

Message from THE PRESIDENT

Thank you for your continued support of Weatherford College. This edition of The Hilltop highlights the new Alesia Armstrong Wiggs School of Nursing, our new Coyote Clinic, our new Quality Enhancement Project, and the return of golf and tennis.

The Wiggs Family Foundation recently donated a \$1 million cash gift to Weatherford College. This generous contribution was the largest cash gift in the history of our college. The donation has allowed us to upgrade our instructional materials, hire additional faculty, and to expand our nursing programs. The application demand



for our nursing programs has long outstretched our capacity to adequately serve enough of our students. This generous donation has helped us narrow that gap and significantly increase the number of highly qualified nurses that we produce. Thank you, Wiggs Family Foundation!

Coyote athletics continues to expand and excel. Baseball sent two more former Coyotes to the pros last season, and golf and tennis have returned to WC. Additionally, we plan to add volleyball to the mix next fall. Our Coyote athletic programs are increasingly finding success at the highest levels.

Through a partnership with the Parker County Hospital District, we were able to open the Coyote Clinic in our residence halls. Students, faculty, and staff have all benefited from the telemedicine, testing, and immunization services. WC Nurse Ellie Broughton has done a great job of leading the Coyote Clinic and keeping all our stakeholders healthy and productive.

We are collectively carrying on the rich traditions of Weatherford College. Together, we are also creating the next exciting chapters of the WC story. Weatherford College is now poised to provide our students with the highest quality, most expansive educational opportunities in the history of our noble institution. Thank you for your part in helping us continue and expand that tradition of excellence.

> Tod allen Farmer Dr. Tod Allen Farmer President

Hilltop Staff

Weatherford College President

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by Brent Baker

On a beautiful, sunny day in October, Alesia Wiggs sat on the steps of the Speaker Jim Wright Library with her brother and her brother-in-law. Alesia Armstrong, Craig Armstrong and Guy Wiggs all attended Weatherford College together in the 1980s.

"This is where the students hung out when we were in school here," she said as she reminisced with a smile. She was glad to hear that students still gather on the steps of the same library between classes today.

She was surrounded by family on those steps, as she was earlier that day at the dedication of the Alesia Armstrong Wiggs School of Nursing, a special ceremony celebrating a \$1 million gift from the Wiggs Family Foundation.

To say that the bond between the Wiggs family and Weatherford College is strong would be an understatement. There are too many connections to mention in this short article, but a good starting point would be 1953, when Bruce Wiggs, Brett's father, enrolled at the college located on South Main Street at the time.

By the time he left WC in 1955, Bruce had served as student body president, yearbook treasurer, and in various other character-building positions at the close-knit campus.

"President Vernon Parrott knew I needed all the help I could get," he said. "I was the janitor in the gym for \$30 a month. I also sold

all the ads in the Oak Leaf annual, and I got 10 percent. That was a pretty good deal," he laughed.

Bruce's business acumen served him well as he built a successful career in banking and real estate. That's a good thing because, apparently, coaching wasn't going to be his path.

"I was manager of the basketball team, and one night we were playing Navarro," he said. "Our coach got mad at the team, and he turned to me and yelled, 'Bruce, YOU pick the team!' I put mostly the scrubs on the court.'

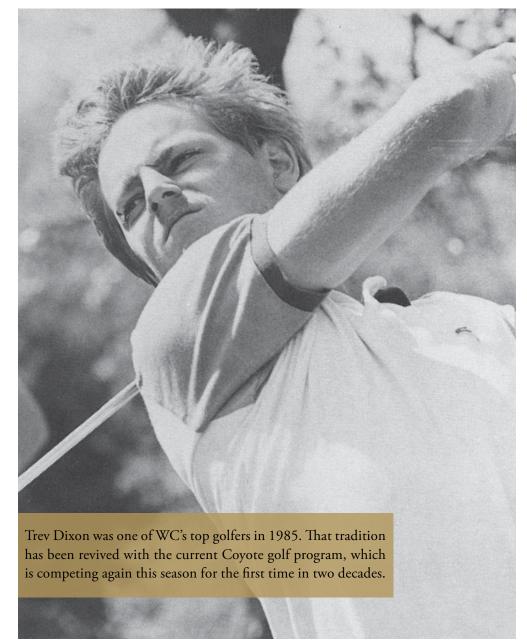
"I told them, 'Whenever you get the ball, go straight for the basket.' Well, they did. Almost everybody got a technical foul. It was a riot on the court—like a football game. That was the extent of my coaching career."

Bruce's wife, Laura, was a student, instructor, department chair and a foundation board member at the college.

"When I took a computer course from Marilyn St. Clair in 1980, the computer was a behemoth that occupied an entire room and was programmed with cards," she said. "Later, we had a new degree that taught the use of computers instead of the programming of computers—we were the second college in Texas to gain state approval for the Associate Degree in Information Processing."

continues with Wiggs on page 12.

MEMORIES









FRIENDS WE'LL MISS

Joel David Bennett, 85, of Lufkin, passed away August 29. Class of 1956.

Tilmon Ray Bonner, 78, of Weatherford, passed away August 10.

Hyle Cox Doss, 97, of Seminole, passed away July 15. Class of 1943.

Richard "Rachel" Paul Flusche, 34, of Decatur, passed away September 23.

Cheryl Puckett Ginn, 68, of Joshua, passed away August 23.

Jeanne Meredith Grogan, 90, of Weatherford, passed away September 10.

Elizabeth Waters Harris, 95, of Fort Worth, passed away on September 16. Class of 1945.

Randall Gene Hubbard, 37, of Weatherford, passed away July 30.

Linda Irene Gillum Meinhardt, 59, of Highlands, passed away July 15

Elijah Verdun, 25, of Benbrook, passed away September 15.

Royce Allen Vick, 86, of Fort Worth, passed away September 15. Class of 1955.

MCLAUGHLIN NAMED EXECUTIVE DEAN OF WC WISE COUNTY CAMPUS



Weatherford College President Tod Allen Farmer appointed Kristin McLaughlin as executive dean of the WC Wise County campus in August. McLaughlin had proven herself in the role of WCWC's coordinator of workforce education since the fall of 2017.

"Kristin McLaughlin is a proven leader who is highly committed to expanding the educational opportunities of

Wise County students," Farmer said. "As the executive dean of the Weatherford College Wise County campus, she will collaboratively usher in a new era of excellence." McLaughlin now serves on the President's Executive Cabinet, a first for the lead WCWC administrator position.

"As workforce program coordinator, Mrs. McLaughlin increased program enrollment during an overall enrollment decline," Farmer said. "Her expansive K-12 leadership experience helped her develop the relationship-building skills that will enable growth to our workforce, dual-credit and general academic programs."

McLaughlin came to Texas from Virginia. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Virginia Commonwealth University and a Master of Science degree from Longwood University. Her previous positions include special education teacher, assistant principal and assistant superintendent in a public school district, as well as an adjunct instructor at VCU and Longwood.

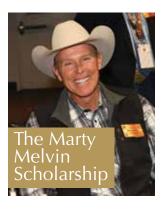
Since moving to Wise County, McLaughlin and her family have developed deep roots. Her daughter is a Decatur ISD teacher, and her granddaughter is a Decatur ISD student. Her husband is a retired police officer, and her son, also a Wise County resident, is completing his training to become a police officer.

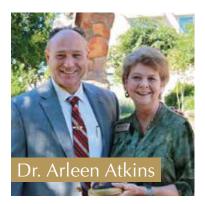
WC FOUNDATION WELCOMES NEW SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENTS



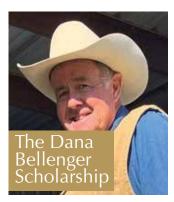














by Brandi Addison

Ellie Broughton has been a friend to many, a nurturer to thousands, and above all, a mother and grandmother to few.

She knew early in life that she wanted to be a nurse because of her love for helping others.

"I really have a heart for people," Broughton said.

Now, she has been in the field for nearly 50 years. She started her career in 1972 before she received her bachelor's degree, though she took a short break near the beginning of her career to raise her two children.

Shortly before Broughton attended Tarleton State University in the early 1980s, she completed her prerequisite courses at Weatherford College.

About a decade later, in 1990, she returned as a vocational instructor, serving in the same role for nearly 30 years until she retired in late 2019.

Then, just a few months into her retirement, in early 2020, Broughton returned to WC, again, to lead the new on-campus clinic—a collaborative effort between the college and the Parker County Hospital District—where she remains today.

She is, undoubtedly, a Weatherford College Coyote through and through. So much so, even her late husband, Everett, and their two children, John and Jana, completed courses at the college.

"I love it here," Broughton said. "It's a great school."

Now leading the Coyote Clinic for about a year and a half, Broughton said she learns something new every day.

As a lifelong learner, she appreciates any opportunity to strengthen her knowledge.

"The thing is, if you think that you know everything, and you don't have anything else to learn, that's a really dangerous mindset to have," Broughton said.

Her passion for education is reflected in her multiple degrees from Weatherford College, Tarleton State University, the University of Texas at Arlington and the University of North Texas Health Science Center.

And her career, mastering several nursing roles across several decades, parallels her desire to grow continually.

She's worked in small county hospitals and major urban hospitals, including Harris Methodist in downtown Fort Worth. She's been a surgical nurse, medical-surgical nurse and emergency room nurse.

She also worked briefly as a home health nurse and was the director of nursing at a local long-term care facility.

Until her retirement, she spent years simultaneously caring for patients and teaching college, often rotating her back-to-back eight-hour days at the college with back-to-back 12-hour days at the hospital.

Laurel Kendrick Harris has had a decades-long friendship with Broughton after meeting as coworkers at WC in the early 1990s.

An adjunct professor at Tarrant County College now, Kendrick Harris said, the two regularly keep up with one another through

continues with Broughton on page 13.

QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN KICKS OFF AT WC







Part of WC's reaccreditation process requires the college to implement a five-year Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). To that end, the QEP committee developed ROOTS--Resources Open Opportunities to Students.

"WC's QEP, ROOTS, is an exciting project for several reasons," said Dr. Diann Ainsworth, QEP committee member. "First, we're revising some advising processes to have checklists, checkpoints, and required orientation. Second, we've built a Canvas Resource Room to be a one-stop hub for easy access to WC resources, clubs, and more. Third, we're using career services tools to help students discover interests and possible career choices to match to academic degrees and certifications."

To further plant this concept in the minds of students, faculty and staff,

dozens of saplings were handed out to employees during fall in-service. They were asked to keep their tree alive and to decorate a planter that would be judged later in the semester.

"The sapling contest was conceived as a way to raise awareness of the ROOTS QEP all across campus," said Katie Edwards, QEP committee member. "WC departments get to have a friendly competition amongst themselves while highlighting the resources they have for students in how they decorate their sapling's planter."

The current plan is to display the trees each fall semester and let students judge which one looks the best. Those surviving the five years will be planted on the WC Weatherford campus, the Wise County campus and at the college's feeder high schools.

Trees were judged for the first time at the QEP launch party on October 12. Departments across campus showed off their design skills, and voters selected the Social Science Department's tree dressed as "ROOT" Bader Ginsburg the best decorated. A secret judge selected the testing center's "Tree of Knowledge" as their top pick.

"Having saplings at resources across campus is a reminder to students of the resources available to them and a literal reminder of our QEP—ROOTS," Edwards said. "Everyone and everything must develop a strong root system in order to grow, and, at WC, our students' roots are resources."

Pictured, left to right: QEP committee member Suzie Jary emcee's the QEP launch party; ROOT Bader Ginsburg wins best decorated sapling contest; Dr. Diann Ainsworth explains the QEP to students.

CLASS NOTES

Tyrik Armstrong signed with the Manchester Giants, a professional basketball team in England.

Shelly Borg ('17), Cristal Hernandez ('20), and Amber Brooks ('21), graduates of the Certificate in Substance Abuse Counseling program, are now counselors at S.A.G.E., Substance Abuse Guidance and Education in Weatherford.

Bobby Butler, former WC basketball

player, has opened up his second restaurant, Bobby B's Southern Cooking & More in downtown Copperas Cove.

Darrell Hull is now chief of police for the city of Kennedale.

Kim Johnson and Angela Williams, recent graduates of the WC Law Enforcement Academy, are now the newest sheriff's deputies of Erath County.

Shaun Martin ('99) won his sixth Grammy Award in the spring. The former

WC Jazz Band pianist is a member of the band Snarky Puppy, which won the 2021 Grammy for Best Contemporary Instrumental Album for "Live at the Royal Albert Hall."

Benny and Willa Pitchford celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on September 29.

Danielle Roberts opened a new barber shop inside the Salon & Spa Galleria in Weatherford.

WEATHERFORD COLLEGE AROUND CAMPUS









- 1. The first graduating class from WC's Bachelor of Science in Nursing celebrated their accomplishments with a commencement ceremony in August. The second cohort of the program has already started and will graduate next summer.
- 2. The City of Weatherford and WC recently celebrated a one-of-a-kind partnership at the Weatherford/Parker County Animal Shelter. Pictured are (left to right) Paul Paschall, mayor of Weatherford; President Farmer; Teresa Collins, WC student; Dr. Kathryn Garofalo, WC Vet Tech Program director; Katelynn Olson, WC student; and Judy McAnally, member of the WC Board of Trustees.
- 3. WC's International Student Organization held a welcome party in early September for student representing 29 countries including Serbia, Taiwan, New Zealand, Bangladesh, Japan Kenya, Russia, France, Columbia and many more.
- 4. The office of student life hosted the Fall Campus Cookout in September and paired the event with a career and university fair. The great weather resulted in a large turnout of students enjoying their time on campus.
- 5. WC's Summer Stage performed three shows this past summer including Shakespeare's "Much Ado About Nothing." WC's theatre











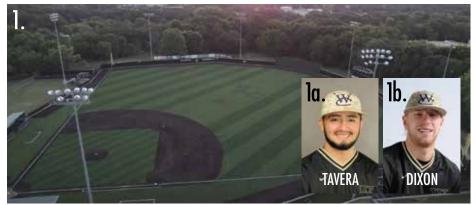




instructor James Brownlee and his wife Erin played leads in the show and took the audience on a comedic adventure.

- 6. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held Sept. 30 to mark the WC Foundation's official membership in the Weatherford Chamber of Commerce.
- 7. WC's first alumni mixer was a success. Held at Shep's in early August, former Coyotes from across the years gathered to spend time catching up.
- 8. Sept. 16 was Weatherford College Night at Globe Life Field as the Rangers faced off against the Houston Astros.
- 9. New students attended the Coyote Orientation Registration Experience (CORE) this past summer to prepare them for college life. The full-day orientation was offered multiple times throughout the summer to allow students to select a time that best fit their schedule.
- 10. Students returned to the hill on Aug. 23 for the start of the fall semester.
- 11. The team from United Rentals placed first in this year's WC Foundation golf tournament held Oct. 7 at Canyon West.

ATHLETIC UPDATE













- 1. Thanks in part to the generosity of several donors, Roger Williams Ballpark now has artificial turf. WC is the only school in NJCAA Region V to have turf on its baseball and softball facilities.
- 1a. & 1b. The number of former Coyotes who have played in professional baseball increased to 34 in July when Carlos Tavera (5th round, Baltimore Orioles) and Brenden Dixon (20th round, Pittsburgh Pirates) were selected in the Major League Baseball Draft and signed minor league contracts.
- 2. Former Coyote Morgan Rackel helped the Canadian softball team win the bronze medal in the Summer Olympics in Tokyo.
- 3. Women's tennis is back at WC! The team was the first to utilize WC's new 38-passenger bus. The Coyotes have fared well so far against some of the toughest teams in the nation.
- 4. The WC men's golf team competed in Ruidoso, New Mexico, in September. At a later tournament in Victoria, the team finished second out of 11 teams and Coyote Bryce McCracken took home the individual championship.
- 5. Payne Andrus has joined WC as the new assistant men's basketball coach.
- 6. The 2021-22 WC rodeo team posed for a photo at their third annual Alumni Rodeo in October.



By Rick Mauch

The college announced Chris Lewis as head men's basketball coach, replacing Mark Osina, who retired recently after a quarter of a century leading the program in two different stints. Lewis had been Osina's assistant coach since the 2018-19 season.

"I'm extremely grateful and blessed that President [Tod Allen] Farmer and Athletic Director Bob McKinley put their faith in me to run this tremendous program," Lewis said upon the announcement. "I think everyone who gets into coaching wants to have the opportunity to lead their own program, and I am honored to have the chance to lead Weatherford."

Lewis joined the WC coaching staff after a standout career as a player in both high school and college—followed by a pair of successful stops as an assistant coach.

Lewis played four seasons at the University of San Diego, earning a spot on the West Coast Conference All-Freshman Team in 2006 and being a 2007-08 Scholar Athlete of the Year.

Following graduation, he became an assistant at North Lake College in Irving for five seasons, his last being in 2017 when the school won the NJCAA Division III national championship. After serving one year as an assistant coach at the University of Providence in Great Falls, Montana, he came to Weatherford.

"What attracted me to Weatherford was the opportunity to coach and compete at the highest level of junior college in one of the toughest conferences in the country," Lewis said.

"Also, being able to coach close to where a lot of my family is and where I grew up is a blessing."

Lewis is originally from Virginia. His dad was in the Navy for 20 years, stationed in Norfolk, and his mom, from Maryland, played volleyball for the University of Maryland. The family moved to Texas following his dad's retirement. His mom and brothers continue to live in the DFW area following his dad's passing in 2011 from leukemia.

As for his advancement in the coaching world, Lewis praised the successful coaches who served as mentors along the way.

"I've been fortunate to have worked for such great coaches in my career, starting with Tim McGraw at North Lake, then Anthony Owens at Providence, and Mark Osina here at Weatherford," he said. "Each of them not only allowed me the chance to grow as an individual and a coach but also pushed me to take on more responsibility so that I was prepared to lead when the opportunity came."

Osina gave his blessing to Lewis' promotion.

"I think he's got a chance to do great things," Osina said. "He's good with players, other coaches, officials. He's just a great guy, and I'm really happy for him."

McKinley said Lewis has put in the work and is ready to take over the program.

"He's worked hard and shown he wants to be at Weatherford College, and that means a lot to me," McKinley said. "He deserves this."



WIGGS from page 3.

Laura retired from WC and spent 16 years on the WC Foundation Board of Directors, raising funds for scholarships along with the gift of an endowed scholarship in memory of Bruce's father, Richard "Mac" Wiggs.

Like her future father-in-law and many others, Alesia also worked a part-time job during her days at WC.

"I was able to attend Weatherford College through the very generous Eddleman-McFarland Scholarship, but I also worked in the registrar's office for some extra cash and to know what was happening on campus," she said. "Arthur Stockstill and Denny Richardson were my bosses.

"My mom (Vera Armstrong) worked on campus in the library, so it was easy to pay her a daily visit. I also made weekly visits home to do laundry!"

Alesia said her interest in nursing began, ironically, in courses outside of the nursing school.



"I started as a psychology major, but it was the biology and chemistry I studied at Weatherford College that led me to nursing," she said. "The only nursing program at WC at the time was licensed vocational nursing. My older sister, Karen Loyd, advised me to pursue a BSN ... this was very wise advice, and I am grateful I followed it."

As she followed that path to TCU and into her nursing career, she exhibited love and compassion for people. Later, as Brett's career in oil and gas became increasingly successful, the couple moved a great deal, even living in Brazil and Bolivia.

Alesia also traveled the world using her nursing skills to help people in need, including many trips with Operation Smile, a network of caregivers treating cleft lip and cleft palate patients worldwide.

Impacting the lives of others connected again with her passion for nursing as the family decided to make the landmark donation to the WC Foundation, the

largest cash gift in school history. The college has already used a portion of the funds to begin a new nursing cohort taught at night and purchase some of the latest technological tools to allow students to train on the same equipment they will use in hospitals and clinics.

"When we visited the WC nursing school and saw the impact that our donation would be able to make for the future of nurses in our hometown community, it was an easy decision to make," she said.

Brett echoed those sentiments as the connection between the family and WC continues to grow and strengthen.

"Weatherford College has made a huge difference in the lives of multiple generations of the Wiggs and Armstrong families. We are honored to help the college continue to benefit others in the community as students and health care providers in the community."



DO YOU RECEIVE THE MONTHLY COYOTE CONNECTION EMAIL BLASTS?

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GO TO WC.EDU/ALUMNI AND CLICK ON "ALUMNI
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THANK YOU!



THANK YOU

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BROUGHTON from page 6.



email, and once a year, Broughton will attend as her guest to WC's scholarship dinner.

Kendrick Harris recalled how much she always enjoyed working with Broughton in the WC skills lab. She said she could always count on her to be "very painstaking and meticulous in her work."

"I really admire her work ethic," Kendrick Harris said. "She's a very hard worker always finding something productive to do." Her commitment to WC is another trait she said she admired.

"She's given back to Weatherford College in so many ways," Kendrick Harris said.

Kathleen Durham, the director of marketing for the Parker County Hospital District, said WC could not have made a better pick than Broughton to lead the Coyote Clinic.

"She's amazing. She started the program, basically, from nothing," Durham said. "She saw the vision and how large an impact it could have on the students at the college—and she took it and ran with it."

The Coyote Clinic is located in a dorm room on the bottom floor of Coyote Village. The college partnered with the hospital district to offer telemedicine appointments.

Broughton sees between eight and 12 students on an average day. On her busiest day, she said there were about two dozen students lined up in the hallway.

Her role is to assess the student's health and upload their medical information on a computer before speaking with a partnering physician through a webcam. She uses a digital stethoscope on patients that allows the physician to hear the student's heartbeat from miles away and a digital otoscope with a camera so that the distant physicians can observe the student's eyes, throat and ears.

She also administers rapid diagnostic tests for coronavirus and strep throat.

"With telemedicine being new in general and then working it into a college setting, it's really unique, but Ellie made it her own," Durham said.

After seeing a student, Broughton often follows up with those who are sick and even those who she can tell are just really missing their homes and family.

She thinks many probably see her as a grandma—which she is—and is comforted knowing they have an adult who cares about them nearby. She wants all her students and their parents to know she is there for them under any circumstance.

"She's become a resource at the college for a multitude of things," Durham said. "She takes it personally, taking care of those kids, and it's very obvious."



Nursing Process has named Weatherford College's Diagnostic Medical Sonography program as the best ultrasound technologist school in Texas.

"Our faculty has worked extremely hard to provide students with the knowledge and experience needed to excel in this field," said Kelly Staub, program director. "Under the current faculty, 58 out of 62 students have passed three national registries (abdomen, OB/GYN and vascular), an accomplishment that sets them apart from the majority of sonographers and helps them land jobs prior to, or quickly after, graduation."

WC's Associate of Applied Science Degree in Sonography is a 65-credit hour program that starts each August and takes five semesters, or just under two years, to complete.

Nursing Process considered each program's acceptance rate, graduation

rate, faculty credentials, school reputation, affordability and other factors in their rankings.

WC's Ultrasound Program has garnered high marks from the community thanks to free OB sonograms and low-cost 3D/4D sonograms offered during student lab time.

"Proving OB ultrasounds to the public is a way for our program to give back to the community while allowing our students to become familiar with protocols they will use to care for patients in the future," Staub said.

Following completion of their AAS, students also have the opportunity to complete an adult echocardiography certificate. This 24-credit, one-year program provides students hands-on experience in the classroom and at local hospitals and cardiology centers.

"The last couple of years, adult cardiac sonography has been experiencing an ever-

growing demand for skilled sonographers," said Dr. Peter Klimo, sonography professor. "With the support of the college, we are in the process of expanding our applicant pool, offering this program to radiology imaging professionals next year."

For sonographers who could not learn vascular ultrasound in school, WC also offers a vascular certificate through summer courses. These courses combine online classes and in-person labs that walk students through vascular protocols and teach them information relevant to preparing for a career in vascular ultrasound.

Nursing Process is an online educational resource with content created by educators and healthcare professionals to help prospective nursing students make informed decisions.

To learn more about Weatherford College's Ultrasound Program, visit wc.edu/sonography.

PRESIDENTIAL LUNCHEON 2021













Larry Gillespie was presented with the 2021 Weatherford College Presidential Service Award for his exceptional service by President Tod Allen Farmer during his annual Presidential Address in September.

Gillespie is a 22-year employee of WC and works as an audio-visual technician.

Farmer also presented Kathy Boswell, dean of health and human sciences, with a Presidential Core Value Coin for her consistent demonstration of love for the college.

The WC Jazz Orchestra performed for the audience and students from various athletic teams and academic programs greeted faculty and staff as they entered the event.

Following the address, faculty and staff enjoyed lunch outside the Alkek Fine Arts Center.



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Thank you for your support of WC students!



