



**Wharton County
Junior College**

Office of Marketing and Communications
911 Bolling Highway
Wharton, Texas 77488

NEWS RELEASE

Toll free: 1.800.561.9252, ext. 6322

Office: 979.532.6322

Fax: 979.532.6493

BRAVING THE COLD FOR A WORTHY CAUSE

Players outlast winter weather to make WCJC Golf Classic a success

WHARTON, TEXAS – It felt more like hockey weather than golf weather. Yet 40-degree temperatures and gusting winds were not enough to handicap the 2nd Annual WCJC Invitational Golf Classic.

Held at the Wharton Country Club this past November, the event achieved the goal of raising funds for the WCJC President's Scholarship Fund and the newly created WCJC Presidential Scholars program. By the end of the cold and wintry day, more than \$19,000 had been raised.

WCJC President Betty McCrohan credited the sponsors – as well as the golfers who braved the weather – with making the event a success. She paid a special tribute to Stewart Morris Sr., who funded a title sponsorship for the tournament.

“Conditions were far from perfect but that didn’t faze our dedicated players,” said Zina Carter, WCJC’s director of marketing and communications. “Thanks to their perseverance, and also to the generosity of our sponsors, the Invitational Golf Classic brought in a significant amount of money that can now be used for the benefit of our students.”

Helping a worthy cause was fuel enough to warm the hearts – and hands – of the 10 teams scurrying around the country club’s 9-hole course. Landon McClain, President of Prosperity Bank’s Wharton and Needville Banking Centers, kept a smile on his face as he helped lead the Prosperity Bank team to a second place finish.

“Though the temperature was a little nippy, the cause for the event superseded any inclement weather,” said McClain, who was decked out in gloves, a thermal pullover and winter hat. “We’ve been financial partners with WCJC and count it a privilege to help contribute back to our community as well as the future of Wharton County and beyond. We had a very enjoyable time.”

Awards were bestowed to the top three finishers. The top teams were:

- First Place: Exelon Generation. Team members included Linda Gonzalez, John Gonzalez, Chris Bockholt and John Bockholt
- Second Place: Prosperity Bank. Team members included Landon McClain, Tom Miller, Danny Vonada and Jordan McClain
- Third Place: WCJC Alumni Association. Team members included Jerry Slaughter, Carlton Hudgins, Kelly Tant and Jody Domel.

Carter credited her staff with doing the legwork necessary to ensure a successful tournament.

“It’s hard to quantify just how much time and energy went into this tournament,” Carter said. “(Senior Marketing and Communications Specialist) Cheryl Machicek, in particular, did a fabulous job of coordinating the event from start to finish. Her preparation ensured that the tournament operated as planned, despite the unexpected weather.”

A portion of the funds raised from the tournament will benefit the Presidential Scholars program, a new initiative designed to provide a select group of students with more than a traditional college experience. Presidential Scholars members will take educational-based trips, visit with local and international leaders and spend one-on-one time with the college president. Several of the group volunteered their time at the tournament.

State Rep. Phil Stephenson and his wife, Barbara, also stopped by the tournament to meet the Presidential Scholars who were serving as volunteers.

Tournament sponsors included Stewart Title Co., Wharton Lions Club, Exelon Generation, Prosperity Bank, WCJC Board of Trustees, Bass Construction Co., Pfluger Architects, Dr. John Cangelosi, Shahji & Co., State Rep. John Zerwas, Direct Energy Business, The Hunton Group, Chevron Phillips Chemical Sweeny Complex, The First State Bank, Bracewell & Giuliani, Popek’s Turf, Barnes & Noble College LLC, Ben’s Chuck Wagon, WCJC Alumni Association, Wharton Journal-Spectator, Will Parker, Great Western Dining Service Inc., OXEA Corp., McCreary Veselka Bragg & Allen PC and Johnnie Svatek.

Additional sponsors were Faust Air Conditioning & Heating, Montgomery Gallery and Frame, The Mills Agency, NewFirst National Bank, Commercial State Bank, Pit Crew Lube, United Ag, KULP Radio, Gillen Pest Control, Printing-X-Press, Gene & Jan Bahnsen, DSG Nursery, El Campo Leader-News, Abby Dental, Radio Shack/Select Imports, State Rep. Phil Stephenson and Patterson Dental Supply.

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