Weatherford College THE HILLOP A newsletter for alumni and friends of Weatherford College



Five construction projects keep College busy



Message from the President



I can't believe it has been five months since our last edition of *The Hilltop*, it seems like just yesterday. With several major construction projects currently under way, a reaffirmation visit from the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools on the horizon, and a challenging budget being finalized, it's clear to see that "time waits for no one."

I am proud to say that we have all been able to play a role in the changes taking place around our campus. It is wonderful to know that you are part of something that will continue to thrive long after we have passed.

For example, our roofing and mansard project not only will bring a modern look to our facilities, it also will ensure the safety of our campus for years

to come. The concrete tiles on our old façade were falling off our buildings, and the safety of all of our campus visitors is of the utmost importance to our Board of Trustees and our administration. The cosmetic nature of the mansard project was an ancillary benefit to the project, but the safety issue was truly the driving force.

With the new academic year right around the corner, I look forward to the many opportunities we will have for fellowship and celebration of everything that WC has given to each of us. Each of you receives this publication for one reason, and one reason only: you are a part of the Weatherford College family. I would love to have the opportunity to meet each of you in person and hear your WC memories. Please don't hesitate to stop by my office when you are on campus, or tap me on the shoulder at one of our events and say hello. Each of you represents a living history of this great institution, I hope that you will allow me to absorb some of your memories and pass them on to others.

In closing, I am thankful every day for the blessings that have been given to me, and I am honored to serve the Weatherford College family. I wish each of you a wonderful fall, and I hope to visit with you soon.

Sincerely,

Levin P. Caton

Kevin Eaton, Ed.D. President

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On the Cover: Officials celebrate the groundbreaking of the WC Wise County campus in June. Pictured are (left to right): Wise County Precinct 2 Commissioner Kevin Burns; WC Board of Trustees Secretary/Treasurer Trey Cobb; WC Board President Frank Martin; Dr. Kevin Eaton, WC president; Wise County Commissioners Harry Lamance, Precinct 3; and Danny White, Precinct 1; and Wise County Judge Bill McIlhaney.

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Friends We'll Miss

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COVER STORY

Building Boom

Five construction projects keep College busy

by Brent Baker

If you've ever built a house, you know the feeling. Construction projects can be hectic, exhausting, and, at the same time, exhilarating.

Can you imagine five construction projects at once?

"It makes it exciting," laughed Dr. Kevin Eaton, Weatherford College's president and the man responsible for making sure each project finishes on time and under budget. "What I like about it is...it's something different every day. It's challenging, but I come into the office every day excited about what's going to happen next."

There's plenty happening to keep Eaton and his WC team busy. The construction of a new academic building, a roofing and mansard project, a new softball complex, the construction of an entire new campus in Wise County, and the renovation of a new site in Granbury have made WC a beehive of activity.

All five projects will begin within the calendar year 2011, with four of them already under way as of early August.

"I think within a year and a half, it'll look like a brand new campus in Weatherford," Eaton said. "I'm excited because I think the students will appreciate that. They'll feel like they're learning in a modern facility instead of one that looks 42 years old."

Academic Building

The need for more classrooms and science laboratories will finally be addressed with the new, 40,000-square-foot structure located west of the Doss Student Center and south of the Allied Health Building. The \$9 million building will house 10 classrooms, two lecture halls, eight laboratories, 10 faculty offices and other amenities.

"Of all the projects in the works, I'm most excited about the academic building," Eaton said. "Over the last two years, I've seen hundreds of students turned away because





Upper photo: An artist's rendering of WC's new academic building (courtesy of Hahnfeld Hoffer Stanford). Lower: A construction worker placing metal trim on the Biology Building mansard.

they can't get into core courses that already are filled to capacity. These new classrooms and labs will allow us to schedule more sections of those core courses, and we won't lose as many students that need those classes to graduate."

WC Board of Trustees Chair Frank Martin echoed that enthusiasm.

"I think the new academic building will be the most exciting addition to the campus," Martin said. "It will be the first major facility solely dedicated to instruction that has been added in a number of years and will allow the reorganization and renovation of a number of other facilities to improve instruction and faculty/administration performance."

Groundbreaking for the academic building will take place this fall, with completion expected in the fall of 2012.

Roofing and Mansard Project

Although one of the least expensive projects at approximately \$2 million, the roofing and mansard upgrade on the Weatherford campus likely will have the broadest impact from an aesthetic perspective.

continues with Construction on page 11.

MEMORIES

Do you know...



If you have any memories or knowledge of the event in this photo, please send a note to Katie Edwards at 225 College Park Drive, Weatherford, TX, 76086, or send an e-mail to kedwards@wc.edu.

Attention alumni: We need your email address!

Please send your email address to bbaker@wc.edu, so WC can send you updates, event notices, etc.

Friends we'll miss

June Lorraine Alexander ('51) of Fort Worth passed away on October 30, 2010.

Dorothy Evelyn Allen of Fort Worth passed away on March 12. She was 89.

Jack W. Dickerson ('68) of Aledo passed away on July 17. He was 73.

Jeanne Fox of Weatherford passed away on June 27. She was 79.

Dr. Mary Hood of Granbury passed away on April 21. She was 69. She taught part time at Weatherford College and served Phi Theta Kappa for 38 years.

Stonewall Jackson, Jr., of Santo passed away on May 29. He was 86.

Frank Warren Kirkpatrick passed away on March 9. He was 82.

Jerry W. Neidholt of Mineola passed away on October 21. He was 80.

Juanez Walker of Weatherford passed away on April 18. She was 84.

Reagon Walker of College Station passed away on April 22. He was 21.

Catherine Leona Corley Wetsel of Beaumont passed away on March 1. She was 95.

Virginia Ann Witherspoon of Weatherford passed away on April 29. She was 81.







HOMECOMING 2011 Distinguished Alumni honored

Three well-respected WC alumni were honored at the College's annual Homecoming festivities in the spring. **Rachael Thorp McGill** ('40), was recognized as the 2011 Alumnus of the Year; and **James Barnett** ('47) and **Arnold Pitchford** ('48) were named Distinguished Alumni.

McGill spent her career working for the federal government, including the War Assets Department, the Soil Conservation Commission and the Federal Housing Authority, before retiring in 1979.

The Weatherford native was praised for her passion to keep alumni connected with WC. The 90-year-old sends birthday, sympathy and "get well" cards to many of the College's former students and personally calls individuals to remind them of monthly Ex-Students meetings.

"Rachael is a tireless worker for WC," said previous Alumnus of the Year Mildred Beard, who nominated McGill. "Since graduating, she has remained a very active member of the Exes, sending cards and keeping up with other ex-students. She loves to attend WC activities."

Barnett worked for his Alma Mater from 1967 to 1982 in numerous positions from registrar, counselor, and finally, as director of financial aid. He also served 25 years in the U.S. Naval Reserves and retired as a Lt. Commander.

Active participants in the WC Exes, James and his wife Bennie are devoted supporters of the College and during the last six years have donated \$35,000 to the WC Foundation to support scholarships.

Pitchford began a career in the oil and gas business in 1950, first for Western Exploration Company in Laurel, Mississippi, moving on to Martin Well Servicing three years later. In 1954 to 1979, he worked for Bass Companies in Louisiana as a field rep and ultimately, chief accountant, retiring in 1979 and moving to Mobile, Alabama, and taking a position with Marion Corporation.

An accomplished writer, Pitchford has authored two books and has been published in numerous periodicals. He is the current WC Alumni Association president, and served two years as vice president.

Alumni Spotlight: Jalie Reedy

She's a self-proclaimed Ditzi Chick - but only in the sense that it's the name of her community league basketball team; Jalie Reedy, WC Class of 2006, really has her act together.

She played a mean game of basketball under Coach Bob McKinley's tutelage the two years she was at WC, but she was just as serious about attaining her applied science degree in radiologic technology.

In fact, she was among those in the first class of radiology taught here.

"We were all kinda 'guinea pigs' together," Jalie said, in a recent interview at her place of employment, Radiology Associates in the Weatherford office. "Everyone was so helpful. Our instructors – I remember, in particular, Mrs. Debbie Gee and Pauline Jones - they worked really hard to prepare us and train us in this field. I love what I do, and I want to stay in this career – maybe even run an imaging center someday."

Toward that end, Jalie is completing a master's program through Midwestern State University in radiologic sciences and administration.

"You know, I have played sports all my life and suffered through several broken bones," said Jalie. "I was always fascinated with the X-Rays and the MRIs (magnetic resonance imaging) and always wanted to know more about them. Now, I'm actually performing those tests, and I feel I am helping other people through their broken bones."

McKinley remains a close friend, mentor and advisor, Jalie said.

"Coach McKinley treated us all like real people when we were playing for him – not just a number – and he cared about us as students, too, always checking on our grades and pushing us to study harder, to try harder. My time at WC was just great, and I'd tell any student or person out there struggling with a decision about education to give it a try. There's a reason for everything, and you just have to keep on keeping on to succeed."



Weatherford College AROUND CAMPUS



Peach Pedal Success

More than 2,200 cyclists braved the heat to participate in the Peach Pedal Bike Ride in July. The WC Foundation/Weatherford Chamber of Commerce event coincided with the Parker County Peach Festival, and riders came from across Texas, Louisiana and Oklahoma. Photos by: Steve Reisman



Faculty leads study abroad trip to Italy, Greece

The WC English Department continued its annual study abroad program in May, taking 11 current and former students to Italy and Greece.

The trip included visits to Rome, Pompeii, Delphi, Athens, several Greek islands (Mikonos, Santorini, Patmos) and the Turkish port of Kusadasi (Ephesus). Students earned up to six hours of college credit in Forms of Literature and Fine Arts Appreciation.

Pictured at The Parthenon in Athens are Dr. Sarah Lock, WC English instructor and trip leader; and Michael Endy, dean of academics.

Coach takes on more duties

This will be a busy year for Bob McKinley. The longtime WC coach will serve as athletic director, head coach of the women's basketball team, and head coach of the men's basketball team. McKinley has coached at Weatherford College for 34 years, winning the conference Coach of the Year Award eight times.

Photo by: Jared Lindsay

Faculty receive teaching awards

Nine Weatherford College instructors recently were recognized by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development with Teaching Excellence Awards. NISOD emphasizes the importance of teaching and leadership excellence in institutions of higher education.

Pitured here, left to right, back row: Cal Lewiston, Fine Arts department chair; Dr. Erin Sagerson, English instructor; Nina Maniotis, phlebotomy program director, and Beau Black, English instructor; and front row: Carolyn Boggs, Early Childhood Education instructor; Paula Roddy, office systems technology instructor, and Kim Hopkins, computer science instructor. Not pictured: Shanna Moody and Kay

Meredith.







Retiring instructor honored

The spring 2011 semester was Brad Tibbitts' last as a WC instructor, and it may have been his most eventful.

After an accomplished 38-year WC career, Tibbitts announced his retirement. His peers then honored him with his second Faculty Member of the Year Award. He also earned the title of Faculty Emeritus as he closed out his long career.

But his biggest surprise of the term came when the Faculty Senate named its first instructor-generated scholarship after the longtime history instructor. The Brad Tibbitts Scholarship is funded solely by faculty donations to the WC Foundation.

Tibbitts held several positions since he first began his career with WC in 1973. He chaired the Social Sciences department, then served in administration as the academic dean from 1995 to 1997. He then returned for another 14-year stint in the classroom as an American history instructor, a position for which Tibbitts will be remembered most— by his students and colleagues alike.

Fire Academy students propel to new heights thanks to JET grant

WC Emergency Medical Service Professional students took their learning to new heights thanks to the recent Jobs and Education for Texas grant. The \$313,000 grant allowed WC to purchase stateof-the-art equipment to support training for students.

In a recent live-burn training exercise, the new auxiliary rescue unit (ARU) quickly refilled the depleted self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) cylinders, allowing for more hands-on training time. A diesel-powered generator and Bauer multi station SCBA breathing air system were mounted in a 36-foot trailer, also part of the grant, allowing the trailer to be self-powered and used remotely at training and emergency scenes.

"Prior to the Fire Academy obtaining the ARU, considerable down time was experienced due to waiting on SCBA cylinders to be refilled," said Steve Malley, department chair, Public Safety Professions. "And the equipment allows us to train anywhere we can pull a trailer."





Miss Weatherford College competes in state pageant

When the new 2011 Miss Texas was crowned in early July, WC student Clarin Gniffke was among the 37 hopeful contestants as Miss Weatherford College. At 18, Gniffke was one of the youngest contestants and brought a combination of beauty, poise, brains and talent to the competition that merited her a win in one of the preliminary physical fitness (once called the "swimsuit") categories and also the title of Miss Congeniality voted on by her fellow competitors.

A member of the Phi Theta Kappa honor society and president of the WC Republican Club, Gniffke served as an intern in Congresswoman Kay Granger's Washington D.C. office and is currently interning for State Representative Phil King in Weatherford. Not surprisingly, then, Clarin's Miss Texas platform topic was *Your Vote Counts: Promoting Civic Responsibility Through Voting*.

Photo by: Collage Photography

WC sends three to rodeo nationals



Three WC athletes earned berths in the College National Finals Rodeo in June. Sophomores Jayci Miller, Cadee Tew and Reese Reimer qualified to advance to the CNFR.

It was the seventh consecutive season in which WC sent competitors to the event in Casper, Wyoming.

Miller qualified by topping the season standings in breakaway roping in the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association Southwest Region. Tew finished second in the same event, and Reimer won the regional calf roping title.

Miller and Tew both qualified for the final rounds in their respective events in Casper. They combined for 252.2 points, giving WC an eighthplace finish in the women's team standings.

Photo by: Two Dog Enterprises

Coyotes selected in MLB Draft

Three players with Weatherford College ties were selected in June's Major League Baseball Draft. The Cleveland Indians picked former Coyote Bryson Myles in the sixth round, WC sophomore pitcher Nick Lee went to the Washington Nationals in the 18th round, and the New York Yankees selected sophomore Cass Ingvardsen in the 45th round.

Myles, a junior outfielder at Stephen F. Austin, earned Southland Conference Player of the Year and Louisville Slugger All-American honors in 2011 for the Lumberjacks, leading the nation with 53 stolen bases. Lee was a two-time All-Conference selection for the Coyotes. Ingvardsen, another right-handed pitcher, recorded six saves and posted a 2.25 ERA for WC this past season.

In the past eight years, 18 current or former Weatherford College players have been selected in the Major League Baseball Draft. 🛙 Photo by: Jared Lindsay

Class notes

Elizabeth Evans Clemens, a former WCinstructor, was named Professional Woman of the Year by the National Association of Professional Women in March. Clemens, a Mineral Wells resident, serves on the boards of three non-profit organizations and is the only lifetime board member of Hope, Inc., a shelter for abused women and children.

Keith Deiman ('03) and his wife, Kelli, welcomed a new son, Lucas Ryan Deiman on June 28. Lucas was born in Fort Worth. Kelli is the daughter of Kathy Bassham, WC's dean of student services.

Clay Doyle ('05) was elected to the Azle Independent School District Board of Trustees in May. The 29-year-old is a data analyst for a Metroplex mortgage company.

Linda McMillan has retired after 23 years in the Ector County Independent School District. She spent the last 11



years as Odessa High School's head volleyball coach, reaching the playoffs four times. McMillan was a Lady Coyote basketball player in her days at WC.

Claudia Struzick ('09) graduated from Tarleton State University with a bachelor's degree in Business Administration in May. She is now working on a master's degree, also at Tarleton. Claudia works in WC's Workforce and Continuing Education department.

Meet LUKE HAYNES WC Board of Trustees member, Place 7



The May 2011 elections brought a new face to the WC Board of Trustees. Luke Haynes defeated incumbent Jack DeShazo, who had been appointed to the board in Sept. 2010. Mr. Haynes answers a few questions:

Hometown: Born in Houston "but I consider Parker County my hometown now."

Occupation: Physical Therapist, owner of Parker County Physical Therapy

Family: Wife, Kristy, married 1995; Children, Brooke, Jacob and Luke ("all teenagers!")

Age: 42

Education: Texas Tech University Health Science Center School of Physical Therapy, 1994; licensed PT though State of Texas; completing doctoral studies through Massachusetts Institute of Health Professions, Boston, Mass.

Greatest passion or interest (besides WC): "My family, of course. Life can frequently throw you a curve ball – did I mention my kids are all teenagers? – but my family is my reason I do the things I do. My second passion is my work in a field that I believe is my calling. I enjoy going to work every day, working with people who need our services and realizing each day that there is more to be learned."

Why did you want to run for a place on the WC board? " ... there were issues that motivated me to get involved. First, WC had won a grant to establish Physical Therapy Assistant and Occupational Therapy Assistant programs. As a private practice owner, I frequently have students from other schools across the state come into my practice for internships, products of good and bad schools. I felt it was imperative that I get involved in a capacity that I could help shape those programs into the best the State of Texas has to offer. Secondly, I started my education in a local community college, and it was there that I learned how to learn, a great part of why I am where I am today. I want to be part of a Board that recognizes the balance between fiscally conservative responsibility and a responsible growth and expansion plan that lets WC continue in its excellence, but also become an example for other schools to follow."

Your vision for WC: "WC has the potential to be an astounding resource for the local community and businesses, as well as for students looking to start their educational experience. That takes a vision of responsible stewardship of both assets and of growth and expansion. I am honored to have been elected to the Board of Trustees of Weatherford College and am eager to take on the challenges in front of us with my fellow trustees, administration, staff, student body and the local community."

Taste of Parker County 2011

The 3rd annual Taste of Parker County in May was a "filling" night...not just for the 430 participants enjoying the wonderful food tastings, but for the WC Foundation's scholarship accounts.

The WCF raised more than \$17,000 from the event, and with the recent Title III matching grant program, that has now become more than \$34,000 to support WC students.

Pictured on the left are representatives from the event's sponsors: First National Bank of Weatherford's Lin Bearden, Charlie Gilchrist from the Southwest Auto Group, Plains Capital Bank's Bob Glenn, and vendor Nancy Stuart from Chicken Express. Pictured on the right is one of the hard-working folks from Rosa's Café, one of 19 vendors that made the event a success.



HANK YOU to the following donors who gave recent gifts to the WC Foundation (as of July 26, 2011)

A.D.N. Graduates Ezelle Ashworth estate Iudith A. Baldwin Sandra Ballard Mike and Bettye Beard Bible Study Fellowship Jerry and Linda Bogle Gary and Rebecca Byrd Johnny, Kitty and Jerry Casey Dr. Sue and David Casey Don Chrestman Bill and Sue Coody Shirley M. Cooper Dr. Kevin and Sheila Eaton Roy and Jeanne Eaton Charles and Virginia Edmondson

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Dan and Marsha Feely have continued their support of the Weatherford College Foundation with a \$5,000 gift to the Michael Feely Scholarship Fund. The Feelys have generously contributed \$26,000 to the scholarship fund since 2006. Pictured with the Feelys is Dr. Kevin Eaton, WC president.

Weatherford High School graduate Shelbie Box thanks Charlie Gilchrist of the Southwest Auto Group for a two-year "full ride" scholarship to Weatherford College, covering tuition, fees and books. This year's Charlie Gilchrist's Southwest Auto Group Scholarship was earmarked for a WHS senior athlete continuing their education at WC. Box was captain of the WHS tennis team this season, as well as a member of Health Occupations Students of America. She intends to enter WC's Nursing Program. Gilchrist serves as a member of the WC Foundation Board of Directors.



Weatherford See our new Planned Giving Website!

Great info on...

- Getting started with a gift in your will
- Supporting the College and receiving fixed payments for life
 The easiest way to make an impact with your gift

Go to www.wc.edu, click on "Giving to WC" and then click on "Planned Giving."

Construction from page 3.

Eleven buildings are receiving a facelift through new mansards, replacing concrete tiles from the late 60s/early 70s with modern, stucco surfaces that blend well with the existing brick structures. But Eaton says the appearance of the buildings is secondary to the upgrades in safety.

"As far as safety goes, this upgrade is invaluable. We had heavy concrete tiles falling off the roofs, and putting so much weight and stress on the actual structure of the roofs that they were unsafe. This campus will become a lot safer once the project is complete."

WC Wise County

WC opened an education center in a former Decatur Wal-Mart in 2000 and recently moved into a former Decatur ISD campus. But when Wise County voters decided to approve a branch campus maintenance tax in 2008, they began a whole new era of higher education in their community.

That vote funded a \$32 million facility between Decatur and Bridgeport that will boast the latest in technology and architecture. A new 90,000-square-foot structure and a renovated 18,000-squarefoot existing building will create plenty of space for everything a student needs to earn an associate's degree, including a library, bookstore, dining area, classrooms, lecture halls and laboratories.

"This is truly a dream come true for the citizens of Wise County," said Roy J. Eaton, co-chairman of the WC Wise County Steering Committee. "For more than a decade Weatherford College has been an important part of our community, and with this beautiful new facility, quality higher education will be even more accessible to everyone in Wise County."

Wise County will own the facility with WC as a long-term lessee. A groundbreaking ceremony was held in June, and the College will unveil the campus in time for fall 2012 classes.

Softball Complex

With a new softball program beginning competition in the spring of 2012, construction on the team's new field will be at a fever pitch in the fall.

Located just east of Roger Williams Ballpark on the Weatherford campus,



Upper photo: An artist's rendering of the new WC Wise County campus, currently under construction (Courtesy of VLK Architects). Lower: The new WC softball complex (Hahnfeld Hoffer Stanford).

the softball complex will include covered stands, a dedicated locker room/clubhouse, a top-notch playing surface, and something the baseball facility didn't have its first two years: field lights.

Coach Dottie Cupp's team will arrive on campus in August, with the squad using Weatherford ISD facilities until construction is complete on the WC campus.

Education Center at Granbury

Although not considered new construction, the renovations taking place at WC's Education Center at Granbury are requiring plenty of carpenters, painters, and maintenance workers to prepare for fall classes.

Thanks to the generosity of the Granbury ISD and the City of Granbury, WC is using the 11,000-square-foot building as the College's first stand-alone facility in Hood County. The College is renovating the former GISD campus by adding walls, replacing heating and air conditioning equipment, upgrading electrical systems and upgrading computer networking hardware.

"The building lends itself well to a college facility," said Dr. David Russell, associate dean in Granbury. "There's a large open area in the center of the building that will serve as a commons area, and the classrooms will be just the right size after the renovation. Granbury and Hood County have welcomed us with open arms, and I think they'll be very proud of this center once they see how it accommodates students."

WC has been able to finance all of the above projects without going to the taxpayers for a general obligation bond. Reserve funds—monies set aside over the years for expansion—will fund the academic building and softball complex as well as the renovations in Granbury. Low-interest maintenance tax notes are financing the roofing and mansard project, and the Wise County branch campus maintenance tax is supporting the WCWC construction.

"These projects allow WC to be able to continue to offer quality service to an increasing enrollment and expanding community," Martin said. "It's important to remember that the reason we exist is to serve our students, in all areas. The only reason our students come to WC is to improve their lives. We must keep that mission in front of us at all times."



Weatherford, Texas 76086

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FALL 2011 FINE ARTS CALE DAR All performances start at 7:30 except as indicated

Free admission, doors open half hour prior to start. Marjorie Black Alkek Fine Arts Center 225 College Park Drive, Weatherford For more information call 817-598-6400 or go to http://finearts.wc.edu

PRESENTED BY THE FINE ARTS & COMMUNICATION DEPARTMENT

JULY 29 - OCTOBER 19 Texana Exhibit

OCTOBER 20 - OCTOBER 23 WC Children's Theatre Production,

"Puss in Boots" Matinee 10/23/2011 at 2:00 p.m.

OCTOBER 20 - NOVEMBER 3

WC Student Photo Exhibition

NOVEMBER 9 - NOVEMBER 27 WC Student Art Exhibition

NOVEMBER 14

Reception for Art Students at 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 15 WC College Choir Concert

NOVEMBER 17 - NOVEMBER 20

WC Drama Students & Community Musical Production, "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" Matinee 11/20/2011 at 2:00 p.m.

NOVEMBER 29

WC Jazz Band Concert

DECEMBER 5

Parker County Community Choir Concert, "Selections from Handel's Messiah"

