MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Despite the safety challenges associated with COVID-19, Weatherford College continues to march forward. After transitioning over 1,000 courses to an online format, the Weatherford College team helped our students successfully complete the Spring 2020 semester. We are seeing strong enrollment in both summer sessions and are actively preparing for a busy fall. During these challenges, we remain steadfastly committed to remaining a student-centered organization. As depicted on the cover and throughout this edition, we have some amazing students at WC!

Included in the forward momentum of our beloved institution is the summer launch of our new Bachelor of Science in Nursing program. Additionally, we are adding a vet tech program in collaboration with the City of Weatherford. Progress is also being made to bring men’s golf and women’s tennis back to WC with competition beginning in the Fall 2021 semester. We are adding artificial turf to Stuart Field and making plans to raise funds to add turf to Roger Williams Ballpark. The Weatherford College Foundation raised over $1 million dollars this fiscal year, and many new student scholarships have been recently added. Weatherford College applied for and received $2.56 million dollars in CARES Act grant funding. We have also made an application with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer a new Bachelor in Organizational Leadership degree beginning in the Fall 2021 semester. Finally, construction will soon begin on our beautiful new 70,000 square foot Workforce and Emerging Technologies Building. We are moving forward!

Those are just a few of the many exciting things that are happening at Weatherford College. Thank you so much for all that you do to support WC! As you navigate the pages of this edition of The Hilltop, please know that you are an important part of our team.

Dr. Tod Allen Farmer
President
The Weatherford College Class of 2020 finished their degrees through the use of Zoom meetings rather than office visits with their instructors. They turned to social media channels like the WC Student Life group on Facebook for information on how to use online library resources to complete research. And together, they faced the social-distancing mountain between them and graduation and climbed it to the top.

The WC Class of 2020 celebrated this great accomplishment with a commencement ceremony Saturday, June 20, at Kangaroo Stadium and are now moving on to their next journey in life. Here are a few of their stories.

A) Elizabeth Mederos will attend the University of Texas at Arlington this fall to complete her bachelor’s degree in social work. Her ultimate goal is to earn a master's degree in social work and become a licensed clinical social worker.

“Two years ago, I just wanted to obtain a better job,” she said. “Now, I have a career opportunity as a social worker to help empower other individuals to overcome addiction and other life struggles.”

Mederos is a non-traditional student who returned to the classroom after many years away from academics. Seeing her drive to complete her education, Mederos’ son has also enrolled at WC and is now in the Criminal Justice Program.

B) Eduardo Rodriguez is the first in his family to graduate college.

“As a first generation student who attended college, community college has given me so many opportunities that I never thought I would have,” he said.

His favorite memory was participating as a volunteer during STEMania.

“I enjoyed getting the opportunity to show future students what we have learned in our class and the activities that were designed as a fun learnable moment,” Rodriguez said.

He is currently working on a Certified Nurse Assistant certification and then plans to advance in the medical field to become a registered nurse and perhaps complete his...
GRADUATES from page 3.

Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree.
C) Coyote softball outfielder Aubree Beggs will play in Kansas next academic year, but she will miss her days at Stuart Field where she said her best memories were made during her two years at WC.

Her academic focus was on psychology and her time in Weatherford helped her determine her the next step in her academic journey.

She offered these words for new Coyotes, “The professors are really understanding and there is a lot of help.”

D) After a little more than three years at WC, Renata Malavazzi Ferreira completed her Associate Degree in Nursing and is now hoping to find a job in the nursing field.

With the final days of her program migrated to an online format she found herself facing new challenges with time management but she was able to handle the change.

“The instructors prepared me really well, the theory taught in class and the practice during clinical rotation made me more confident to be outside facing new challenges,” Ferreira said adding that she would miss her nursing instructors most of all.

E) Adrianna Jefferson-Polk spent two years at WC where she studied the arts and was a member of the Lady Coyotes basketball team. Her next step is to attend the University of Texas at Dallas.

Her favorite memories include casino nights and campus cookouts and being able to see her uncle, Doug Jefferson, nearly every day on campus. Jefferson is the associate dean of student development and is heavily involved in organizing student life events.

Her words of advice for the next group of community college students? “Have fun, go to campus events, smile, laugh, connect with your teachers.”

F) Adam Hoff recently accepted a job at Reneau Rehab in Wichita Falls allowing him to move near his hometown of Windthorst and be near his family.

His time at WC was spent in the Physical Therapy Assistant program where he developed close-knit relationships with his instructors and classmates. His favorite course in the PTA program was Therapeutic Exercise.

“It helped me to achieve a ton of knowledge of not only the many aspects of what could be ailing a patient but also to actually alleviate their symptoms with a variety of techniques,” Hoff said. “It really set me up to hopefully become an exceptional PTA.”

G) Following graduation, Kelly Marcy plans to use her physical therapy assistant degree to pursue a career in acute care, preferably trauma and ICU.

She said her three years at WC have taught her to step up and take ownership of her education.

“You get out of it what you put into it,” she said as advice to incoming students. “The education at WC has been phenomenal, and they truly care about their students’ experience, so get involved and take advantage of the smaller class sizes, get to know your professors and what types of opportunities the college can offer you.”

H) Destiny “DMac” McAfee’s two years at WC taught her to focus on her studies and to cherish the friendships she made with the many international students on the Coyote basketball teams.

After completing her Associate of Arts degree, McAfee is transferring to the University of Louisiana at Lafayette on a basketball scholarship.

“It was sad how school came to an end because all my international friends had to leave unexpectedly without proper goodbyes,” she said. “I’m going to miss the people at WC most of all.”

I) After three years at WC, Michael Stanford is ready to transfer to the University of California Irvine to major in psychology while pitching on their baseball team.

“I’m going to miss the incredible coaching staff, from all sports, and workers at WC,” the Coyote pitcher said.

continues with GRADUATES on page 10.

Friends we’ll miss

James Alexander Campbell, 66, of Amarillo, passed away May 9. Class of ’74.

Ronald Ray Cason, 73, of Weatherford, passed away April 1.

Juanita Williams Clary, 78, of Russellville, AR, passed away June 1. Class of ’61.

Teddy “Ted” Curtis, 81, of Weatherford, passed away December 20.

Taylor Patrick Evans, 19, of Abilene, passed away May 21.

Roy Joe Grogan, 93, of Weatherford, passed away on March 30. Class of ’48. Roy was a member of the WC Board of Trustees from 1964 to 1977, won Alumnus of the Year in 1969 and the Carlos Hartnett Award in 2000 (see Spring 2017 cover story at wc.edu/about/hilltop-newsletter).

Mayola Lasater, 97, of Aledo, passed away April 17. Mayola was a member of the WC Board of Trustees from 2007 to 2009 and was a very generous supporter of the WC Foundation.


Charles Jerry Narramore, 80, of Cliff, NM, passed away on March 7.

Clifford Donald Tackett, 71, of Bowie, passed away on March 17. Class of ’68.

Everett Wayne Walden, 81, of Weatherford, passed away on March 17. Class of ’56.
In the state as a junior. She and her partner, Taylor Ducat, advanced to state in debate her junior year.

“I’ve known Kealey since she was a freshman. It didn’t take long to recognize that she is one of those students who comes along once or twice in a teacher’s career,” said Brock High debate coach and English teacher John White. “There just aren’t enough words in the English language to describe her academic and athletic talent.”

Dent was asked to join the debate team just days before the district tournament. She was given a crash course, after which she and Ducat won the tournament and advanced to the state tournament undefeated. Dent was then named Best Overall Debater.

“As a combat veteran myself, I was never prouder of Kealey than when I learned that out of all the options available to her, she chose to serve her country first upon graduation,” White added.

Along with being a great verbal communicator, Dent also has a knack for the written word.

“Kealey is a wonderful writer,” said Dr. Diann Ainsworth, WC English professor. “She writes amazing poetry, and her essays for my class were engaging and insightful. Kealey’s dedication to her educational goals is inspiring, and I know she will accomplish all her future goals. I appreciated Kealey’s willingness to read and analyze unfamiliar literature and get the most out of her college experiences.”

Dent said she hopes to encourage other students to take advantage of dual credit.

“Alongside my counselor, I have worked to set up entire schedules for students to obtain their associate’s degree before high school is over,” she said. “It’s a great way for students to jumpstart their college careers.”

If more young folks like Kealey Dent continue to join, the future of America’s armed forces should be in pretty good shape.

The 2020 Brock High School valedictorian - who also has her associate’s degree, thanks to participating in Weatherford College’s dual credit program - is headed to the Marine Corps. She plans to earn a degree in psychology while serving her country and making a career out of military service.

In fact, her work in the dual credit program has allowed her to enter the Marines having already secured a meritorious promotion to private first class.

She is also the first from Brock High School to earn her high school diploma and associate’s degree in the same semester.

“While in the service, I hope to qualify for the counterintelligence sector. However, this path is not one that can be enlisted into, so I will be enlisted into linguistics or aviation electrician,” Dent said. “I do plan to make a career out of the service, remaining in the Marines for 20 years. However, I do have an additional plan to work for the FBI in the behavioral analysis unit.”

She is the first from her family to enter the military.

And, of course, being from Brock, she has a strong history in athletics. She was a four-year varsity volleyball player, helping the Lady Eagles reach the regional tournament in Class 3A her sophomore through senior seasons. She was the top-ranked defensive player in the Fort Worth-Dallas area for the 2019 season, along with a host of other accolades.

She also ran varsity track for two years.

Academically, she competed in persuasive speaking in the University Interscholastic League competition, finishing seventh in the state as a junior. She and her partner, Taylor Ducat, advanced to state in debate her junior year.

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by Rick Mauch
Fredrick Sanders is excited to be coming home. The former WC music student and Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient has accepted the position of director of jazz studies at WC. “I am a product of the excellence that Weatherford College embodies, and WC is in a position to establish a culture that’s unique in our region,” Sanders said. “My goal is to equip the next generation of decision-makers to place their signature on three principles: integrity, proficiency and excellence. WC students will have a global presence in the arts community.”

As an accomplished pianist, he has performed with the likes of Wynton Marsalis, the Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra, Dr. John, Norah Jones, David “Fathead” Newman and Erykah Badu, among others. Sanders’ teaching and directing credits are equally impressive, including the University of Texas at Arlington, Tulane University, Booker T. Washington High School for the Performing and Visual Arts and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

“I am excited to welcome Fred back to WC,” said Duane Durrett, dean of fine arts. “He has become an incredible pianist and master teacher. His abilities to combine music and technology will lead WC to new highs in performance and learning for our students. Our students, community and college will benefit from his many talents and ability to attract the best in young musicians.”

Durrett said Sanders will be a key figure in WC’s implementation of Spirio, the innovative performance recording system on Steinway & Sons grand pianos, as well as the digital recording of other facets of music.

Sanders will officially begin teaching at WC full time in the fall but is teaching private piano lessons this summer via remote technology.
One of the strangest years on record extended into sports, as three of WC’s five athletic programs had their seasons cut short due to COVID-19.

The Lady Coyote basketball season started off with an impressive 12-1 run and ended with a 22-9 overall record in the first round of the Region V Tournament. Destiny McAfee earned the Defensive Player of the Year Award in the Northern Texas Junior College Athletic Conference and averaged 16.0 points per game and 5.2 rebounds.

The men’s basketball team also jumped out to a fast start with a 12-4 non-conference record. The NTJCAC schedule proved to be tougher and WC finished 15-15 overall. Freshman D'Michael Bellfield led WC in scoring (14.4 points) and rebounds (7.4) and led the conference in field goal percentage (63.5%).

The basketball season finished just in time, as the nation’s sports came to a screeching halt in March. Baseball, softball and rodeo all saw their seasons cut short due to the pandemic.

The baseball team was in first place in conference when the season stopped. The Coyotes were 17-9-1 overall and 6-1-1 in NTJCAC play. The team was second in the nation in stolen bases with 28 in 31 attempts, and sophomore Brandon Uhse led the nation with 104 steals in 119 tries. WC was especially good at home, with an 11-4 record at Roger Williams Ballpark.

The Coyote softball team finished with an 11-12 overall record. Sophomore Stephanie Jimenez hit 10 home runs (tied for first in conference), posted a .500 batting average and a 1.000 slugging percentage. Natalie Trujillo pitched to a 2.88 ERA (fifth in conference), struck out 25 batters and walked only 11.

Rodeo had two regional champions in team roping—Lane Cooper (header) and Blake Bentley (heeler). The pair placed at all six rodeos before the shutdown. Three WC freshmen finished in fourth place and had a shot at the College National Finals Rodeo: Hadley Miller (bull riding), Thane Lockhart (tie-down roping) and Kodey Hoss (goat tying).

WC fans are looking forward to sports resuming in 2020-21 and also to new sports beginning competition in 2021-22: women’s tennis and men’s golf.

For more information on Coyote athletics, go to wcathletics.com.
Donors continue to show generosity to the WC Foundation with new endowed scholarships.

The newly-established Lin and Tiffany Bearden Scholarship will be earmarked for nontraditional WC students.

Robert and Terri Randolph have established a fund in honor of Robert B. Randolph, Sr., who played football at WC in the 1930s.

The President Tod Allen Farmer and Family Presidential Scholarship will be earmarked for students who aspire to become college/university presidents. Pictured are (left to right): Kathleen Farmer, Benjamin Farmer, Dr. Tod Allen Farmer, Alexandra Farmer and Madeleine Farmer.

Jessica Bailey (’13) graduated from Capella University with a master’s degree in educational administration in December. She teaches special education at Mary Martin Elementary in Weatherford.

Jason Hayes (’98) was promoted to the rank of commander with the Weatherford Police Department in May. Jason, a Weatherford native, has served with the WPD since 2000.

Tiffany Halliway (’11) and Lobos Parker were married in May. Tiffany, a former Lady Coyote basketball player, is an IT Integrator at Oncor in Dallas.

Nancy Hernandez graduated from Tarleton State University in May with a bachelor’s degree in interdisciplinary studies. She will begin teaching second grade in the Stephenville ISD in August.

Rebecca Jensen Maine (’15) was named Teacher of the Year at Marine Creek Leadership Academy in Lake Worth ISD. She has taught fourth grade in Lake Worth for two years.

Samantha Privette Norris (’16) graduated with a bachelor’s degree from Western Governors University in May and has accepted a position teaching biology at Brekenridge High School.

Alicia Rhine (’16) graduated with a master’s degree in educational leadership from Sul Ross State University in December. Alicia, a veteran of the U.S. Army, will be teaching special education inclusion in the Fort Worth ISD in the 2020-21 academic year, her third year in the FWISD.

Darren Victory has accepted a position with author Jennifer Serravallo, traveling to schools around the country conducting staff development. He is also writing a book about writing instruction.
Thank you to the following donors who gave recent gifts to the WC Foundation (as of June 3, 2020)

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Brent and Elizabeth Baker  
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Janetta and Franklin Wood  
Gail Wright

Thank you donors!

Since March...

47 
Gifts

Totaling more than $27,000

To the WC Foundation Student Emergency Fund
Daniels completed her associate’s degree in respiratory therapy and plans to continue her education at Parker University to obtain a Doctor of Chiropractic degree while also working in area hospitals as a respiratory therapist.

Her advice to future Coyotes? “Enjoy it! Some of my best professional, personal and academic growth happened at WC. Get involved, make friends and be open to the unique, incredible experiences the college has to offer.”

Sarah Griffin will continue her teaching degree at Texas Woman’s University in the fall after three years at WC.

Her favorite class at Weatherford was Introduction to Education and she will especially miss the classroom discussions from that course with Associate Professor Carolyn Boggs.

Her advice for future WC students is to “take advantage of all opportunities. And take as many classes as you can at a community college before going to a university, it will save you a lot of money!”

Stephanie Burdzinski studied elementary education and is transferring to Stephen F. Austin State University to complete their online teaching program for her bachelor’s degree.

“Whether planning to complete the PTA program or pursue another avenue, it is important to get to know your professors and the other students,” she offered up as advice to future students. “Engaging in a conversation with professors, classmates and other college staff will open many opportunities and make your time at college much more rewarding.

L) Grant Mills’ words of advice for incoming WC students are to get involved and lead by example, advice that he emulated during his two years on campus as student body president and Coyote mascot.

Mills will attend the University of Texas at Arlington in the fall where he plans to pursue a double major in marketing and finance.

He will miss the relationships he built with his classmates and the faculty while at WC and his time in the Coyote suit mascotting.

“WC has built an extremely strong foundation for me to move on from as I start my career,” Mills said. “Academically and personally, I have been able to grow with the helping hand of Weatherford College.”

Marie Curtis returned to Weatherford College after completing a bachelor’s degree at Texas State University to join WC’s Physical Therapy Assistant Program.

Mary’s favorite course in her program was Neurology and her passion is to work with patients with neurological disorders such as traumatic brain injuries or those who have suffered strokes.

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The teaching program has the best instructors,” she said.

JOIN US TO RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING:

Dr. Tod Allen Farmer, Alumnus of the Year
Dr. Jeanine Irby, Distinguished Alumna
Dr. Thomas MacKenzie, Distinguished Alumnus

Tickets: $20 in advance
Please make a reservation with Evelyn Payne:
817-598-6273 or epayne@wc.edu
JOIN US TO RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING:

Golf Tournament
Visit www.wc.edu/golf-tournament to sign up today!

Thursday, Oct. 1
9 a.m. shotgun start at Canyon West

The legacy of a legendary broadcaster lives on at Weatherford College.

Thanks to the generosity of Nan Kingsley, the college will acquire Bluestem Studios adjacent to the Weatherford campus. The facility will be named the Nan and Bob Kingsley Building.

Bob Kingsley was the longtime host of the nationally syndicated American Country Countdown and Bob Kingsley’s Country Top 40 programs, which were produced in Bluestem Studios. He was inducted into the National Radio Hall of Fame and the Country Radio Broadcasters Hall of Fame. He passed away in October at the age of 80.

In June, the WC Board of Trustees agreed to a donation/purchase agreement whereby a majority of the building will be donated by the Kingsley estate with a portion purchased by WC.

“We are extremely appreciative of the generosity of Nan and Bob Kingsley,” said Dr. Tod Allen Farmer, WC president. “Their gift will benefit countless students for generations to come, all while honoring the memory and hall of fame career of Bob Kingsley.”

WC ACQUIRES TOP-NOTCH AUDIO ENGINEERING FACILITY
AN OUTSTANDING EDUCATION AT A FRACTION OF THE PRICE.

University average

$12,500

$10,000

$7,500

$5,000

$2,500

$3,250

Cost based on 30 hours for Parker County students.
Source: collegeforalltexas.com
WC is an equal opportunity/Equal access institution