



From the Arbor

@ Baker University...

Monthly news from Jerry Weakley, VP for Endowment and Planned Giving

Volume 10, Issue 10
December, 2012

Numbers of Importance:

- Admissions 800-873-4282
- Alumni Office- 888-781-2586
- Make a donation- 800-726-1554
- Create a planned gift or create an endowed scholarship- 785-594-8332 or 913-449-9540 (Jerry Weakley)
- Baker Orange www.thebakerorange.com

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Travel to England and Harlaxton...

The Alumni Department has organized an alumni tour to England for June 20-28, 2013. Using London as a base of operations, travelers will visit some of England's most interesting/historic sites along with an opportunity to spend one night at Harlaxton Manor. President Pat Long and her husband, Dennis, are going! For additional information, contact Doug Barth '91 @ 1-785-594-4799.

Methodist Accreditation Team Visits...Open Letter From President Long to Baker Communities...

Dear University Community:

As many of you know, a visiting team visited the last week of November to assess Baker's merit to continue our affiliation and accreditation with the General Board of Higher Education Ministry of the United Methodist Church. I met with visiting team members at several points during their stay, and while they could not give us an official recommendation – much like during the HLC site visit – the exit interview was incredibly positive.

The team members spoke highly of the outstanding students, staff, faculty and community ministers they encountered. In fact, they said it was one of the warmest and best visits they had experienced. One member said, "Your faculty at Baker 'get it!'" Of course, they talked about Dr. Ira DeSpain and his comprehensive ministry at Baker; they were very impressed with our engaged Board of Trustees, and spoke specifically about their meeting with our District Superintendent Dr. Dennis Ackerman and local church leaders, Rev. Paul Babcock, Rev. Jacob Cloud, and Rev. Nanette Roberts. Baker is a special place!

Thanks to each of you who participated in the preparation for the team visit and to those of you who took time out of your schedules to be involved in the meetings. A special thanks to Myra Glover for preparing the visit, to Ira for writing such a significant report, to Kris Oehlert for staffing the team, to Lauren Breithaupt for the outstanding campus tour, and to Mike McDonald for providing airport transportation. As always, I am so very proud of our Baker community.

Thank you all very much,

Dr. Pat

Baker Leads Area Schools in Graduation Rate...

I was recently re-reviewing a document that had been taken from the July 30, 2012 *Chronicle of Higher Education*. The report had originally been delivered to the Executive Cabinet for discussion from **Rand Zigler**, vice president for institutional and faculty development.

The report listed both the graduation rate of area colleges for 100% of the time normally allotted and for 150% of that same time. The results clearly show that based upon the data of the study, **Baker** had a clear advantage in moving students on through course work to graduation by several percentage points.

Baker showed a 59.1% figure for the 100% time period and 69.0% when looking at the 150% time frame.

In comparison, The **University of Kansas** figures were 32.2% for the 100% of time and 61% at 150%. Also of interest were the figures listed for **William Jewell College**...55.6%/64.7% To review the entire list of comparatives go to: collegecompletion.chronicle.com/institution#id+154688.

Update on Teel Property Gift/Auction...

One of the featured items I wrote on in the **November Arbor** was about two gifts of properties that the university received over the past several months from two individual donors.

On Monday, December 3rd, an auction was held in Savannah, Mo, featuring the 2nd of these properties. The property that was auctioned was comprise of parcels of land and had been donated to the University by Trustee, **Susanne Teel '69**.

As the auction got underway nearly every seat in the community center of the town was occupied with prospective buyers and other onlookers, some standing near the rear of the hall. **Baker** was well represented by the donor, **Susanne Teel**, President **Pat Long**, Chief Operating Officer **Susan Lindahl** and V.P for Advancement **Lyn Lakin**.

The exciting news is that the land in its entirety was sold for a value above that which it had been appraised. I will relate the entire results of the sale sometime after the first of the year.

Included at that time will be an announcement of how the proceeds from this land auction will be used by the University . "Stayed tuned" for the update and the exciting project that will be made possible by this gift!

This, That and More...

Athletic Hall of Fame Nominations Due...

Nominations for prospective inductees to the Athletic Hall of Fame for consideration in 2013 are due to me **NLT December 31st** (post-mark or e-mail sent-date). Send to me, **Jerry Weakley**% **Baker University**, P.O. Box 65, Baldwin City, KS 66006 or jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu. Include in your nomination whether the individual should be considered as 1). An athlete for athletic achievements while in college or after, 2). As a coach for a minimum of 20 years, or 3). For meritorious service to the athletic program of **Baker University** or for career achievements that benefitted health, fitness, recreation or other similar activity in general. Also include as many stats, records, achievements and information on the candidate as you can. The Hall of Fame committee will meet shortly after the first of the year and select those for induction in 2013.

New Athletics Web Site is a Hit...

For those interested in anything athletic at **Baker** I hope you have recently visited the new website that went live late last summer. Associate Athletic Director of Athletics, Communication **Tyler Price**, is doing a great job of adding new stories, pictures and videos almost daily to the site. Check it out at <http://www.bakeru.edu/athletics>

V.P./Dean Posler Publishes Article...

Brian Posler, executive vice president of academic affairs and dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, had an article published this month in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Political Science Education*. **Howard, Leigh Anne, and Brian D. Posler**. "Reframing Political Messages: Using a Festival to Reach Young Voters." *Journal of Political Science Education*. Volume 8, #4, pp. 389-407.

Baker Trivia Answer for November...

The Question...

What is the name of the building that was originally built for academic purposes, was later sold and used for a milling operation and then repurchased by the University in 1908. Hint: it is still being used today and was the first of Baker's buildings to be listed on the National Register of Historic Buildings in 1971.

The Answer...

The Old Castle...Built in 1858 and used for academic purposes until 1871...

The first correct answer came from Jim Foreman '79 (who is getting tough to beat at this game!). Jim included the following note in his response which I share:

From Lawrence Journal-World... "Old Castle was the first college building, Methodist Church, political meeting hall, and social meeting place. It stood vacant for a while, then was the President's home of Dr. Denison, who jokingly called it Sterling Castle, which became in name, Old Castle. It then served as a dormitory for men, a public school, a mill, a carpenter shop, and is now a Historical Museum."

An additional correct answer with additional information came from Cecil Miller '53. His response by e-mail kept getting blocked by my computer apparently as spam so he sent an old fashion letter from which I now quote...

"Old Castle was not located on the actual campus but a block away as this was the best building the college could afford. However the trustees did not feel the building was architecturally worthy of being on the campus. At least that is the story I remember hearing about Old Castle".

Thanks to Jim and Cecil for responding and adding additional information for us to share!

If you have a trivia question you would like to offer about the University send it to me at jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu.

Charitable Deduction in Jeopardy...

The U.S. Congress appears to be moving toward final decisions on ways to avoid the "fiscal cliff" (the automatic expiration of tax cuts and imposition of spending cuts at year's end). We now know that modifying or capping the charitable tax deduction is under active consideration as a means of raising federal revenues.

To help preserve and protect the charitable deduction, I would like to enlist YOUR help! It is critical that lawmakers hear from both charities and individuals NOW before final decisions are made, since capping or eliminating the charitable deduction would especially harm giving to Baker and all other charitable organizations!

I urge you to contact your members of Congress personally – by phone or e-mail – and encourage them to protect the charitable deduction which will help protect the scholarships of worthy Baker students. Thank You!

In advance of potential changes that may be forthcoming, Lyn Lakin, V.P. for Advancement, share that measured in dollars, giving to the University over the past several years has been on a steady incline in spite of the general economic climate. But, the participation rate (or % of alumni making a gift) has plateaued. Therefore, the major fundraising focus in FY13 is to increase the participation rate among alumni.

Broad alumni participation helps establish a culture of philanthropy that is vital to the success and sustainability of Baker. There is strength in numbers and the University is only as strong as the people who support it. Every gift truly does matter!

Provided you are considering making an end of the year gift to the University (unrestricted or restricted) please do so by post-marking the envelope containing your check NLT December 31st so that it will be eligible for current potential tax savings available under current law. Thanks so very much for your support in the past and in the future!!!

Alumni/Campus Activities...

December 15/16... Graduation services (see story this page for times etc...)

March 2... The 4th annual **Baker** Gala and Scholarship Auction...Overland Park Sheraton Convention Center...

Baker's Marketing and Communication Receives Awards at CASE Conference...

Baker received three awards for excellence in publications and communications at the CASE District 5/6 conference which was held in Chicago the 10-12th of **December**. First, **Baker** received a **Gold** Award for its The Yield Journal booklet in the Student Recruitment Publications category. Winning a **Silver** Award is last spring's Gala Video in the Video Fundraising Features category. This is the first year a **Baker** video has ever won! Finally, the University received a **Silver** Award for Fundraising Programs within the Advancement category. Congratulations to the staff of Advancement and to the Marketing and Communications Department for their outstanding work. To watch the video go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jPJOt5Olow8> **Re-member...this was done tongue-in-cheek! :)**

Annual Vespers Programs a Success...

The annual Vespers programs were held for the first time in Rice Auditorium on the Baldwin City campus. Faculty, students, staff and members of the Baldwin City community under the direction of Matthew Potterton made the two performances pure magic.

Near the conclusion of the services the audience was nearly shocked to see "snow" falling gently to the stage only to disappear once it hit the ground. By all accounts, Vespers this year was memorable! Don't miss it next year!!!

Trivia Question for **December**...

Question:

A replica of the original Kibbee Cabin sits adjacent to Old Castle Museum and a replica of the Palmyra Post Office just a block east of the main Baldwin City campus. For whom was the Kibbee Cabin named and of what significance was the original structure to **Baker** University?

The answer will be featured in the January issue of the **Arbor**.)

Graduation Services Schedule...

Baker will honor nearly 700 students — 360 undergraduates and 336 graduate students — with three fall commencement ceremonies on Dec. 15-16 at the George F. Collins Sports and Convention Center in Baldwin City. The School of Professional and Graduate Studies graduate students will be recognized at 1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 15. The School of Education graduate degree ceremony will be at 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 15. The ceremony for undergraduates in the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Education and School of Nursing and School of Professional and Graduate Studies will be held at 1 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 16.

Have a **Merry Christmas** and a Great Month of **December**...I'll write again in January...

Jerry L. Weakley '70/MBA '92

Vice President for
Endowment and Planned Giving

P.O. Box 65,

Baldwin City, KS 66006

1-785-594-8332 /913-449-9540

jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu

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A **Christmas** Gift Idea For This Or Any Other Year...

Every year many of us struggle to find that “perfect “ gift for a parent/grandparent/spouse or other love one...a present that will not be tucked away in a cabinet or drawer, will not gather dust, or will not sit somewhere being un-used. If you are finding yourself in such a quandary again this year, perhaps the following will provide an appropriate solution while at the same time, benefit many others as well.

Baker currently allows for minimum named endowments of \$10,000. With the understanding and agreement upfront with a donor that they will continue to make periodic payments to fully fund their endowment over a 3-5 year period, the University will allow for a named endowment to be created with an initial gift of only \$5,000. So, with this amount, you can create a permanent and on-going named fund within the University’s overall endowment that honors an individual of importance to you this **Christmas!**

We can work together to develop the criteria for this fund—whether a general non-restricted endowment or perhaps, an endowed scholarship that will benefit students. Your desires are of primary importance and will be used to create an appropriate Fund Administration Agreement for the fund, a copy of which you can roll up, tie with a ribbon and have on or under your **Christmas tree** to present to your special loved one this **Christmas**.

Over the course of many years I have worked with individuals and families to create several similar funds. From the word I have received back both from the donor or the recipient who was being honored, it was the best “gift” that they had given or had received in years!

What an outstanding way of saying “thank-you” for all the love, care and support that a family member or family friend has bestowed on you.

Call me to set up a special gift of a named endowment for your spouse, parent, grandparent or loved one!!!



Jerry L Weakley
VP Endowment & Planned Giving

For more timely information on this and other Planned Giving issues please visit our website location at <http://bakeru.giftlegacy.com/> or contact me at jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu or call me at 785-594-8332 (office) or 913-449-9540 (cell).

P.S. * The Above information is provided only for your consideration and should not be construed as “Legal or Tax Advice”. Always consult your own professional advisor before acting upon this or similar information.

*As Dr. James Chubb ‘22 used to say when he visited classmates and alumni while on the road for **Baker**... “Please remember to leave something for **Baker** in your will!”...and if you do please let us know your plans!*