



From the Arbor

@ Baker University...

Monthly news from Jerry Weakley-VP Endowment & Planned Giving

Volume 10, Issue 5

June, 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

Baker's Outstanding Seniors at CAS Named...

Baker presented three Outstanding Senior Awards on May 5 at the Undergraduate Scholars' Symposium at Mabee Hall. The recipients were John Babb, Topeka, Kan.; Will Duncan, Baldwin City, Kan.; and Caleb Watts, Smithville, Mo.

The annual awards recognize senior students who exhibit superior achievement, including academics, leadership, service, co-curricular activities and off-campus educational opportunities. Here are the winners at a glance:

John Babb

An exercise science major, John Babb was a four-year member and leader of the football team, Student Senate, Champions of Character and Mungano. He was selected homecoming king his sophomore year. *"He is always positive and confident making him the best representative of Baker University."*

Will Duncan

A triple major in mathematics, music, international studies with a minor in French, Will Duncan was a class officer, member of the tennis team, vice president of his fraternity and active in Mungano. He also held positions as a chemistry lab assistant, calculus workshop instructor, four-year tutor and piano instructor. He interned last summer at the National Security Agency and has been accepted to Oxford University. *"He has a strong moral sense and an incredible capacity for compassion."*

Caleb Watts

A business major, Caleb Watts served in a variety of roles on campus, including vice president of his fraternity, an orientation leader and Student Senate president. He also interned with Sporting KC.

"Caleb has held the position of Student Senate president with dignity, respect from peers, faculty, staff, and administration and is always responsible and eager to do his duty to his full potential."

Congratulations to all of you...YOU WILL BE MISSED!

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May Issue of **Arbor NOW** Available...

A little technology glitch occurred last month that inserted the **April** issue of the **Arbor** in the link where the **May** issue was to have been located. A couple of astute readers discovered the faux pas and informed me. It has now been corrected and you can find the **May** issue where it is supposed to be. Cut and paste this link for that issue... www.bakeru.edu/images/pdf/Alumni/Arbor-may2012.pdf

(You get two issues now for the price of one!)

Responses From the **May Arbor...**

"I love your thoughtful comments on what is happening on campus there in Baldwin. Recently I was on campus to see "Luv" and just "bum around" with my sis Ruthie Osa, and we both remarked that we felt time had somehow slowed down as we walked here and there. It felt like a wonderful dream just to be there and see Walt and Barbara Bailey appear at the door of the auditorium to see the play. I would never wish for Baker to resist change, but I am grateful for familiar buildings, trees, people and general atmosphere during my visit. All students must truly leave part of themselves there and unwittingly find the missing part when they return for visits. That is what it felt like for me." Dolly Stayton Davenport '68... Thanks, Dolly...beautifully stated!

Here's a small portion of a much longer note I received from Dr. Larry Wilson '58... "I have just finished reading the current issue of "From the Arbor" and found its contents very interesting. Thank you.

It sounds like Baker had a stellar year and Mabrouk (Arabic for congratulations) to all. I especially appreciated the article about the Rhodes Scholars as it reminded me of the many high achieving academics who have graduated from Baker and gone on to marvelous achievements and I remembered all but Warren Ault and he should have been first in my mind as he was a ground-breaking graduate of Baker! I really do not care if several were Zeta Chis, Delts, independents or whatever, the important thing is that they are Baker graduates and it was the combination of genetic heritage and Baker faculty who made them so successful and not their out of class affiliations. Many who did not attend Baker would never think that a small institution like Baker would produce so many outstanding leaders in science, medicine, politics, education, etc. I felt so proud to be a Baker graduate!"

Thanks very much Larry for all of your thoughtful comments!!!

"Jerry, when we visited in March for the past two years, it was so great to chat with Dr. George Wiley in the bleachers at the softball field. We loved his support for the softball team. And he even remembered my husband, Gary, from his class in 1977 – wow! Glad to hear he will be enjoying retirement after so many years of contributing to BU and connecting with his students. Keep the Arbor coming – it's a great link for those of us so far away."

Diane Liston Williams, 1977...Pinetop, AZ

Thanks Diane! Nice to hear from you!!! (P.S...You did actually catch that the April issue was still up instead of the May issue!)

Dance Squad is National Champion!!!

For the second year in a row, the Baker small dance team took the National Championship within the NAIA at the National meet /National Dance Alliance Championship held in Daytona Beach, Florida in May. Baker scored 8.300 to edge runner-up Wayland Baptist University (Texas), which finished second at 8.204. Midland University (Neb.) placed third at 8.196 and Benedictine College was fourth at 8.177. Baker team members were Sarah Pembroke, Danielle Small, Kristina Shiddell, Bailey Buchman, Katie Butler, Maddison Kristoffersen, Alyssa Staats, Amanda Seeley, London Wise, Brittny Gapter. Out of the four finalists, Baker was also named the top squad for innovative choreography. Congratulations to all team members and dance coach, Lynsey Payne!!!

Wildcat Track Athletes Excel...

Stephanie Nelson is the new 2012 Javelin National Champion! Stephanie threw 45.57m (149-06 ft) to win the first national title for the Baker since 1953 when Palmer Mai '53 won a national low hurdles title.

Also, Katie Thurbon, was the 2012 runner-up in the Pole Vault. Katie vaulted 3.7m (12-01.5 ft) to secure 2nd place.

Congratulations to these dedicated and outstanding athletes along with their Head Coach Zach Kindler and his staff!

More Student Awards...

Baker's student-run thebakerorange.com has been selected as the Great Plains Student Website of the Year. Presented by the Tulsa Press Club and Benevolent Association, the Great Plains Journalism Awards promote the highest standards of journalism.

The eight-state competition includes universities and colleges from Kansas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Nebraska, Iowa, North Dakota and South Dakota. Congratulations to the editor, members of the staff of the Baker Orange and to Dave Bostwick, faculty advisor to the Orange!

Baker Trivia Answer for May...

The Question: Name the founding faculty member for the CAS organization-Mungano. **For extra credit...**what year was this organization first recognized as a campus group on the Baldwin City Campus?

The answer: Retired Baker professor Jesse Milan, founded the organization as a means of celebrating diversity and for student unity while at the same time helping students understand feelings and issues involved in the country's civil rights era. Dr. Milan was on campus this past month to participate in the University's 32nd celebration of its Candlelight Vigil and march across campus.

Mungano was founded in 1969 and is one of the oldest on going student organizations at Baker.

Honor Society Recognized...

Baker University's chapter of the National Society of Collegiate Scholars (which is just over 1 year old on the Baldwin City campus) has received recognition as a Silver Star Status chapter for the 2011-2012 academic year. NSCS is an honor society for first & second year student leaders who are committed to leadership, service, scholarship, & impacting their campus & local communities every day.

Nursing Society Inducts New Members...

The Eta Kappa Chapter-at-Large of Sigma Theta Tau International, the national honor society for nursing, inducted 17 new members on May 1. Undergraduate students must have a 3.0 GPA and rank in the top 35 percent of their class to qualify for membership. Baker School of Nursing students from the May graduating class inducted were Cheyenne Barron, Brennan Brands, Chelsea Carnegie, Angelina Guerrero, Katie James, Daniel Jones, Sarah Luecke, Nicole Woods, Laura Caby, Steve Collins, Trisha Dietz, Sara Griffith, Kate Harper, Hailey Hoobler, Jessica McConnell, Krysta Ransone and Michelle Schaller. The Society also recognized four of its current members. Ruth Ohm received the Excellence in Nursing Education Award and Assistant Dean Kay Osinski received the award for Excellence in Nursing Leadership. Laci Lingenfelter, '08, received the award for Excellence in Nursing Practice and Christina Barker, '09, received the award for Excellence in Nursing (Community) Service. Congratulations !!!

Education Wall of Honor Inducts Four...

Four Baker University School of Education alumni — Chris Crawford, Lachelle Sigg, Pam Tate and Mike Wolgast — were inducted into Baker's Wall of Honor on Saturday, May 19, during the alumni luncheon at Harter Union. The Wall of Honor was established in 2006 and is housed in Case Hall on the Baldwin City Campus. It recognizes Baker alumni who have excelled in the education profession and have made a difference in the lives of students through their work as teachers, administrators, coaches or school activity sponsors. Educators recognized have completed an undergraduate or graduate education program at Baker and been recognized for their work at the state or national level.

Crawford, instructor in the Blue Valley Center for Advanced Professional Studies, was a Kansas Horizon Award winner in 2011 as an outstanding first-year teacher. Crawford received a restricted licensure from Baker in 2012.

Sigg, former principal at Pioneer Ridge Middle School in Gardner, received the Kansas Administrators of Middle Schools Association 2010-2011 Exemplary Middle School Principal of the Year honor. She received her building licensure in 2006 from Baker and is the director of human resources for the DeSoto (Kan.) School District.

Tate, principal at Gardner Elementary School, received the Kansas Association of Elementary School Principals 2012 Kansas Distinguished Principal of the Year honor and the Kansas Association of Secondary School Principals 2005 District 1 Assistant Principal of the Year honor. She received a Master of Arts in School Leadership from Baker in 2001.

Wolgast, principal at Pioneer Trail Middle School in Olathe, was the Kansas Administrators of Middle Schools Association 2011-2012 Exemplary Middle School Principal of the Year. He received a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership from Baker in 2008. Congratulations to these outstanding educators!!!

First On-line Students Graduate...

Sonja Brown, Murrieta, CA and Elizabeth Edds, Austin, TX. became the University's first two students to graduate from its' "on-line-only" degree program. They both attended their graduation ceremony along-side more traditional graduates in May and enjoyed meeting each other and their faculty members! Congratulations!!!

Alumni/Campus Activities...

June, 17-29, 2012...Italy, Croatia, Greece and Turkey cruise with the **Wandering Wildcats**.

October 5...Athletic Hall of Fame Induction and all Sports Banquet

6...**HOMECOMING**...Reunion for all former football players of Coach **Joe Girardi** (who will be inducted to the University's Athletic Hall of Fame that weekend.)

Mulvane Renovation Races toward Completion...

With this most significant building/renovation project in University history slated for completion now within two months, work crews are steaming ahead on all fronts towards the goal of having the \$10 million plus facility open and ready for students for the fall semester.

I had my first walk through of the facility with a small group of donors and university colleagues during Alumni Weekend. I can tell you, this is going to be one fantastic addition to the educational facilities of **Baker University!**

Dedication of the new facility and official "opening ceremonies" will be held on Thursday, October 11th. The exact time of the ceremony is yet to be formally announced. The ceremony will precede the fall meeting of the University's Board of Trustees which will be held Friday-Saturday, October 12-13th.

Douglas County's Gateway to Kansas Territory...

August 6 - 11, 2012
Hosted at the Holiday Inn
Lawrence, Kansas

Oregon-California Trails Association 2012 Convention will be hosting the event. For more information: OCTA-INFO: (888) 811-6282
P.O. Box 1019 Independence, MO 64051-0519

Come out and support **Roger Boyd '69** on an exhibition through the history of the 19th century American migration.

June Trivia Question...

The Question...

A Yale Law Graduate, **Frank Crawford**, was the head football coach of the **Wildcat** Football Squad in 1892. After **Baker**, and Prior to becoming a noted attorney and a professor of Law at Creighton University he coached several other University football teams. At what other schools did he serve as head football coach???

(The answer will be featured in the **July/August Arbor**. This is going to take some research...but, the answer is interesting!)

The Next Time You Visit Baldwin City...

The next time you travel to Baldwin City you might want to take a little extra time to visit the **Black Jack** Battlefield and Nature Park. The site is located just east of town at 163 E. 2000 Road. Wagon wheel ruts from the old Santa Fe Trail are still visible and in the same vicinity.

Tour the battlefield where **John Brown**, fierce opponent of slavery, led his militia against a proslavery force on June 2, 1856. This armed clash, The Battle of **Black Jack**, is considered by many to have been the first battle of *The American Civil War*. Learn about the battle and its significance in the struggle over slavery that was "**Bleeding Kansas**".

History abounds right here near Baldwin City!!!

Have a Great Month of **June**...
I'll write again in **July/August!**

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Baker is proudly affiliated with the
United Methodist Church

“Death and Taxes”...Retirement Too!!!

A quote has been attributed to Benjamin Franklin for centuries that claimed that there is only two things in life that are assured...“Death and Taxes”. While some argue the validity of the quote or the exact structure of the sentence that has thus been attributed, let’s just pretend for the sake of argument, that the quote is essentially correct.

Many people in the United States in the 1900’s often included the word “Retirement” into the basic thought of Franklin from above, though more and more in this day and age, retirement is not so much a given. Those that are fortunate enough to willingly reach the milestone of “retirement” (regardless of whatever form that word takes for each individual) should be concerned, however, more and more about the word “Taxes”... even more so than those that remain to some extent in the work force!

While at this point there has been nothing found by research or science that will prevent physical “Death”, much is now being written on how to at least substantially reduce, if not avoid, as much of the “Taxes” part as possible. Since I am staring down the barrel of potentially retiring sometime in the next few years, I find that I am now reading from a variety of documents and sources on the subject of taxes and how they can ultimately ruin or substantially change the “Retirement” that I had originally dreamed of. “Taxes” in retirement have become an full-time opponent...one to be considered potentially dangerous, one deserving respect and one that will require study, research, acquiring professional advice and one which will require making informed and timely financial planning decisions.

Obviously, I understand that a nation and government like ours is dependent upon the taxes that its citizens rightfully owe and pay. I am not advocating total tax avoidance...or going to deal with the reasons why taxes continue to increase or any other political discussion regarding the subject. I am simply saying that for me, and I would think, for most of you, that we should do what we can to limit the potentially negative impact of “Taxes” on us in retirement. The question then becomes...HOW???

A recent article I read on-line through YAHOO! FINANCE summarized a number of strategies and considerations for those either considering retirement or certainly for those who have already retired whether on their own volition or having been forced into retirement earlier than they originally planned. Here are some of the topic areas covered in the article that I thought you might want to look into as well:

- Build a tax-diversified portfolio...don’t lock all your saving into a 401(K)/403(B)/or tax-deferred IRA. (If you do, every withdrawal may trigger a taxable event.)
- Consider the impact of taxes on the age at which you begin taking Social Security
- Stay informed and up to date on what your Federal Tax Bracket is...not knowing and then dipping into a tax-deferred fund that elevates you into a higher bracket could be extremely costly.
- Optimize what assets you add to what type of fund or type of investment.
- Remember Muni-Bonds...Interest on these is typically not subject to state or local taxes
- Where you live might make a big difference...certain states like Delaware and Florida have much lower, or in the case of Florida...NO income tax at all!
- Seeking financial planning assistance may be a good idea for the majority of people...sure, there will be some cost to that, but in the end, if net monies are saved by good planning—you come out ahead!

Please contact me for further ideas on tax-wise giving to Baker at jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu or call me at 785-594-8332 (office) or 913-449-9540 (cell).



Jerry L. Weakley
VP Endowment & Planned Giving

P.S. * The Above information is provided only for your consideration and should not be construed as “Legal or Tax Advice”. You should always consult your own professional advisor before acting upon this or similar information. Please consider leaving something to Baker in your estate plan!