

Six students were given Flip cameras to show their stories... their way.

What's your story?

My name is Emmitt Tatum, and this is my story.

Emmitt.

When I first got to WT in 2004, I transitioned from Killgore Junior College to West Texas A&M; it was really kind of my last choice. During that time I was married, I had a son, I was going through some ups and downs with debt. I had to leave practice, go pick my son up, and he was at practice with me, in the weight room with me, he was at meetings with me. As a father, I had to do what I had to do. I had to make sure he was taken care of. Between 2004 and 2006, I lost maybe 8 family members. I was literally at my wit's end, so I took a break. I started working at Tyson's as a forklift driver, and was going to school at the same time. During this time, I was going to the Milan Institute of Cosmetology, and doing night class. So, I did that for a while, and once I graduated from barber school, I told my mom about it and sent her graduation pictures. She was like, it's good that you did that, but I want you to get your diploma. It drove me, because I knew she didn't graduate high school. Last semester, my mom found out she had lung cancer. I wanted her to see me walk across that stage, I wanted her to be proud of me, I wanted to do something that nobody else in my family had done. I used her cancer as a motivation. Now this semester, I've got all A's and B's, I'm doing good. Life is good, everything is going good. I'll be grad in May. Thank you for the opportunity to come back, to make things right. I want to thank everyone here at WT for the great, great experience, you'll never be forgotten.

This is just one story of 100 years, happy birthday WT.