

Thomas (Tom) Pritchard, 91, of Brock, passed away February 28. Alumni of the Year, 2001. Class of 1953.

Jackie Karen Sneed, 71, of Lipan, passed away February 24.

Lori Denise Tollett, 55, of Weatherford, passed away February 14.

Rena Mae Woody, 101, of Springtown, passed away March 30.

COLTON, MARTIN, WHITEMAN HONORED AT ANNUAL ALUMNI AWARDS



Weatherford College honored J.C. Colton as the 2024 Alumnus of the Year at the annual Alumni Awards Luncheon on March 22, along with Distinguished Alumni Award honorees Judge Kirk Martin and former Parker County Sheriff Ben Whiteman.

Colton recently retired from WC after 43 years of service.

“To many people, J.C. embodies everything good about the school,” wrote David Rogers in his nomination of Colton. “Since his time as a student at WC in the early to mid-’70s, he has been a leader of people, particularly young people.”

Colton began his career as a vocational agriculture teacher at Poolville High School but returned to WC the following year as an ag instructor. He held several positions at the college, including dean of student development. He was named WC Faculty Member of the Year in 1983-84 and Staff Member of the Year in 1990-91 and is the only employee to receive both awards.

“J.C.’s aim as an educator was to help students make the preparations necessary to reach their full potential,” wrote nominator Bruce Kongable.

Colton has a long history of community service, including as an elected trustee on the Palo Pinto General Hospital Board and as a longtime volunteer at the Fort Worth Stock Show and countless other local programs.

“The amount of time he spent during his career helping others be successful cannot be measured,” wrote nominator Lin Bearden.

Martin, a licensed attorney since 1993, currently serves as judge

for Parker County Court at Law No. 1 and was justice of the peace for Precinct 4 from 2016 to 2023.

Martin’s law career includes cases in civil litigation, family law, criminal law, wills, probate, guardianship and real estate. In 2005, he served as an assistant district attorney/felony prosecutor for Palo Pinto County. He also served as the Parker County Bar Association president in 1998-99.

He has served on the Parker County Child Protective Services Board, Parker County Crime Commission, Children’s Advocacy Center Board and the Parker County Historical Commission along with many other community service activities.

Whiteman grew up in Aledo and joined the Weatherford Police Department in 1978, where he served for ten years. In 1980, Cpl. Whiteman received the city’s Life Saving Award for helping to save a woman who suffered a heart attack while driving.

In 1983, he was instrumental in establishing the Parker County Rape Crisis Program. In 1986, he became the first Crime Stoppers Coordinator for WPD.

Whiteman was elected Parker County Sheriff in 1988 and served two terms. While sheriff, he organized local telethon fundraisers for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. Following his time in elected office, he became director of safety and security for Weatherford ISD.

Whiteman’s list of community service projects is also long, including the Aledo Ex-Student Association, where he serves on the scholarship committee.



MCKINLEY REACHES 1,000 WINS

Not many basketball coaches can claim four digits in the win column.

WC's Bob McKinley crossed the 1,000 victory plateau with a Lady Coyote victory on December 11. Confetti flew in the air as friends, family and fans ran on the court to celebrate the 89-84 win over Paris Junior College. Then in January, the college recognized his achievement with a formal reception.

McKinley is one of only five coaches in the history of the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) to reach

1,000 victories in men's or women's basketball. He is also the winningest active NJCAA Division I coach in the nation.

A member of the NJCAA Women's Basketball Coaches Hall of Fame, McKinley is a 12-time Coach of the Year Award winner from the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference.

Under McKinley, the Lady Coyotes have earned 16 conference championships, five regional championships, five national tournament berths and one NJCAA Final Four appearance.

VOICE STUDENTS BRING HOME TOP AWARDS IN SINGING COMPETITION



Four Weatherford College students attended the National Association of Teachers of Singing competition this semester, and each received a first-place rating in their division. Micah Chesney and Logan Thompson tied for first place in the Men's Lower Collegiate Broadway Division. Hannah Baker won first place in the Women's Lower Collegiate Broadway Division and was also chosen for the prestigious Anne Weeks Jackson Outstanding Soloist Award. Richard Wooten brought home first place in the Men's Upper Collegiate Classical Singing Competition.

DURANT HALL NEARS COMPLETION



The Weatherford College Board of Trustees viewed the construction progress of Vickie and Jerry Durant Hall before their regular meeting in March.

The new residence hall will include one-, two-, and four-bedroom apartment-style student housing comparable in size to Coyote Village and three floors of athletic workout spaces, including a weight room, cardio room and flex meeting space.

With a waiting list of more than 60 students hoping to secure a dorm bed this academic year, the college will have no issue filling the 116 additional beds added with the construction of Durant Hall.

“By expanding student housing, we’re growing a network to provide opportunities for more student success,” said Dr. Scott Tarnowiecky, vice president of student services and athletics, in a presentation to the board. “These students are required to be full-time and have a GPA of 2.0 or better. And just like any college or university in America, the heart and soul of the college’s life is the people who live on campus. So, the more students you have living on campus, the more you’re going to grow student life.”

A grand opening ceremony is currently in the works for this summer. Keep an eye on the college’s website, wc.edu, for more details.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE AROUND CAMPUS



1. Weatherford College honored 45 of the finest teachers from across the region at the 28th annual Jack Harvey Academy of Exemplary Teachers celebration in February.

2. WC fine arts hosted the second annual Mardi Gras celebration with performances by WC faculty and students, the Rhythmators Band, and Jamelle Adisa. WC cosmetology director Valerie Hopkins took first place in the gumbo contest.

3. More than 3,300 high school students from all corners of the state attended a Career Development Events contest at WC to compete in judging tests on a wide range of ag-related subjects, including

cotton, entomology, floriculture, homesite, horse, land, livestock, milk quality, nursery/landscape, poultry, range, vet science, wildlife, and wool evaluation.

4. Students from area high schools gathered on the Weatherford College campus in March for the 22nd annual Coyote Area Math Championship in memory of longtime instructor Pat Cook. Brewer High School earned first place in the calculus division.

5. In December, math instructor Emily Yager was recognized as WC's Faculty Member of the Year. Yager has taught at WC for 14 years and has 29 years of experience. Tammy Peters was named Staff



Member of the Year. Peters takes care of WC's student veterans, including advising, providing a quiet place to gather, and organizing the annual Veterans Day ceremony.

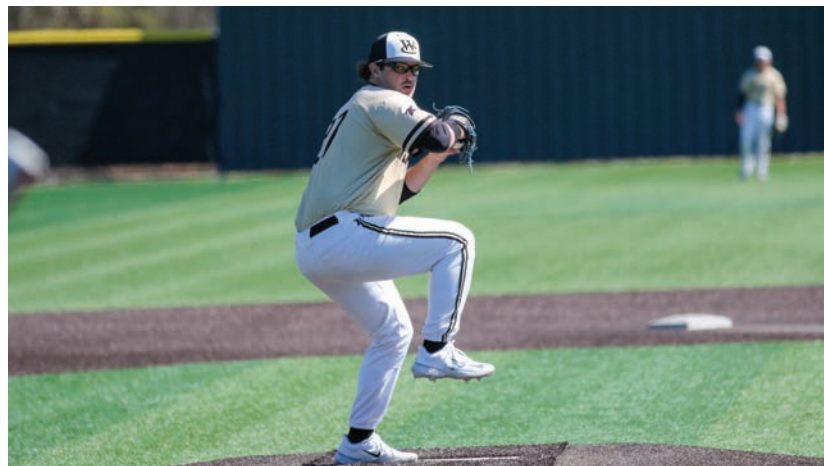
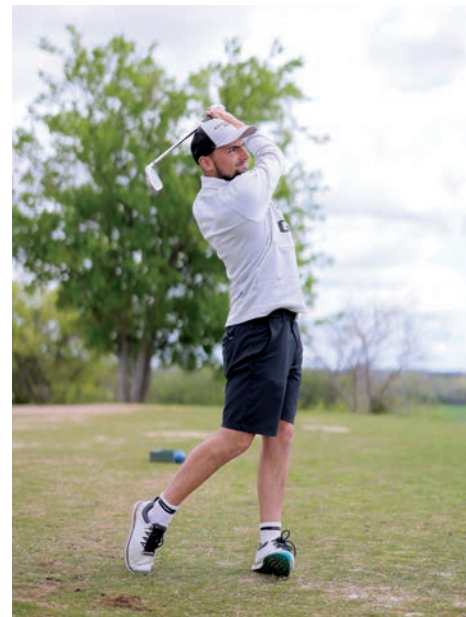
6. Six Coyote basketball stars from the 1990s surprised their former coach, Mark Osina, on the occasion of his birthday in Galveston recently. Pictured are (Left to right) Arunas Drasutis, Oleg Reztsov, Ramunas Petraitis, Osina, Nerijus Puida, Arendijus Mejeras and Mindaugas Burneika. Four of the players who made the trip were NJCAA All-Americans at WC (Petraitis, Puida, Drasutis and Burneika).

7. WC's Dr. Hyeyoung Song and Fredrick Sanders performed at the inaugural concert of the City of Weatherford's newly acquired Steinway piano at Chandor Gardens. The 1979 Chippendale Steinway is the same style of piano Ina Chandor played in this home.

8. Warren Creason views photos of past WC Alumni of the Year in a hallway inside the college's new Alumni House during a reception held before the annual Alumni Awards in March.

9. President Farmer and UNT Health Science Center President Sylvia Trent-Adams signed a transfer agreement in April.

COYOTE ATHLETICS REVIEW



Since the last edition of The Hilltop was published in November, the WC Athletic Department has been racking up the wins.

In only their second year, the WC volleyball team won their conference championship, won the Region V Tournament at the Betty Jo Graber Athletic Center and advanced to the National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) National Tournament in Hutchinson, Kansas. The 33-6 Coyotes finished eighth in the nation. Selanny Puente became WC's first volleyball All-American.

In January, the college announced a Name, Image and Likeness (NIL) partnership with Opendorse, the exclusive NIL partner of the NJCAA. WC was among the first 11 NJCAA institutions in the country and the second in Texas to enter into such an agreement. For the WC NIL Marketplace, go to opendorse.com/wc-coyotes.

For the first time, WC hosted the Region V Men's and Women's Basketball Tournaments in March, with 16 teams from Texas

and New Mexico converging on the Graber Athletic Center. Speaking of basketball, the Coyotes finished in second place in their conference and a 21-10 overall record. The team has won 44 games over the past two seasons, the highest two-year total in the past 25 years.

The baseball team began their season ranked No. 3 in the Division I NJCAA poll and No. 1 in the nation in the PerfectGameUSA poll. As of early April, the Coyotes were in first place in the conference standings and had a 30-8 overall record. The softball team began the season ranked No. 20 in the country.

The men's golf team was ranked No. 13 in the country and had a third place finish in a strong field of 16 at the Oakwood Intercollegiate in Enid, Oklahoma.

The WC men's and women's rodeo teams had several competitors at or near the top of their respective event standings in the Southwest Region, and the team looks poised to send competitors to the College National Finals Rodeo for the 20th straight time.

Q&A WITH ALUMNA CLARIN GNIFFKE



Clarin Gniffke has come a long way. 1,607 miles to be exact.

The Millsap native and Weatherford College alumna is now living and working in New York City. She's an up-and-coming leader in a tech startup called Shiftsmart. Her office is in the spectacular One World Trade Center, where she hosted a group of WC donors in October in the building's 64th floor observatory.

What does your job entail?

"As Director of Support and Compliance, I oversee the data privacy, security and compliance functions for Shiftsmart, an app-based labor platform. I also manage the department providing support for our more than 3 million app users. I have been with Shiftsmart since 2020 and am thankful for the opportunities I have had to grow with the company over nearly four years."

What's your favorite thing about your position?

"When I first started with Shiftsmart, we were a small company, and everyone was working remotely. The company is now headquartered out of One World Trade Center in downtown Manhattan, and I enjoy getting to work out of that iconic building with such great views!

Working with a startup can be challenging as we continue to grow and evolve rapidly with a limited team, solving previously uncharted problems. However, in my position, I have had the opportunity to gain a new skillset and stretch my capacity for learning as I grow with the company."

What are some of the big differences in living/working in New York City?

"In some ways, NYC is not all that different than Weatherford, you just have to know where to look! I have my favorite downtown coffee shop, the neighbors still share the local gossip at the diner, and there

is great pizza down the block...though it's no Roger's Pizza Place!

I'm grateful to have experienced the rural ranch lifestyle in the wide open landscape west of Weatherford and also downtown high rise living in some of the largest cities in the US. What is really different about living in New York is the expanse of opportunity all in the same city. I have loved the challenges that I've tackled and the confidence I've built in myself through those experiences. Like they say, if you can make it here, you can make it anywhere!"

What is your favorite part about living in NYC?

"I love the access to world-class entertainment on Broadway, the opera, museums and concerts, all just a few minutes away! The restaurant options are never ending, and enjoying the parks or coffee shops always makes for enjoyable evenings and weekends. But my favorite part of NYC is the people. I am grateful to have found a community here that makes NYC feel like home."

Do you ever have contact with anyone from WC?

"I mostly keep up with WC through social media and The Hilltop, but also was able to catch up with some of the WC team in person here in New York last fall! I hosted them at my office in Freedom Tower and it was great to hear about all the new things happening for WC from Dr. Farmer."

Anything else you'd like to say?

"I am grateful to Weatherford College for the foundation I found there that has set me up for so many other life experiences. Developing a love of learning and willingness to challenge myself have been invaluable skills that have pushed me to where I am today. I am excited to see what the future holds and will continue to keep an eye on WC!"

SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS



Tom Pritchard



Tarrant Construction

The family of Tom Pritchard is establishing a permanent scholarship endowment in his memory. The WC Alumnus of the Year and Distinguished Alumnus Award honoree passed away in February. The scholarship will be earmarked for students entering the fields of education or nursing.

Tarrant Construction and principal owner Tim Scott have established a new permanent scholarship endowment with the WC Foundation. The scholarship will be earmarked for graduates of Trinity Christian Academy in Willow Park. Pictured are WC Foundation President Brent Gough, Scott and WC President Tod Allen Farmer.

DR. HANCOCK *from page 3.*

“And that was that was the answer,” Hancock said. “God said, trust me with this blind turn.”

The next day, she turned in her resignation and started her career in higher education. Now, she’s at Weatherford College, building an educational program to equip the next generation of teachers.

“If you had asked me 10 years ago what I’d be doing, I’d be like, ‘Maybe I’ll be a curriculum coordinator for ELA.’ I would never in my wildest dreams think that this would be something that I would have the privilege and the blessing to do,” Hancock said. “But here I am, doing everything possible to honor that blessing with my whole heart and full investment. And I can’t imagine working anywhere else at this point.”

In building the program, Hancock has kept her running journey in mind, understanding that the early miles are a different world than miles 24 and 25, and to reach the finish line, you must be strategic.

WC’s ECET degree is a two-year program that builds on an existing two-year degree or 60 credit hours. A new cohort will begin each semester and move through the program together.

The program’s first group of students began this spring, and Hancock is already witnessing the power of this new degree.

“As much as they’re going to go and change the lives of kids,

it’s immediately changing their lives,” she said. “They walk taller. They’re excited and motivated. So, it’s not just a credential; this is literally changing the course of many people’s lives—giving them a living wage, retirement, you know, all those sorts of things.”

Hancock emphasized the personal nature of teaching, describing it as an act of caring and emotional labor that requires commitment and investment in students’ lives.

“It’s all-encompassing work,” she said. “My husband has come to accept that Leslie works in the evenings, Leslie works on the weekends, Leslie works on vacation. But Leslie’s orientation to work is different than a lot of people’s. For educators, we don’t go to work; we go to school.”

The students in WC’s ECET program are a fitting example of personal commitment, with most students coming from local communities who want to teach in that same community. With 50 percent of the teacher workforce qualifying for retirement in the next decade, there will be no job shortage.

Hancock hopes to add a section to the degree geared toward existing school district paraprofessionals who wish to earn their teaching degree, offering courses in a hybrid format that better fits their work schedules.

But you’ve got to walk before you can run.

Learn more about the BAAS in Early Childhood Education and Teaching at wc.edu and click on “Programs.” 📖



DR. STEVE WOOD: MASTER OF TEETH AND TECHNOLOGY

by Misty Browning

It was a decision 23 years in the making when community leader and orthodontist Dr. Steve Wood decided to go back to college to learn about cybersecurity.

Y2K and the fear of no computers kickstarted his high-tech hobby when there was only one computer shop in town and everyone was worried about computers shutting down.

“So, I started learning with my server and network,” he said. “From there, I started looking for classes online, and I came across what was called computer security. I started doing websites, computer security and IT. I got more into computer security 10 years ago before the pandemic started.”

Wood had heard that Weatherford College offered a cybersecurity course, but any plans of registering for classes were derailed when his practice shut down for three months during the pandemic. A couple of years later, Wood saw an ad for a cybersecurity class on the college’s digital sign while driving by campus.

“I was driving the traffic circle, and on the marquee—the timing was perfect—was the sign to register for cybersecurity,” he chuckled. “I drove around the traffic circle a couple more times to get the information. The next day, I contacted the college and began the process of going back to school.

“When it came to submitting transcripts. I was like, ‘Well, which school?’ and they said, ‘Well, all of them.’”

Gathering those transcripts turned out to be a mighty feat. Wood’s education began on a swimming scholarship at Auburn University in the early 1980s. The Parker County native started swimming at age 8 “because his brother and sister were doing it” and “to help get over my fear of the water.”

That tenacity propelled Wood to become an All-American swimmer who qualified for the 1980 and 1984 USA Olympic Swimming Trials.

After Auburn, Wood received his dental surgery degree from the Medical College of Virginia, then attended the University of Maryland’s dental school for orthodontics. After he obtained his transcripts from all his universities, he registered just in time to start class.

“Adam Finley, executive dean of student services and admissions, was instrumental in my matriculation success,” he said. “I had so much to learn in the application process and emailed him numerous times to get everything in order. He was my champion in this process, and I’m very thankful for his assistance.”

After registration was completed, the real challenge began when he realized he wasn’t prepared to be a totally online student.

continues with Dr. Wood on page 15

FRONTIER TALES AND CANVAS TRAILS



Weatherford College hosted “Frontier Tales and Canvas Trails,” a public reception, in the Speaker Jim Wright Library in March, featuring a special presentation by library director Valorie Starr, Michael Martin Murphey and Richard Sukup.

This event marked the debut of the Murphey Western Institute collection about the American West. Murphey, a singer-songwriter known for his hits “Wildfire,” “Carolina in the Pines” and “What’s Forever For,” is also a dedicated collector of Western artifacts.

Murphey began donating items to WC in June 2022, with the delivery of more than 1,350 paperbacks from authors including Max Brand, Louis L’Amour, Larry McMurtry and many others who write about the mythical view of the American West.



The collection also includes music and other artifacts that reflect the diverse voices of the American West.

The reception featured a special showing of award-winning Western art by Richard Sukup. Sukup’s art has been appreciated by Texas Governor Greg Abbott and “Tex” Moncrief, and his work is displayed in the Hotel Drover in the Fort Worth Stockyards.

To cap off a very special event, Jamie Bodiford Brinkley and her husband, Michael, donated a one-of-a kind guitar to the college’s radio station, “The Coyote.” Murphey hand-wrote the lyrics to his smash hit “Wildfire” on the guitar. The instrument will be displayed in the Nan and Bob Kingsley Building.

CLASS NOTES

Courtney Boggs, WC alumna in Early Childhood Education, has opened Tolar Tots, a daycare in Tolar, Texas. The building is licensed for 77 students and serves students ages 6 weeks to 13 years old.

Samantha Grimsley, WC alumna and current program coordinator for the WC EMS program, was recently accepted into the master’s program at Creighton University.

Molly M. Harris, PhD. (’98) is now the vice president of community engagement for Grayson College. Molly is a past recipient of WC’s Distinguished Alumna Award.

Craig Hotaling, a graduate of the WC Law Enforcement Academy, was sworn in as a deputy for the Erath County Sheriff’s Office.

Dr. Deborah Liles (’05), Tarleton State University associate professor and the W. K. Gordon Endowed Chair in Texas History, has been elected to the board of the nonprofit Texas Library and Archives Foundation.

Kari LaRusch has started her own business, Kari LaRusch Interior Design, based out of Fort Worth/Aledo.

Alina Martin, CI, (SAC ’20, AAS ’23), is chief operations officer at SAGE, Substance Abuse Guidance and Education in Weatherford and Lake Worth.

Nick Mincheff is now an officer with the Jacksboro Police Department.

Mark Riebe was named the Banker of the Year by the Tarrant County Bankers Association in December. Mark is board chairman of Texas Bank and a WC Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient.

Stephon Roberts (’22) and the Saint Peter’s University men’s basketball team won the MAAC tournament championship and qualified for the NCAA Division I basketball tournament in March. Stephon is a former Coyote basketball player.

Bailey Williams (’22) married Jack Nuñez on October 2, 2023.

THANK YOU

to the following donors who gave recent gifts to the WC Foundation (as of March 19, 2024)

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DR. WOOD *from page 13.*

After figuring out how to navigate the online course world, Wood had to learn how to study again while running a practice and having a family. He said it's been an eye-opening experience.

"It took me a couple months to get into a routine," he said. "When I introduce myself in class, I tell kids I would use a punch card when I worked on a computer in 1981 and 1982. Most IT people don't know what that is.

"The weirdest thing going back for me was the lack of a hard copy book. Throughout my post-grad education and high school years, I always had a book. I found a book in my summer classes and would go to it when my eyes couldn't deal with the computer monitor."

Two years in, the WC classes have taken his cybersecurity hobby to a new level.

"There is a lot more depth in what I've been learning," Wood said. "I tease my wife that I'm such a closet geek."

Wood has spent decades as an active community member, volunteering with the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce, Weatherford Noon Lions Club, Weatherford Rotary Club and Parker County Committee on Aging. And he's always had a special place in his heart for Weatherford College, starting with his position on the WC Foundation board.

As he enters his third year as a part-time student, he has decided to give back to the college again by providing a scholarship for future cybertechnology students.

"The college has been special to me, and I try to do what I can for it," Wood said. "Being an actual student at WC has given me a completely different perspective on what a great institution it is.

"I know all too well how higher education can be challenging in various ways, especially financially. I worked through my dental and orthodontic education the whole time to make ends meet. Some of my fellow WC classmates in the course introductions mention how they have children, are single parents, are working, and are taking classes. That can be tough, so maybe this will help someone."

As a student, Wood said his favorite thing about WC is the atmosphere on campus.

"It's just an awesome place," he said. "And I can compare it to four different higher education places."

Wood is not the only family member attending Weatherford College. Currently, his twin girls are completing courses at the Weatherford campus.

"My goal now is to take a class with both of my girls (pictured with him on p. 13) before I finish," he said. "I plan to graduate in the fall of 2024. Maybe I can even graduate with them." 📖



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 11-13	Theatre Production: "Bad Auditions by Bad Actors"
April 18	Taste of Parker County
April 18	PTK Speaker - Human Trafficking Awareness
April 18	Tribute to Jazz Composers Concert
April 20	Weatherford College International Piano Competition Final Round & Award Ceremony
April 22	WC Jazz Orchestra Student Recital
April 24 - 25	Theatre Production: "The Tricks of Scapin"
April 26	Choir Concert
April 27	Shrek The Musical Jr. Auditions
April 28-May 1	NJCAA Southwest District Women's Golf Championships
May 2	Student Art Exhibition
May 3	Opera Workshop
May 6	Piano Student Recital
May 7	Voice Student Recital
May 13	Ex-Student Luncheon
May 23	Commencement
May 31 - June 2	Shrek The Musical Jr.
June 3	Summer I begins
June 3-7	Volleyball Camp
June 10	Ex-Student Luncheon
June 24-28	Volleyball Camp
July 8	Ex-Student Luncheon
July 10	Summer II begins
July 15-18	Volleyball Camp



SCAN QR CODE FOR WC CALENDAR

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