

Baker PROUD

3 NAIA Champs
Feature Story

Alumni Weekend
2014 Event Schedule

Alumni
Magazine





Alumni Weekend

BAKER UNIVERSITY • MAY 16-18, 2014

The Alumni Office and Alumni Association are excited about your new alumni magazine, **Baker Proud**. We treasure sharing the stories of our graduates, faculty and staff who have made a difference in the lives of so many people. Campus news and student successes also will be an integral part of this quarterly magazine. Please enjoy this issue and eagerly await the arrival of the next.



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On the cover: Baker University's national champions, Stephanie Nelson, Palmer Mai, '54, and Jeremy Gathright.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH BY MARK HUTCHINSON

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BAKER **PROUD** | Spring 2014

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Vice President for Marketing, Communications and External Relations Mary Larson Diaz, MSM '96

Public Information Officer and Special Assistant to the President Chris Smith, BA '09

Senior Director of Digital Communications and Emerging Media Neil Kulbiski, MBA '11

Assistant Director of Marketing and Communication/Design Wende Beeson, MLA '97

Writing Kyle Davis, BS '11

Art Direction and Graphic Design John Masson

Web Content Manager and Writer Annette Pierce

Writing and Photography Steve Rottinghaus, MSM '14

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A Message from President Pat Long

Dear alumni,

It is my pleasure to open the second issue of Baker Proud. Sharing the success stories of your fellow alumni is such a joy for us at Baker. From Academy Award nominees to newly minted CEOs, Baker graduates are continuing to make a name for themselves at the pinnacle of their respective industries. Our Marketing and Communications office can attest it is often difficult to capture all of your wonderful accolades in just 32 pages! We could not be more proud of you.

In this issue you will read an inspiring piece on our three national champion track stars, Stephanie Nelson, Jeremy Gathright and Palmer Mai, '54. In addition to reading the exciting introductions of Baker's President Elect, Dr. Lynne Murray, and the University Minister, the Rev. Kevin Hopkins, I would invite you to scan this season's class notes and athletics updates. We certainly have much to celebrate in Wildcat Nation right now.

I want to use this space at the front of the magazine to recognize the retirements of two key leaders who, like the Rev. Ira DeSpain in the inaugural issue, have made significant contributions to our blessed institution. Dr. Peggy Harris and Dr. Kathy Harr, deans and vice presidents of the School of Education and the School of Nursing, respectively, are finishing their tenures in 2014. Dr. Harris and Dr. Harr have been exemplary models for their faculty and students during their combined 47 years of dedicated service to Baker University. They will be dearly missed.

Indeed, this spring marks the final Alumni Weekend for many of us here at Baker. I speak for all of our future retirees when I say that we would love to see you back in Baldwin City and have the chance to visit with you and your families during Alumni Weekend May 16-18. I have made it my mission to be at every event; I want to bid farewell wishes to our golfers on Friday, our Greeks on Saturday and everyone in between at the weekend socials. While you are here, make sure to stop by our renovated Student Union and dining hall — you will be very impressed and proud of what your gifts and support have made happen on our campus!

If you cannot be here during Alumni Weekend, please know that I am sincerely grateful for all of your support during the past eight years and I will always be Baker Proud!

Proudly,

Dr. Pat

Campus News

First-year students participate in Emerging Leaders Summit

Baker University takes pride in developing leaders.

Twenty-five first-year and transfer students from Baker participated in the annual Emerging Leaders Summit at Camp Chipewawa in Ottawa, Kan. The event helps students enhance their leadership skills, enable other students to act, establish values and respect, and develop teamwork.

Graduates of the summit have gone on to hold significant campus leadership positions, including orientation team members, resident assistants, Student Activities Council executive board members, student organization presidents, Baker Ambassadors and student body presidents.

Baker's Emerging Leaders Summit Class of 2013-2014 is made up of Bree Busch, Manhattan, Kan.; Jordan Buscher, Overland Park, Kan.; Amanda Conrade, Topeka, Kan.; Kaci Dillingham, Topeka, Kan.; Kristina Heinrich, Wilson, Kan.; Jaime Hodge, Ottawa, Kan.; Allissa Houchin, Gypsum, Kan.; Ryenn Johns, Lenexa, Kan.; Emi Kniffin, Wichita, Kan.; Sione Maumau, Highlands Ranch, Colo.; Luke Miltz, Lecompton, Kan.; James Newton, De Soto, Kan.; Heather Nichols, Lecompton, Kan.; Logan Pope, Republic, Mo.; Darrell Randall, Overland Park, Kan.; Jami Sanborn, Independence, Kan.; Caylea Siler, Bonner Springs, Kan.; Rebecca Simkins, Merriam, Kan.; Elizabeth Stover, Olathe, Kan.; Kiana Turner, Tatum, Texas; Evelyn Vila, Overland Park, Kan.; Zach Vredenburg, Olathe, Kan.; Madison Wendt, Chanute, Kan.; Steph Woltkamp, Overland Park, Kan.; and Anna Wright, Lawrence, Kan.

Speech Center helps students improve communication skills

Designed to enhance the communication skills of students, the Speech Center opened its office at Parmenter Hall in mid-October to an overflowing crowd.

Kim Schaefer, assistant professor of communication, and President Pat Long dedicated the office for the new student service.

"The goal of the Speech Center is to help Baker University students effectively communicate because what we say is significant

and has the potential to change the lives of those around us," said Schaefer. "In a world today that is moving faster than ever before, the ability to communicate effectively has never been in higher demand. At Baker, we want to graduate students who can clearly articulate the ideas they fostered during their years here."

Communication is one of the four major objectives of Baker's Quest program.

"As students practice and learn communication competency, the Speech Center will help provide the tools they will need for their journey," Schaefer told students, faculty and staff at the grand opening. "Whether students are giving their first individual presentation on campus or are interviewing for internships or job opportunities, we want to be there every step of the way so they can competently articulate their ideas."



Bryan Kindle, '13, School of Education Dean Peggy Harris and Lindsey Brown, '13

December graduates honored as Teachers of Promise

Recent Baker University School of Education graduates **Lindsey Brown, '13**, and **Bryan Kindle, '13**, were recognized in November as Teachers of Promise. Brown, Overland Park, Kan., and Kindle, Eudora, Kan., both majored in secondary education and mathematics. The Teachers of Promise award is presented by the Kansas State Department of Education to recognize, recruit and retain the best Kansas teachers for Kansas children. Teacher education students are selected by their respective

Kansas college or university education faculty for the prestigious designation.

Internship success leads to awards

Five Baker University students were honored in mid-October as award recipients for the Baker Organizational Observation for Knowledge (BOOK) program.

The program expands basic summer internship opportunities by inviting students to participate in presenting a profile of their hosting or sponsoring organization through researching the company's history, mission, structure, products and services, finances and management.

Molly Bostwick, a senior from Baldwin City, was awarded the top prize. She received \$1,500 for her presentation about her internship at Wal-Mart in Bentonville, Ark. She also received \$500 from Baker's Institute for Leadership and Positive Change initiative for her profile on Wal-Mart's social responsibility efforts, including sustainability considerations and community involvement.

Outstanding merit awards were presented to Caitlin Campbell, Topeka, Kan., senior, who interned at West Ridge Lanes and Family Fun Center in Topeka, \$600; Alex Henning, De Soto, Kan., senior, who interned at K-State Olathe (Kan.) Innovation Center, \$300; Mike Hobbs, Olathe, Kan., senior, who interned with the Kansas City (Kan.) T-Bones baseball team, \$300; and **Jordan Honore, '13**, Stafford, Texas, who interned at Hooper and Honore Attorneys at Law in Atlanta, \$300.

Media students place first at national competition

Baker University students Kayla Infanti and Lauren Bechard, members of the Baker Orange staff, placed first in the multimedia sports category at the Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Association national convention in October in New Orleans.

Competing against schools of all sizes across the nation, Bechard and Infanti were recognized for their multimedia package, "High Risk Sports," on athletes and injuries. Infanti, a junior from Olathe, Kan., is majoring in public relations and behavioral psychology. Bechard, a junior from Gardner, Kan., is majoring in mass media with an emphasis in public relations.

Lynne Murray named president

When president-elect Lynne Murray and her husband, Jeff, arrived in Baldwin City for a two-day visit in November as part of the selection process, they felt an immediate

connection to the home of Baker University.

"What we saw was a lively place, full of activity and people of all ages," Murray said. "We thought, 'This seems like a special place.' By the time our official visit ended with members of the Baker family and the Baldwin



City community, we knew we were right. We were so warmly welcomed and we witnessed firsthand the passion and commitment of the people that make this place so special."

On Dec. 5 before an overflowing crowd at the Collins House, Murray was officially announced by Board of Trustees Chair Rich Howell, BS '74, as the 29th president of Baker University. She will succeed Pat Long, who announced a year ago her plans to retire at the end of the 2013-2014 academic year. Murray, who plans to visit Baker periodically during the spring semester, will take over as the University's president on July 1.

"I am delighted to become Baker's next president," Murray said. "I was immediately drawn to Baker because of the excellence of its faculty, staff and students and because of its regional distinction in academics, nursing, education and athletics. I believe the trajectory that Baker is on, built by the community and President Long, is one that I can advance working with academic leaders and esteemed faculty members."

An administrative leader known for raising the national and international profiles of educational and nonprofit institutions, Murray is currently the vice president for development, international and alumni relations at Washington, D.C.-based Gallaudet University, the world's only university for deaf and hard of hearing people. For more than 20 years, she has worked collaboratively with community partners, initiating national and global partnerships, spearheading fundraising efforts and generating increased revenue.

"Dr. Murray will bring energy and new perspectives to Baker and is fully committed to strengthening our ability to provide a high-touch, high-impact education," Howell said. "She brings significant experience in such key areas as fundraising, revenue generation, strategic planning, fiscal management, alumni and community engagement, partnership building and reputation enhancement. Moreover, she possesses the kind of student-centered vision that lies at the core of the Baker identity."

As vice president at Gallaudet, Murray has been instrumental in setting the strategic direction for the university, fiscal management and securing private support to advance the institution. She has worked closely with the board, president and community to raise more than \$79 million to support scholarships, faculty excellence and academic programs.

Murray also worked at Georgetown University, where she was a key leader in the development and implementation of the 1789 Scholarship Imperative to raise \$500 million by 2014. As a senior director for advancement,

she led efforts in raising \$317 million in total gifts from 2008-2010 and worked closely with deans, the president and vice president of advancement to develop a comprehensive engagement strategy for the Mid-Atlantic region and worked closely with university leadership and board members on implementation.

Before Georgetown, Murray worked at Johns Hopkins University in corporate and community relations and as the director for Youth Service America, where she was recognized in 1994 by then-U.S. President Bill Clinton for her leadership in creating awareness for youth service.

Murray began her career in public television as a producer and on-air personality, winning three national public television awards for individual giving, on-air fundraising and overall development in 1992.

Murray earned a doctorate in special education administration from Gallaudet University, a master's in marketing from Johns Hopkins, and a bachelor's in English from St. Mary's College of Maryland.

Her husband of 18 years, Jeff, has worked at Gallaudet University for more than 25 years in the fields of television and technology. An Air Force veteran, Jeff led the transformation of the American Legion on Capitol Hill and was recognized as Commander of the Year in 2008. 

EARL RICHARDSON



Power of Giving

Alumni believe in supporting projects, Gala and Auction



Gary Sollars, '71, never underestimates the power a bold vision has in inspiring generous donors to support worthwhile projects.

As an alumnus and member of the Board of Trustees, Sollars was directly involved in the fundraising efforts to support the recent Mulvane Transformation and Student Union Renova-

tion. He saw firsthand the impact both of these "must-do" upgrades made for students on the Baldwin City campus.

"The board and staff deserve a lot of credit for continuing to work the Mulvane project until it was the right design, the right size and the right time," he said. "When that was accomplished the fundraising was successful. The Union is at the heart of campus life for students, and updating that facility was long overdue. The dining room looked the same today as it did when I was a student in the late '60s, and the transformation has been inspiring to students and alumni."

Gary and his wife, Connie (Mangun) Sollars, '72, have been longtime supporters of their alma mater and are members of the Presidents Club. They believe strongly in making visions a reality and assisting in projects such as the annual Gala and Auction to benefit student scholarships.

Gary, a Lawrence, Kan., resident originally from the Kansas City area, is in the fourth year of his second term

on the Baker Board of Trustees. He takes pride in serving on the board, an experience he calls "very meaningful," and watching a project from vision to completion.

"The best part is staying in such close contact with the University and seeing the significant upgrade in facilities and the campus in recent years as it continues to evolve," he said. "We still have work to do and more projects to come, but the progress has been significant and worth the effort."

"President Pat Long's total commitment to students is present in all she does, and the gala is a time for us to show our appreciation and support of Baker students."

The friendships he and his wife have formed through fundraising endeavors and as students on the Baldwin City campus have thrived for more than 40 years.

"It's the people that keep me connected to Baker," he noted. "Many of my best friends today became my friends at Baker, and many of us stay close and get together frequently."

Sollars is looking forward to reconnecting with friends and alumni at the annual Gala and Auction on April 12 at the Overland Park (Kan.) Convention Center.

"Baker students are the reason we have a gala," he said. "President Pat Long's total commitment to students is present in all she does, and the gala is a time for us to show our appreciation and support of Baker students." 

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GALA AND AUCTION

April 12 | Overland Park Convention Center

Live FROM THE ORANGE CARPET

www.bakerU.edu/gala

TRIUMPHANT TRIO



National track and field champions forever connected

PHOTOGRAPHS BY MARK HUTCHINSON

For Palmer Mai, '54, track resonates as the original classic sport. Through training and constantly striving to improve, he believes the sport provides valuable developmental and disciplinary experiences for the competitors regardless of their outcome in actual events.

Few Baker University athletes have reached the level of success Mai experienced nationally more than 60 years ago. Mai and two current Baker University track and field standouts — seniors Stephanie Nelson and Jeremy Gathright — are forever connected as the Wildcats' three national champions in the school's 156-year history.

The three All-Americans — a hurdler, javelin thrower and sprinter — share a bond, representing Baker on the national stage and returning to Baldwin City with the top prize. Mai claimed his 220-yard low hurdles title in 1953 in Abilene, Texas, at the end of his junior year. Nelson won her javelin crown as a sophomore in 2012 in Marion, Ind. The following spring Gathright, in his final outdoor performance as a collegian, cruised to the 400-meter title at the same location. Last fall the trio gathered homecoming weekend at Baker's Athletic Hall of Fame Induction and Student-Athlete Awards Banquet, where they relived their special moments and time at Baker.



Palmer Mai

When he arrived in Abilene the first week of June in 1953, Mai did not know how he would perform in the hurdles despite his success there the previous year. At the first national championship competition in Abilene in 1952, Mai

placed second in the 220 hurdles and his teammate Ken Sterns, '52, tied for fifth in the high jump.

Raised on a farm in WaKeeney in western Kansas, Mai was known for his conservative and bashful demeanor. Before the national meet his junior year he was surprised to be interviewed on the radio along with Baker coach Karl Spear, '33.

"I guess I was pretty naive," he recalled. "I wasn't fully aware of the event and how important it was."

Mai's main concern was running the hurdles on a full curve rather than a customary L-shaped track.

"It was a minor adjustment and a little challenge," he said.

Mai, Baker's high-point performer in every meet that season, was up for the challenge. He finished the race in 24.5 seconds to outlast Willie Stevens from Tennessee Agricultural and Industrial University. The fourth-place finisher was North Carolina Central Univer-



sity's Lee Calhoun, who went on to win gold medals in the 110-meter hurdles at the 1956 and 1960 Olympics.

"It was a close finish with the second-place runner," Mai remembered. "We were neck and neck going over the last hurdle, and I nosed him out at the finish line."

Back in the early 1950s, the track coaching responsibilities were held by Spear, the football coach, and Russ Davnee, the basketball coach. Because of the limited instruction, Mai trained several times by himself in preparation for the national meet.

"It was a close finish with the second-place runner. We were neck and neck going over the last hurdle, and I nosed him out at the finish line." —Palmer Mai

"I felt I had to accomplish a lot on my own and understandably so because of the time constraints that the coaches had," Mai said.

Mai became connected to Baker through his older brother, Ernie, '51, WaKeeney high school principal Don Lidikay, '27, and his high school football coach Joseph Cleavenger, '41. One of eight children, Ernie and Palmer were the only two siblings in their family to attend college.

"We were the beneficiaries of the change in the economy after the recession and the war," Mai said.

Mai, a retired executive from Southwestern Bell Corporation, and his wife, Beverly (Chilcote) Mai, '53, live in Kirkwood, Mo. The couple, who met while dining at

the cafeteria housed at Parmenter Hall in the early '50s, were married a few months after Palmer graduated with a degree in economics and business administration. They

“Each throw I got better and better. I don’t know what happened on that last throw. It just popped and I lay on the ground praying that it would hold up.”

—Stephanie Nelson

will celebrate their 60th wedding anniversary on Sept. 12, 2014, the same day Palmer turns 82. Beverly is a published novelist. Her first book, “Kate of Kentucky,” is set during the Revolutionary War period. She is researching for her current book.

Now known for his handlebar moustache, Mai has performed for more than 20 years as an organ grinder at festivals in the St. Louis area. He has been fascinated by music since taking piano lessons as a child. He also restored a player piano and collects player piano paper rolls and sheet music.

“I entertain and engage people at the festivals,” he said. “I have always been interested in music.”

Stephanie Nelson

Baker waited 59 years to crown another track and field champion. Stephanie Nelson, a sophomore from Kansas City, Kan., unleashed the javelin 149 feet, 6 inches on her final attempt at Indiana Wesleyan University in Marion, Ind., in May 2012 to become the Wildcats’ second champion. She entered nationals as the second-ranked thrower and nearly missed the finals after placing ninth — the final qualifying spot — in preliminaries.

Once she survived prelims, Nelson shined. Her three throws in the final vaulted her to fourth, second and ultimately first. As the last one to qualify after the preliminary round, Nelson threw first in the finals and had to anxiously wait for the other eight competitors to complete their tosses.

“Each throw I got better and better,” she said. “I don’t know what happened on that last throw. It just popped and I lay on the ground praying that it would hold up.”

And hold up it did. Jenna Higgins, the defending javelin champion from Mount Mercy in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, and favorite to win in 2012, came up short, finishing second, 13 inches behind Nelson. Once the runner-up’s final mark

was posted, Nelson jubilantly jumped up and down, pumping her fist.

“Stephanie had me on the ropes waiting until her very last throw to win the competition, but what a way to do it,” Baker coach Zach Kindler said at the time. “To be the first woman to bring home a national championship title to Baker is just amazing.”

Nelson recorded a better mark at nationals her junior year in 2013 with a throw of 154-11 but finished second to Higgins, who won with a 165-5 toss.

A student athletic trainer and exercise science major, Nelson has thrown the javelin since the eighth grade. She was a state champion in the javelin her senior year at Sumner Academy.

“I like to push myself and I don’t like losing,” Nelson said. “I block everything out when I’m on the runway. I wanted to go undefeated in high school and be a national champion in college. Now I want to finish undefeated my senior year at Baker and hopefully bring home another championship.”



National champions Palmer Mai, '54, Stephanie Nelson and Jeremy Gathright visit with coach Zach Kindler homecoming weekend.

Jeremy Gathright

Jeremy Gathright likes to set lofty goals.

“I want to do my best,” he said. “Step by step, I wanted to qualify for nationals, then be an All-American and become a national champion. Anything below national champion would be good but not exactly what I wanted.”

Gathright’s precise plan worked. As a sophomore at the national outdoor meet, Gathright qualified for nationals in the triple jump and long jump but did not place. He became an All-American the following year after finishing eighth in the 400-meter run before breaking through in

spring 2013 with a victory in the 400, clocked at a blazing 46.62 seconds. The athlete from Oceanside, Calif., also placed second in the triple jump and eighth in the long jump at the meet.

Heading into the 400 final, Gathright had the second fastest time behind Lorenzo Dolphus from Texas-based Wayland Baptist. In the prelims, Dolphus posted a 47.99 time with Gathright close behind at 48.09. Before the afternoon final race with temperatures in the low 60s, Gathright was nervous in anticipation.

“I stayed with him on the home stretch and I was thinking I had to be out of my lane because we were so physically close. People told me I looked confident and focused. If you were in my mind, you would have an idea how nervous I was.” —Jeremy Gathright

“We were neck and neck for the first 200 meters and I was able to pull away a little bit on the second curve,” remembered Gathright, victorious by twelve-hundredths of a second. “I stayed with him on the home stretch and I was thinking I had to be out of my lane because we were so physically close. People told me I looked confident and focused. If you were in my mind, you would have an idea how nervous I was.”

Gathright enrolled at Baker in the fall of 2011 after transferring from Saddleback College in Mission Viejo, Calif. His mother knew friends connected to the University, leading to a discussion with coach Kindler two weeks before classes began that semester.

Gathright, who competed in the 2014 indoor season, is completing his degree in sports administration. After graduating in May, he plans to run unattached and try to qualify for the 2014 USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships at Sacramento in his home state.

“The beautiful thing about track and field is that it doesn’t matter what school’s name is on the front of the shirt,” Gathright said. “We run in the NAIA, but we compete against NCAA schools all the time. I love racing against those schools and showing them that they aren’t the only ones with talent.” 🏃

Baker dominates under coach Kindler

Zach Kindler points to the 2010 Heart of America Athletic Conference women’s cross country title as a defining moment. The crown kicked off an impressive run of dominance for his program.

“That’s the one that says, ‘OK, we’re starting to make a name for ourselves here,’” said Kindler, the seventh-year Baker coach.



The following fall the men’s cross country team won the HAAC championship. Except Kindler wasn’t there to see it and celebrate with his team. He was with his wife for the birth of their second child. Not to worry, though, as Kindler has had plenty of opportunities to celebrate since then.

“It’s been one heck of a ride just to see the path that we’ve developed.”

As coach of the men’s and women’s cross country teams and track and field teams — which compete in both an indoor and outdoor

season — Kindler has led his teams to 15 conference championships since the fall of 2010 and has coached two individual national champions. As far as recognition for these accomplishments, Kindler has been named Heart of America Athletic Conference Coach of the Year 18 times.

“It’s been one heck of a ride just to see the path that we’ve developed,” said Kindler, noting the group effort of the coaches, athletes and administration. “It’s daunting to say we haven’t lost a conference title in track in the last three years. Hopefully we can go after more conference titles.”

When Kindler was hired, the programs experienced individual successes, but not as many team accomplishments. The first step was to get the number, and type, of athletes he wanted to campus.

“My first few years, there was a stretch it felt like I was running in every direction to get things going,” Kindler said. “It took me a couple of years to figure out what student belongs and what it will take to be successful. I had to really stay directed on my grand philosophy.”

Kindler has help in assistant coach Mackie Valentin, '01, who understands Baker as well as anyone in the program. Valentin participated in football and track in college and has been an assistant coach at Baker ever since, except the 2009-2010 season. Valentin has witnessed Kindler’s evolution of the programs and still enjoys being at his alma mater.

“Twelve years later and I’m really loving what I’m doing,” Valentin said.

While the conference championships and national champions are sources of pride, Valentin believes seeing his athletes improve every day keeps him going through the long work days.

There are also still goals to check off the list. Kindler has his eyes on having each team be continuously a top-10 team in the nation, and also be able to accomplish the triple crown — winning a national title in cross country, indoor track and outdoor track.

1950s

J. Robert Ewbank, BA '55, has completed the book "To Whom It May Concern" from WestBow Press, a division of Thomas Nelson. It is a compilation of vignettes of things that have happened to members of his family. The stories are grouped around various events in the author's life, including childhood, children, Baker University, Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary, places of employment such as Union Steel Products, Michigan Standard Alloys, Echlin, Hi-Lex Controls and a bakery. He also taught at colleges and universities. Ewbank is a third-generation Methodist minister. He has written two previous books on John Wesley's theology.

1970s

Marty Conrad, BA '76, is the president of the Wyoming Senior Olympics. He is entering his 39th year as an educator, including stints as a social studies teacher, principal and athletic director. He has coached football, wrestling, baseball and basketball.

Donald Levering, BA '71, is a poet living in Santa Fe, N.M. His 12th poetry book, "The Water Leveling With Us," will be published this spring and available through Red Mountain Press at redmountainpress.us

1980s

Dane Ditto, BS '86, is a doctor of internal medicine at Wamego (Kan.) Health Center and Family Clinic. He previously practiced medicine for 15 years in Manhattan, Kan.

1990s

Tom Beall, BA '90, has been appointed first assistant U.S. attorney for Kansas. As first assistant, he will be the second in command of the U.S. Attorney's Office in the District of Kansas.

Eric Driskell, BS '97 and MAEd '09, coached Blue Valley High School to the Kansas Class 5A state football championship in November.

Amy Kincaid, BSN '93, was in December inducted as a community member into the Eta Kappa Chapter-at-Large of Sigma Theta Tau International, the national honor society for nursing.

Larry Glatczak, BS '92, coached Centralia (Kan.) High School to the Class 2A state football championship in November.

Chris McAfee, BA '96, coached De Soto (Kan.) High School to the Class 4A girls state cross country title in the fall.

2000s

Former Baker football players **Kendall Bradley, BS '08 and MLA '10**; **Mack Brown, BS '10**; and **Eric Munoz, BS '10**; were on the sidelines as members of the coaching staffs at the Southeastern Conference football championship between Missouri and Auburn on Dec. 7 in Atlanta. Brown serves as a graduate assistant coach at Missouri, working with tight ends, and Bradley is the offensive quality control coach for MU. Munoz is the assistant director of high school relations and offensive quality control coach at Auburn, which played in the BCS Championship Game on Feb. 6.

David D'Ercole, BS '00, currently the vice principal at Shanghai American School in China, has been appointed lower school principal for Kansas City's Pembroke Hill School effective for the 2014-2015 academic year. Before joining the Shanghai American School, D'Ercole served as the elementary school principal for Butler Global School in Washington, D.C., and the principal for two private schools in Colombia, South America. He was selected the 2012 Most Outstanding Principal by the Washington, D.C., Association of Chartered Public Schools.



Chelsey Forge, BS '09, is a certified public accountant and senior accountant at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, Mo.

Emily (Grabner) Johnson, BA '06, and Dylan Johnson were married Aug. 31, 2013, in Brighton, Utah.

Benjamin A. Martin, BA '07, recently graduated from Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning in Columbus, Ga. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army.

Steve Peterson, BSN '02, is a physician liaison for SVConnectOne in Topeka, Kan.

Nichole Potts, BSN '05, is an advanced practice registered nurse for medical clinics in Jefferson County (Kan.).

Ron Schroeder, MBA '08, is a project manager for Level Five Solutions and resides in Prairie Village, Kan.

Nathaniel Tyler, MBA '05, and Angela (Crowdes) Tyler were married Oct. 19, 2013, at John Wesley Chapel, Church of the Resurrection UMC in Leawood, Kan. Nathaniel works at Sprint Corporate Headquarters in Overland Park, Kan.

Brett Weir, BSN '08, is a brigade nurse for the U.S. Army. He and his wife, Sarah, live in Colorado Springs, Colo.

2010s

Kelly (Krien) Allen, MAEd '10, was selected recently to be a part of the first Teacher Leadership Team for the Riley County (Kan.) School District. Allen taught fourth grade in the Riley County schools for 24 years.

Jenna Brantley, BS '11, is the senior sales consultant for the Dallas Cowboys Football Club.

Rachel (Walkowiak) Couture, BS '11, is the director of business development for the Muscular Dystrophy Association. She and her husband, Justin Couture, live in Olathe, Kan.

Elizabeth Deng, BSN '11, in December was inducted as a community member into the Eta Kappa Chapter-at-Large of Sigma Theta Tau International, the national honor society for nursing.

Anne Henderson, BA '81, was part of an ArtQuest team that was nominated for an Emmy from the Midsouth Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

Michael Howell, MSM '13, is a police sergeant with the Kansas City (Kan.) Police Department.

Donald Hughes, BBA '13, is the maintenance superintendent for Kansas City Power and Light.

Brianne Lowrey, BS '12, is the building operations console operator at Pinkerton Government Services and lives in Kansas City, Mo.

Submit Alumni Notes:
Baker University Alumni Relations Office
alumni@bakerU.edu or 888.781.2586

Kevin Lyon, MLA '13, is an adjunct instructor at Fort Scott (Kan.) Community College, teaching classes in state and local government and political science.

Justin Mohney, MBA '10, is a police officer for the Gardner (Kan.) Police Department.

Christine (Janssens) Morton, BS '11, is the youth director at Camp War Eagle in Arkansas. She and her husband, Matt, live in Rogers, Ark.

Reina Murphy, BS '11, is a program coordinator at Bishop-McCann, a brand experiences agency, and resides in Kansas City, Mo.

Chelsea Twietmeyer, BA '11, is the digital and social communications strategist at Oklahoma State University Foundation.

Megan Umscheid, MAEd '10, was recently named executive director of the Wamego (Kan.) Chamber of Commerce/Mainstreet.

Anita Vanderpool, MAEd '13, is a teacher for Turner USD 202 in Kansas City, Kan.

Amanda Wahlmeier, '10, Phi Mu, is a curator for the National Orphan Train Complex and lives in Concordia, Kan. She is seeking membership into the Sisters of St. Joseph in Concordia.

Rhonda Wedel, MAEd '13, is a seventh-grade math teacher for the Blue Valley School District in Kansas.

A Special Thanks

Baker University thanks **Bill Gordon, BA '60**, for his persistent endorsement and financial support of his alma mater to assist students as they continue their education.

In Memoriam

Forever Orange...

Through January

Kenneth Bishop, MBA '09, 47, Nov. 3, 2013, Waterville, Kan.

Donald S. Buell, BS '52, 86, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Nov. 7, 2013, Leawood, Kan. Survivors include a daughter, **Carolyn (Buell) Van Ness, '84**.

Merry H. Carroll, MAEd '07, 53, Nov. 13, 2013, Atchison, Kan.

Shirley C. (Curry) Cupp, BS '40, 95, Co-op-ettes, Nov. 4, 2013, Kansas City, Mo.

Jack E. Dalton, '52, 85, Kappa Sigma, Dec. 12, 2013, Dodge City, Kan.

Norman G. Ellis, 75, former Baker security officer, Dec. 23, 2013, Baldwin City. Survivors include his wife, Sylvia A. Ellis, financial aid officer at Baker.

Richmond "Rich" M. Enochs Jr., BS '60, 74, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Board of Trustee member from 1983 to 1991 and former Presidential Advisory Board member, Oct. 29, 2013, Kansas City, Mo. Survivors include a son, **Rick M. Enochs III, '91**; a daughter, **Lesleigh (Enochs) Sudenga, '95**; and a granddaughter, **Kaitlyn Enochs**, a current student.

Shirley M. (Collins) Geenens, '58, 77, Zeta Tau Alpha, Dec. 21, 2013, Topeka, Kan. Survivors include her husband, **Ronald B. Geenens, '58**; sons, **Dave Geenens, '83**; and **Doug Geenens, '83**; a daughter, **Ronda (Geenens) Hollister, '89**; a daughter-in-law, **Terry (Buchnowski) Geenens, '83**; and a granddaughter, **Aubrey L. Geenens, '13**.

Carolyn M. (Munger) Heaton, BS '53, 82, Phi Mu, Jan. 21, 2014, Scottsdale, Ariz. Survivors include her husband, **John W. Heaton Jr., '52**.

Doris H. (Hobson) Hotaling, '39, 95, Zeta Tau Alpha, former Baker employee, Dec. 25, 2013, Kansas City, Mo.

Patricia "Pat" (Potter) Jackson, '41, 94, Delta Delta Delta, Jan. 6, 2014, Yuba City, Calif.

Floyd W. Kinney Jr., MSM '02, 62, Oct. 9, 2013, Topeka, Kan.

Robert L. Kulp, BS '50, 88, Kappa Sigma, Oct. 26, 2013, Fort Morgan, Colo. Survivors include his wife, **Arlene (Schooley) Kulp, '47**.

John C. Lewis, '53, 82, Delta Tau Delta, member of the Baker Athletic Hall of Fame, Oct. 22, 2013, Oakton, Va.

Marjorie M. (Randall) Maxwell, '41, 93, Alpha Chi Omega, Nov. 8, 2013, Topeka, Kan. Survivors include a son, **Robert Maxwell, '75**; a daughter-in-law, **Jan (Haley) Maxwell, '77**; a daughter, **Joyce (Maxwell) Webb, '77**; a son-in-law **Rick Webb, '77**; and grandson **George Maxwell, '08**.

Paula J. (Clifford) Morgan, '51, 85, Sept. 28, 2013, Midland, Texas.

Jeanne (Mueller) O'Byrne, '53, 82, Phi Mu, former president of the Panhellenic Association, Jan. 23, 2014, Napa, Calif. Survivors include her husband, **William W. "Bill" O'Byrne, '53**.

Joseph H. Peters, '42, 93, Delta Tau Delta, former Board of Trustee member from 1972-1980, Distinguished Civic Service Award recipient in 1982, Jan. 3, 2014, Bella Vista, Ark. Survivors include a daughter, **Susan (Peters) Olsen, '75**.

Forrest K. Pontious, Jr., BS '50, 85, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Oct. 21, 2013, Argonia, Kan.

Teresa Rabideau, MSM '96, 53, Jan. 1, 2014, Grain Valley, Mo.

Robert W. Rieger, '60, 76, Delta Tau Delta, Dec. 23, 2013, Libertyville, Ill.

Raymond. R. Rieling, Jr., BS '52, 82, Zeta Chi, Dec. 17, 2013, Springfield, Va. Survivors include his wife, **Sylvia (Spencer) Rieling, '54**.

Donald E. Wever, '48 BS, 86, Kappa Sigma, Dec. 3, 2013, Fair Oaks, Calif. Survivors include his wife, **Thelma (Simmons) Wever, '49**; sons, **Ed Schneeberger, '70**; and **Steve Schneeberger, '85**; a daughter-in-law, **Rose Schneeberger, '97**; a granddaughter **Carmen (Schneeberger) Palo, '01**; and a grandson-in-law, **Mike Palo, '04**.

Florence L. (Latham) Wigon, '48, 87, Alpha Chi Omega, Dec. 21, 2013, Florence, Ala.



We also honor our veterans who are no longer with us.



Baker University's dedicated faculty and staff are active in their professional organizations and communities.

Mike Bosch, MBA '09, and instructor of business and economics, was honored as a member of Pipeline Inc.'s 2014 entrepreneurial fellowship class. He is the founder of Dawn Fiber, a fiber-optic Internet service company based in Baldwin City.

Stephanie Brockmann, instructor of business and economics, and **Lowell Jacobsen**, Rhodes professor of international business, presented original research "ADHD and the Effect of Private Insurance on Diagnosis" in October at the Missouri Valley Economic Association in Kansas City, Mo. Jacobsen also recently accepted an invitation to organize and edit a special issue, "Coase and the Theory of the Firm," for the Managerial and Decision Economics journal. Ronald Coase, a Nobel Prize winner in economics, passed away this past year at the age of 102.

Brad Burke, business adjunct for the School of Professional and Graduate Studies, was named deputy secretary of the Kansas Department of Labor. He has been a lawyer since 2001, a prosecutor in Douglas County and Johnson County and with the Attorney General's Office.

Teresa Clouch, associate dean of students and director of multicultural affairs, recently served as the co-chair of the 2013 case study competition for graduate assistants and new professionals at the Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education IV-West Regional Conference in Hot Springs, Ark. Clouch also has been appointed to the Kansas 4-H Foundation Inc. of the Rock Springs Development Advisory Committee, which reviews and recommends renovations and new construction as it pertains to the Rock Springs 4-H Center near Junction City, Kan.

The Rev. **Ira DeSpain, '70**, and his wife, **Barbara, '71**, traveled last fall to Huntingdon, Pa., to represent Baker University at the inauguration of James A. Troha, the 12th president of Juniata College. Troha was the vice president for student services and dean of students at the Baldwin City

campus from 1997 to 2002. DeSpain provided the benediction at the inauguration.

Trilla Lyerla, professor of music, served as a piano adjudicator for the Kansas City Music Teachers Association's Fall Festival on Oct. 20 at MidAmerica Nazarene University in Olathe, Kan., and also for the KMTA State Honor Auditions on Nov. 9 at the University of Kansas.

Kevin McCarthy, professor of business and economics, was elected recently to the Delta Mu Delta board of directors for a two-year term. He previously served on the business honor society board from 1998 to 2004. Baker's chapter was founded in 1996 and has recognized nearly 250 business students in its 17 years.

William Miller, coordinator of student research in biology, and New College of Florida student Snousha Glaude presented last fall a poster titled "In the Canopy with Tardigrades and Wheelchairs" at the Sigma Xi Student Research Conference in Durham, N.C. The poster shared their experiences at the 2013 Baker University summer program. He and Meg Lowman, a pioneer in canopy ecology, and a student from Maine presented "Tardigrades in the Canopy" at the Council on Undergraduate Research's Conference of Research Experiences for Undergraduates Student Scholarship in Arlington, Va. Miller also presented the National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates program to the Scientific Research Society. Miller recently published the following paper: Shaw, M.W. & Miller, W.R. 2013. Tardigrades of North America: A preliminary survey of New Jersey, U.S.A. *Newsletter of the New York Microscopical Society*, 7(27)8:1-21.

J.D. Parr, professor of music, attended the Jazz Education Network National Convention at the downtown Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dallas. The Jazz Education Network is the national organization for jazz educators at all levels, and the annual conference is a four-day festival of performances and



President Pat Long congratulates Donald Hatcher, professor of philosophy and religion, for 35 years of service.

educational seminars featuring bands and jazz choirs from high schools, colleges and professionals from across the country. On Jan. 25, he adjudicated the Arts Council of Johnson County's "Shooting Stars" scholarship auditions for high school seniors. He critiqued first- and second-place winners from 12 highly talented wind and percussion students from Johnson County.

Amy Piersol, director of major gifts, had an essay titled "The Scary Farmhouse" about the renovation of her farmhouse published in the March issue of Hobby Farm Home Magazine.

Lucy Price, emerita professor of English, and **Kathryn Schartz**, assistant professor at School of Nursing, recently had their work published in "Echoes from the Prairie: A Collection of Short Memoirs," edited by Nicole Muchmore as part of a collaborative effort with the Great Plains Writers Group. The book includes writings from a diverse selection of 23 Midwestern authors whose reflections are imbued with passion, courage and honesty. The 50 short works of creative nonfiction "paint" an updated canvas of the iconic Midwestern character, including stories of birth and death, tales recalling emotion-filled relationships, narratives about the natural world, and, of course, childhood memories. The book is available from Amazon.com and at Signs of Life and the Raven bookstores in Lawrence, Kan. The group meets weekly to write, read, critique, teach, learn and grow as writers. 



The Rev. Kevin Hopkins

Called to campus ministry

As a baritone bugler for the Sky Ryders Drum and Bugle Corps from Hutchinson, Kan., during

his youth, Kevin Hopkins always enjoyed attending music camps at Baker University. Those fond memories have remained for more than 30 years as Hopkins, now known as RevKev, prepares to return to the Baldwin City campus this summer.

Hopkins, the senior pastor at Leavenworth (Kan.) First United Methodist Church since 2009, was announced in January as the minister to the University, effective July 1. He will succeed the **Rev. Ira DeSpain, '70**, who announced last year his plans to retire at the end of the 2013-2014 academic year after serving his alma mater for 22 years.

"I have been affiliated with several private colleges in Kansas, and Baker has always been the school that is highly respected by other regional schools," Hopkins said. "For the past several years now, I have felt God calling me to return to campus ministry and when this position became available I knew I wanted to apply. Based on my memories of Baker, my higher education experience, and my passion for campus ministry I thought it would be a good fit."

His experience in campus ministry includes stints at Grace United Methodist Church in Winfield, Kan., on Southwestern College's campus and as dean of students

"I hope that through campus ministry we can equip and send graduates back into local churches as dedicated, passionate clergy and lay people."

and campus pastor at Kansas Wesleyan in Salina, Kan. He previously held faith-based leadership positions at Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Ill., and Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

"I greatly look forward to watching Rev. Hopkins connect with our students," said Brian Posler, vice president for academic affairs and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. "This University has a great history of outstanding ministry, and I am confident Rev. Hopkins will continue that tradition."

Hopkins, who earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Kansas and a Master of Divinity from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary in Evanston, Ill., is eager to return to a campus setting.

"I embraced my calling to serve God because of my involvement in campus ministry," Hopkins said. "I have always felt called to serve on a campus and give back. Hope-



Madison Wendt, a freshman from Chanute, Kan., and Trevon Waddle, a freshman from Spring Hill, Kan., visit with the Rev. Kevin Hopkins.

fully I can help students juggle academic and social expectations while at the same time encourage them to grow in their faith. For those students who have a faith background, I hope to encourage them to continue to grow in their faith. And for those students who are seeking, I hope to create an open welcoming environment to ask questions."

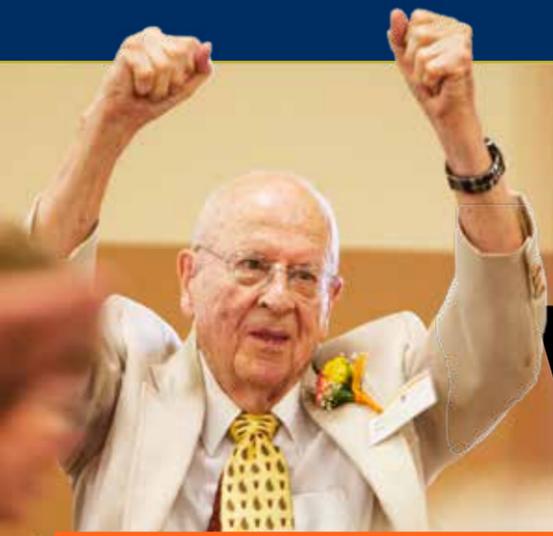
In his role at Baker, Hopkins will lead weekly services at Osborne Chapel, the University's place of worship since 1996.

"It is vitally important to have many students involved in campus ministry," Hopkins said. "Campus ministry is their program — it is for them. I can plan all kinds of activities and spiritual opportunities, but I value their ideas and vision for campus ministry through chapel, Bible studies and whatever other opportunities are there for their spiritual growth. I want to build a program based on what they feel is meaningful for their lives. I hope that through campus ministry we can equip and send graduates back into local churches as dedicated, passionate clergy and lay people. I do feel that campus ministry can strengthen the local church."

Hopkins and his wife of 24 years, Joni, who works for the Federal Reserve Bank in Kansas City, have six children. The Hopkins family plans to move to Baldwin City. Kevin's interests include running and playing basketball, Ping-Pong and racquetball. He has served as a chaplain with the Kansas Air National Guard for 14 years and recently completed a six-month deployment to Dover Air Force Base, where he worked with Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations, welcoming home fallen soldiers and working with their families.

Hopkins plans to use his first month at Baker to visit with the campus community.

"I anticipate I will wear out the sidewalks on the campus as I try to meet as many faculty and staff as possible before school starts," he explained. "I also hope to meet as many students as possible during the summer. I plan to meet with the Ambassadors and do a lot of planning and programming for fall semester for chapel and campus ministry programs." 



Alumni Weekend

BAKER UNIVERSITY • MAY 16-18, 2014

You are welcome to join us Alumni Weekend for traditional and new events for graduates of all ages.

The memorable weekend includes the **Golden Alumni Reunion & Alumni Recognition Dinner** on Friday evening at Indian Hills Country Club in Mission Hills, Kan. It is designated for alumni celebrating 50 years or more as a graduate with a special medallion presentation for the Class of 1964. Other alumni recognition will feature the Family of the Year, School of Education Wall of Honor inductees and recipients of the **Grace Irwin, Alumni Citation** and **Honorary Alumni** awards. Plus, join us to celebrate "graduate" President Pat Long.

An **Alumni Weekend Social** for other alumni, regardless of class year, is planned for Friday night at the Sports Cave Bar & Grill in Overland Park, Kan. Free appetizers will be provided at the venue, owned by **Donnie Hornberger, '99**. Make sure to wear your Baker gear.



The weekend kicks off early Friday morning with the annual **Wildcat Classic Golf Tournament** at Alvarado Golf Club. A benefit for the Baker University general athletic scholarship fund, the scramble features golfers of all talents.

Bring your whole family to the Baldwin City campus on Saturday for the **Alumni and Family Tailgate Luncheon**. Other events on Saturday include a Wedding Vow Renewal Ceremony officiated by retiring University Minister **Ira DeSpain, '70**, at the Osborne Chapel and a Farewell Open House for retiring President Pat Long.

Call your classmates now to start making plans to return to Baldwin City for a weekend of fun and reminiscing. We look forward to sharing your memories and making new ones.

Be sure to register online today at www.bakerU.edu/alumniweekend or call 888.781.2586 or fill out the form

2014 Alumni Weekend Event Calendar

Friday, May 16

Wildcat Classic Golf Tournament
Alvarado Golf Club | 7 a.m.
1809 Crossgate Drive, Lawrence, KS
7 a.m. Registration
8 a.m. 4-person scramble
 Lunch, awards and auction immediately following
Cost: \$140/golfer

A portion of entry fees can be designated toward a sport of the golfer's choice. If no sport is designated, the portion will go to the Baker University general athletic fund.

After April 16, cost is \$150/golfer \$125 if you are 30 and under or 65+
Entry fee includes greens fee, cart, range balls, Baker gear, coffee, donuts, lunch and beverage tickets.

School of Nursing Pinning Ceremony
Grace Episcopal Cathedral | 7:30 p.m.
701 SW 8th Ave., Topeka, KS

Golden Alumni Reunion & Alumni Recognition Dinner
Indian Hills Country Club | 5 p.m.
6847 Tomahawk Road, Mission Hills, KS
Cost: \$40/person

Designated for those celebrating 50 or more years as a Baker alum.

5 p.m. Class of 1964 medallion presentation for 1964 graduates and their guests

6 p.m. Reception
Socializing, networking, hors d'oeuvres, drinks

Dinner & Alumni Awards | 7 p.m.
 Family of the Year
 Alumni Citation
 Honorary Alumni
 Education Wall of Honor
 Grace Irwin Award

Alumni Weekend Social NEW
Sports Cave Bar & Grill | 8 p.m.
11440 W. 135th St., Overland Park, KS
 Owned by Baker alumnus **Donnie Hornberger, '99**
Cost: FREE (guests pay for their own beverages)

ALL ALUMNI are welcome to join us for a more casual event with appetizers and drinks and a fun atmosphere for catching up with your fellow classmates. Wear your Baker gear!

Saturday, May 17

Campus Tours
Student Union Lobby | 9-10:30 a.m.
 Van or walking tours available. Reservations required. RSVP to alumni@bakerU.edu or call 888.781.2586.

Alpha Delta Sigma Ceremony
McKibbin Recital Hall | 10:30 a.m.
 Contact Jean Johnson for more information at jean.johnson@bakerU.edu.

Alumni & Family Tailgate Luncheon NEW
Student Union Dining Hall & Harter Plaza
Cost: \$15/person; \$12/kids under 12
Noon Luncheon, Announce Pinnacle Award
12:30 p.m. Welcome the Class of 2014

1:30 p.m. Class photos for 1944, '49, '54, '59, '64, '69, '74, '79, '84, '89, '94, '99, '04, '09 and 2014

Fun activities for the entire family! More details to come later.

Wedding Vow Renewal Ceremony
Clarice L. Osborne Memorial Chapel | 2 p.m.

Couples who met their lifelong partner at Baker, were married at the Chapel, or had their wedding ceremony officiated by the Rev. Dr. Ira DeSpain are invited to attend. Cake and punch will be served after the ceremonies.

Contact Steve.Rottinghaus@bakerU.edu for more information and to RSVP.

50-Year Class Social
Student Union Coffee Bar | 2:30-4 p.m.
Socializing and appetizers

Open House Farewell to Dr. Long
Student Union Coffee Bar | 4 p.m.
Everyone is invited to attend!

All-Greek Campus Photo
Parmenter Hall Steps | 4:30 p.m.
For both graduates and current Greek students

Meetings & Dinners
Greek House Reunions (STAG) | 6 p.m.

Alumni Socials
The Lodge and The Salt Mine | 6 -11 p.m.

Sunday, May 18

Baccalaureate Service
First United Methodist Church | 9:30 a.m.

Brunch
Dining Room, Student Union | 10:45 a.m.
Cost: \$8/person

Class of 1964 Commencement March Preparation
George F. Collins Center | Noon
Class of 1964 – wear your medallions!

Spring Commencement
George F. Collins Center | 1 p.m.
 CAS, SON, SOE undergraduates

Bring your family to the Saturday tailgate luncheon!

Please fill out the form below and use envelope provided or an envelope with stamp and addressed with the information below.

Return with payment by Friday, May 9 to Office of Alumni Relations, Baker University P.O. Box 65, Baldwin City, KS 66006-0065.

Please print your name and names of your guests and class years, if applicable, as they should appear on name tags.

Address _____

Phone _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Maiden _____ Class Year _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Maiden _____ Class Year _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Maiden _____ Class Year _____

		No.	\$ Total
Friday Events	Golden Alumni Reunion & Alumni Recognition Dinner \$40/person		
	Alumni Weekend Social FREE		
	Wildcat Classic Golf \$140/person, \$150 after April 16 \$125 if you are 30 and under or 65+		
Saturday Events	Family & Tailgate Luncheon \$15/person \$12/kids under 12		
	Wedding Vow Ceremony FREE		
Sunday Events	Brunch \$8/person		
Total Enclosed \$			

Account # _____ Sec. Code _____

Exp. Date _____

Sports Highlights

Baker women's basketball team vaults to No. 13 nationally



Houser named region's top coach

Men's and women's soccer coach **Nate Houser, BA '94**, was honored after another successful season leading the Wildcats. One of eight NAIA men's soccer coaches recognized nationally, Houser was the 2013 National Soccer Coaches Association of America Men's Soccer Plains Region Coach of the Year. He also was honored in 2011 as the men's and women's NSCAA Regional Coach of the Year. In 2013 he led the Wildcats to a Heart of America Athletic Conference regular season championship and conference tournament championship. Baker beat Midland University in the NAIA Men's Soccer National Championship Opening Round and ended its season ranked

No. 9 in the final NAIA poll with a 15-6-2 record after its trip to the NAIA Final Site in Montgomery, Ala. The Wildcats have been ranked in the top 10 in five of Houser's six years as head men's soccer coach at BU, including rankings in the top 5 in 2009, 2011 and 2012 and were ranked as high as No. 2 in 2012.

Freshman makes All-America team

Freshman receiver Clarence Clark was named to the 2013 Beyond Sports Network NAIA All-America third team after recording 40 catches for a team-high 840 yards and 10 touchdowns for the Baker football team. Clark also kicked a 28-yard field goal as time expired in Baker's thrilling 10-7 victory over Sterling in the first round of the NAIA Football Championship Series at Liston Stadium. He caught three passes for 118 yards, including an 89-yard TD reception to earn the game's most valuable player award. He finished No. 1 in the NAIA in field goals made per game (1.5). Sophomore offensive lineman Sheldon Jacks and senior quarterback Jake Morse received honorable mention.

Conference honors Wildcat coach

Head football coach Mike Grossner, who guided Baker University to its first Heart of America Athletic Conference crown in 20 years, was named the 2013 HAAC Coach of the Year, becoming the second Wildcat coach to earn the honor. Charlie Richard received the honor six times — 1980, 1983, 1984, 1987, 1988 and 1993. In 2013, the Wildcats finished with their seventh consecutive winning season and set a school record with 11 victories. Three Wildcats — freshman kicker Clarence Clark, sophomore offensive lineman Sheldon Jacks and senior linebacker Darrick Smith — were named to the All-HAAC first team. Clark also earned a spot on the first team as an athlete and was a second-team selection at wide receiver.

Wildcats claim HAAC women's hoops title

The Wildcats closed the regular season with a 62-50 victory over Missouri Valley on March 1 to claim the Heart of America Athletic Conference women's basketball title



COURTESY BAKER UNIVERSITY SPORTS INFORMATION DEPARTMENT

outright. It marked Baker's first HAAC women's hoops title since 1983. Baker, ranked No. 13 nationally, entered the postseason conference tournament as the top seed with a 17-1 HAAC record and a 17-game winning streak to push its record to 24-5 overall. Led by HAAC Coach of the Year Ben Lister, the Wildcats automatically qualified for the national tournament in Frankfort, Ky.



Shoemaker captures BU's first wrestling title

A two-time state wrestling champion at Baldwin High School, Baker University freshman Bryce Shoemaker has earned the distinction of becoming the Wildcats' first national wrestling champ in the program's five-year history. Shoemaker, a 133-pound wrestler, went 4-0 at the NAIA National Championship at the Kansas ExpoCentre in Topeka, Kan., to finish his season with a 34-7 record. He defeated Indiana Tech senior wrestler Justin Brooks 3-0 in the final on March 8. For more on Shoemaker's championship run, go to the Baker website and look for a feature in the next Baker Proud.

Senior selected as All-American

Defender Andy Griffin became Baker's third National Soccer Coaches Association of America's First-Team All-American for his performance in 2013. Just 11 players were honored on the first team. Griffin, who played in 22 games, led Baker in goals at the defender position with seven and tied for the team lead in total points with 15. Baker's other First-Team All-Americans were **Nate Houser, '94**, and **Nate Byarlay, '13**.

Follow Wildcat sports at www.bakerU.edu/athletics

Longtime baseball coach Hannon named assistant director of development

Longtime baseball coach **Phil Hannon, BS '86**, will complete his duties with the Baker team this spring before moving to University Advancement as the assistant director of development on July 1.

"Phil has been an integral member of our department for 14 years," said Wildcat Director of Athletics **Theresa Yetmar, BS '02 and MBA '06**. "He brings an energy and positive attitude to work every day. He inspires trust among our staff and coaches. We could not be more pleased that Phil will now be playing an active role in fundraising for our institution."

Hannon, a Baker Athletic Hall of Fame member, has coached the Wildcats for 14 years. In the early 1980s, he was a standout in baseball and football for the Wildcats.

"It has come time for me to step up in another way to help the overall face of the University," Hannon said. "This advancement position gives me the opportunity to reconnect people to our special University. Like most of my classmates, I consider my time as a Baker student

"I look forward to helping as many students as I can find success here."

some of the best days of my life. I look forward to helping as many students as I can find success here, which means raising funds for every facet of the undergraduate experience — from academic departments to athletic facilities to, most importantly, student scholarships. This is an appointment that I am very excited about."

Hannon will report to Patrick Mikesic, senior director for University Advancement.

"I am thrilled that Phil will be joining the University Advancement team and look forward to him making a similar impact with our entire student body, alumni, donors and friends," Mikesic said. "Phil embodies the spirit of Baker alumni everywhere."

Hannon came to Baker in the fall of 1982 to play football. He was then asked to play baseball that spring for coach Keith Hackett. He lettered four years in both sports, shining as a wide receiver and as an outfielder.

Hannon signed a contract to play professional baseball in the Chicago Cubs' organization after graduating from Baker. He started in center field for the New York Pennsylvania League champion Geneva Cubs in 1987, and the next year led the Peoria Chiefs of the Midwest League with 136 hits.

Hannon became a field manager for a total of three years in the minors before returning to Baker in 1999. Hannon has produced all-conference players, including one Major League Baseball pitcher, and numerous all-academic scholar athletes. His 2009 team received the NAIA-Buffalo Funds team Champions of Character award.

He is married to **Charlene (Potter) Hannon, '85**, a third-generation Wildcat.

"I never knew how deep orange would run in our family," Phil Hannon said. "On Charlene's side of the family our children are now fourth generation."

The Hannon family has four children, **Andrew, '09**; **Aaron, '11**; **Annie, '11**; and **Asher, '16**.

A national search for Baker's next baseball coach will begin in April.

"Phil has built a program that is respected within the HAAC and represented Baker in a first-class manner at all times," said Yetmar. "With Phil's involvement in our search process, I am certain we will find the right person to move our program forward." 



Director of Athletics Theresa Yetmar and Phil Hannon

2013-2014 Wildcat Conference Championships

Football

Women's cross country

Men's soccer

Men's indoor track and field

Women's indoor track and field

Women's basketball



FAMILY TRUST

LANSFORD PROMOTED TO CEO, PRESIDENT OF JE DUNN CONSTRUCTION

Founded in 1924, JE Dunn is known as a leading provider of construction management services, design-build and integrated project delivery. Two of its recent projects include the renovation and expansion of Mulvane Hall to form the Ivan L. Boyd Center for Collaborative Science Education and the Student Union renovation on the Baldwin City campus.

Since his promotion at the first of the year to chief executive officer and president at JE Dunn Construction Co., **Gordon Lansford III, '93**, still maintains the corner office from his previous role with the business. He never tires of the view from the fifth story of his company's building overlooking the skyline in downtown Kansas City, Mo.

"I will not be changing a lot," said Lansford, who has worked for JE Dunn for 18 years and has been the firm's chief financial officer since 1998. "I have been a part of the strategic direction of the company and plan to follow the strategic plan we set the last couple of years. I will have more direct contact and engagement with our clients. I have been involved with developing strategy, and now I will be responsible for the execution of our strategy. We have a great leadership team with a lot of continuity. I want to make sure I do everything I can to help our people accomplish our goals."

When Lansford was announced in December as the new CEO, he became the first non-family member to run the company in its 90-year history.

"I never imagined a few years ago that I would be in this position," Gordon said. "I have worked closely with the family and they have trust in me."

Terry Dunn, the previous chief executive, will continue to serve as the CEO of the JE Dunn Construction Group. Steve Dunn will remain chairman of the JE Dunn board, and William H. Dunn Sr. is chairman emeritus of the firm.

"It is important to our culture to have members of the Dunn family to continue to serve in leadership positions," Lansford said. "Relationships are always our utmost priority."

After graduating from Baker in 1993 with an accounting degree, Lansford worked for KPMG for three years and became a certified public accountant. He developed an interest in the construction industry after working with construction and engineering clients before becoming director of internal audit at Dunn.

"The company was really growing and going through acquisitions at that time," Lansford recalled of joining JE Dunn in the late 1990s. "It was a great opportunity to learn more about the business."

The 12th largest general contractor in the United States with 20 offices in four regions, JE Dunn employs more than 1,000 in Kansas City, including its office headquarters and on-site personnel. The company reported revenue of \$300 million in 1996 with a peak of \$2.8 billion in 2008 before the recession. Lansford said the revenue for 2014 will be \$2.5 billion to \$2.6 billion.

While holding true to the company's values and policies established for nearly a century, Lansford plans to "enhance the culture."

"I want JE Dunn to be a more attractive place for the millennials," he noted. "We will want to be more flexible and allow our employees to be more empowering. We need to be more adaptable. Millennials are looking for more of a work-life balance and the ability to provide input."

Lansford plans to stress transparency with the leadership team and all employees across the country. Four years ago, he drove the initiative for the company to be partly employee-owned. About 10 percent of the firm's stock is now owned by employees.

"We are embracing continuous improvement and expect feedback from our employees," Lansford said. "We want to create a culture where our employees act like owners because they are. Creating the partly employee-owned structure has paid off because we are really seeing the engagement of all of our team."

Lansford has been connected to Baker since the late 1980s when his sister **Leslie (Lansford) Harris, '90**, was a student on the Baldwin City campus. His sister **Rebecca (Lansford) Wylie, '99**, is a graduate of Baker's School of Professional and Graduate Studies campus in Topeka.

"Becoming involved and having personal connections with faculty and staff provide a great learning experience and opportunities for personal development. The quality of education is outstanding. I continue to benefit from it today."

"Through Leslie I found Baker," Gordon said proudly. "She got really involved in all Baker had to offer. My parents and I saw the value of Baker through her."

Gordon, a member of Delta Tau Delta, reflects fondly on his days as a student. Business courses taught by Lee Green, **Martha Harris, '79**, and **Gary Irick, '79**, resonate with him two decades later.

"Becoming involved and having personal connections with faculty and staff provide a great learning experience and opportunities for personal development," he said. "The quality of education is outstanding. I continue to benefit from it today."

The walls in Lansford's office are coated with family portraits and snapshots from vacations. Gordon

and his high school and college sweetheart, **Marti (Stowe) Lansford, '93**, celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary in August. They live in Overland Park, Kan., with their children, Jake, 16, Brooke, 13, and Luke, 11.

Despite the demands of his new position, Gordon plans to put family first.

"Marti and the kids have always been supportive of me," Gordon said. "I am a huge believer in work-life balance and I will continue to live that way and stress how important family is."

Lansford will also remain committed to serving on Baker's Board of Trustees. He has served eight years on the board of his alma mater.

"It has been a real honor to serve as a trustee and work with Dr. Pat Long," he said. "She is one of the best leaders, if not the best leader, I have been around. I will apply a lot to my new role from what I've learned from her about thinking strategically, creating a strong vision and balancing that with a great deal of caring and compassion." 



JE Dunn Construction Co. Chief Executive Officer and President Gordon Lansford visits with Glenda Bailey, executive assistant, and Rachelle Styles, tax manager outside his office at JE Dunn Construction Co.

MARATHON MISSION



Bruce Gilbert, '71, was wearing his gray Baker track T-shirt as he ran mile after mile through the streets of Boston during the 1969 Boston Marathon.

Strangers were cheering him on by name as he took part in what he calls the “granddaddy” of marathons for the first time. It was the same race, but the scene was far different than it is today. Gilbert was one of 1,051 runners — just a fraction of the more than 27,000 runners last year — participating in '69. The field was so small Gilbert's name was in that morning's edition of the Boston Globe along with his number, which is how the strangers knew his name as he passed.



The runners met in a gym and passed a physical, which amounted to a doctor listening to each runner's heart for three to

four seconds. There were no qualifying times, and anyone who paid the \$2 entry fee could run.

And there was Bruce Gilbert with his Baker track shirt.

It was the University that allowed Gilbert to experience the Boston Marathon while wearing his Baker shirt. Gilbert was a sophomore cross country and track athlete for the Wildcats and was preparing for this new concept called Interterm between the two semesters. At the time, students could create their own course with the help of a faculty member as long as it was approved.

“They said, it's almost limitless what you could dream up for your project,” Gilbert said.

Gilbert and two freshmen decided to create an Interterm class based on training for the Boston Marathon. The runners approached coach **James Irick, '48**, who agreed to teach the class and named it “Social Dimensions of Physical Activity.”

“I thought this would really be perfect because we would have all month open to training,” said Gilbert, who completed his first marathon in 3 hours, 43 seconds. “We would just get ourselves so well prepared and then we maintain that until April and we would go run that marathon and that would be like our final exam.”

Baker not only gave the three students a method in which to train, but Baker President James Doty, whose family Gilbert had known growing up in Indiana, also arranged for a \$100 scholarship to fund the students' trip. The other two students' fathers were airline mechanics and could fly for free, so Gilbert used the remaining \$94, after entry fees were paid, for his plane ticket. Doty also connected the students to alumni in Boston who gave the runners a place to stay.

While he continued running marathons, Gilbert didn't return to race in the Boston Marathon until 15 years later in 1984. Gilbert returned a third time in 1994, 25 years af-

ter the initial race, and was back again in 2004 and 2009. Gilbert's 2009 race goal was to be within 30 minutes of his 1969 race time 40 years earlier and to break 3:30. He finished 3:31:05, which he happily accepted.

“It's going to be really, really special because it does mean a lot to almost everyone that's there and it's a show of resilience by the runners and all the people, spectators, everybody, to come back from that.”

This year will mark 45 years since that initial marathon, and Gilbert will again be back in Boston. If the weather is perfect on April 21, his goal again will be 3:30. It will be special for him due to the anniversary, but it will also be emotional and historic for everyone involved being the first Boston Marathon since last year's bombing near the finish line.

“It's going to be really, really special because it does mean a lot to almost everyone that's there and it's a show of resilience by the runners and all the people, spectators, everybody, to come back from that,” said Gilbert, an Overland Park, Kan., resident, who owns Regarding Kitchens & Home with his wife, Beverly.

Along with being Gilbert's sixth time at the Boston Marathon, this will also mark the 73rd marathon he has raced, and he's not looking to hang up the shoes any time soon.

“Now I kind of figure I'm on a five-year cycle for how-ever long it will take me,” he said. “I'd love to go 50 years apart.”

It all started with that run through Boston in 1969 in the gray Baker track shirt. Gilbert credits that Interterm class for catapulting him into marathon running and doesn't know if he would have completed all the races if it weren't for that first one.

“It's special for everyone and everyone has their own marathon story of how they decided to do it and how they accomplished what they had to do in order to get there,” Gilbert said. “To me, it is real special or more meaningful to me in that I did do it way back in 1969, so I've got that link to the old way that a lot of people don't.” 

Making connections

parMentors program enhances networking opportunities

The faces have changed, as has the format. Yet after 25 years, the parMentor program is still giving students a network in which to succeed after leaving Baker's campus.

When Nancy Richard, a former assistant dean of students at Baker, and Carolyn Lambert, wife of former University president Dan Lambert, started the program, the parMentors assisted in University functions, mainly serving meals. This is no longer the case, but the concept is still the same. It is designed to get Baker's best and brightest in the room with Baker alumni and friends who could be contacts as the students go off into the world.

"We had decided we needed a group that could assist at the president's activities when they would invite guests to campus," said Richard. "It was a way to get the help and also show off some of our very best students to the guests to show them what Baker was all about."

In the last decade, the aspect of mentorship was introduced to the program, where Board of Trustees members, alumni and prominent Kansas City businessmen and businesswomen who were successful in their fields were paired with current students to help them develop and

"I had some really great mentors through my time at Baker, and thought, 'This is a way I can contribute to a place that was a special place to me.'" – Robyn Long, '00

work toward a career. The number of parMentors has also grown with the years, increasing from 13 members the first year to nearly 30 a year ago. Along with being representatives of the University at events and meeting with their mentors, the parMentors also bring in guest speakers and give back philanthropically.

Richard appreciates the positive responses from former students who serve as mentors.

"It's exciting and heartwarming that they're willing to do that," Richard said. "All I had to do was call them and ask, and they said 'yes.'"

Several former parMentors, including Robyn Long, '00, assistant professor of psychology, and Angela Butell, '93, director of recruitment, enjoyed their time in the program so much that they have given back as alumnae. Butell has taught etiquette for the past six years and Long was a mentor for two years before being hired by Baker.

Richard contacted Long about mentoring after Long moved back to Kansas. Long recalled many of her favorite memories as a student were working in the kitchen of the Collins House with friends as a parMentor.



The student-driven parMentors have assisted with Baker University presidential events for 25 years.

"I had some really great mentors through my time at Baker," she said, "and thought, 'This is a way I can contribute to a place that was a special place to me.'"

Butell was a parMentor from 1990 to 1993, including being a head parMentor as a junior and senior. She said while she still received connections through parMentor exposure, the inclusion of the mentors really benefits the students. Butell also gives credit to the students who apply to the program.

"All of them are doing this because it is something they are proud of," Butell said. "It's definitely a volunteer opportunity to give back. I think we have a great student body here and I am very pleased to represent Baker and to go out and recruit for them."

Doug Barth, '91, director of alumni and corporate relations, and Amy Piersol, director of major gifts, are in their first year leading the program. Board of Trustees member Susanne Teel, '69, also plays a large role as a sponsor and liaison to the Board of Trustees.

Barth said they are always looking for ways to make the program better.

"We would love to have a surplus of mentors," Barth said. "And we know they're out there, but we would love to have our alumni contact us and say they heard about the program, and 'how do I get to do something like that?'" 

Anatomy of a Student

Andy Kelley has made the most of his four years at Baker. A sociology major from Lenexa, Kan., Kelly served as president of Kappa Sigma fraternity, captain of the men's golf team and was the sponsorship director for Up 'til Dawn, a nationwide philanthropic program in which college students lead fundraising efforts for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. He also took pride in his role as a University Admissions Assistant, leading campus tours and sharing his Baker story with prospective students and their families. After graduating in May, Kelley plans to work in guest services for Sporting Kansas City, the reigning MLS Cup champion.

Bag of clubs

Known for his ability to sink long putts, Kelley can unleash a 280-yard drive with his trusty Callaway X-Hot Driver. His long — and accurate — drives came in handy last fall when he became a two-time All-Heart of America Athletic Conference performer and shot a personal-best 2-under round at the Central Methodist tournament.

If the shoes fit

A good pair of golf shoes securely anchors Kelley's feet to the ground, providing proper balance when he swings and support while navigating a golf course. Golfers walk an average of five miles per round. Those shoes helped him card the best round — a 71 — at last year's conference tournament at Mzingo Lake Golf Course in Maryville, Mo.

Music to his ears

For more than a decade, a trumpet has been close to Kelley's side. You may have seen him perform sweet-sounding solos as part of the Jazz Ensemble for the Candlelight Vespers and Jazz Festival at Rice Auditorium. He also played the trumpet in Baker's annual Founders Day celebration in honor of the University's 156th birthday.

Greek highlights

Alpha Chi Omega

| Alpha Chi Omega reported the top sorority grade-point average (3.46) for the fall semester. Kathleen Thomas, house director, commonly known as "Mom K," has announced her plans to retire in May 2014 after more than 18 years of dedicated service to the Omicron chapter. The Omicron sisters will celebrate 106 years of sisterhood on May 17 at STAG.

Remember to follow AXΩ on Facebook, Instagram (@AXOmicron) and Twitter (@AXOmicron).

Delta Delta Delta

| Members of Delta Delta coordinated a chili feed that raised funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Kayla Infanti was part of a team that placed first in the multimedia sports category at the Associated Collegiate Press and College Media Association national convention on Oct. 26 in New Orleans. The Lambda chapter gained 22 new members in the fall.

Delta Tau Delta | Delta Tau Delta held many successful philanthropy and community service events, including raising money for the diabetes research organization JDRF and participating in Adopt-A-School at Baldwin Elementary School. Ten members of Delta Tau Delta made the dean's list for the fall 2013 semester.



Chapter presidents through fall 2014 are Stephanie Nelson, Zeta Phi Beta; Riley Hoffman, Kappa Sigma; Claire White, Alpha Chi Omega; Andrew Heim, Delta Tau Delta; Brandon Haefke, Zeta Chi; Amanda Seeley, Delta Delta Delta; Owen Lewis, Sigma Phi Epsilon; and Emily Liston, Zeta Tau Alpha.

Kappa Sigma | Kappa Sigma continued its annual tradition of selling turkey legs during the Maple Leaf Festival. Fraternity members were up at 5 a.m. Saturday cooking and continued throughout the weekend. The efforts of the entire chapter and alumni resulted in another successful year. The fraternity donated a portion of their earnings to Kappa Sigma's national philanthropic organization, Military Heroes.

Sigma Phi Epsilon | The Kansas Alpha chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity posted a cumulative 3.19 grade-point average for the fall semester and 11 members recorded GPA 3.5 or higher to qualify for the dean's list. Sig Ep chapters across the country have selected Big Brothers Big Sisters of America as their new national philanthropy after supporting YouthAIDS initiatives for years.

Zeta Chi | The fraternity gained eight members in the fall and the house earned a 3.28 grade-point average, the highest for all Baker fraternities and better than the campus average. The men of Zeta Chi remain committed to various activities, such as the performing arts, athletics, student senate, community service and campus ministry.

Zeta Phi Beta | As part of its philanthropic efforts during homecoming week, Zeta

Phi Beta held a clothing drive for children in foster care and victims of domestic violence. A food drive and Sunday soul food dinner benefited the Baldwin City food pantry. Members of the sorority averaged a cumulative 3.0 GPA.

Zeta Tau Alpha | The Sigma chapter of Zeta Tau Alpha sorority, a fixture on the Baldwin City campus for 102 years, recorded a 3.30 grade-point average for the fall semester. All of its members participate in campus events. In the fall, the sorority won the annual homecoming week cup and coordinated a haunted house for children in the community. The chapter supports breast cancer education and awareness through raising money for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Shawnee Mission principals honored with Challenge Awards

Five principals in the Shawnee Mission (Kan.) School District with close ties to Baker University were recognized as 2013 Challenge Awards recipients by the Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force.

The award honors Kansas schools that are making a significant difference in student achievement among disadvantaged student populations. It recognizes performances on state assessments in reading and mathematics that exceed normal expectations based on the socioeconomic status and sample size of those taking the test.

The principals are **John Bartel**, building licensure '07, Crestview Elementary; **Greg Lawrence**, MASL '06, Rosehill Elementary; **Chris Lash**, MAEd '04 and building licensure '06, Rising Star Elementary; **Kristal Leiker**, EdD candidate, Santa Fe Trail Elementary; and **Scott Sherman**, building licensure '01, Hocker Grove Middle School.

For the 2013-2014 academic year, 100 schools in Kansas are led by principals with master's degrees from Baker. That figure ranks No. 1 for private universities in the state.



Kristal Leiker, Chris Lash, Scott Sherman, John Bartel and Greg Lawrence

"The Challenge Awards recognize schools that provide tangible proof of the long-held contention that all children can learn," said Charles Volland, chairman of the Confidence in Kansas Public Education Task Force. "These schools are to be commended for overcoming the very real challenges that poverty poses to education." 📌

Baker receives Tree Campus USA award

The Arbor Day Foundation has recognized Baker University as a 2013 Tree Campus USA for its commitment to promoting healthy trees and engaging students and staff in the spirit of conservation. Baker has been honored four consecutive years by the foundation.

To be honored, Baker met the five core standards for effective campus forest management: a tree advisory committee, a campus tree-care plan, dedicated annual expenditures for its campus tree program, an Arbor Day observance and student service-learning project.

"Trees are a vital component of campus infrastructure and landscaping," said John Rosenow, chief executive of the Arbor Day Foundation, based in Lincoln, Neb. "First, properly placed trees create a welcoming space for students, staff and alumni, providing much needed relief from heat and a quiet place to reflect or study. Second, trees keep our air and water clean and remove harmful pollutants. Third, trees save money by reducing energy use and improving storm-water management."

Tree Campus USA, a national program launched in 2008 by the Arbor Day Foundation and Toyota, honors colleges and universities and their leaders for maintaining healthy trees and engaging students and staff in the spirit of con-



servation. Baker was the first university in Kansas to be honored as a Tree Campus USA.

"Thanks to the hard work and dedication of Steve Wright and his ground crew

we are in the process of maintaining the beauty of the trees on campus and replacing those that have been lost because of the drought over the past several years," said **Roger Boyd**, '69, Baker University's director of natural areas. "We take pride in managing our resources to reflect a welcoming environment to our students and visitors."

Members of the Arboretum Committee are Boyd; Katelyn Doolittle, student representative; Chris Hamill, a member of the Baldwin Tree Board and local nurseryman; Maurice Lafleur, groundskeeper; Nate Poell, technical services librarian; **Jeremy Portlock**, MBA '05, director of the physical plant; and Steve Wright, Baker grounds-crew member. 📌

Two longtime deans to retire



Peggy Harris

Part of the Baker University family for 30 years, School of Education dean Peggy Harris is retiring to spend more time with her family and travel.

She started her career as the coordinator of the Academic Skills Center in 1984, a year after her husband, Dan Harris, came to the Baldwin City campus as an assistant professor of physical education and a football and baseball coach. Within a few years, she moved full time into the education department, being mentored by Lowell Gish and working closely with Merrie Skaggs, '67, and has been there ever since. As dean of the School of Education, Harris split seven years between the Baldwin City and Overland Park campus.

“I have high hopes for the future. I know I’m leaving the SOE in good hands.”

“I was attracted to Baker because of its size and focus of liberal arts, much like the college I attended after high school,” Harris said. “Once I got here, it didn’t take long to grow to love Baker, with its long history and traditions, engaged students, professional faculty and rigorous academic programs. During my time as dean, I gained a great deal of respect for all of our graduate programs and the people who work diligently to create, oversee and deliver these programs.”

Harris developed plans for the Wall of Honor, housed at Case Hall. Since its inception in 2006, Baker has recognized 42 graduates who have received either state, regional or national recognition — or in some instances all three.

Baker’s School of Education was formed in 2006, combining Baker’s undergraduate and graduate degree programs and adding the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership. During Harris’ leadership, Baker has developed a reputation for preparing school administrators. For the third consecutive year, Baker ranks first in the state as the preparation institution for Kansas assistant principals and fourth in the state as the preparation institution for Kansas principals.

“I have high hopes for the future,” Harris said. “I know I’m leaving the SOE in good hands. We have a core of experienced staff and faculty. Combining that with our recent hires and the energy and experience they bring leaves us poised to become even better.” 



Kathy Harr

For 17 years as dean of the Baker University School of Nursing, Kathy Harr has overseen remarkable growth in the program that has doubled in enrollment since 1998 when Baker had 86 students at the Stormont-Vail HealthCare facility in Topeka, Kan. Baker set a program record for total enrollment with 175 students for the fall 2013 semester.

“It has been a joy to be a part of growing the program beyond what we thought was possible,” said Harr, who came to Baker after working at a nursing school in Green Bay, Wis. “I am very thankful to work with a dedicated team who not only values providing a high-quality program, but also appreciates the importance of being user friendly to our students. Since beginning our quest for accreditation by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education in December 1997, quality improvement has become part of our culture. Feedback from students, alumni and employers affirms that our graduates are well prepared.”

Harr became attracted to Baker because the nursing school, founded in 1991, was set in a building dedicated to education, and the university connection was very important. Her first day at Baker was Sept. 29, 1997, and she will retire almost 17 years to the date — Sept. 30, 2014.

“I am thankful to have spent the last 17 years of my career contributing to something important and far reaching.”

Harr lauded the efforts of the administrative teams past and present from Baker (presidents Dan Lambert and Pat Long) and Stormont-Vail (president and chief executive officers Maynard Oliverius and Randy Peterson).

“All four have been role models and mentors,” Harr noted. “Their wise counsel has been appreciated over the years and their support of the school a key to our success.”

Since its founding in the early 1990s, Baker has graduated more than 1,200 nursing students. Many of them work in communities across Kansas and in the Kansas City area.

“I am thankful to have spent the last 17 years of my career contributing to something important and far reaching,” Harr said. “Every nurse that we graduate touches and makes a difference in so many lives. I’ve always valued being able to give back by helping others to better themselves through education.”

A retirement reception to honor Harr will be held from 4 to 6 p.m., Tuesday, May 20, in the Centennial Room at the Pozez Education Center. 



Winter Memories

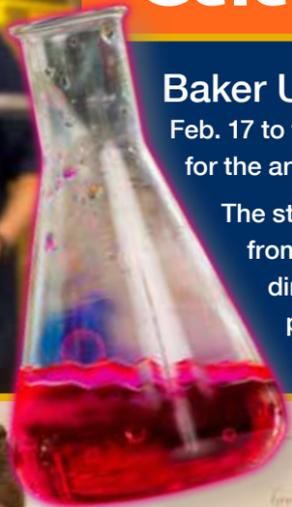


Baker University joined in the personal joy of its graduates in mid-December, recognizing individually all those who earned degrees for their academic achievement. Nearly 300 undergraduate students and 300 graduate students were honored with three separate commencement ceremonies on December 14-15 at the George F. Collins Sports and Convention Center with Baker President Pat Long delivering the keynote addresses. The weekend included the celebratory toast at Parmenter Hall for nine graduates who earned a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership. On December 13, Baker’s traditional pinning ceremony at Grace Episcopal Cathedral in Topeka, Kan., welcomed 43 graduates into the nursing profession.

Celebrating Science Day

Baker University welcomed prospective students on Feb. 17 to the new Ivan L. Boyd Center for Collaborative Science Education for the annual Celebrating Science Day on the Baldwin City campus.

The students toured the campus before receiving one-on-one attention from Baker faculty during lab experiments. They also dined at the new dining hall at the Student Union. Their interests included prenursing, premed, pre dental, plant and animal biology, math, physics, computer science, pre-engineering and exercise science.



Alumni Calendar



March

17-21

Spring Break

27

Alumni After-Hours
5:30-7:30 p.m.
Dallas, TX
A Baker After-Hours event is the perfect networking opportunity for alumni to gather and remain connected to BU.

31

Greek Week begins

April

1-6

Greek Week

4

Choral Masterwork Concert,
7:30 p.m., Rice Auditorium

12

Scholarship Gala and Auction, 6 p.m.,
Overland Park Convention Center,
6000 College Blvd.
*For more information, go to
www.bakerU.edu/gala*

18

Good Friday, campus closed

24-26

"What the Butler Saw"
Theatre Production, 7:30 p.m.,
Rice Auditorium

27

"What the Butler Saw"
Theatre Production, 2 p.m.,
Rice Auditorium

29

Chamber Ensemble Concert,
7:30 p.m., McKibben Recital Hall

For Wildcat sports schedules
www.bakerU.edu/athletics

May

1

Chris Grubb Memorial Jazz Concert,
7:30 p.m., Rice Auditorium

3

Undergraduate Scholars Symposium,
1-4:30 p.m., Mabee Gym

4

Symphonic Winds Guest Artist Con-
cert, 3:30 p.m., Rice Auditorium

5

Percussion Ensemble Concert,
7:30 p.m., McKibbin Recital Hall

6

Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m.,
Rice Auditorium

10

School of Professional and Graduate
Studies undergraduate degree cere-
mony, 1 p.m., Collins Center

10

School of Education and School of
Professional and Graduate Studies
graduate degree ceremony, 4 p.m.,
Collins Center

16

School of Nursing pinning ceremony,
7:30 p.m., Grace Episcopal Cathedral,
Topeka, Kan.

16-18 Alumni Weekend

- Wildcat Classic Golf Tournament
- Golden Alumni Reunion and Alumni Recognition Dinner
- Recognition for Family of the Year, School of Education Wall of Honor inductees and recipients of the Grace Irwin, Alumni Citation and Honorary Alumni awards
- Weekend Social
- Alumni and Family Tailgate Luncheon
- Wedding Vow Renewal Ceremony

More details on pages 14-15

18

College of Arts and Sciences, School of Education, School of Nursing undergraduate degree ceremony, 1 p.m.

31-June 10

Alumni trip with Wandering Wildcats to Bermuda and ending in New York
*Interested travelers contact
Jerry.Weakley@bakerU.edu*

Know someone who should be a **Wildcat**?



Call Cheryl to set up a campus visit.

Cheryl McCrary, '87 and MLA '13

Director of the Campus Visit Experience

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LEGEND: Alumni Events Academic Events Special Events

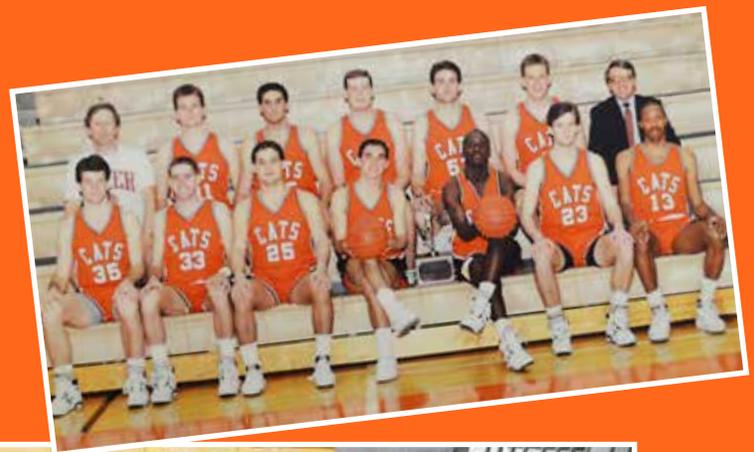
Weekly chapel services are held in the Clarice L. Osborne Memorial Chapel Thursdays at 11 a.m. throughout the academic year.





THEN & NOW

Baker University's Heart of America Athletic Conference men's basketball championship team from 1989 returned in January for a 25-year reunion. Members of the squad and the coaches replicated the team photo from that special season.



Front row: Mike Norris, Matt Sarna, Kerry McDonald, Dave Cash, not pictured – Kirby Jones, John O'Donnell, John Bennett.
Second row: Head coach Rick Weaver, Scott Siegman, John Smith, Pat Denney, Craig Lawson, George Williamson, assistant coach Dennis Darting.