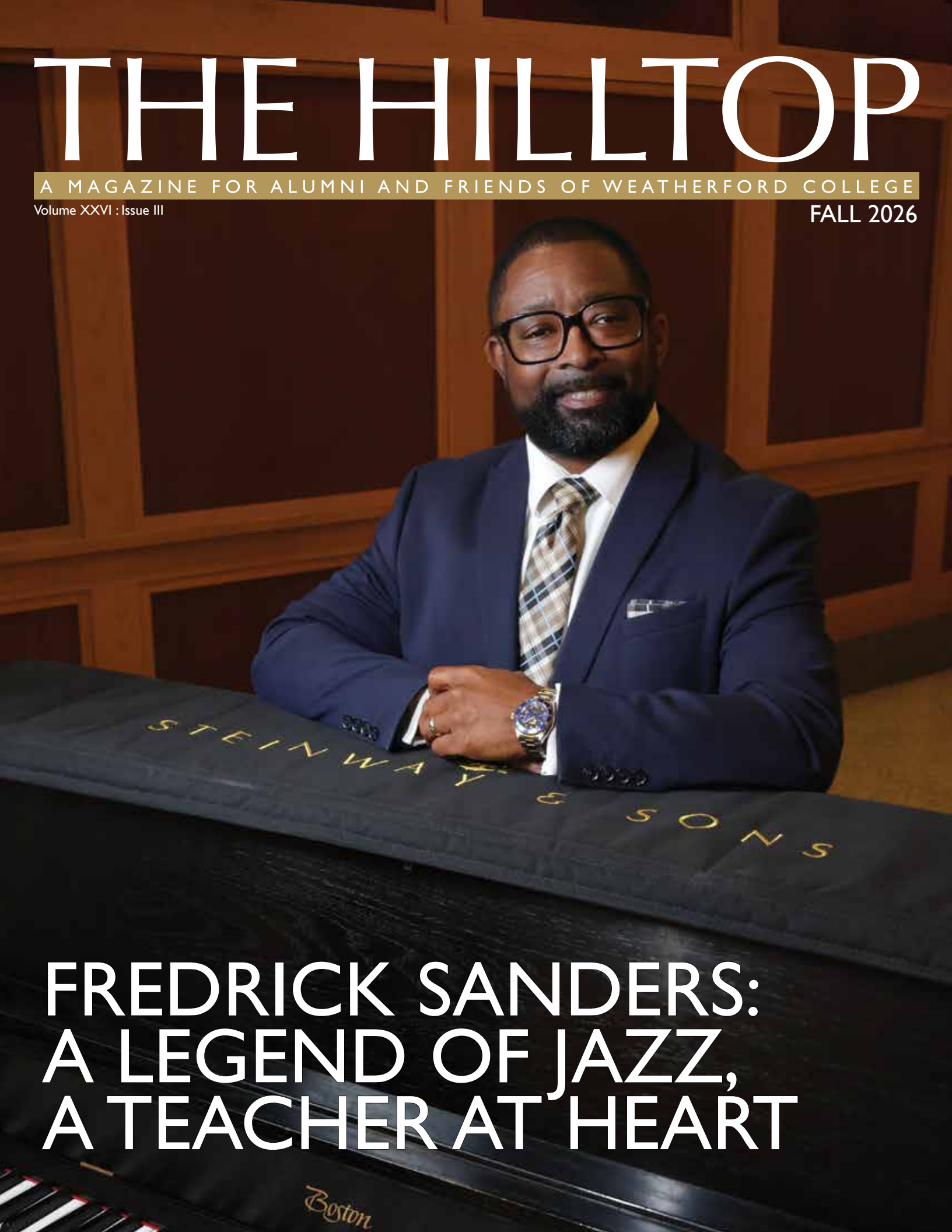
THE HILLTOP

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF WEATHERFORD COLLEGE

Volume XXVI : Issue III

FALL 2026



FREDRICK SANDERS: A LEGEND OF JAZZ, A TEACHER AT HEART

Message from the President



Weatherford College is experiencing yet another long semester of record high enrollment…that makes seven in a row! I hope that you enjoy this edition of The Hilltop.

Our latest edition includes stories on jazz professor Fredrick Sanders and our new chief academic officer Dr. Kent Buchanan. Additionally, there are a few details about the most recent Presidential Luncheon and the forthcoming Travel with the President Viking river cruise. Finally, we showcase our amazing volleyball team and one incredible scholarship recipient named Quinn Basso.

Thanks to sustained enrollment growth and extreme donor generosity, we continue to add new academic and athletic programs, build additional new facilities, and award more student scholarships than ever before. These are great times at Weatherford College, and it is only going to get better!

Thank you for being an integral part of the WC stakeholder community. Please enjoy this edition and remember that wherever you may go, you will always be an important part of the Coyote family.

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A LEGEND OF JAZZ, A TEACHER AT HEART

by Crystal Woerly

The Weatherford College campus looked a bit different when Fredrick Sanders attended in the 1980s.

From roller skating downhill from the dorms in a wide-open parking lot, to a pasture of cows where the ballfields currently stand and performances in the now-gone Mince Auditorium, WC left a lasting impression on the young jazz musician from Dallas.

A gifted cellist and aspiring composer, Sanders had opportunities to continue his education at several prestigious music programs, but the scholarship offers didn't cover living expenses, and he'd be far from home.



WC offered affordability, a scholarship, proximity to his family and an opportunity to grow as a musician. That is, if he'd focus on the piano and not the cello.

And what began as a practical decision became a life-changing one. Away from home for the first time, Sanders learned to support himself by playing for churches, weddings and community events. Just as importantly, he found a close-knit musical community.

"It really was a blessing for me that the school was so small and resources were so low that we didn't have a lot of options other than focusing on the craft," Sanders said.

Among Sanders' most vivid memories as a WC student is helping lead the college's jazz program to one of its defining achievements: back-to-back victories at the prestigious Wichita Jazz Festival.

WC was a small community college competing against university music programs with larger budgets, bigger faculties and far greater name recognition. In comparison with the University of North Texas, the University of Texas and other prominent programs from across the country, WC was an underdog.

"Nobody expected a small college to beat out larger schools," Sanders recalled.

But that's exactly what happened.

WC swept top honors, winning both big band and small ensemble categories. The following year, the college returned and repeated the feat, capturing the same titles once again.

"It had never been done before," Sanders said. "We won it the first year, and then we came back and won it again."

The victories put Weatherford on the national jazz map and served notice that excellence in music education is not measured by enrollment numbers or institutional size.

More than four decades later, the accomplishment remains one of his most treasured memories from his student days.

"Those competitions showed us what was possible," Sanders said. "We learned that if we prepared and committed ourselves to excellence, we could stand on any stage with anybody."

In the years between his time as WC student and WC faculty member, Sanders transformed from a gifted student into an internationally recognized performer, composer and educator.

After continuing his studies at Southern University, Texas State University and the University of Arkansas at Monticello, Sanders built a career that took him across the world.

Along the way, he performed with jazz luminaries including Clark Terry, David "Fathead" Newman, James Clay, Erykah Badu, Roy Hargrove and Frank Foster, appeared at renowned festivals such as Montreux and North Sea, and recorded with artists including Wynton Marsalis' Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, Norah Jones, Benny Golson and Dr. John.

continues with Sanders *on page 13*

MEMORIES



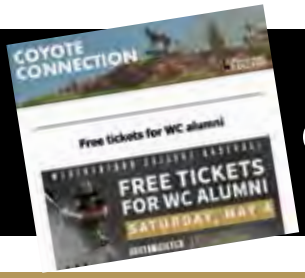
A DEGREE 54 YEARS IN THE MAKING

After funding a new scholarship last year, John Gurica commented that his time at Weatherford College in the early 1970s was very impactful and that he wished he had graduated from WC before moving on to a university. WC staff worked with him to "reverse transfer," using hours from his university transcript to fill out his graduation requirements in order to obtain a WC diploma.

John recently wrote: "...I am amazed at the continued growth of the college and wish you the best in all of your future activities. I also want to thank you again for your help in getting my associate degree, 54 years after I left Weatherford College. It means more to me than the two undergraduate degrees that I have from [another institution]."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Do you have any notes, memories or photos you can share with The Hilltop readers? Please send them to Katie Edwards at kedwards@wc.edu or mail to Attn: Katie Edwards, Weatherford College, 225 College Park Dr., Weatherford, TX, 76086.



DO YOU RECEIVE THE MONTHLY COYOTE CONNECTION EMAIL BLAST?

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

FREE STICKER

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

Friends we'll miss

Larry Don Allen, 74, of Saginaw, passed away October 4.

Mable Ruth Bray, 80, of Weatherford, passed away August 29.

Richard Don Coan, 87, of Stephenville, passed away May 15.

James Albert Cox, 95, of Fort Worth, passed away June 12.

Terry Franklin Dodson, 80, of Fort Worth, passed away July 27.

Courtney Rebekah Sikes ElSholtz, 41, of Weatherford, passed away June 13.

Nita Kay Fidler, 78, of New Braunfels, passed away July 30.

Linda Gail Hake, 70, of Weatherford, passed away June 30.

Susan G. Hill, 46, of Weatherford, passed away May 15.

Wallace Eugene Jones, 87, of Wray, Colorado, passed away August 31.

Wallace Reedell Light, 70, of Mineral Wells, passed away July 31.

Ben Harvey Long, 93, of Weatherford, passed away August 27.

Donna Elaine Simpson, 62, of Weatherford, passed away July 4.

Michael Glynn Stouffer, 78, of Aledo, passed away June 21.



Gabe Thomas "Tom" Vick, Jr., 71, of Weatherford, passed away August 23. Served as a member of the WC Board of Trustees.

Charles "Trapper" Louie Williams, of Poolville, passed away May 16.

Judge Nolus Weaver, III, 52, of Weatherford, passed away April 12.

Ronald Gene Williams, 82, of Weatherford, passed away August 13.

Dannie Faye Woodard, 100, of Weatherford, passed away August 4.



BUCHANAN BRINGS A LIFETIME OF LEARNING TO WC

by Crystal Woerly

Raised in Okeene, Oklahoma, a farming community of about 1,400 people, Dr. Kent Buchanan grew up working wheat fields, raising cattle and playing football. He also had a deep desire to learn.

While he originally planned to become a physician, his passion for discovery ultimately led him in a different direction—the classroom.

"There is nothing more rewarding than seeing a young mind grasp a concept and own it for themselves," he said. "Sometimes it truly is like a light bulb coming on and changes everything for them and for you."

Buchanan experienced a few light bulb moments of his own along the way.

He and his twin brother, Kyle, attended the University of Oklahoma, where he earned a bachelor's degree in microbiology. Graduate studies followed, along with a master's degree and a Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology from the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center. Along the way, influential mentors helped shape his career and his growing interest in scientific research.

His professional journey included research appointments at the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation and the OUHSC before he joined Tulane University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. There, he taught medical, dental and graduate students while conducting research in immunology and medical mycology.

One of the most memorable achievements of his research career came through a NASA-funded project that sent pathogenic microorganisms into space aboard Space Shuttle Atlantis. Astronauts conducted experiments designed by Buchanan and his colleagues during Mission STS-115.

Shortly after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, Buchanan faced a tough decision. With much of his research lost, he chose to start over at Oklahoma City University. What began as a faculty role eventually led him into academic leadership.

"I kept saying yes because I wanted to serve," Buchanan said of the leadership responsibilities that gradually expanded from department chair to faculty senate chair and, eventually, senior administration.

Those experiences helped shape Buchanan's leadership philosophy. He learned the importance of trusting people, developing future leaders and communicating clearly with those affected by decisions.

Some of those lessons came through trial and error while managing research laboratories and supervising graduate students.

"I had to learn to train people, trust them and let them go," he said. "I also learned that initiatives go much more smoothly when people understand the process and feel included."

Those experiences convinced him that transparency matters for initiatives to be successful. And when looking for his next career move, he saw that at WC.

He saw an institution with momentum, innovative academic programs, engaged faculty and staff, strong leadership, and a campus culture centered on student success. The connection was reinforced by family ties. Another brother, Dr. Kevin Buchanan, has lived in Weatherford for many years, and his mother also spent time in the community.

As he settles in as WC 's new executive vice president of academic services, Buchanan hopes alumni, donors, employees and students will come to know him as a collaborative leader who values every perspective while remaining focused on moving the institution forward.

continues with Buchanan *on page 14*







WC EXPANDS GRADUATE SCHOOL PATHWAYS THROUGH NEW UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS

Weatherford College continued its expansion for graduates seeking advanced degrees recently through a series of university partnerships that create direct pathways from WC bachelor's programs to master's degree programs in leadership, business and nursing.

In recent months, the college signed transfer agreements with East Texas A&M University, Abilene Christian University and Southwestern Adventist University, strengthening a growing network of graduate school opportunities for WC alumni. Each agreement is designed to help students transition seamlessly into graduate education while maintaining affordable and flexible options for working adults.

In August, WC formalized an agreement with East Texas A&M University that guarantees admission to the university's online Master of Science in Organizational Leadership program for qualifying WC graduates who earn a BAAS in Organizational Leadership and maintain at least a 3.0 GPA in their final 60 semester credit hours. The fully online program is offered in seven-week sessions and can be completed in approximately 12 months.

"We were looking for a prestigious university that matches our mission and values, and we know that when we look for quality, we look to The Texas A&M University System, and specifically East Texas A&M," President Tod Allen Farmer said. "This is a perfect match for us and our students."

The college expanded those opportunities further in September through a transfer agreement with Abilene Christian University. The partnership provides eligible graduates of WC's Organizational Leadership program with a direct pathway into ACU's Master of Business Administration and Master of Science in Management programs. Benefits include waived application fees and early access to academic advising.

"We are honored to partner with such a noble institution as Abilene Christian University," Farmer said. "Our core values at Weatherford College are faith, hope and love. So, partnering with a Christian university to provide our talented students with the opportunity to earn a graduate education that carries on the tradition of excellence and the character and the virtue that will create not only an educated worker, but a quality human being."

For nursing graduates, Southwestern Adventist University offers a pathway to advanced healthcare education through an agreement signed in September. The partnership enables graduates of WC's Bachelor of Science in Nursing program to continue their education through graduate-level nursing programs at Southwestern Adventist.

"We're thrilled to have this opportunity to send our students to a university where we know they will be challenged and prepared for the next stage of their educational journey," Farmer said at the signing ceremony. "This partnership is a natural progression for students who want to continue their education at the graduate level."

College leaders said the agreements reflect a broader strategy of building educational pathways that help students advance from associate and bachelor's degrees into master's and doctoral programs without unnecessary barriers.

Dr. Mark Pullam, WC's Organizational Leadership program chair, said such partnerships help students envision a future that extends beyond undergraduate education.

"Students who once may have viewed the completion of a bachelor's degree as the final step in their educational journey can now see a clearly connected opportunity leading toward graduate education," Pullam said. "This partnership helps students see what's possible."

DETAILS FOR TRAVEL WITH THE PRESIDENT 2027 ANNOUNCED



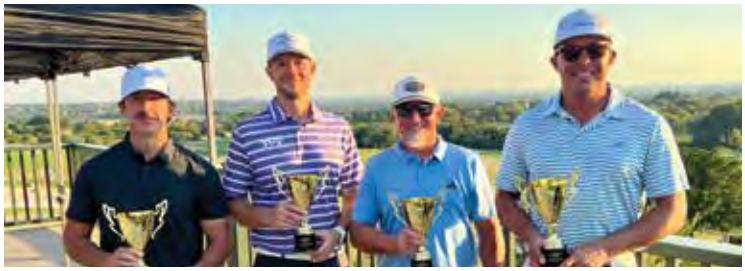
Donors enjoyed the inaugural Travel with the President cruise this summer with breathtaking views of Italy, Greece, Croatia and other sites. Now, President Tod Allen Farmer has released the details on the 2027 Travel with the President cruise.

Sail the legendary Rhine River on Viking's Rhine Getaway, an eight-day journey through Switzerland, Germany, France, and the Netherlands. Discover the charming streets of Basel, the scenic Black Forest, and the storybook city of Strasbourg. Marvel at Speyer's UNESCO-listed cathedral, stroll through Rüdesheim's famous Drosselgasse, and cruise the breathtaking Middle Rhine, where medieval castles rise above vineyard-covered hills. Explore historic Koblenz, stand beneath the magnificent Cologne Cathedral, and visit the iconic windmills of Kinderdijk before ending in vibrant Amsterdam.

Cruise prices begin at $2,799 per person based on cabin selection plus airfare. Contact Bella Colsson at bcolsson@wc.edu for more details.

COYOTE CUP NETS $70K WITH NEW FORMAT





Following a rebrand, the inaugural Coyote Cup presented by Impact Mechanical drew a record 55 teams and raised $70,000, making it the most successful fundraising golf tournament in Weatherford College history.

Held Oct. 8 at Canyon West Golf Course after being postponed due to weather, the tournament featured morning and afternoon flights for the first time in its 26-year history. The expanded format allowed organizers to accommodate significantly more participants than previous years.

The event marked the first collaboration between the Weatherford College Foundation and The Den, the college's Name, Image and Likeness collective. Proceeds support both student scholarships through the foundation and NIL opportunities for WC student-athletes.

A highlight of the event was a pre-tournament silent auction offering the winning bidder a chance to play golf with National Baseball Hall of Fame member Greg Maddux. Chris Hodges submitted the winning bid and joined Maddux on the course during the tournament.

"What a great day for Weatherford College," said Brent Baker, WC Foundation executive director. "Our foundation and our athletic department worked very well together to make this a bigger and better event. Thank you to everyone that made this possible."

The tournament also featured increased involvement from Weatherford College student-athletes and coaches, giving community supporters and sponsors opportunities to interact directly with students benefiting from their investment in the college.

"I couldn't be more pleased with The Coyote Cup," said Jeff Lightfoot, WC athletic director. "WC alumni and the community showed up for a great day of golf in support of the WC Foundation and Coyote Athletics. We are building something special here at Weatherford College. It's an exciting time."

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE
AROUND CAMPUS











1. For the second year in a row, WC was named a "Most Promising Place to Work in Community Colleges" by the National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development in March. The honor recognizes WC for its best-in-class student and staff recruitment and retention practices, commitment to inclusive learning and working environments, and meaningful community service and engagement opportunities. Pictured are Dan Carney, board of trustees chair and Dr. Alex Ibe, vice president of student services and athletics.

2. Students walk up the hill on the first day of the fall semester with construction of the new Student Union Building visible in the background. Enrollment figures broke a record for the seventh consecutive long semester in a row with 7,539 students as of Sept. 8.

3. The fall campus cookout brought together hundreds of students, faculty and staff at Memorial Plaza. Public safety program students assisted the campus police department with the grilling and the event was highlighted by performances from both the WC cheer squad and the High Steppers dance team.

4. Dean Baskerville, adjunct faculty with WC's audio engineering program, recently had the chance to record music and livestream a lecture from the famous Abbey Road Studios in London.

5. The first home volleyball match of the season was well attended by students who had just returned to campus for the new academic year.













6. Members of the WC Rodeo Team were honored by Weatherford Mayor Paul Paschall in September for their nationally-recognized performances in the 2026 College National Finals Rodeo.

7. The office of student life held its annual suicide awareness walk bringing attention to mental health and the services available to students both on and off campus.

8a & b. Welcome Week included crowd favorites from free t-shirt and caricature drawings and adding some extra fun with simulated bull riding and a dunk tank. The weeklong event takes place the second week of the fall semester and introduces students to the various non-academic activities they can participate in as well as club and student organizations they can join.

WC'S BASSO EARNS PRESTIGIOUS TEXAS ARMED SERVICES SCHOLARSHIP



by Crystal Woerly

Quinn Basso came to Weatherford College with the goal to earn his commission as an officer in the U.S. Air Force. Thanks to WC's crosstown partnership with TCU, Quinn enrolled in the Air Force ROTC program, and with his designation as a Texas Armed Services Scholarship Program recipient, he has all the tools to make his goal a reality.

Basso was recognized in August as the 2026 recipient of the TASSP scholarship for Texas Senate District 30. Recipients of this scholarship receive $30,000 per year, up to $120,000, to assist with higher education expenses. It also requires a four-year military service commitment upon graduation.

That's a commitment Basso is ready to make, as his ultimate goal is to serve as a Combat Search and Rescue pilot.

Basso grew up hearing stories of his dad's time as a tech sergeant in the U.S. Air Force and was inspired to pursue a career in military service.

"I've always felt like I have a calling to help others, and that grew into wanting to help save the lives of others, especially those of, hopefully, my future military family," Basso said. "I also have a love for aviation; I love flying.

"So, I did a little research and found out the Air Force has search and rescue pilots, and I thought, 'Wow, it's perfect for me! Sign me up. That's what I want to do with the rest of my life.'"

Once he knew his goal, Basso started figuring out the steps he needed to take to make it happen. That journey led him to WC, where he met faculty member Lisa Winegar, herself a retired U.S. Army colonel. Winegar earned her commission as a cadet and student at TCU in 2000, so she began exploring opportunities for Quinn. This facilitated the crosstown partnership with TCU's Air Force and Army ROTC programs.

"In my role as a faculty member, I have discovered that students often believe they will commission into military service after they complete their degree," Winegar said. "But, depending on the career field they hope to pursue, it may be too late."

Gaining admission to the military as an officer requires a bachelor's degree, with a minor in military science. That can be achieved at either a military service academy, like West Point, or as a cadet in a four-year ROTC program.

"This crosstown sharing agreement with TCU allows WC students to compete with students from around the country to earn a commission," she said. "I am so proud of Quinn for being the first."

Winegar's mentorship and hearing about her journey through TCU and the military has helped guide Basso this past year.

"Her support has helped me through some of the challenging parts of ROTC," he said. "Her support has really just kept me going by remembering what she's done, and what I can do for the future of our country."

As a 2025 graduate of Springtown High School, Basso had good grades. In the top 20% of his class, he estimated. But at WC, he's excelling with a 4.0 and designations on the Dean's List.

Basso's father, Robert, recalled checking in with his son last year, asking him how he was adjusting to the ROTC program.

"He said he finally found his people," Robert said.

At this, Basso's mom, Danielle, teared up.

"He's always been an introvert," she said. "Not the biggest social butterfly. So, to see him now, in this ROTC element and him connecting with all of the people there. It's heartwarming."

Basso was selected by Sen. Brent Hagenbuch for this competitive scholarship.

"It's a competitive process, and we had some great applicants, but Quinn really stood out," Hagenbuch said.

WC President Tod Allen Farmer noted that Basso's selection for this scholarship is a testament to the skills WC can leverage to ensure students enter some of the most competitive and demanding career tracks.

"The selection not only recognizes Quinn's hard work, but it also invests in him as a future leader for our collective national security," Farmer said.

ATHLETICS UPDATE





Since the last edition of The Hilltop was published this summer, WC athletics has been winning. And as the Coyotes will tell you, winning is fun.

At the College National Finals Rodeo in Casper, Wyoming, in June, the WC men's team won the reserve team championship, marking the highest finish in program history. Beldon Cox and Jett Stewart were reserve champions in the team roping competition. The WC women were fifth as a team.

As for the current 2026-27 rodeo season, WC swept the All-Around awards at the Sul Ross Rodeo in September, winning the men's team championship with a school-record 685 points while the women's team won the reserve championship.

The Coyote volleyball team was ranked No. 2 in the nation when this publication went to press, boasting a 22-1 overall record with a 52-match conference winning streak dating back to 2023. The National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) named Beline Thibaut the National Offensive Player of the Week in October. The Coyotes look poised to make serious noise as they pursue a fourth consecutive trip to the national tournament, scheduled for November 18-21 in Hutchinson, Kansas.

The WC men's golf team was ranked No. 5 in the NJCAA Preseason Poll, and quickly delivered, finishing in a tie for first place at the Texas Intercollegiate in Fort Worth and winning the Poss High Country Shootout outright in Ruidoso, New Mexico in September. Sophomore Shije Li placed second in Ruidoso after firing a school-record 62 in the second round.

Women's golf also got off to a great start, winning the title at the Texas Intercollegiate at Hawk's Creek Golf Club and finishing 28 strokes ahead of runner-up McLennan Community College. The Coyote women took second place in Ruidoso as well.

In its first-ever meet, the Coyote women's cross country team finished second at the UT Tyler XC Opener in September. WC's Maureen Kisiang'ani won the event, running the 5,000-meter race with a time of 18:06.9, outpacing the field by nearly five seconds.

The WC women's basketball team, under new head coach Cayla Petree, was scheduled to kick off their season November 5 against Dallas College Cedar Valley at the Betty Jo Graber Athletic Center. A reception for longtime coach Bob McKinley is planned for before the game.

The Coyote men's basketball team will open October 30 against Pratt Community College at the Graber Athletic Center. New head coach John Putyrski will lead the team.

For the latest information on Coyote athletics, go to wcathletics.com.



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PRESIDENTIAL LUNCHEON 2026















Weatherford College celebrated service and student success at its annual Presidential Luncheon in September, where Director of Student Engagement John Turntine received the 2026 Presidential Service Award. WC President Tod Allen Farmer recognized Turntine's longstanding commitment to students, noting that he advises more students than any other employee and logged more than 6,000 student interactions during the past academic year. The luncheon also honored Dina Gibson with a Presidential Core Value Coin for exemplifying the college's values of faith, hope and love. Farmer highlighted continued enrollment growth, increased scholarship support and progress on the new Student Union project.

SANDERS *from page 3.*

His debut recording, East of Vilbig, earned critical acclaim. And his teaching appointments at institutions including Tulane University, Delgado Community College, the University of Texas at Arlington, the University of North Texas and Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts established him as a respected educator.

Sanders returned to WC as an instructor on the heels of COVID-19, a time where he found himself reassessing his priorities. He held a respected position in Dallas ISD and had opportunities elsewhere. Yet WC offered something he increasingly valued—balance.

He wanted stability for his family and an opportunity to invest deeply in students. That decision also brought him back to a community he had never forgotten.

For former student Michael Robinson, Sanders' decision to return to WC changed the trajectory of his life as well. There were several points when Robinson considered leaving school, including during his final semester at Weatherford College.

"Without him, I probably wouldn't have earned anything past my associate's degree," Robinson said. "There were times when I was ready to give up on school, but he wouldn't let me. He saw more potential in me than I saw in myself."

With Sanders' mentorship, Robinson completed his bachelor's degree in organizational leadership at WC and is preparing to graduate with a master's degree from Tarleton State University this December.

"If I look back over my career, what I'm most proud of is that I'm still involved in education," Sanders said. "I'm still performing. I'm still working with colleagues all over the industry. That's a blessing."

Sanders is a 2018 recipient of the WC Distinguished Alumnus Award, and was inducted into the Steinway & Songs Teacher Hall of Fame in 2025. More recently, Sanders received a Legends of Jazz artist award from the D'JAM consortium. The recognition carried special significance to him because it came from fellow artists, educators and industry leaders who had followed his work throughout the years.

"When that recognition comes from people who do what you do, or people who do things you've dreamed about doing, it means something," Sanders said.

While Sanders was representing WC and its students at the New Orleans Heritage and Jazz Festival, Robinson accepted the honor on his behalf.

Robinson said Sanders' influence extends far beyond music instruction. One of the first lessons he remembers came before he was ever his student.

"I was walking through the halls with my head down, and he stopped me and said, 'Young man, pick your head up. The world is up here,'" Robinson recalled. "Before I knew his name, he was mentoring me."

Sanders invests in students far beyond the classroom, Robinson said, offering encouragement that helps them grow as musicians and people.

"In a lesson with Mr. Sanders, I sometimes didn't know whether we were talking about music or life," Robinson said. And when he asked Sanders for clarification, he turned the question around by responding, "Aren't they the same?"

"He told me when you make a mistake while making music, focusing on it while playing keeps you living in the past and creates more mistakes because the music doesn't wait," Robinson said. "If you make a mistake, keep going."

Although many people associate Sanders with his accomplishments as a performer, teaching has always been part of who he is.

Growing up, he was fascinated by how people learned. Today, that curiosity influences how he approaches the classroom.

"The hardest thing for my students is that I refuse to tell them what to think," Sanders said. "I want them to discover."

Rather than providing easy answers, he encourages students to wrestle with ideas and arrive at their own conclusions.

"There's a moment when the switch goes off," he said. "When a student understands something for themselves, that's the reward."

CLASS NOTES

Megan Bullard ('21) earned the credential of Certified Personal Trainer from the National Academy of Sports Medicine in May.

Dr. Jalie Reedy Chick ('06) earned her Doctor of Science degree in Healthcare Administration, Business Administration and Management from Oklahoma State University.

Connor Goff, RN, BSN (ADN 2023, BSN 2026), started a new position as an ECMO specialist at Baylor, Scott & White All Saints Medical Center in Fort Worth.

Kodey Hoss accepted the position of head rodeo coach at Lamar Community College in Lamar, Colorado in July. Kodey was a member of WC's national champion women's rodeo team in 2022.

Chaeeun Lee recently completed her master's degree at Eastman School of Music and has been accepted into its doctoral program. She was also the recipient of the 2026 Excellence in Accompanying Award at Eastman and won Second Prize in the 2025 Jessie Kneisel Lieder Competition.

Garrett Moore began a new position as a treasury analyst at Texas Health Resources in June.

Bounrattanapasong "Mickie" Phonhnaboth (OTA '15) received the 2026 NBCOT Impact Award.

Tyler Sanders was commissioned by the Texas A&M Forest Service as its newest law enforcement investigator.

Claire Spencer ('23) graduated from Baylor University with a Master of Arts in Museum Studies in May. She is now Baylor's lifelong learning coordinator at the Mayborn Museum Complex.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE 1869 FOUNDATION

THANK YOU

to the following donors who gave recent gifts to the WC Foundation (as of Oct. 9, 2026)

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Jerry Kelly & Stephen M. Reid Charitable Foundation
Mark and Janet Jones
Kenneth Graham Johnstone Estate
KoonsFuller, P.C.
Derek and Lonna Leach
David Leonard
Scott Lindsey
Bonny Link
Dora Long
Mary Baker Rumsey Foundation
Anna McKim
Bernabe Mendoza
Harriet Miers
Weta Mince-Phillips
Gary and Melissa Nickelson
North Side Baptist Church
O'Black Family Charitable Fund
Ashley Palmatier
Dana Parham
Parker County Cruisers
Parker County Women's and Newcomer's Club
Jim Penn
Becci Perkins
Don and Fran Plumlee
Carol Pyle
Kevin Queenan
Connie and Dan Roberts
Dr. William and Paula Roddy
Dean Rucker
Barbara Runge
John Sirman
Dwayne Smith
Danny and Kathie Smyrl
Smyrl Family Living Trust
Southland Industries Company
Stanley Stough
Brenda Lee Stout-Powell
Dr. Scott Tarnowieckyi
Texas Air Systems
Patsy and Joe Tison
Matt and Staci Tyler
Vic Verstraete
Brian Waters
Joe and Karen Wilkinson
Dr. Shannon and Damian Ydoyaga

FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES 35 PERCENT INCREASE IN SCHOLARSHIPS

The Weatherford College Foundation awarded $479,645 in student scholarships during the 2025-26 academic year, a 35 percent increase over the previous year.

Over the past three years, the foundation has awarded more than $1.1 million in scholarships. During the past five years, that total has exceeded $2.1 million.

"The Weatherford College Foundation is making a greater impact than ever before," said Brent Gough, WCF president. "Thanks to the generosity of our donors and the dedication of our volunteers, we've increased our support by 35 percent, helping more students pursue their educational goals and creating opportunities that will benefit our community for generations to come."

WC President Tod Allen Farmer said scholarships and other forms of financial aid are benefiting both students and the college.

"An astounding 88 percent of Weatherford College students now receive grants or scholarships," Farmer said. "The incredible generosity of our caring donors is changing the lives of more students than ever before."

The WCF increased scholarship awards while also growing its net assets, which rose 11.3 percent during the fiscal year that ended August 31.

The WC Foundation was established in 1978 to support Weatherford College and its students. For more information, visit wc.edu/foundation.

BUCHANAN *from page 5.*

"Higher education needs to move quickly these days," he said. "We must be nimble, and that means being decisive. I'll seek input, move decisively and keep the mission of the college and our students at the center of every decision."

And for students just beginning their own journeys, he offers a simple message.

"At Weatherford College, you are not a number," Buchanan said. "You are part of our community."

NEW SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS


Jack Christopher Blair


Dr. Andra Cantrell


Dr. Andra Cantrell


David L. Boswell Memorial Endowment


Bill Wright Family


Heartsill Family Foundation

The WC Foundation has been blessed with several new recent permanent scholarship endowments from generous donors.

The Jack Christopher Blair Scholarship is earmarked for Parker County students with a preference given to students living with disabilities and priority to students in good academic standing.

At a retirement reception recognizing Dr. Andra Cantrell, Warren Creason and Imperial Construction made $10,000 contributions each to fund an endowment honoring Dr. Cantrell's 46 years of leadership at WC. Jon Jones and Courtney Ignazzitto represented Imperial.

Kathy Boswell established a new endowment in honor of her late husband, David L. Boswell. The scholarship is earmarked for students in WC's medical and health services management bachelor's degree program or other business-related associate degree programs.

The Mary and Bill W. Wright Family Scholarship will be earmarked for future educators. Pictured with Bill Wright (seated) and President Farmer are Lana, Lynda and Adrian Wright.

The Heartsill Family Foundation has established a new permanent scholarship endowment that will support students who are either single parents or pursuing studies in music. Pictured with President Farmer are Sam and Cheryl Heartsill.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

November 3	Coyote Community Connect
November 5	Bob McKinley Night
November 7	Dance Recruitment Clinic
November 14	Coyote Chase Race
November 16	2026 WCIPC Winner's Recital
November 17	Songwriters Forum
November 19	A Night at the Opera
December 1	Spring 2027 Registration open to all
December 3	Hope for the Holidays
December 4	Fall Student Art show opens & Choir Concert
December 7	Messiah
December 9	Coyote Community Connect
January 19	Spring 2027 courses begin

SCAN QR CODE FOR WC CALENDAR

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