

THE HILLTOP

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Volume XXII : Issue III

FALL 2022

FORGING TOMORROW'S BUSINESS LEADERS



A LOOK AT WC'S BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN
ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
ONE YEAR AFTER ITS LAUNCH

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Unlike many community colleges across the country experiencing sharp enrollment declines, both full-time and part-time enrollment is up this fall at Weatherford College. This is a direct result of the incredibly hard work of our gifted faculty and staff and the generous support of our donors and educational stakeholders. Our new bachelor's degree programs, associate degree programs and workforce certificate programs offer our students more educational choices than ever before.

Even better than the enrollment increase is a sharp increase in our state contact hour funding. This funding increase is primarily a result of the expansion of our nursing programs and the growth of our bachelor's degree programs like the Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences in Organizational Leadership. This issue of The Hilltop will highlight a few of the amazing people currently earning their bachelor's degrees.

Additionally, we are excited to share the remarkable success of our new volleyball program. Under the leadership of head coach Kailee May, the startup team has skyrocketed to first place in the conference. Multiple WC volleyball players are now nationally ranked. Go COYOTES!

Finally, in this issue, we will highlight "The Coyote," our new WC radio station. The Coyote app is available for streaming, and the station is now live with high-definition stereo over-the-air broadcasts. Our new radio station is providing our students with enhanced educational opportunities and providing our listeners with a wide range of entertaining and informative programming.

Thank you for all you collectively do to make Weatherford College an even greater institution. Our future is incredibly bright!



Tod Allen Farmer

Dr. Tod Allen Farmer
President

Hilltop Staff

Katie Edwards
Editor/Designer/Photographer
Brent Baker
Writer/Photographer
Crystal Brown Woerly
Writer/Photographer
Chelsea Cochran
Designer/Photographer

Weatherford College President

Dr. Tod Allen Farmer

Board of Trustees

Mac Smith
Chair
Dan Carney
Vice Chair
Lela Morris
Secretary/Treasurer
G.B. Bailey
Dr. Trev Dixon
Doug Dowd
Dr. Robert Marlett
Judy McAnally

WC Foundation, Inc.

Board of Directors
Brent Gough
President
Nancy Stuart
Vice President
Jacy Guynes
Secretary
Justin Hooper
Treasurer
Allison Baker
Lin Bearden
Chris Bonnett
Don Chrestman
Warren Creason
Vickie Durant
Roy Eaton
Dr. Tod Allen Farmer
Lisa Flowers
Dr. Rickey Harman
Rev. Curtis Jefferson
Rep. Phil King
Ed Kramer
Dr. Sumant Kumar
Lonna Leach
Dr. Tom MacKenzie
Lela Morris
Courtney Paschall
Mike Scott
Members Emeritus
Dorothy Doss
Dr. Richard McIntosh
Dr. Mike White

Readers may send comments,
story ideas or letters to:

THE HILLTOP
225 College Park Drive
Weatherford, TX 76086
817-598-6273
kedwards@wc.edu

© 2022 Weatherford College
Equal Opportunity/Equal access institution

COVER STORY



FORGING TOMORROW'S BUSINESS LEADERS

A LOOK AT WC'S BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN ORGANIZATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAM ONE YEAR AFTER ITS LAUNCH

by Crystal Woerly

Students are raving about Weatherford College's organizational leadership program.

"This program has simply exceeded all expectations, from the classroom camaraderie to the professionalism being taught. Dr. Mathew has established a program that not only teaches leadership but practices excellence." - Grant Mills

"I went in expecting the program would one day make me a better leader. Today, I know I am, and we are only halfway through." - Carey Price

"This program is challenging yet very rewarding. It has brought my weaknesses to the forefront as well as my strengths." - Beth Wetsel

WC's Bachelor of Applied Arts and Sciences Degree in Organizational Leadership is in its second year, with the first class of 15 students halfway through the curriculum plus another 23 leadership scholars who started the program this semester.

"They've consistently brought a genuine passion for learning and leadership," said program director Dr. Philip Mathew about the first cohort of students. "As working professionals, they've balanced work and studies and become a tight-knit group that serves one another."

That balance of work, home life and school has been the biggest challenge for many students, including Theresa Hutchison, WC's executive assistant to the president.

"Thankfully, the courses in the program and the materials we read are extremely fascinating to me, so I see it almost as a hobby and an excuse to read more," she said.

Mason Owen, a network administrator in WC's information technology department, said Mathew has done a considerable job designing the program to accommodate working professionals.

"As an active dad, coaching baseball, managing a social life, and, of course, a full-time job, time for schoolwork can be difficult to find," he said. "Dr. Mathew is very conscientious of who his students are and what this program is designed to accomplish."

The program is a hybrid format, with the online portion of the class granting students 24/7 access to their professors and classmates. The structure also allows students to learn directly from experts in the field.

"This model provides students a chance to discuss real-world problems and apply leadership theories and practices to those challenges," Mathew said. "This not only makes our class times interesting but takes students deeper into the process of discovery."

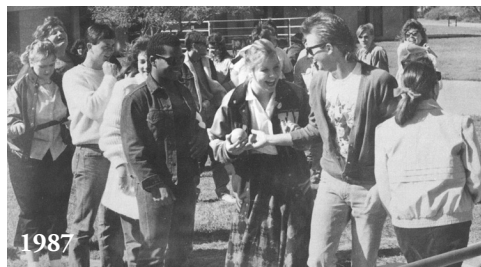
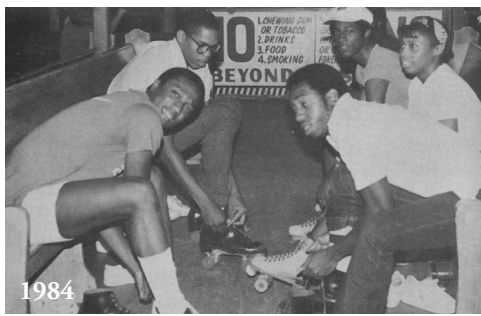
Owen and Hutchison are not the only current WC employees taking their education to the next level with this program. Wetsel is an accounts receivable manager in the college's business office and recognizes the importance of leadership in her job, even though she is later in her career.

"Without good leadership qualities, you cannot be successful as a team manager," she said. "I felt like in any career, good leadership qualities are important. This program teaches you to communicate with others, respect others and develop your code of ethics to help guide you in any situation you encounter."

Mills is WC's student life coordinator and a WC alumnus. He appreciates the ability to work full-time while also continuing his education at a fraction of the cost of traditional four-year universities.

continues with BAAS on page 15.

MEMORIES



A campus full of student activities has always been a tradition at WC. With picnics and cookouts, dances, skating, pie-eating contests, bowling, casino nights and field days, there has always been fun to be had. WC prioritizes active student life because of the sense of community it builds and the memories it makes. Please share your memories with us by emailing kedwards@wc.edu.

FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

Ashley Michele Jones Altum, 36, of Archer City, passed away August 15.

Gale M. Bradford, 85, of Weatherford, passed away September 15.

Floyd Thomas Bradshaw, 77, of Colleyville, passed away September 14. Class of 1965.

Dorothy Louise "Dot" Guess, 98, of Millsap, passed away August 24. Distinguished Alumna Award winner and former chair of the WC Board of Trustees.

Carrie Rene Hester, 61, passed away August 10.

Chris Aaron Littlefield, 59, of Millsap, passed away September 13.

Phil Dan McClendon, 73, of Weatherford, passed away September 18.

Brandon Keith Rubenkoenig, 35, of Azle, passed away September 13.

MOORE BRINGS EXPERIENCE TO FRESHMAN-HEAVY VOLLEYBALL SQUAD



(Note: As The Hilltop went to press, the Coyote volleyball team was the top team in conference play, heading to the Region V North Tournament in Gainesville Nov. 4-5. Check wcatletics.com for the latest.)

by Rick Mauch

The COVID-19 pandemic changed the lives of a lot of people. You can include Weatherford College volleyball player Isabela Moore among them.

In fact, were it not for the pandemic she might not have made her way to the Coyotes. After all, she had a great college career started at North Central Texas College.

In her first and only season at NCTC, Moore was named the Region V Offensive Player of the Year. In the 2020 season, Moore, an outside hitter, finished in

the top 10 of several statistical categories in Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference play: points (second with 154), points per set (second with 4.8), kills (third with 133), kills per set (second with 4.16), total attacks (fourth with 383) and others.

But despite all the success, being comfortable in your surroundings is critical, and when COVID hit, she said she simply wasn't.

"COVID was a hard time with online classes, masks and being away from family for the first time," the Boswell High graduate said. "Having sickness around made the season hard with people being in and out of games and created an environment I didn't want to continue being in."

But she did want to continue playing when the time was right. And when that time arrived, she reconnected with an old friend, her longtime club coach, Kailee May, who was now the head coach for Weatherford College's inaugural program.

"I came here because Coach Kailee told me she was the head coach. Having played for her in club I was already on board," Moore said.

Moore has made an immediate impact in the Coyotes' first season, leading them to become one of the best teams in the conference. Of course, with her experience, it was only natural to make the sophomore standout a team captain.

"Being a captain, I feel that leading the team is essential to starting a great season and making a long-lasting impression on this program. I love the idea that I'm a part of this first-ever team here at Weatherford. I'd say that's another big reason I chose to be here, to make history," Moore said.

May said Moore has brought an impressive amount of maturity and leadership to the team.

"I think her year off from playing gave her some perspective on how much the game

continues with Volleyball on page 14.



Scan QR code to view Presidential Luncheon video.



PRESIDENTIAL LUNCHEON



President Tod Allen Farmer gave his annual address during the Presidential Luncheon at the Alkek Fine Arts Center in September.

Former Miss Texas and WC Distinguished Alumna Gloria Gilbert served as emcee.

Weatherford businessman Adam Feriend and the WC Jazz Orchestra, led by Fredrick Sanders, presented a rousing rendition of "America the Beautiful."

Jacob Beason was presented with the Presidential Service Award for going above and beyond in his position with CBRE's grounds team on the Weatherford campus.

President Farmer also presented a core value coin to WC Board of Trustees Chair Mac Smith for his years of service to the college and its students.



WC LAUNCHES NEW RADIO STATION

Weatherford College launched its new radio station, “The Coyote,” with an online presence in August and traditional FM radio signals that debuted in October.

WC’s acquisition of the Nan and Bob Kingsley Building, complete with multiple top-notch acoustic-ready studio rooms, gave the station an on-campus home along with WC’s new audio engineering program. The college hired Dave Cowley, a local radio personality with nearly 40 years of experience, to be the station’s first general manager.

“This is a great opportunity for our community and the entire area, as they have a radio station that is their voice,” Cowley said. “The station will include local news, weather and sports to live remote broadcasts helping non-profits and underwriting sponsorships

helping local business. And ‘The Coyote’ will showcase the amazing faculty, students and curriculum of Weatherford College.”

Among many other duties in launching the new station, Cowley has been soliciting sponsors, curating the music mix of approximately 1,400 songs, and ordering brand-new equipment, thanks to a \$100,000 gift from Charlie Gilchrist.

“As we finish out our studios, we’ll have many opportunities for students to learn on our station,” Cowley said. “They’ll gain experience in broadcasting, news writing and reporting, podcasting, sports reporting and so much more.”

You can listen to “The Coyote” anywhere using the smartphone app available on the Apple store or the Google Play store. In Parker, Wise, Palo Pinto and Hood counties, you can listen to 88.5 FM as well as 102.5 FM in the Weatherford area.

WC BIOLOGY PROFESSOR PRESENTS RESEARCH IN ALASKA

Weatherford College biology professor, Dr. Bishnu Twanabasu, attended Botany 2022 this past July in Anchorage, Alaska, to present on behalf of his research students.

The students completed mycorrhiza and cover crops research at the WC Agricultural Center in collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Weatherford and have presented their findings each summer since 2014.

“It is a great opportunity for our students of two-year institutions to start their scientific investigations here at Weatherford College and present their research at the international conferences where they meet with research faculties and other research students from all around the world,” Twanabasu said. “More importantly, our students interact with the scientific community and experience the importance of their research at large while they present at the conferences.”

Botany 2022 was the annual international conference organized by the Botanical Society of America and five other societies. When not giving or viewing a presentation, Twanabasu had the chance to explore Anchorage.

“Travel to the conference in Alaska was a magnificent experience,” he said. “It was a great opportunity for me to meet with research scholars and students from other institutions. And sunset at 11 p.m. and sunrise at 5 a.m. was also a one-of-a-kind experience for me.”

ABSTRACT
Cover crop effects on soil health and crop yield in a semi-arid region. The study was conducted in the Weatherford Agricultural Center, Texas, USA. The cover crop treatments included a 100% cover crop (CC) and a 50% CC. The results showed that the 100% CC treatment significantly increased soil organic carbon (SOC) and soil nitrogen (N) levels compared to the 50% CC treatment. Additionally, the 100% CC treatment resulted in higher crop yields compared to the 50% CC treatment.

Have Podostemum and Mycorrhizal Fungi Formed a Neotoma?
Podostemum is a parasitic plant that lacks chlorophyll and is dependent on mycorrhizal fungi for its survival. This study investigated the relationship between Podostemum and mycorrhizal fungi in a semi-arid region. The results showed that Podostemum was able to form a neotoma with mycorrhizal fungi, which allowed it to survive in the soil without photosynthesis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION
The results of this study indicate that cover crops have a positive impact on soil health and crop yield. The 100% cover crop treatment resulted in higher soil organic carbon and nitrogen levels, as well as higher crop yields compared to the 50% cover crop treatment. Additionally, the study found that Podostemum is able to form a neotoma with mycorrhizal fungi, which allows it to survive in the soil without photosynthesis.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE AROUND CAMPUS



1. Students braved the rain on the first day of the Fall 2022 semester
2. President Tod Allen Farmer and Paul Paschall, mayor of Weatherford, joined a team of volunteers that helped students move into Coyote Village before the start of the academic year.
3. The quad was filled with clubs and organizations during Welcome Week introducing Coyotes to all their options to get involved this year.
4. Phlebotomy students practiced their blood drawing skills at a fall wellness fair for WC employees held in the Emerging Technologies and Workforce Building.

5. WC theatre students performed "Moon Over Buffalo" in the Alkek Fine Arts Center in early October.
6. Students in WC's public safety programs participated in a tug-of-war contest at the National Night Out held at Heritage Park in October.
- 7a/b. WC hosted a Public Safety Expo attended by law enforcement, medical services, and military recruiters from across the region this fall. Several groups of high school students, as well as families with their children, attended the event to learn more about career opportunities.



8. Area educational professionals gathered at WC for the Parker County School Counselors Summit.

9. Faculty members from WC's social sciences department led by moderator Dan Curlee, WC's general counsel, discussed the U.S. Constitution in the annual Constitution Day forum.

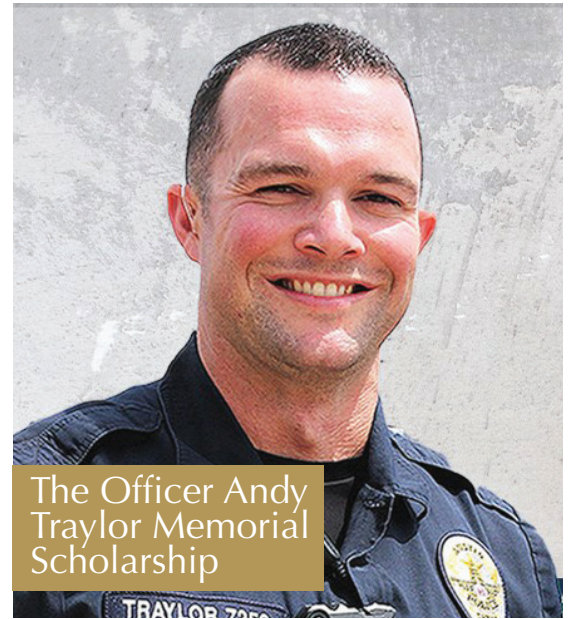
10. Students enjoyed beautiful weather and plenty of food at the fall semester cookout held at the Memorial Plaza.

11. The annual WC Foundation Golf Tournament was held at Canyon West Golf Course on Oct. 6. Community supporters ensured this was another sold-out event.

FOUNDATION WELCOMES NEW SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS



Myrlan & Jim Coleman



The Officer Andy Traylor Memorial Scholarship

WC JOINS GLOBAL HEALTH ADMINISTRATION EDUCATION NETWORK

Weatherford College's Bachelor's of Applied Technology in Medical and Health Services Management Degree program has joined the ranks of top Texas universities with a membership in the Association of University Programs in Health Administration.

AUPHA is a global network of colleges, universities, faculty, individuals and organizations dedicated to improving health by promoting excellence in health management education. Joining the

organization is an important boon to WC's newest bachelor's degree and students in the program.

"WC is the first and only community college to join AUPHA which has traditionally been reserved for four-year universities," said Dr. Stephen Duarte, Medical and Health Services Management program director.

The college will be eligible for certification from AUPHA in 2025. This membership and future certification show

that WC is committed to providing an education that meets a higher national standard, Duarte said.

"The two-year long certification process will confirm our pursuits," he said. "This puts us in the company of undergraduate programs such as Texas Southern University, Texas State and graduate programs like Army-Baylor University, Baylor, Texas A&M and most Texas university programs."

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE WORKFORCE EDUCATION

4-D DRONE MAPPING

Register today for classes in November



wc.edu • 817-598-8870



WC HONOR SOCIETY RECEIVES GRANT FOR RECYCLING PROJECT



Weatherford College's Phi Chapter of the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society has received a \$1,000 Honors in Action Grant for their 2022 Honors in Action project.

The chapter is using this grant to enhance recycling on campus through a trash art contest. The contest's goal was for participants to use creativity and teamwork to increase campus recycling using the theme of "Play it Forward."

"Play has the ability to evoke memories that challenge, inspire, traumatize and heal. It is a harbinger of epiphanies, inventions and innovations," said PTK club advisor Lauren Tidwell. "Taking time to stop and play can counteract the fast-moving nature of contemporary life and inspire behavior change. We look forward to seeing our students, faculty, and staff showcase their talents while communicating an important message."

Through the Honors in Action grant, the chapter can award WC bookstore gift certificates to all contest participants. The first- and second-place winners in the literature, 2D and 3D categories will receive gift certificates in the amount of \$100 and \$50, respectively. All other contest participants will receive a \$10 gift certificate.

Photo from a 2016 Trash Art competition.

FINE ARTS AT WC

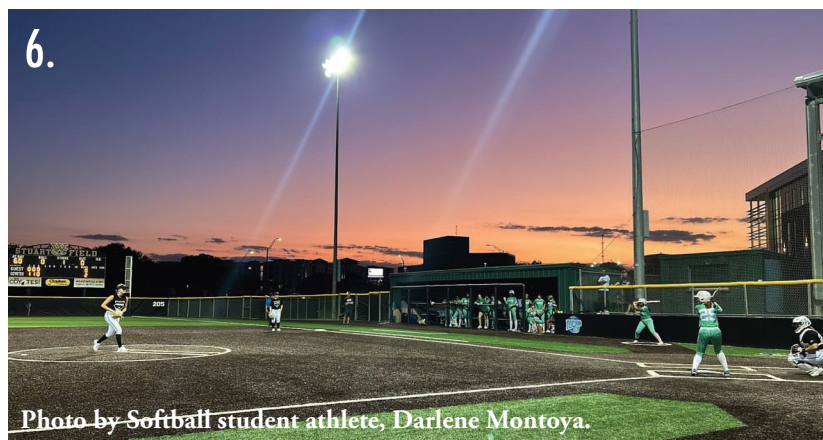


The Fall 2022 Fine Arts Season is here. Check out the online schedule so you don't miss a thing.



Scan QR code to view full fine arts schedule.

ATHLETIC UPDATE



1. The WC rodeo program held its 4th annual Alumni Rodeo at the Parker County Sheriff's Posse Grounds in October.

2. The community gathered in late September to celebrate the WC women's rodeo team's 2022 national championship as well as a fourth individual title.

3. The inaugural Coyote volleyball team was introduced at the "First Serve" cookout event in September.

4. WC welcomed new assistant men's basketball coach Darryl Jackson this semester. The Valparaiso graduate brings coaching experience from Garden City Community College and Navarro College.

5. Gatlin Goad and the Coyote golf team is back at it this semester. Bryce McCracken won the UHV Fall Classic in October and the Coyotes finished in second place.

6. WC's softball and baseball teams have begun "fall ball" scrimmages at Stuart Field and Williams Ballpark.



Scan QR code to view full athletic schedule.



Scan QR code to view video about National Rodeo Champions.

CHAMPIONSHIP TENNIS COACH EXCITED ABOUT NEW CHALLENGE AT WC



by **Rick Mauch**

Mitchell Vechione knows what the Weatherford College women's tennis team is capable of doing. He was there when they did it last season.

Well, he was actually at a rival program coaching Seward Community College (Kansas), where he led the women's team to a regional championship and third-place nationals finish and the men to a national title.

"I was fortunate enough to have some success the last

few years in JUCO (junior college). Weatherford is a different breed of JUCO, though," Vechione said. "It's a coach's dream here. The president, faculty, staff, and community really care about athletics here, and especially tennis, which is rare.

"The athletic department is something I've never seen as well. The organization and support from the athletic department is something you don't see every day. Having that kind of backing and the experience I have in coaching will send us to new heights in my opinion."

Given that the program soared pretty high last season, that's saying a lot, but Vechione knows what it's like to reach the pinnacle - something WC has in their sights this season.

Vechione inherits a program that, in its first season, reached the NJCAA Tournament and finished eighth under coach Alexandra Leatu. At one point in the season they were ranked as high as No. 7 in the nation.

Four players are back from that team, Marija Ristanovic, Mia Milojevic, Lina Brandt, and Agi Vaillant.

"There were a lot of accomplishments from last season. Finishing eighth at nationals was huge for a first-year program," Vechione said. "These girls are tough. Alex Leatu did a great job with these young ladies. They are resilient, hard workers, respectful, and so much more. Those things will definitely help going into this season."

Leatu left to become the head coach at Queens University of Charlotte, NC, but Vechione said the experience she led the players to a year ago is invaluable.

"The experience of last season and competing at a high level at nationals will 100 percent bring nothing but positivity to the program," he said. "The returners are doing a great job of getting the freshmen geared up for what's to come."

And speaking of freshmen, Vechione is thrilled with the new talent joining forces with the returning players who already have proven success at the collegiate level.

"The new recruits are definitely going to be a force to be reckoned with this season. A little raw, but very driven and hard working," he said. "It makes my job that much easier when you have a new group of recruits come in and immediately make a positive impact." 📧

CLASS NOTES

Jason Baxter ('00) recently accepted a position as a sourcing specialist at Broadwing Aviation, a boutique aerospace company.

Jack Christopher Blair ('99) was recently admitted to Oklahoma State University's doctoral program in Health, Leisure and Human Performance.

Dan Carney ('73) with Vick Carney in Weatherford, has been named a Texas Super Lawyer by Thomson Reuters. He is also vice chair of the WC Board of Trustees.

Matt Hickey, right-handed pitcher and former Coyote, was drafted by

the St. Louis Cardinals in the 15th round of the Major League Baseball Draft in June.

Robb Huhn ('07) was recently promoted to squadron commander for the 139th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron in the Air National Guard.

Blake Mayfield, former WC baseball player, is now an instructor for Extra Innings NTX Denton.

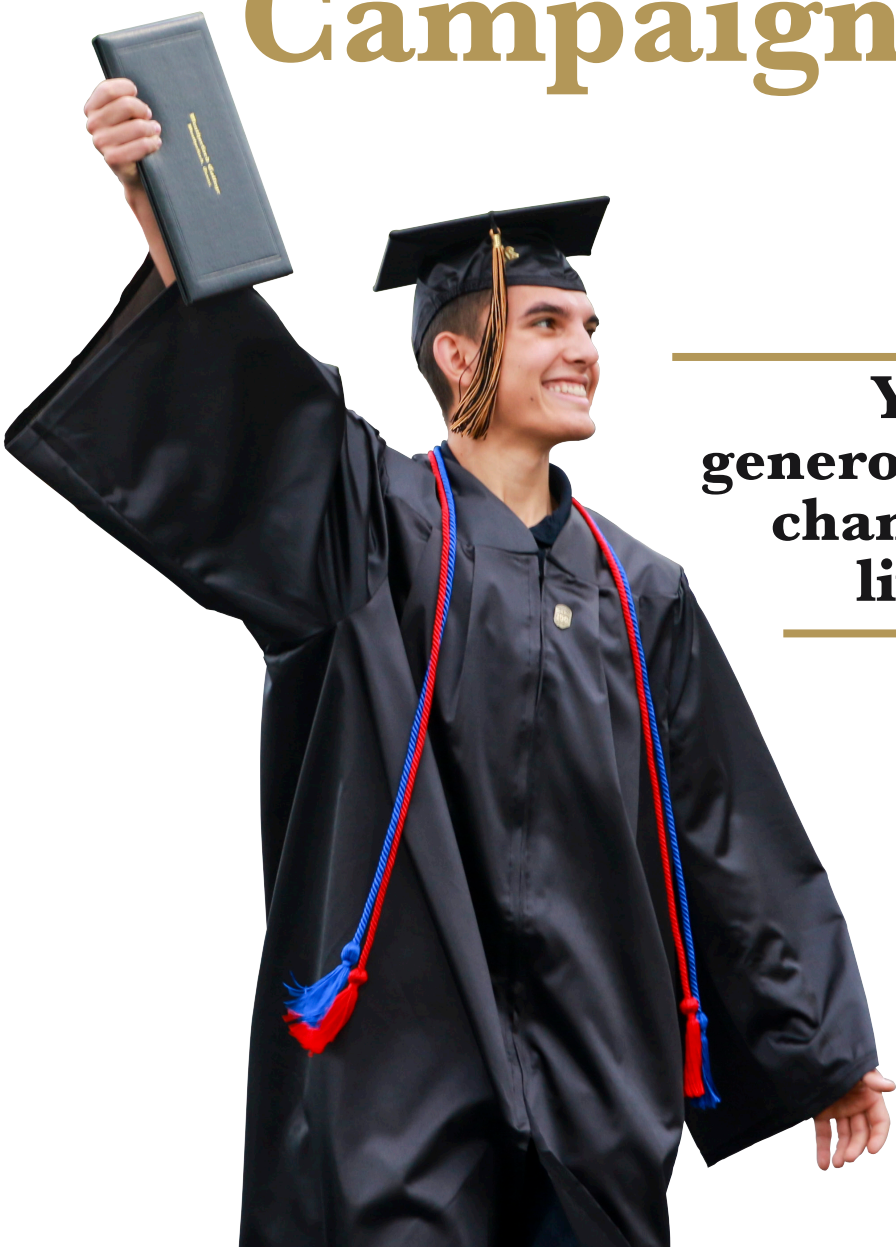
Jimmy McGuire ('16), LCDC, is an addiction counselor at Fort Behavioral Healthcare in Fort Worth.

Weatherford College and the WC Foundation thanked **Tom Pritchard ('53)** for serving on the foundation board. Tom served from 2009 to 2021, helping to raise funds for scholarships and other student support.

Janice Taylor ('62), WC alumna and retired teacher, was recognized as a 2022 Distinguished Alumna of Weatherford High School. She is a member of the WHS class of 1960.

Jordan Wood ('16) recently accepted a position as a senior software engineer at Motorola Solutions, a software development company.

The Annual Giving Campaign



**Your
generosity
changes
lives.**



Scan QR code
to give online
or call 817-598-6275
for more information.



VOLLEYBALL *from page 5.*

means to her. She knows her time on the court is limited and has not taken a single contact for granted,” May said. “Especially because we have a team of 16 freshmen, Isabela has really taken ownership of making sure the team is focused and working hard.

“The team genuinely looks to her for guidance on and off the court. Isabela has life experience that most of our team hasn’t had yet, so her maturity and experiences bring a unique level of leadership that our freshmen are definitely benefiting from in many ways.”

In retrospect, Moore said taking a year off was a good thing.

“Taking a year off was needed for my body and coming back from being away felt as natural as it always has,” she said. “My play is starting strong, and I’m ready to make my impression here, but that would be no help without my amazing teammates.”

And, with only one season to play at WC, she’s not wanting to wait for the program to win. So far, she’s not having to wait.

“So far it’s been a solid season. Our preseason was fairly competitive, playing ranked teams and us being a first-year sport,” she said. “We play hard and have an insane amount of talent on this team. I think if we continue to play how we have, we have a great chance of winning.”

Moore said she hasn’t yet decided where she will attend college or play after this school year, but she is excited to see what the future holds now that she’s back on the court. And while she hasn’t picked a major, she’s leaning toward coaching for a career.

“My main interest is being a coach so I can continue to pass down knowledge of the sport,” she said.

But for now, she has this season as her main focus.

“I’m excited to see how this season goes and I wouldn’t want to start something so special with any other group of people,” she said. “This program really is the best and we have a family, created within a sport.” ☺

THANK YOU

to the following donors who gave recent gifts to the WC Foundation (as of October 14, 2022)

Fawn Aldrich
Dr. Arleen Atkins
Austin Cops for Charities
Elizabeth and Brent Baker
Jenny Barnwell
Hamid Bateni
Lin and Tiffany Bearden
Bent Oak Capital
J.C. "Chris" Blair
Brandt Companies
Marvin Browder
Dr. Andra and John Cantrell
Community National
Bank & Trust
Dr. Robert and Emily Cooper
CBRE
Challenge of Tarrant County
Jim and Myrlan Coleman
Dan and Jayne Curlee
David and Becky Daniel
Donna Dickinson
Dillard Feed & Seed Inc.

Doug and Kristy Dowd
Jerry and Vickie Durant
Dane and Jaci Edwards
Eggleston King, LLP
Michael and Christine Endy
Ronald J. Epps
Dr. Tod Allen Farmer and Family
The Fellowship of Weatherford
First Financial Bank
First Financial Trust
Linda Freeman
Fort Worth Stock Show & Rodeo
Wayne and Sharon Garrett
Gilchrist Automotive
Carolyn Glenn
Gough Wealth Management
Paul and Cassy Gray
Pat and Sharon Hamilton
Hartness Print Central LLC
Dr. Luke and Ashtyn Haynes
John and Karen Hinton
Jeanie Hobbs

HUB International
Don and Kim Hubbard
Huckabee & Associates
Imperial Construction
Jacy Guynes State Farm
Margaret Johnson
Johnson Controls, Inc.
Kenneth Keith
Lonna Leach
Henry Lim
Lone Star Coaches
Ben and Dora Long
Ron and Tammy McBee
Susan Nead
North Side Baptist Church
Paul and Courtney Paschall
Parker County Cruisers
The Pizza Place
Prosperity Bank
Roger Williams Family
Rotary Club of Weatherford
Dr. Wayne and Linda Sharp

Johnell Smith
Kathy Smyrl
Marilyn St. Clair
Shannon Stoker
Brenda Lee Stout Powell
Mark and Brenda Tackett
Bob and Kristen Tallman
Texas Bank
Texas Book Company
Carol and Doug Turpin
United Rentals
Barbara Upham
Wayne Hodges Family
Weatherford Evening Lions Club
Weatherford Optimist Club
Alan and Lee Ann White
Morris and Judy White
Laura and Bruce Wiggs
Joe and Karen Wilkinson

BAAS *from page 3.*

"This program is more than your typical classroom," he said. "We are actively pushed and challenged through activities and projects and consistently faced with opportunities to find something new about ourselves. This program has established the basis of leadership for me to continue to build off as I learn and grow as a professional."

For some students, their biggest obstacle is not balancing the different components of their life; it's overcoming their fears.

Price started college 20 years ago but withdrew after completing 16 hours, thinking she wasn't smart enough. She returned to school in 2019 and completed her Human Service Provider Associate of Applied Science at WC in 2021, graduating Magna Cum Laude.

She has now realized that her past experiences don't dictate her future.

"Leadership is not always about knowing how to get there but working together to discover a way," she said. "This program has

given me the self-confidence, knowledge and skills I need to make positive changes within myself and for those around me."

For Hutchison, the timing was everything. She had searched for the right baccalaureate program for years, never finding one that quite fit what she was looking for until WC started the BAAS in Organizational Leadership.

"My passion is working with people on all levels, and this program allows me to learn and explore the different ways people operate and how that incorporates into an organization," she said. "One of our current courses is on conflict and negotiation, which allows for practical application in dispute resolution. My nature is 'peacemaker' or 'mediator,' so learning how to use these skills more effectively is extremely gratifying."

The program also focuses on core management principles, communication skills, creating personal ethics codes and how to merge those with organizational ethics, all skills necessary for empowering workplace leadership.

"Our program mission is to educate and enable emerging and experienced leaders to positively impact the businesses, organizations and communities they serve," Mathew said. "My goal is to further the program's reach, create mutually beneficial community and business partnerships, and offer more innovative options for our students that help prepare them for a lifetime of learning and service."

In the program's first year, WC established articulations with three respected Texas universities providing graduates a direct pathway to several graduate degrees at Tarleton State University, Texas A&M Commerce and West Texas A&M University.

"Weatherford College has presented its employees with a unique opportunity – an opportunity that stands to benefit both those employees who take advantage of it as well as the institution," Owen said. "As a long-time employee of Weatherford College, I look forward to leveraging this degree to move into a leadership role here and create improvements for my coworkers." 📧

COYOTE CHASE RACE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12
9 A.M. START TIME FOR 5K & 1-MILE RUN

REGISTRATION INFO

CHILDREN 12 & UNDER:

\$15 pre-registration, \$20 on race day

AGES 13 & OVER:

\$20 pre-registration, \$25 on race day

MORE INFO:

QUESTIONS?

Jaci Edwards at 817-598-6272
or jedwards@wc.edu

