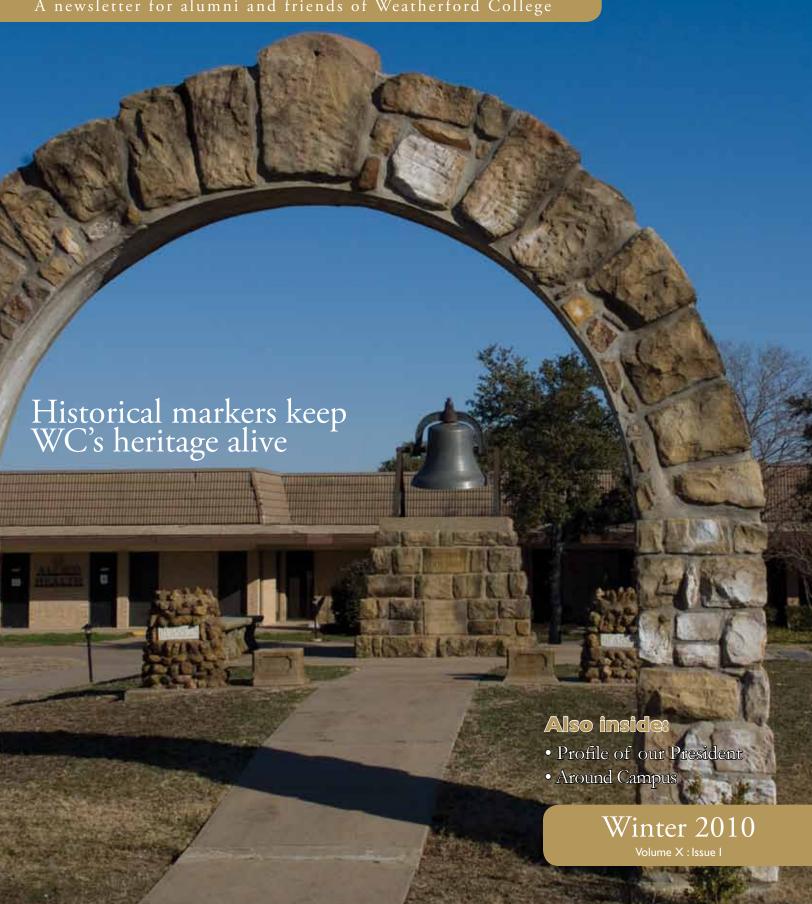
## Weatherford College

# THE HILLTOP A newsletter for alumni and friends of Weatherford College



# Message from the President



The spring semester is a very busy time at WC. With our athletic events, fine arts performances, Homecoming on April 10 and Books 'n Authors 'n All That Jazz, there is plenty to do on campus. And we can't forget the several thousand students working hard in the classrooms of our College. It's a fun atmosphere because of all the great people at Weatherford College.

I think you'll enjoy this edition of The Hilltop, featuring articles on our College's history and the activities of our students and employees over the last several months.

We hope to see you on campus soon, and the next time you're here, please drop by the Mince Building to say hello!

Sincerely,

Kevin Eaton, Ed.D.

President

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#### Weatherford College President

#### Board of Trustees

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#### **COVER STORY**

## Historical markers keep WC's heritage alive

#### by Brent Baker

When classes are in session, every day is a busy day on a college campus. Students and faculty are rushing to classes and meetings. A few students are hanging out in front of the library, making full use of their 10-minute break before they head to another class. And everyone is texting.

In the middle of all of this commotion on the Weatherford College campus sits a cluster of historic landmarks that most students probably never examine at close range – a stone archway, a group of marble markers imbedded in the ground, and a weathered bell on a stone pedestal. This site may not mean much to the average student, but WC alumni see these markers as a tie to a proud past proclaiming WC as the oldest community college in the Southwest.

The arch is a striking monument, standing at one of the highest points in Parker County. It originally stood at the entryway of WC's former campus on South Main Street — what locals affectionately call "Old Main." More than 20 years after the original campus was demolished, local developer T.D. Terry informed WC officials that the arch was sitting on his property and that he wanted to donate it back to the College. Maynard Thompson and his crew rebuilt the monument at its present site.

The nearby bell has a similar "lost and found" story. Forged in 1879 by the Henry McShane Foundry in Baltimore, the bell hung from the Old Main belfry and was rung to signify the beginning of curfew and other special occasions. At some point, it was taken down, and it remained hidden until the late 1960s, when demolition workers discovered it, forgotten, enclosed in sheetrock in a corner in the old auditorium. The bell was subsequently moved to the "new" campus on the hill, complete with a Texas historical marker about its previous home.

The same bell was the center of attention on campus recently, as College officials launched WC's new "brand," or family of logos representing the institution. The logos feature a stylized image of the bell with the year 1869, the year of WC's establishment.

Several hundred students and employees gathered around the bell on January 21 as Dr. Kevin Eaton, WC president, and board members Jean Bryan and Elaine Carter unveiled the new brand and gave away items emblazoned with the logos, as a celebration of WC's rich heritage.

Also located on the hillside site are three other plaques from the old Couts Hall, two rock fountains from the Class of 1926, and two benches from the classes of 1923 and 1936.

At the launch event in January, many students heard, for the first time, the history of the bell, the arch and the other markers. They, too, now know the historical significance of these College

landmarks and the treasured place many alumni hold in their hearts for them.

Maybe it's time to let these new students hear the peal of the WC bell once again...



Photos: (top to bottom) Bell from Old Main; Brent Baker, vice president of Instutional Advancement, tells the story of the bell at the launch of new WC brand; arch being assembled by Maynard Thompson; Board members Elaine Carter and Jean Bryan help WC Presi-dent Dr. Kevin Eaton unveil the new logo; the new WC logo.



#### **MEMORIES**

## Last issue's Do you know...



In the last edition of The Hilltop, we asked if you knew the person in this photo. This is Zoe Switzer McCrary, WC alumni of the year for 1967, the first time the honor was given. According to the 1967 Oakleaf, McCrary graduated WC in 1899 and was the daughter of David S. Switzer, president of WC from 1889 to 1902. McCrary's husband, Mr. W.W. McCrary, served more than 30 years on the WC Board of Trustees. McCrary had 5 children, all of which went to WC.

The 2010 Alumnus of the Year will be announced at the Homecoming Banquet on Saturday, April 10 at 5 p.m. Call or e-mail Marsha Johnson at 817-598-6272 or mjohnson@wc.edu to make your dinner reservations today!

## Do you know...



If you have any knowledge of what is happening 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.

#### Friends we'll miss

**Genevieve "Nickie" Allen** of Weatherford passed away on Dec. 24. She was 73.

Ronnie (Big Ron) James Dexter of Mineral Wells passed away on Oct. 10. He was 55.

Grover Cleveland Gibbs, Jr., of Glen Rose passed away on Oct. 31. He was 90.

**Ted Hartness** of Weatherford passed away on Sept. 24. He was 69. He had served as the president of the WC Ex-Students Association.

**John L. Heartsill** of Weatherford passed away on Sept. 19. He was 93.

**William D. Herring, Jr.,** passed away on Sept. 29. He was 57.

**Ida Faye Allen Janowak** of Garland passed away on Aug. 13. She was 88.

**Alta Maurine King-Brenner** of Abilene, formerly of Dallas, passed away on Sept. 29. She was 86.

**Benjamin "Ben" Mitchell Lang** of Weatherford passed away on Feb. 6. He was 29.

Martha Jane Morton of Weatherford passed away on Oct. 6. She was 73. Martha was a WC Ex and former Lady Coyote, and worked for many years in the WC Business Office. She was also very active in the WC Basketball Booster Club.

**Phillip Wilson Porterfield** passed away Dec. 20. He was 53.

**Ara Dell Seaberry** of Weatherford passed away on Nov. 4. She was 90. She was voted WC Distinguished Alumna in 2003.

**Dr. Gary Leon Sickler** of Weatherford passed away on Oct. 26. He was 64. He was a meteorology instructor at WC.

Edna Elizabeth Johnson Puryear Strickland of Weatherford passed away on Sept. 27. She was 99. She established two scholarships at WC: the Raymond W. Puryear Memorial Scholarship in 1989 and the Edna Strickland Scholarship in 2004.

**Phil R. Simmons, Sr.,** of Weatherford passed away on Feb. 16. He was 95.

**Bill Byron Thomas** of Weatherford passed away on Nov. 15. He was 84.

**Ina Ruth Wolcott** of Justin passed away on Dec. 1. She was 90.

**Joe C. Wyler** of Fort Worth passed away on Jan. 15.

#### PROFILE OF OUR PRESIDENT

## Eaton moves from interim post to permanent position

#### by Linda Bagwell

"I believe (our selection) continues the board's practice of maintaining a forward momentum," said Frank Martin, chair, WC Board of Trustees. "Dr. Eaton has proven himself to be a quality manager and leader, and I anticipate him to continue the fine WC tradition of serving our students and community."

Thus, Dr. Kevin Eaton became the College's 18th president officially in January after having served as interim since July of last year. He takes the reins of top administrator as WC is experiencing record growth and with it, extraordinary challenges. And all that is right up Eaton's alley - despite the fact it's cutting into his golf game.

"You're right," Eaton said in a recent interview, "not much time for golf lately, but I love this College, and I am proud to be a part of the team that is going to take this institution to even greater heights. We have plans, and we (with an emphasis on the pronoun) are going to work together to achieve our goals."

Eaton has been with the College since 2002 and, before his appointment as interim president, had served as director of the Tech Prep program. (Tech Prep is a national initiative that allows students to earn tuitionfree college credits for high school technical courses that have been aligned with their corresponding college courses.) He earned his doctorate in educational administration from Texas A&M-Commerce, an MBA in management and bachelor's in accounting from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos and holds certification from the Texas Leadership Academy. Before coming to WC, Eaton, who served in the Texas Air National Guard from 1987 through May 1993, worked as a teacher and coach in the Grand Prairie ISD and served as assistant principal, as well.

"I am honored to be given the opportunity to serve as the president of this great institution," said Eaton. "I promise to do everything I can to support all of our employees so that we can continue to move our College forward in this period of growth and change. I want the faculty and staff here to know that I want WC to be a 'family,' together again. I want our WC staff and the entire community, as well, to know that I value their opinions and that my door is always open."

Eaton answers a few questions:

#### Q: Describe your approach to leadership.

We're all working toward the same goals at WC – to continue to serve our students and community and to provide quality learning opportunities. To do that takes a team, a group effort, and I see my leadership role as a collaborative one. Everyone has a say in the decision making process, but, ultimately, I must take responsibility for making the tough decisions. However, having the input of the faculty, staff, students and the community, these decisions will be enlightened ones. The Board of Trustees has set forth a philosophy of education that will guide me as president, and I will work toward meeting their expectations - particularly, those of transparency and accountability.

## Q: As president, what are your expectations of the College faculty and staff and of the board and of the community?

First, I want the faculty and staff to enjoy their work, and I expect them to continue the good work they are already doing, to be student-centered. I see more smiles and happy faces everywhere lately, and I want that enthusiasm and positive attitude to be evident in every classroom and office at WC. We need to be working together and present the best image to our students and to ourselves and to the community.

As far as the board, we're already on the right track. We have an energetic, knowledgeable board that truly cares about this College, and the trustees have made their objectives very clear to me. They will take an active role in policy-making and expect to be kept informed, but will not take a hands-on approach to management; that's my job, our job.

The community has a right to expect that we will be good stewards of the purse-strings and that we are doing everything we can to help ourselves and to be fiscally responsible. They also have the right to expect respect for their views, and I welcome that. I hope to build a more active relationship with our local community.

## Q: What do you think is the most pressing need in higher education today, particularly for community colleges?

Funding, clearly. Approximately 80 percent of educational funding goes to universities and research institutions; the other 20 percent goes to two- year and technical colleges where the majority of students are. Now we are dealing with a \$15 billion shortfall, and we (community colleges) are expecting a likely 10 percent reduction in funding for the next biennium. There are a lot of uncertainties as far as funding, and it's the most critical issue we are all facing. To ensure continued quality service to our community and academic and technical programming and technology for student success, we must remain competitive in salaries and benefits and be able to offer our faculty and staff the most attractive employment packages. And financial support - especially for us, right now - for capital improvements is vital.

#### Q: If you could concoct a recipe for the perfect community college, what ingredients would you add?

Outside of money, you mean? That's easy, and we have it right here: a great mix of people; a good mix of technical and academic programs; experienced, creative and innovative faculty and staff who can think outside of the box and stretch our resources to the max when necessary, and employees who understand and support the mission of the College.

#### Eatons pledge gift to WC Foundation



Pictured with the Eatons is Dr. Mike White, foundation president.

Weatherford College President Dr. Kevin Eaton and his wife, Sheila, have pledged \$12,000 to the WC Foundation in the 2010 calendar year to support college students and programs.

The Eatons' donation will establish a general academic scholarship, provide funds for G.E.D. students, and support WC athletics.

"The College has blessed both of us for many years, and we wanted to take this opportunity to reciprocate," Eaton said. "We hope that our donation, and future donations, will allow many students to achieve the dream of a college education."

## Weatherford College AROUND CAMPUS

#### A Big WC send-off

In front of a standing-room only audience of more than 500 family and friends Oct. 3 in the Alkek Fine Arts Center, 144 National Guard soldiers scheduled for a 12-month deployment to Iraq were honored in a special ceremony recognizing their service to their country. Military and state and national dignitaries were on hand to offer special remarks to the troops and to their families. Pictured, U.S. Congresswoman Kay Granger of the 12th District, Texas; Dr. Kevin Eaton, WC President; and Rep. Phil King.



#### **Fire Academy** 10-year anniversary



at the Alkek Fine Arts Center. Pictured are Jason Loyd, former Fire Academy coordinator; Kay Young, dean of workforce and economic development; Steve Malley, current Public Safety Professions Department chair; Dr. Kevin Eaton, president.

#### WC Rodeo canned goods round-up

Weatherford College rodeo team members, Chris DeMases, Katie Ary and Cadee Tew, left to right, loaded up bags of canned goods the team collected in the fall. The more than 200 cans were donated to the Center of Hope, Weatherford.



#### **GED Graduation**

Weatherford College celebrated the success of lits G.E.D. (General Education Development)

completers with a graduation ceremony in December at the Alkek Fine Arts Center. Pictured is Brittany Nicole Placek, receiving her diploma from Frank Martin, chair of the WC Board of Trustees. The WC Foundation gave five scholarships to G.E.D. graduates including four that were funded by Dr. Kevin Eaton, WC president. Two-hundred fifty people completed the G.E.D at WC this year.



#### selected as this year's Texas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (TASFAA) Hall of Fame winner. Her 26 years of service to the financial aid community, her continued service to and leadership of the TASFAA organization, her high level of integrity, and her commitment to encouraging students to

pursue their goals warranted her selection to receive this honor.



#### **Board chairman** supports **Foundation**

Kaye and Frank Martin have established a new Weatherford College scholarship with a \$1,000 gift to the WC Foundation. Mrs. Martin spent her career as a teacher in Weatherford's

Bowie and Seguin Elementary Schools, and the new annual scholarship will be earmarked for students who attended either one of those schools. Pictured (left) with the Martins is Dr. Mike White, WC Foundation president. Mr. Martin is the chair of the WC Board of Trustees.

#### **Another record enrollment**

Weatherford College is experiencing another large enrollment increase this semester, up 12 percent compared to spring of 2009. On the 12th day of classes, the official census or "count" day for colleges across the state, total enrollment stood at 5,124.

The majority – 3,545 – attend the Weatherford campus. Headcount at WC Wise County is 400, a 10 percent increase. Mineral Wells Education Center posted a 27 percent increase with 118 students. More than 1,100 students are enrolled for classes on campus and online, and 412 are taking only online courses.

"Community colleges have seen record growth nationwide, but as the economy begins to recover, we believe that the enrollment increases at community colleges will begin to slow," said Dr. Kevin Eaton, WC president. "However, we could still see double-digit growth over the next biennium. With lower tuition and superior instructors, Weatherford College has always been a great starting point for area students. I would not be surprised to see WC surpass 6,000 students during the fall 2010 registration cycle."



#### WC names 2009 Staff Member of the Year

At its annual Holiday Dinner and Service Awards Ceremony Dec. 4, Weatherford College announced the selection of Sam Coody as its Staff Member of the Year. Coody is the client services manager in the Technology Services department.

The award recognizes that one employee whose outstanding contributions, attitude and attention to his or her job goes beyond the expected, above the norm. The selection is determined by votes cast by WC employees from among those nominated by all College personnel. Other nominees for the Staff Member of the Year award were, Linda Bagwell, director of communications and public relations; Janetta Kruse, director of workforce and continuing education, and Dr. David Russell, Tech Prep coordinator.

Coody has been with WC since 1999, joining parents Bill and Sue Coody, who have been WC faculty members for many years. Coody's wife, Lisa, is also employed at WC as a telecommunications analyst.

"I usually see you all when there's something that needs to be fixed," said Coody, as he accepted the award. "This is nice!"

With the Staff Member of the Year recognition, Coody received a \$1,000 honorarium and roundtrip airfare for two, compliments of the WC Foundation.

#### Meet the WC Board of Trustees, continued

In the last issue of The Hilltop, we introduced you to five new members of the WC Board of Trustees: Elaine Carter, Trey Cobb, Dr. Trev Dixon, Frank Martin, and Joel Watson. Since that time, the board appointed a new member, Jack DeShazo. In this issue, meet Mr. DeShazo and returning board member Jean Bryan:



Jack DeShazo, an agriculture teacher at Aledo High School, was appointed to the WC Board of Trustees in September 2009. A Parker County native, he lives in Azle with his wife and four children. He graduated from Azle High School in 1975 and from WC in 1977 with a degree in agriculture before earning a bachelor's in agriculture education at Texas A&M in 1979. He holds memberships in the Parker County Livestock Improvement Association; Parker County Farm Bureau;

Azle Masonic Lodge; Vocational Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas; National Association of Agricultural Educators and Association for Career and Technical Education.



Jean Bryan was elected to the board in May 1999 and is the "veteran" trustee on the board. Now retired, she was formerly senior vice president of marketing and business development for Weatherford National Bank (now First Financial Bank). Prior to joining the bank in 1994, she served as Tourism/Membership Director for the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce. Jean is very active in the Weatherford/ Parker County community and serves on several boards and advisory councils. Jean and

husband Noel have been Weatherford residents for more than 50 years and are devoted Texas A & M "12th man Aggies," traveling with the football team.

## Golfers raise scholarship funds at WC Tech Prep tournament

Over one hundred golfers from local businesses, high schools, and Weatherford College teed off at Sugar Tree Golf Club on Saturday, October 10, for the 9th Annual WC Tech Prep Scholarship Golf Tournament. This year, Tech Prep partnered with the WC Foundation to help provide more scholarship opportunities for students.

The golf tournament provides scholarships for area high school Tech Prep students to attend Weatherford College. Tech Prep is a federally-funded grant initiative that allows qualified technical students to get a head start on their college education by earning up to 16 hours of dual college credits while in high school.



Pictured: Weatherford College team member Dr. Jim Murphy putts as (L-R): Frank Martin, Dr. Kevin Eaton, and Bernie Kilman watch

The Weatherford Aerospace team of David King, Kevin King, Wes Read, and Will Link won the tournament with the Sawyer Construction team of Brad Tarr, Jonathan Huffingham, Larry Holloway, and Tommy Fincher placing second.

"It was a cold, wet day, but we still managed record participation and sponsorship," said Weatherford College President Dr. Kevin Eaton. "We also knew this would be a tough year for raising scholarship funds, but our business community really came through by providing over \$22,000. Their support of this golf tournament clearly demonstrates a firm commitment to our local students and to Weatherford College."

"These scholarships can be a lifeline to higher education and a better life for our students," said Tech Prep Director Dr. David Russell.

### Alum gives helping hand in Haiti



Weatherford native and Weatherford College alumnus Kelby Mays plays soccer with a Haitian boy during some down time from his humanitarian work with Operation Unified Response. Mays, a medic, is a sailor aboard the amphibious dock landing ship USS Carter Hall (LSD 50.)

Picture courtesy of: Navy Visual News Service Office of Information (OI-7)

Ruby Peacock

#### THANK YOU

to the following donors who gave recent gifts to the WC Foundation (as of Feb. 4, 2010)

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## Barrel racer competes at national pro finals

December. Photos courtesy of Dan Hubbell.

LAS VEGAS – Former WC student Jordon Peterson is near the top of her game in professional rodeo: competing in the Wrangler National Finals in

Peterson is the first former WC rodeo athlete to qualify for the prestigious

The 20-year-old Clifton, Texas, native won over \$92,000 on the pro circuit in barrel racing in the 2009 season to qualify in the fifth position

for the finals.

"I knew from the beginning that Jordan was one of the finest horsewomen at that age I had ever seen," said Mike Brown, WC head rodeo coach. "It was also evident that she would excel in her event at any level she wanted to compete. Jordan has the talent and the horse power to be the national champion in the barrel racing.'

Peterson and her horse, Jester, won the sixth round of the WNFR for \$17,139 and finished in 12th place for a total prize of \$34,070.

Former Coyote earns PGA card

A Weatherford College alumnus has achieved a golfer's dream — earning his PGA card. Jerod Turner, a member of WC's golf team from 1993 to 1995, finished 15th on the Nationwide Tour money list in 2009, securing an automatic spot on the 2010 Professional Golfers Association Tour.

Turner jumped from 150th to 17th on the Nationwide money list after winning the Soboba Classic in San Jacinto, Calif., the first weekend in

His winnings of \$237,993 in 2009 placed him in "The 25," the top 25 players from the Nationwide Tour that earn automatic spots on the PGA Tour for the next season.

Former WC golf coach Rod Embry, now retired in the Hill Country, remembers the Azle High School graduate well.

"He was, and is, a very nice guy," Embry said. "I'm very proud of what he's accomplished."

At press time, Turner had played in three 2010 events and made his first PGA cut at the Bob Hope Classic, finishing tied for 57th place for \$11,050.



#### Class notes

Andra ('75) and John Cantrell celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary February 24. Andra is WC's vice president of financial and administrative affairs, and John is a selfemployed rancher.

Wayne ('48) and Mable Davee ('49) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary September 9. Wayne retired from the Weatherford ISD in 1985 with 35 years of service, and Mable retired from the WISD with 34 years of service.

Kurt Harris ('68) is now program administrator for the "Have an Exit Strategy" program at the State Fire Marshal's Office in Austin. program's goal is to educate the public on the necessity of self-responsibility for personal fire safety. Harris previously served as the fire marshal for the City of Weatherford.

Dr. Robert Riza was named vice president of student services of Hill College in October. The WC alumnus served five years as executive director of athletics and assistant vice chancellor for student services at Pima Community College in Tucson, Ariz.

Charles Tippie ('04) was sworn in as a Weatherford police officer in September. The WC Police Academy graduate previously worked in the Parker County Sheriffs Office and the Hudson Oaks Police Department.

#### **NEWS FROM THE WC FOUNDATION**

#### **WC Foundation honors donor**



The Weatherford College Foundation presented one of the College's most prestigious awards, the Carlos Hartnett Award, to Marjorie Kimbrough Dome of Longview at a Foundation dinner in October.

The award is given to a citizen who encourages others, by word and by example, to give from their abundance for the benefit of WC.

In his presentation of the award to Mrs. Dome, Brent Baker, WC vice president of Institutional Advancement and executive director of the Foundation, said, "Marjorie married a proud Weatherford College alumnus, O.L. Kimbrough, and as a couple, they began supporting scholarships and other WC projects with gifts to the Foundation at least 15 years ago. They helped fund the installation of decorative lamp posts on campus, and provided beautiful new flags for the Alkek Fine Arts Center."

Additionally, the honoree donated \$10,000 to establish a scholarship in 2004, and she has continued to support scholarships at WC with annual gifts of \$5,000 in recent years. Marjorie,

now with her husband Tom Dome, has contributed \$30,000 to this foundation scholarship in the last five years.

"This type of annual support is unusual for our college, but I also find it extraordinary that Marjorie has continued to support O.L.'s Alma Mater after his passing, and that she does it from a distance," said Baker. "That tells me that she and Tom understand the importance of higher education - her commitment to scholarships is truly encouraging others, by word and by deed, to give."

## WC Foundation officers elected



The Weatherford College Foundation Board of Directors has elected its Executive Committee for 2009-10. They include (left to right) Joan Shaw; Nancy Stuart; Bob Glenn, treasurer; Dr. Mike White, president; Dr. Steve Wood, vice president; and Jacy Guynes (not pictured), secretary.

## Looking for a way to become involved?

If you are looking for a way to become involved with the Weatherford College Foundation or would like to make a donation, call Brent Baker at 817-598-6275 or e-mail bbaker@wc.edu.

# HOMECOMING

Saturday, April 10

"ALUMNI DAY" AT THE WC BASEBALL DOUBLEHEADER VS. NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS

Williams Ballpark
Free admission for alumni, \$5 for guests

4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
RECEPTION TO MEET THE
WC BOARD OF TRUSTEES
AND PRESIDENT
DR. KEVIN EATON
Library

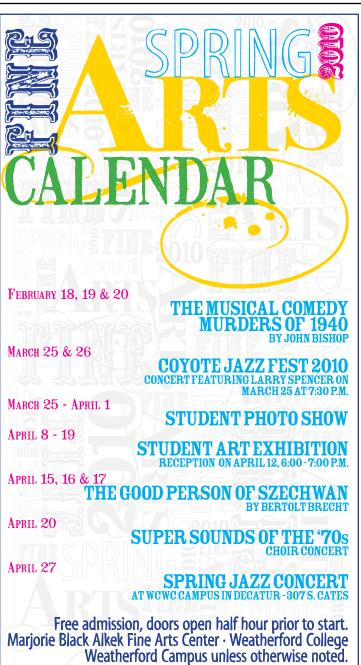
#### 5:00 p.m. HOMECOMING AWARDS BANQUET

Doss Student Center
Ticket price: \$15 per person
Please make reservations for the
dinner by calling 817-598-6272 or
emailing mjohnson@wc.edu.





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WHEN: Saturday, April 24

WHERE: Alkek Fine Arts Center

## BOOKS 'N AUTHORS 'N ALL THAT JAZZ SCHEDULE:

9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

- Meet 'n Greet and Buy Books
   More than 40 authors in Texas Hall All Day
- 16 FREE Writing Workshops for adults and children
- Writing Contest Awards Program
- Jazz Concert
- Doss Heritage Scholarship Luncheon Mary Rogers, Author of Dancing Naked...

#### **ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW TIME:**

8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

#### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Books 'n Authors 'n All That Jazz - 817-598-6275 Arts & Crafts Show - W.C.P.D., 817-598-6316