

Message from the President



It is hard to believe that graduation season is at hand once again. More than 1700 friends and family members joined us to celebrate commencement on the 12th of May. It was a beautiful day to watch the 222 graduates celebrate their success at the Jerry Durant Auditorium. It is hard to believe that another graduation has come and gone, but refreshing to know that we have prepared another wonderful group of students to move on to the next phase of their journey.

Now, as our newest graduates move on to bigger and better things, we must prepare for the influx of new students that will be arriving

in the fall. Much of that preparation surrounds the completion of our major construction projects. Our new campus in Wise County will be completed by the time you are turning the pages of this edition of *The Hilltop*! We are extremely proud of the way this new facility has taken form, and we know that you will be proud of it as well. Likewise, our new Academic Building on the main campus is also nearing completion and will be ready for classes this fall. I hope that you will take an opportunity to come visit our campus when you are in the area, and I would be honored to give you a personal tour of our new facilities.

In closing, I would just like to say that working for all of you has been a wonderful experience. Weatherford College is truly a marvelous institution, and our students are second to none. Thank you for continuing to carry on the Coyote spirit, because that is what sets us apart from other institutions. Until next quarter, best wishes to all.

> Kevin J. Eaton, Ed.D. President

Sevin / Caton

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COVER STORY

McKinley earns landmark win in one of his busiest years

by Brent Baker

It's been a whirlwind year for Bob McKinley.

First, he took on a major job change, adding athletic director and men's basketball coach duties to his already busy schedule as women's basketball coach at Weatherford College. His AD responsibility included overseeing a brand new sport - softball - along with all of the other administrative tasks of the position.

It was very busy, but he juggled the jobs well, leading both basketball teams to the postseason for the first time in four years. And on the way, he hit a benchmark that he hadn't thought much about.

On February 4th, as his men's team defeated Temple College, McKinley logged his 800th win at WC.

a postgame ceremony presenting him with a special number 800 jersey. A Dallas television station came to WC to

a wireless microphone during a game, which he reluctantly did. Newspapers called for interviews. In the middle of two close playoff races, the attention was a little much.

"The recognition is really nice, but it was a little bit annoying," McKinley laughed. "Don't get me wrong, it was special, but I really don't want all the attention."

Even though he's presided over 12 conference championships, three regional titles, three national tournament berths and one JUCO Final Four appearance, McKinley is quick to deflect the credit.

"I'm not the one that's won all

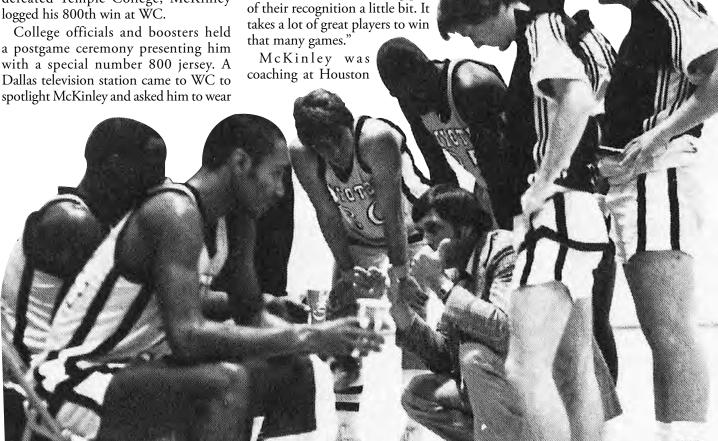
those games — it's the players," he

said. "I feel like I'm stealing part

Baptist University in 1977 when he and his wife, Dee, decided they didn't want to raise their kids in Houston.

"My friend Johnny Swain called me and said there was a junior college coaching job open near Fort Worth, in Weatherford," McKinley said. "I grew up in Bowie, so that was a lot closer, and we were looking to get out of the big city.

"We came to visit Weatherford, and we really liked the town. Dr. (E.W.) Mince continues with Mr. 800 on page 11.



MEMORIES

Last issue's Do you know...



1964 Cheerleaders

Thank you to Weldon Turner, Sheila Hill, Charles Morris, Mike Hill and Dianna Morron Richardson! They successfully identified the 1964 WC Cheerleaders from the last *Hilltop*: Michele Fouche, Mary Lou Barnett, Sondra Batchelder, Claudia Baumhardt, Gail Jones and Sherrie Stouse.

Do you know...



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

Dr. E.W. Mince, 1925-2011



Dr. Edward Wetah (E.W.) Mince, 86, passed away Dec. 24, 2011 in Weatherford. Dr. Mince was the longest-serving president in the history of Weatherford College, serving for 22 years beginning in 1971.

He graduated from SMU in 1949 with a degree in business administration, earned a Master of Science degree in history from East Texas State Teacher's College, and received his Ph.D. in philosophy and college administration from the University of Texas in Austin. He came to WC after serving in leadership roles at Henderson Junior College, Cisco Junior College, and as president of Ranger College.

He served two years as president of the Texas Association of Community Colleges. He also served on the National Community College Board and on visiting teams for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

Dr. Mince was very active in the community, including Rotary Club, the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce, Manna Food Bank, the Parker County Historical Society and First Baptist Church. He was named Weatherford Citizen of the Year in 1978.

Friends we'll miss

He is survived by his wife of 67 years, Marie, and many other loving family members.

Richard L. Campbell of Savoy passed away on Jan. 27 at the age of 62.

Charlene Waters Strouth Cowan of Weatherford passed away on Dec. 8 at the age of 83.

Lenora Cox of Parker County passed away on Jan. 1 at the age of 98.

Nancy Kay Merritt Daugherty of Weatherford passed away on Feb. 12 at the age of 71.

Sybol May Walker Dean of Weatherford passed away on Jan. 2 at the age of 90.

Greg DesCamps of Weatherford passed away on April 12 at the age of 58.

Cyndy Dvorak of Whitt passed away in December at the age of 49.

Claudia M. Gammon of Weatherford passed away on March 1 at the age of 42. **Leland Ray Harper** of Weatherford passed away on Jan. 12 at the age of 73.

John David Henson, Jr., passed away on Dec. 13 at the age of 20.

Joseph M. Herndon of Cleburne passed away Nov. 19 at the age of 68. He served WC as the customer business manager for Johnson Controls, Inc.

Virginia "Mimi" Pearson Hunter of Fort Worth passed away on Jan. 8 at the age of 91.

Philip Steven Layne of Weatherford passed away on March 22 at the age of 21.

Lula Mae Love of Arlington passed away on Jan. 22 at the age of 94. Lula Mae was instrumental in forming WC's Local Coyotes group that meets monthly to this day.

Nancy Newby-Brown of Springtown passed away on March 6 at the age of 74.

G. B. Parks of Millsap passed away on Jan. 16 at the age of 84.

Mary Pratt Pennell of Austin passed

away on February 14 at the age of 93. **Eugene Steven "Steve" Perdue** of

Mineral Wells passed away on Dec. 5 at the age of 63.

Imogene Pharo of Weatherford passed away on Dec. 28 at the age of 98.

Artis James "AJ" Prestidge passed away on Feb. 20.

Doniece Faye Ramsey of Austin passed away on Dec. 23 at the age of 86.

Sammye Ruth Wigington Robbins of Weatherford passed away on November 28 at the age of 88.

Roselle Price Shelby of Georgetown passed away on December 22 at the age of 82.

Halbert Allison "Tommy" Thompson of Weatherford passed away on February 24 at the age of 91.

Norma Williams of Weatherford passed away on January 16 at the age of 66.

Weatherford College honors its own

by Linda Brooks Bagwell

Alumni from classes as early as 1937 on up through 2004 joined together April 14 at Weatherford College and enjoyed fellowship, memories and dinner at the College's annual Homecoming.

Brent Baker, WC vice president of Institutional Advancement, welcomed the crowd, giving away several prizes to those who traveled the farthest to attend, the youngest and most senior alum and one that had a couple of women vying for it – the person who enrolled in college at the most senior age. Becci Wilhite, class of 2004, took home that honor as she was a 51-year-old freshman a few years back.

A highlight of the evening was the introduction of the three women chosen as recipients of the College's highest alumni awards. Donna Boone, Class of 1975, was honored as the Alumnus of the Year 2012. Distinguished Alumnus honors were awarded to Andra Cantrell, Class of 1975, and Elaine Carter, Class of 1987.

Introduced by her friend, colleague and nominator Kathy Boswell, WC

dean of health and human sciences, Boone, chief nursing officer at Weatherford Regional Medical Center, praised the College administration and the allied health program faculty and staff for their foresight in building strong health sciences programs.



Elaine Carter, Donna Boone and Andra Cantrell.

"When we interview prospective nurses here at the hospital, we ask them about their experiences at WC, and almost to a one, they will reply something along these lines: 'It's a tough, competitive program; they take only the best students.' Well, that's what we look for. Those 'best' quality students in a quality program produces quality graduates who make quality nurses, and that means quality care for our patients."

Boone challenged the College to continue their forward-thinking so that – quoting the College's current marketing slogan – "we may all continue to 'explore, engage and experience' quality education right here in Parker County."

Cantrell, introduced by her long-time friend and colleague Dean of Workforce and Economic Development Kay Young,

continues with Homecoming on page 11.

Books 'n Authors 'n All That Jazz X: Final event held April 28

With so many inviting and interesting cultural events in Weatherford, organizers for WC's Books 'n Authors 'n All That Jazz had their work cut out for them: how to attract people to the event?

"Easy," said Linda Bagwell, WC director of communications and public relations and coordinator of the event. "Just offer them more than 40 talented authors to meet 'n greet in person, offer free writing workshops, throw in a writing contest (with cash prizes!), and don't forget '...'n All that Jazz."

It was a formula that attracted more than 3,000 people to WC over the 10-year span of the event.

"We are very thankful to WC and the administration for supporting this fine event these last 10 years. We were able to keep absolutely free admission, thanks to the College's support and the generous underwriting of community sponsors, not to mention the dozens of student and community volunteers from all over our terrific community, who enabled us to keep our event running so smoothly each year.

"It's been a great 10-year ride, "said Bagwell, "and I am thankful for all who have been involved in its organization and implementation all these years – Nancy McVean, especially, who



proposed the original spark of idea to bring authors on campus; the student volunteers; Cal Lewiston, our talented jazz musicians, the staff who gave up their Saturdays; Johnson Controls for handling physical arrangements; Evelyn Payne for her invaluable assistance; Rae Wooten for coordinating the Writing Contest; Lori Wilde and Marsha Brown for underwriting the awards program and our Texas authors, of course, and all the people who attended every year...so many people, I can't mention them all. It's been grand, and I leave this event knowing we have made an impact on the literary culture in our community!"

Weatherford College AROUND CAMPUS



Faculty Member of the Year

Dr. Sue Casey, retiring computer instructor, was named the 2012 Weatherford College Faculty Member of the Year at graduation services in May. The award was presented to her by Dr. William Smith, the 2010 awardee.



Faculty and staff awarded the National Institute for Staff & Organizational Development award are, Left to Right, Front Row, Delise Burrus, mathematics; Christel Brenner, Respiratory Care; Dr. Sue Casey, Computer Science; Valerie Hopkins, Cosmetology; Lela Morris, Testing Center. Back Row, I-r, Pat McDonough, Physics and Chemistry; Katherine Johnson, History and Government; and Ralph Willingham, Admissions. Not pictured, Nita Parsons, Vocational Nursing.





Faculty Emeriti

Dr. Sue Casey, left, and Sue Coody, both became Faculty Emeritus honorees in May. Both respected instructors announced their retirement from WC; Casey after 17 years and Coody after 39 years.



Alumnus Arnold Pitchford presented the College with a 1940s era WC basketball uniform. The uniform belonged to Minnie Lou Campsey, a Jacksboro native who attended WC in 1945 and 1946.



Collaboration across disciplines good learning experience for students

The Weatherford College Respiratory Care program and Kinesiology department collaborated on an interactive educational experience, bringing together the students from the two disciplines to study exercise physiology. As students exercised on the machines, the Respiratory Care Seniors evaluated the "patients" before, during and after exercising, noting the effects of exercise on the body. "This was a fun, innovative way to bring two very different disciplines together in an educational environment," said Christel Brenner, respiratory care clinical coordinator.

Outstanding speech by Weatherford College student earns accolades, honor

A speech by Rachel Peoples, pictured second from the left, won first place during the recent annual 2011-2012 Joe Tison Outstanding Speech Student at the WC Fine Arts and Communication Department Sixth Annual Outstanding Public Speaking Competition. Participating students were, l-r, Kelsey Moore; Peoples; Stacey King; Correy Thompson; and Whitney Knowles.



The Tempest

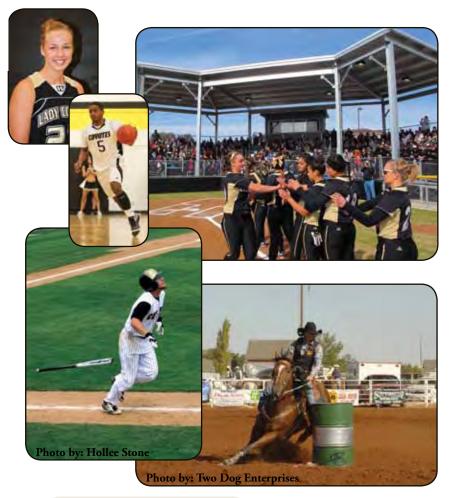
Performing a modern-day version of William Shakespeare's "The Tempest," the WC Drama Team won a bevy of awards at the Texas Community College Theatre Festival held at WC's Alkek Fine Arts Center in March. Competing against several other colleges and universities, Marcos Barron, Hank Minor and Elysia Worcester earned "superior" ratings in acting, the highest rating given by the event's judges. Edna Gill, Matthew Myers, Damek Salazar and Derek Salazar won excellent ratings in acting. Katie Dean was rated excellent in lighting design, and the overall WC production was deemed excellent.

Comptroller Combs

Texas State Comptroller Susan Combs conducted a Town Hall meeting at WC in May, one of several across the state. She explained the current financial picture facing Texans and fielded questions from among the approximately 70 attendees.



2011-12 Athletics Wrap-up



In addition to Bob McKinley's historic 800th win (see cover story), it was a noteworthy season for all of WC's athletic teams.

The Lady Coyotes (25-7) won their 12th conference championship under McKinley and advanced to the regional semifinals. Two-time All-Conference honoree Gintare "Gigi" Mazionyte became the first WC player to earn a basketball scholarship to the University of Texas since 1976.

The Coyote basketball team (15-11) advanced to regionals for the first time since 2008. McKinley won Conference Coach of the Year and 10 basketball players earned All-Conference honors.

In their first season, the Coyote softball team surprised the rest of the region with a 35-24 overall record, a third place finish in conference, and a four-game trip into the postseason tournament. Ten Coyotes made the All-Conference team.

A freshman-laden WC baseball team also finished third in conference, sending four players to the All-Conference team. WC (30-27) advanced to the Region 5 Baseball Tournament for the fifth year in a row.

The WC rodeo team continued its own streak, sending two athletes to the College National Finals Rodeo. Cierra Kunesh (breakaway roping) and Will Woodfin (team roping) won their respective regional championships and will compete at the CNFR, June 10-16 in Casper, Wyo.

The WC cheerleaders finished in fourth place at the National Cheerleading Association championships in Daytona Beach, Fla. All three of the schools that finished ahead of WC are four-year institutions.

Class notes

Patricia Bassham became a U.S. citizen in a ceremony on Nov. 10. Patricia is a current WC student and hails from Brazil.

Joshua Burge took fourth place in the Association of College Unions International Trap Shooting Event March 27 in San Antonio. Burge had tied for second place with four athletes and took fourth after a tiebreaking shoot-off.

Lyndee Carter and Clay Robinson were married in September in Bryson. The bride, a Graham native, graduated from WC and currently works as a registered dental assistant. The groom is from Bryson and is a contractor and home builder.

Gary Cochran was appointed to the Fireman's Contractors Board of Directors in January. Fireman's Contractors is a publicly-traded corporation providing professional services for commercial and government clients.

Fern Coalson Hudson celebrated her 100th birthday on February 16. A member of the WC Class of 1932, she spent her career as an elementary educator before retiring in 1972.

Jim Wilkinson has joined PepsiCo as the company's executive vice president of communications. Wilkinson leads the company's global communications team and reports to CEO Indra K. Nooyi. PepsiCo's 22 brands generate

more than \$1 billion each in annual retail sales. Wilkinson is a member of the WC Foundation Board of Directors and is a past recipient of WC's Distinguished Alumnus Award.

Angie Williams won the 2012 Elementary Teacher of the Year Award in the Weatherford Independent School District. Williams teaches at Ikard Elementary School. Also recognized were WC alumni Kelsey Smith, Austin Elementary Teacher of the Year; Susan Nelson, Martin Elementary Teacher of the Year; and Rhiannon Montgomery, Wright Elementary Teacher of the Year.

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Donna R. Cox



(Clockwise, beginning in the upper left) McKinley in 1987; players from his 1998-99 squad; being interviewed by Ted Madden from WFAA Channel 8; surrounded by his family on the night of his 800th win: his wife, Dee; son, Trey; daughter, Traci; and grandchildren Evelyn, Tommy, Alex and Hyatt.

interviewed me, and we went out to dinner with Bill Vincent, who I found out later was a member of the Board of Trustees."

It turned out that McKinley and Mince would see each other much more often than they realized.

"Mr. Vincent helped us find a house, but we found out that the house was right behind the Minces. I had to drive by Dr. Mince every day," McKinley laughed. "I should've known when Dr. Mince told me that I probably couldn't afford that house."

It didn't take long for the McKinleys to find themselves firmly entrenched in Weatherford, as Dee taught in the Weatherford ISD, and Bob coached hundreds of young people along the way.

The dual coaching role isn't entirely new. McKinley began as WC's men's

coach, and then handled both teams from 1991 to 1995. He served as athletic director from 1977 to 2008. Now, the 70-year-old coach is the winningest active two-year basketball coach in the nation.

"That's an impressive feat, not only to stay in one place that long but to have that kind of success along the way," said Dr. Kevin Eaton, WC president. "He's a big part of the WC family. It's been fun to celebrate with him this year."

And the accolades keep coming. The coaches of the North Texas Junior College Athletic Conference named him Women's Basketball Coach of the Year this season, his ninth such award.

But again, McKinley turns the attention to others.

"It's all about the players," he said. "They make this job fun."

Attention alumni: We need your e-mail address!

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

Homecoming from page 3.

was visibly moved by the honor bestowed upon her by the institution that has employed her for more than three decades. Citing, among others, WC faculty and staff Carlos Hartnett, Ralph Willingham and Dr. Richard Bowers and, especially, former WC presidents Dr. E.W. Mince and Dr. Jim Boyd as long-time mentors, Cantrell said "they taught me what I know - not only the management of the financial aspects of the College but how to work with people and be an effective manager, as well." Now, as vice president for financial affairs, she said one of the proudest achievements she shares with her mentors and colleagues is that WC has been recognized – for the fifth consecutive year – as one of the Top Five in the state for fiscal management.

"I have been blessed," Cantrell said, "first, as a student at Weatherford College and now to work here, and I am fortunate to be considered 'distinguished' among so many thousands of outstanding alumni of WC."

Carter, a 1972 graduate of Weatherford High School and 1987 graduate of WC, is a former employee of the College, having served as the Streib Computer Center director. She has continued her connection with WC, now, since 2009, serving as a member of both the WC Board of Trustees and the WC Foundation Board of Directors.

Along with her late husband, Ronnie, and family, she helped establish the Willie and Hubert Bennett Endowed Scholarship Fund in the WC Foundation. She also volunteered many years as a local volunteer firefighter.

Carter was introduced by friend and fellow trustee, Board President Frank Martin. In an emotion-packed speech that left few dry eyes in the crowd, Carter accepted the award, she said, in honor of her late husband Ronnie "and all that he encouraged me to do.

"He was the reason, I think, that I became interested in civil service. He showed me the rewards of service to others. I am deeply honored to be recognized by this College that I love so much, and I will continue to serve as long as I can."





WC construction update













- 1: In WC's new Wise County campus, Dr. Kevin Eaton, president, shows off rock work in the atrium to Board Chairman Frank Martin and his wife, Kaye
 2: Final touches on the WC Wise County exterior
- 3: Masonry going up on the new Academic Building in Weatherford, view from the northeast
 4: A view of the Academic Building from the southeast
 5: The new softball complex hosted its first season this year

- 6: The softball complex scoreboard