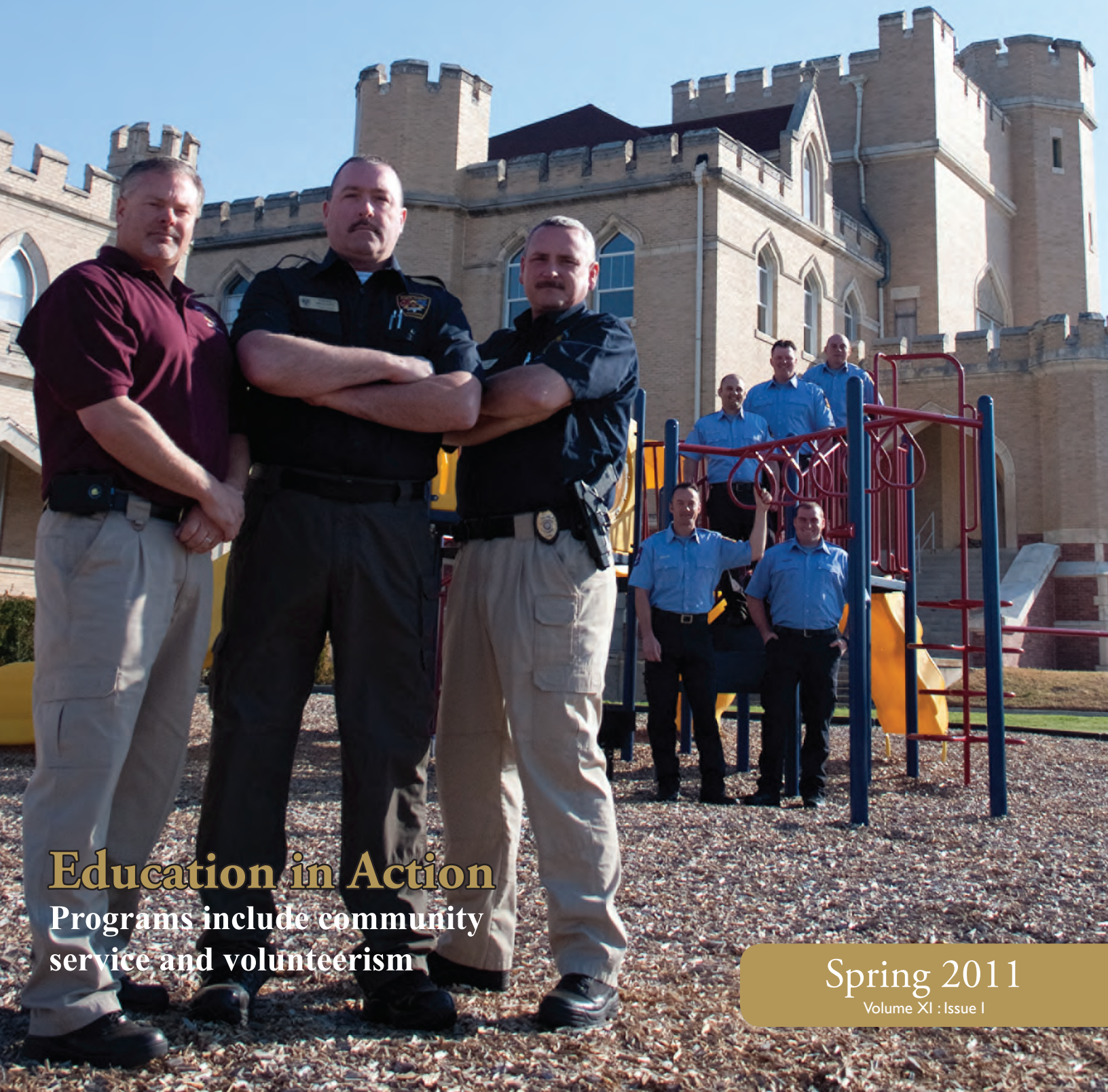


Weatherford College

# THE HILLTOP

A newsletter for alumni and friends of Weatherford College



## Education in Action

Programs include community service and volunteerism

Spring 2011

Volume XI : Issue I



# Message from the President



As you can tell from this issue of *The Hilltop*, we are very proud of our students. The cover story on WC volunteerism and service-learning illustrates the dedication and commitment our students, and our employees, exhibit every day. It's wonderful to see these programs help the community, while creating memories and life-lessons for everyone involved.

You'll also see a Homecoming schedule in this publication. I hope you'll take the time to come to campus on April 2; it's always a wonderful day for alumni of all ages! As I have expressed to you on many different occasions, YOU are what this event is all

about. I have learned more about the history of Weatherford College during our once-a-month Ex-Students luncheons than I could have ever learned from being an employee for the past nine years. Our history lies within each of you, and I hope you will join us for Homecoming and share some of your wonderful memories of WC.

I also wanted to remind you that changes will be occurring around our campus in the coming months. We plan to start work on our roofline project around the middle of May, and we hope to break ground on our new softball field by early summer. Likewise, we are in the planning phase for our new academic building that should be under way late fall or early spring. I can't wait to take you on a tour of these new facilities once they are complete.

It's an exciting time to be a part of the WC family. Thank you for your continued support, and I hope to see you in the very near future!

Kevin Eaton, Ed.D.  
President

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## Education in Action

### Programs include community service and volunteerism

by Linda Bagwell

“At first, I thought, ‘Hey, I signed up to be a police officer, not paint fences,’” said Police Academy cadet Stephen Sasser, “but then, I started to realize that being a police officer is being part of the community, too, and I understand why we’re here.”

The “here” to which Sasser referred in this case was a Saturday spent with his classmates and other students in WC’s Public Safety programs, painting more than a mile of fencing around the 4-H Club’s property on Tin Top Road in Weatherford. It’s all a part of Steve Malley’s definition of “public service.”

Malley, department chair of the College’s Public Safety Professions programs, which includes the Police Academy, Fire Academy and Emergency Medical Services, is fervent in his opinion that public service is an important part of instruction in public safety programs.

“After all,” he said, “People in the community are our customers, if you will, in our fields, and involvement in that community – whether it’s painting a fence for the 4-H’ers or building a playground for the kids at the Pythian Home – well, that’s a fundamental part of giving back to the community.”

Malley is not alone in his thinking. Across the country in colleges and universities, and certainly at Weatherford College, community volunteerism and the more rigidly defined “service-learning” are becoming more and more a part of the regular curriculum for students in the classroom, as well as those in student clubs and organizations. Many colleges incorporate the pedagogy of service-learning and volunteerism as required features of certain courses and programs, integrating meaningful community service with instruction and reflection in order to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities.

“While we work on a number of community service projects over the year,” said Malley, “the Fire Academy does one, in particular, that is part of our curriculum. We require the cadets

to put on a PubEd program at an elementary school or sometimes we do it for the Pythian Home. The cadets develop the material, skit or presentation and present it to the children. It is a requirement that they get graded on.

It’s great fun for the children, and sometimes we are amazed at the cadets’ reactions. Some of them are petrified of speaking in front of the children, and some really pile it on. Either way it is a learning experience for everyone involved.”

Rob Moore, coordinator for the Police Academy, schedules his cadets to work with local police departments at different community events and they practice their traffic control and crowd direction skills.

“This is also a requirement for them. We work at events like the Peach Pedal Bike Ride, Ride for Heroes in Aledo, Safe Halloween, and Weatherford’s Christmas on the Square,” said Moore.

“Now we could just as easily practice those skills right here in the parking lot at WC, but involvement with the public is key.”

Community service is an integral part of the fabric of Upward Bound, as well, said



Photos from top down: Working together, cadets in WC’s Public Safety programs, helped update the local 4-H arena - including painting the fences. Upward Bound students collected canned goods for an area food pantry.

Kim Hutton, program academic counselor.

“Our students are first-generation college students from economically-disadvantaged families, and we want to instill in them that

*continues with Service on page 11.*



# MEMORIES

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



After hearing from Michael Brad Dixon ('78) and Dana Cudd Broumley ('78), we know this photo features music scholarship recipients in 1976-77.

Those identified include: Tim Stephens (standing on left), Penny Brannon Fisher (sitting on top of sign on left), Kevin Wingo (standing on right), and Carrie O'Neal (sitting on ground, right). 📷

## Do you know...

If you have an interesting WC image you would like to contribute to the "Do you know" feature, please send it to Katie Edwards at 225 College Park Drive, Weatherford, TX, 76086, or send an e-mail to [kedwards@wc.edu](mailto:kedwards@wc.edu).

### Friends we'll miss

**Tony Arthur Bell** passed away on Jan. 5. He was 62.

**Jack Borden ('31)** of Weatherford passed away on Jan. 19, 2011. He was 102.



Borden was one of WC's greatest ambassadors. He was honored as Alumnus of the Year, Distinguished Alumnus, and recipient of the

WC Foundation's Carlos Hartnett Award. Borden, a practicing attorney until the day he died, was named America's Outstanding Older Worker in 2009. Over the years he worked for the FBI, served as Weatherford mayor, served as county attorney in Parker County, and was a founding member of the Parker County Sheriff's Posse in 1947.

**James Thomas "J.T." Cox** passed away on Feb. 23. He was 90.

**Julia Diffily** of Weatherford passed away on Jan. 5. She was 90. She taught music at Weatherford College.

**Ima Mai Dingle** of Weatherford passed away on Oct. 25. She was 94.

**Charles Bradford Hamilton** of Austin passed away on January 11. He was 90.

**Jack Wesley Hogg, Jr.**, of Clyde passed away on Dec. 11. He was 49.

**Helen Martin Johnson** of Fort Worth passed away on Nov. 8. She was 87.

**Harold Waldo Little** of Weatherford passed away on Jan. 29. He was 84.

**Wortham Earl Loyd** of Granbury passed away on Dec. 21. He was 90.

**Floyd Winston McKeown** of Abilene passed away on Jan. 12. He was 66.

**Velda Ilea Willerton Miller** of Pampa passed away on Dec. 9. She was 76.

**James Lee Norman** passed away on Nov. 1. He was 69.

**Jacqueie Durham Overstreet** passed away on Oct. 5. She was 77.

**Katherine Polson** of Dallas passed away on Feb. 6. She was 95.

**Philip Dale Reich** of Bishop passed away on Jan. 4. He was 47.

**Leona Blanche Stowe Schlicher** passed away on Dec. 5. She was 88.

**Patricia James Wicker** of Lubbock passed away on Feb. 9. She was 62.

# Alumnus returns as part-coach, part-ambassador



by Rick Mauch

Reda Petraitis recalls a phone call she received four years ago.

It was from Weatherford College women's basketball coach Bob McKinley.

"He called me one day out of the blue and told me he had a job opening for an assistant coach," said Reda. "I told him I had a job, but after I hung up the phone I thought how I'd always wanted to coach. So I went for it."

And what better place for Petraitis, 35, to make her coaching debut? After all, she was already as familiar as one could be with the program, having led them to a fourth-place finish in the national tournament while playing at WC from 1996-98.

"He's like my dad," she said. "I had no family here. He was the only person I could talk to when I first got here from Lithuania."

Reda's last name was Kakeranaite then. She married Ramunas Petraitis in 1999, her boyfriend from Lithuania who also played at WC when she was there.

The two transferred to and played for Oregon State, graduating in 2000. They now have an eight-year-old son named Rytis and have lived in Arlington since 2005, when Ramunas' job in the business world brought them there.

"When I wake up every morning, I really want to go to work," said Reda. "The people here are part of my family. The Booster Club people are the same. They remember me from when I was a player."

Reda's work at WC includes being assistant women's basketball coach and teaching two spinning (exercise cycling) classes. She loves every minute of it.

And McKinley loves having one of his most prized players by his side during games and throughout each day.

Well, mostly.

"She makes me walk a mile each day," said McKinley. "And if I skip a day, she makes me walk two."

McKinley said he could tell right away when Reda came to WC to play he had someone unique in his program.

"She wasn't just a special player, she was a special person to go along with it," and now she's a special assistant.

"She's familiar with what I want in the program."

And with the steady stream of European players that have come to WC over the years, Reda helps them bridge a communication gap.

"She's been there," said McKinley. "She knows you have to re-establish yourself as a player and a person when you come to America."

"Sometimes they're afraid to even communicate; afraid they'll make a mistake. She's critical in helping them feel comfortable here."

Reda remembers how frightened she was when she first came to WC.

"First, my boyfriend came here. Before he left, he talked to my dad," said Reda. "I didn't want to go. I was afraid. But then I got to know everybody, and it was the best decision I could have ever made."

McKinley couldn't agree more.

"Reda's the best example of the end product for foreign players," he said. "She and her family are just a neat, typical family. What more could you want?"

"I want her to get her masters. I told her I'd coach until she gets that done."

However, Reda realizes that she has time to accomplish that before she becomes a candidate to replace McKinley.

"Maybe I'd like to be a head coach, but I don't think about it. I just enjoy every minute of what I'm doing now," said Reda. "Besides, Bob's going to coach until he's 90, and I'm not leaving him. He's stuck with me." ☐

## Service Awards Dinner honors Staff Member of the Year

At WC's annual Service Awards dinner last December, Larry Gillespie, audio/visual technician, was named the Staff Member of the Year. Gillespie received a \$1,000 honorarium and roundtrip airfare for two, compliments of the WC Foundation, and he and wife Helena, also a WC employee, already are planning that trip to Disney World for their family.

Nominees were, in addition to Gillespie, Cindy Clifton, purchasing specialist; Doug Jefferson, executive director of student development, and Glenda Grable, accounts receivable assistant.

Also recognized were 41 other employees, who were honored for their years of service to WC.



2009 Staff Member of the Year Sam Coody presents the 2010 award to Larry Gillespie.



# Weatherford College AROUND CAMPUS



## Safe Halloween

About 3,000 little dainty princesses and brides, tiny soldiers, superheroes, cowboys and little police officers, firefighters, and countless other costumed characters, enjoyed another Safe Halloween at WC last fall. Activities included a huge bounce house, game booths, face-painting and costume contests throughout the evening. WC Chief of Police Paul Stone and officers deliver 4,000 cans of food to the Senior Center; cans were admission to Safe Halloween.



## Starbooks is open for business

Starbooks, the newest addition to the Weatherford College Library, is a popular spot for students and staff alike. The free coffee bar, the brainchild of Martha Tandy, library director, was constructed last year with purged (discarded) bound copies of old periodicals, and is located along the back wall of the library, filling it with aromatic aromas for those students studying hard for exams or completing research assignments. Tandy says a good many "customers" also come in just to enjoy a good cup of coffee in the comfortable ambience of the library filled with books, magazines and other printed material. While the coffee and fixings are free, donations are gratefully accepted, said Tandy. The never-empty coffee pots are refilled several times a day.

## Developmental program receives National Certification

WC was granted national certification from the National Association for Developmental Education (NADE) for the Developmental Reading and Writing Program. The Instructional Support Center staff includes Sue Coody, director; Ann Marshall, coordinator; and Kay Meredith, reading specialist. Rhonda Torres is dean of education and instructional support.



**Saturday, April 30, 2011**  
**9 a.m. — 3 p.m.**

**Admission is free! Workshops & Lunch are free!**  
**No admission charge for attendees! More \$\$ to spend on books!**

**All Day: Meet 'n Greet** more than 40 Texas Authors in Texas Hall, waiting to share their stories and their books with you! Buy autographed copies of their books!

**Workshops:** Workshops are free, but pre-registration is required. Register online at [www.wc.edu/booksandauthors](http://www.wc.edu/booksandauthors).

**Location:** Alkek Fine Arts Center, 225 College Park Drive  
Weatherford, TX 76086

Call 817-598-6274 or visit [www.wc.edu](http://www.wc.edu) for information.

## ARTS & CRAFT SHOW



**WHEN:** Saturday, April 30,  
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**WHERE:** Fine Arts side  
parking lot at WC

**FOR MORE INFO.:**  
Contact the W.C.P.D.  
at 817-598-6316



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## Pink for a cause

The Lady Coyote basketball team wore pink in a February game to bring awareness to breast cancer. A portion of the proceeds from the game benefitted breast cancer research.



## Tech-Prep Career Expo

Thirty-three professionals from a variety of careers helped more than 670 local high school students explore their career options at the annual Weatherford College Tech Prep Career Expo in January. Business representatives provided insights into such professions as accounting; architecture; child life; medicine; engineering; pharmacy; forensic science; speech therapy; finance; nursing; nuclear energy; law enforcement; media; physical therapy and game design among others.

## Drama production brings home awards

At the annual Texas Community College Theatre Festival WC's production of *The 39 Steps*, directed by Nancy McVean, received an overall Superior rating, and Superior Acting Awards went to Kristen Walker and Matthew Myers. Myers also garnered the most prestigious of recognitions at the festival, having been recognized as the Best Overall Actor.

Elysia Worcester and Allen Dean each earned Excellent actor ratings. Marcus Lopez was awarded a Superior in costume design, and Ryan Patterson won a Superior in sound.



## Faculty in the spotlight

Work by faculty members Christopher Fritsch and Dr. Richard Selcer recently have been presented to the public with good success. Fritsch's presentation, "Presenting America to the World or Selling Pennsylvania by the Pound: Texts and Contexts in William Penn's Narration of Pennsylvania" was well received at the American Studies Association of Texas at Texas A & M University Commerce last fall. And Selcer's book, "Written in Blood: The History of Fort Worth's Fallen Lawmen," co-written with Kevin Foster, is receiving good reviews. The book chronicles the lives and deaths of 13 early lawmen; police officers; sheriffs; constables and a police commissioner, telling the true story of these lawmen, "warts and all."



# Coyote Chase Race runaway success

About 490 runners made this year's Coyote Chase Race 5K and 1-mile run another success in November.

Weatherford's Mary Martin Elementary School brought more than 90 runners and won the School Challenge trophy for the seventh consecutive year. Couts Christian Academy won the "Most Spirited" Award, participating in the event for the first time.

"This event is a great way to bring people to our campus and to promote fitness in Parker County," said Brent Baker, event organizer. "It's always great to see the enthusiasm of the runners and the folks who cheer them on at the finish line."

Trophies were provided, once again, by First Financial Bank. Other sponsors included Rosa's Café, Johnson Controls, Wood Orthodontics, State Representative Phil King, Jacy Guynes State Farm Insurance, Lightfoot Mechanical, and Hartness Printing/Print Central. ☐



## WC alumnus wins first round in pro rodeo finals debut

LAS VEGAS – For a new professional calf roper, Clif Cooper couldn't have had a better start. The former WC roper won the first round in his Wrangler National Finals Rodeo debut in December.

"I was telling my brother out back right before I roped that I wasn't nervous, for some reason," Cooper told the Associated Press. "It really surprised me because I thought I'd have those jitters, those butterflies. I prepared really, really hard, and I felt good."

Cooper ended up finishing 10th in the world, a great start for a burgeoning pro rodeo career.

Cooper won two consecutive regional calf roping championships while competing for WC in 2008 and 2009. He made two trips to the College National Finals Rodeo during those years. ☐

### Class notes

**Katherine Boswell ('70)** received the Community Builders Award from the Masonic Lodge #611 in Mineral Wells, Tex. The award is the highest honor bestowed upon a non-Mason. Boswell is WC's dean of health and human sciences.

**Aden Bubeck ('93)** appeared on the 53rd annual Grammy Awards Feb. 13 as a member of Miranda Lambert's backing band. Bubeck, a former member of the WC Jazz Band, has played the bass guitar for Lambert for a number of years.

**Ashley Thompson Hogan ('06)** has been nominated for the Texas State Teacher of the Year award by the Killeen ISD. She is one of three Killeen nominees. Ashley is an elementary music teacher at Pershing Park Elementary school in Killeen, Tex., and is the daughter of Terri

Thompson, WC's student loan officer.

**Ruth Huse ('66)** has been elected president of the Parker County Retired Teachers Association. The previous WC Alumnus of the Year recipient retired as director of the WC Library in 1992. She begins her term as president in July.

**Courtney Myers Kincaid ('99)** has been named interim director of the Hood County Library. At WC, she was involved in Coyote Corps and the Criminal Justice Club.

**Deepak Silwal ('09)** was recently named a University Scholar at the University of Texas at Arlington. The award represents the top one percent of the UTA student body. He will be formally recognized during Academic Excellence Week in April.

**Jim Wilkinson ('89)** has opened a

new international office in Dallas for Brunswick Group, a corporate relations and communications firm. Wilkinson is a managing partner, focusing on international business and financial strategy. A previous WC Distinguished Alumnus Award recipient, Wilkinson has served as chief of staff at the U.S. Treasury, senior advisor to Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, and deputy national security advisor for communications in The White House.

Two former WC pitchers reported to spring training for Major League Baseball teams in February. **Zach Nuding ('10)** trained with the New York Yankees in Tampa, Fla. after being drafted in the 30th round this summer. After making his major league pitching debut last season, **Jake Arrieta ('05)** returned to Baltimore Orioles spring training in Sarasota, Fla. expecting to stay in the starting rotation in 2011.



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Dr. Mike and Avalon White  
WHS Class of 1953  
Roger and Patty Williams  
Mary Ann Williamson  
Linda Wynn



To continue their support of the Coyote Area Math Championship, Plains Capital Bank of Weatherford made a \$2,500 donation to the Weatherford College Foundation. The 9th annual competition, open to area high school mathematics teams, was held in February. Pictured are (left to right) WC math faculty members Dr. Rickey Harman and Grace Rothrock, Plains Capital President Pat Hamilton, Plains Capital Executive Vice President Bob Glenn, and "Mo" the buffalo.



The Bush Legacy Republican Women have given \$1,000 to support WC Foundation scholarships. The scholarship will be named in honor of Carolyn Estes, a longtime supporter. Pictured are (left to right) BLRW Board members Evon Markum, Patsy Perkins, Karen Brasovan, Estes, Judy Flanagin, Dottie Worthington (BLRW president), and WC's Brent Baker.



James and Bennie Barnett have continued their support of the WC Foundation with a generous \$10,000 gift. The gift will enhance the James and Bennie Barnett Scholarship for deserving WC students. Pictured with the Barnetts is Dr. Kevin Eaton, WC president and a member of the WC Foundation Board of Directors.



The Parker County Women's and Newcomers Club has continued its commitment to Weatherford College scholarships with a \$5,000 gift to the WC Foundation. The PCWNC has donated more than \$45,000 in recent years to a scholarship earmarked for women of non-traditional age returning to college. Pictured are Dottie Mills, PCWNC president; Becky Tripp, PCWNC Scholarship Committee chair; and Dr. Mike White, WC Foundation president.



# Service *from page 3.*

it is our responsibility to give back to the community where we live. It helps them become more socially aware of community needs and even of global concerns.”

“Just in this past year, the Upward Bound students helped with the preparation of the Springtown Chamber of Commerce’s annual All-American Bicycle Rally. We did everything from cutting fruit, preparing bags, folding t-shirts, and even helped clean up and organize the office,” said Jeff Kahlden, UB director. “The students also helped with cleaning up around the Coyote Village area this past summer, and in December, the students held a canned food drive with the proceeds going to an area food pantry.

“In the past, the Upward Bound students have prepared garage sales for the Center of Hope, cleaned out buildings at the Pythian Home, washed walls at Palo Pinto General Hospital, and helped out at Safe Halloween.”

While student volunteerism certainly benefits the recipients, educators believe the payback for students are numerous. Recent research by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education shows benefits including, “helping students make meaningful connections between what they are studying and its many applications; offering them a holistic learning experience that can increase their engagement in learning, provide them access to adult mentors, bolster their self-confidence, and enhance their preparation for the world of work, and allowing them to explore and develop skills for a range of ways to serve,

including acts of kindness and caring, community stewardship, and civic action.”

The aspect of “kindness and caring” is one Jeff Lightfoot, WC Coyotes baseball coach, aspires to impart in his student-athletes.

“I believe that playing baseball at WC is a privilege,” Lightfoot said, “and with that privilege comes a responsibility to do community service. I believe that my job here is to build champions. What does that mean? I think that being a champion applies to everything that you do; it’s more than wins and losses. That means that we are expected to think about others and the needs of our community.”

Each year, Lightfoot’s team actively participates in reading programs for elementary school children and they “ring the bell” during the holidays for Salvation Army, and a much-anticipated and enjoyed activity involves the annual local Special Olympics held at Kangaroo Stadium.

“Last year, our guys set up a station for kids to hit balls off a batting tee, and the kids rotated through,” said Lightfoot. “About half way through the event, I heard over the PA that some kids were on the track, racing the Weatherford College baseball team. Half my guys spent the rest of the day taking challenges from the crowd



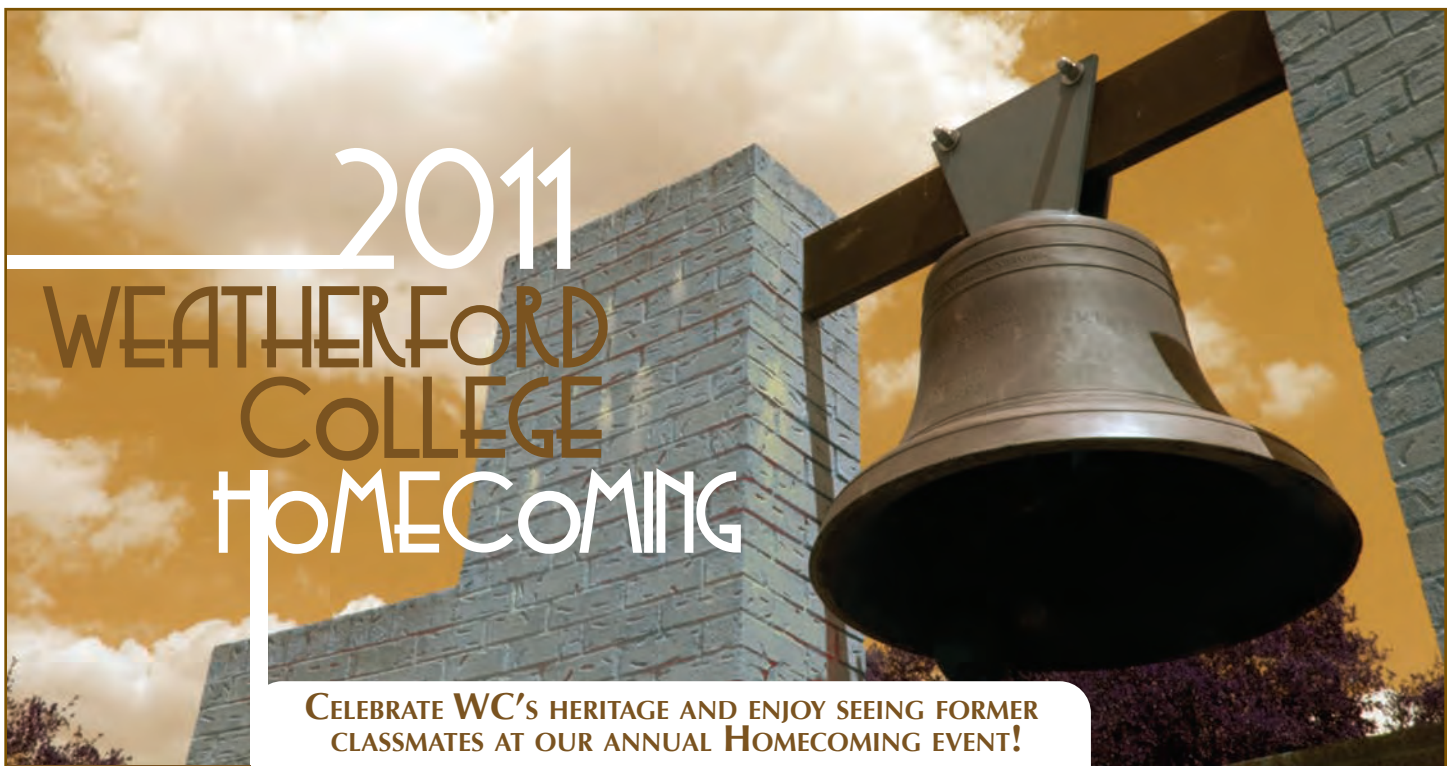
WC Coyotes baseball players enjoyed a day with children at the annual Special Olympics. "On your mark, get set, go!" (The Coyotes lost...)

of kids – good stuff. And, although my guys did not win one race, we had a great time - something our guys will remember for a long time.

“Hopefully our players will gain an understanding that they are blessed and that will develop an appreciation for what they have. At the end of their two years at WC, I hope that they will develop a spirit of giving that will carry on throughout their lives.”

			<p><b>THURSDAY,</b> <b>MAY 19</b> <b>5 P.M. TO 8 P.M.</b> AT JUMP XTREME 1819 S. MAIN WEATHERFORD</p>	
<p>BENEFITING LOCAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE  </p>		<p>SPONSORED BY  </p>		<p>TICKETS ARE \$30 PER PERSON.</p> <p>VISIT  <a href="http://WWW.TASTEOFARKERCOUNTY.COM">WWW.TASTEOFARKERCOUNTY.COM</a>          TO BUY TICKETS ONLINE.</p>

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CELEBRATE WC'S HERITAGE AND ENJOY SEEING FORMER CLASSMATES AT OUR ANNUAL HOMECOMING EVENT!

## SATURDAY, APRIL 2

4:00 TO 5:00 P.M. - RECEPTION HONORING PREVIOUS DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD HONOREES *WC Library- Complimentary Admission*

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 e-mailing [mjohnson@wc.edu](mailto:mjohnson@wc.edu))

### ALSO:

REGISTRATION - Beginning at 3:00 p.m., Doss Student Center Lobby

ARCHIVES ROOM OPEN HOUSE - 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., Library Second Floor