



From the Arbor

@ Baker University...

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

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Numbers of Importance:

- Admissions 785.594.8325
- 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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Summer Groups Dine in Mabee...

While work is under way in the Union dining area, visiting summer groups are being fed in Mabee Hall. Sodexo, the company that was hired last year to provide food services to the Baldwin City campus, has worked hard to ensure that campus visitors receive nutritious and delicious meals as a part of their Baker summer camp experience...even if not in the dining area of the Union!

Work Under way on Phase I of Union Renovation...

Right outside my office windows on the “garden level” of Parmenter Hall there has been lots of activity recently. Construction vehicles removing walls and debris from the demolition going on inside the Union has been ongoing for much of the month of June.

Gone now are the interior walls that used to separate the main dining room from the private dining room and kitchen/buffet line. The entire space now opened seems quite expansive!

In case you missed it, Baker is in the process of renovating and enlarging the Union to bring it up to a standard now expected by our student population. It is envisioned that phase I (essentially the dining area) will be completed just in time for the arrival of students in mid-August. In place of the former cafeteria style buffet line, the new dining room will feature a number of food/cooking stations that will feature a greater variety of food choices and options (almost like a food court of a major mall!) New tables and chairs, lighting etc. are also tabbed for inclusion in the 7million plus project.

National research conducted on attitudes and decision making markers for prospective college students suggest that a visiting prospective student makes a decision within the “first three seconds” of a campus visit whether or not they can envision themselves enrolling at a given school. The recreation of the Baker Union will greatly enhance the University’s opportunity to attract a greater percentage of the students who visit the Baldwin City campus, much in the same way that the Boyd Science Center already seems to be doing.

Funding for phase one is essentially in place while fundraising for the equally important phases II and III are just now getting fully underway.

I hope that each of you will consider making a substantial gift to this critical project that will help Baker maintain its edge in recruiting the best and brightest students available! Thanks!

Wandering Wildcats...2014...Make Plans to Join Us!!!

Before President **Pat Long** and her husband, **Dennis**, have a chance to “sail off into the sunset of retirement” they will be sailing into a new **Wandering Wildcats** adventure, that as always, is open to everyone. Since some of you missed this I am offering the general description of the trip once again:

Part A...Sunday, **June 1st**, 2014, fly to New York City from either Kansas City or your own home city where we will board the brand new NCL cruise ship **Breakaway** (sailing for the first time in **May** of this year ... bound for the **pink-sand** beaches of Bermuda! This ship has been designed to offer every possible comfort and unique ways to connect passengers with their experience aboard. With Broadway shows, 28 superb dining destinations and sizzling nightlife...this ship truly has it all!

Our ultimate island destination, Bermuda, has long been known for its intrinsic beauty, history, **golf**, gorgeous **pink-sand** beaches and unsurpassed shopping in a modern, clean and safe British island environment.

The cruise is two relaxing days at sea followed by harboring at the famous **King's Wharf** in Bermuda. The ship remains your sleeping and dining locale while providing a jumping off point to tours and activities that abound on the island. After three days ashore, the ship returns leisurely in New York City. Those not continuing to Part B will fly home later that day (Saturday the 7th of **June**).

Part B...Returning to New York, those continuing on will stay for two nights in a midtown Manhattan Hotel convenient to Rockefeller Center, Times Square and the night life along Broadway. A special tour is being planned to the World Trade Center memorial led by **Baker** graduate, **Charles Agro '79**, a longtime member of the staff of the Port Authority of New York/New Jersey under whose jurisdiction fall all bridges, tunnels, airports and the World Trade Center. This is sure to be a memorable experience to hear of Charles' own experiences connected with the destruction of the Twin Towers. That next day, will be left for individuals and small groups to visit any of a multitude of highlights of the Big Apple. Sunday evening, **Baker's** own **Rick Quattrini '75** will be arranging an evening dining adventure on a large luxurious ship specially designed as a gourmet restaurant. Onboard World Yacht you will enjoy a meal to remember as you glide by the skyscrapers and spectacular lights of Manhattan. We will have air-ticket and package pricing by the end of **July**. As always, travel advisor **John Novotny** of Travellers in Lawrence, Kansas, will be handling all the details. I hope you will plan to join us! To express interest, call me at 785-594-8332 or by email at jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu. So far, I have heard that six couples are interested and planning to go on our next adventure!!!

Athletic Hall of Fame Class Named...

Baker's annual Homecoming festivities will again feature the induction of several outstanding former athletes and coaches to its University's Athletic Hall of Fame.

Joining our previous inductees will be:

James P. (Jim) Dick '63 (Track)

Jerry Jones '64 (Coaching)

George Robert (Bob) Peters '70 (Senior Track)

Johnie C. Seals, Jr. '80 (Basketball)

Meghan Lewis Houtsma '02 (Golf)

The actual induction will be held on Friday, **October 4th** at the DoubleTree Hotel in Overland Park, KS. On Saturday, activities surrounding the Hall of Fame class will move to the Baldwin City campus with a morning reception for inductees (current and former), families, friends and alumni in the Athletic Hall of Fame rotunda of the Collins Sport and Convention Center.

A tailgate lunch is planned for the northwest corner across from Liston Stadium at noon followed by the important Homecoming game with MidAmerica Nazarene at 2:00.

The Hall of Fame inductees will be introduced to the Homecoming game attendees at halftime along with all former inductees in attendance at the game as well.

Nominations for the Athletic Hall of Fame may be sent to me as follows:

Jerry Weakley, %**Baker** University Athletic Hall of Fame, P.). Box 65, Baldwin City, KS 66006 or by e-mail to me at jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu.

Baker Trivia Answer For May...

The Question...(in three separate parts)...A). In what year was the current student union built?...**B).** What facility on the Baldwin City campus did it replace as the main dining facility?...**C).** For whom is the current union and dining room named???

The Answers...

- A).** 1961
- B).** Parmenter Hall
- C).** The Union was named in honor and memory of Sylvia and Edward (Lyn) Harter, graduates of Baker's former sister college, Missouri Wesleyan College, that closed in 1930. The Dining Room was named for Truman Allen, the trust officer of the Bank in Bryan, Texas that worked with Mr. Harter and played an important role in ensuring the Harter's estate gift to Baker was for the renaming of the Baker Union.

The two persons with the highest percentage of correct answers to the trivia question this month were Jim Foreman '79 and Don Thomson '65. Don also added these notes to his answers: "As I've mentioned before, what I miss the most is Centenary Hall. The partial basement in Centenary Hall, much like Parmenter's, was open. Business and accounting classes were held on the main floor by Dr. Kim and Art Ford. The stairs up to the top floor were roped off but I regularly bypassed the ropes and played my guitar in the marvelous auditorium on the top floor. It had wonderful acoustics. It broke my heart to read that Dick Driver has passed from this earthly realm. He was the bass player for the Delt "Trio" that featured Bob Creager, Steve Farrow, myself, and Dick Driver on the bass anytime he was available. What a great guy. I drove down to Baldwin a few years ago when Dick's family received special recognition from Baker U. I'm so glad I did as that was the last time I saw Dick. I'm attaching a photo of the our incarnation of the Delt "Trio" (1962, 1963, 1965) with Dick Driver visible in the background." Thanks, Don!!! If you have a question that you think might make an interesting trivia question for this column or create some interesting dialogue, please send it to me at jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu.

New Masters Program Initiated...

Baker has launched a new Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership degree program, designed to develop leadership skills in social justice, global citizenship and entrepreneurial spirit. The 39-credit-hour program components include critical thinking within ethical business practices, social responsibility, organizational diversity, group problem solving and innovative approaches to conflict resolution and negotiation.

The program is structured for adult learners to take one course at a time and attend classes one night a week at campus locations in the Kansas City area, Topeka or Wichita. The program, designed to be completed in 22 to 24 months, is also offered online.

"Baker has a reputation in the community for being continuously focused on creating a very personalized yet rigorous experience," said Brian Messer, vice president and dean of Baker's School of Professional and Graduate Studies. "The Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership degree program will help our students become effective leaders in their industries and gain the skills needed to create positive change at every level of an organization. The coursework is developed for Baker students and faculty to share a variety of experiences, enhancing the opportunity to learn from each other."

Courses include leadership fundamentals; leadership and organizational behavior; corporate social responsibility and accountability; maximizing technology in organization; methods of inquiry for business decisions; assessment of organizational performance; trend analysis; sustainability for future success; and strategic leadership.

Baker Trackster National NAIA Champ...

Baker senior sprinter Jeremy Gathright (Oceanside, CA) won the men's 400-meter dash in a time of 46.62 to become an NAIA National Champion, the first at Baker since Stephanie Nelson captured the javelin title in 2012.

Gathright also earned All-America honors by finishing second in the men's triple jump with a mark of 15.20 meters and eighth in the long jump with a mark of 6.97 meters. Congratulations, Jeremy!!!

Alumni/Campus Activities...

October 4... Athletic Hall of Fame induction ...DoubleTree Hotel, Overland Park...6 p.m.

October 5... Homecoming...Baldwin City Campus...tailgate luncheon, noon...Game with Mid America Nazarene, 2 pm.

October 11... Fall Meeting of the Board of Trustees...Baldwin City Campus.

October 18-19-20... Annual Maple Leaf Festival...Baldwin City, Kansas

December 8... Christmas Vespers Programs...Rice Auditorium, Baldwin City Campus. Times TBA.

February 14-15... Winter Meeting of the Board of Trustees and Board Retreat.

April 12... The Annual Scholarship Auction Gala...The Overland Park Convention Center, Overland Park, KS. 6:00 p.m.

Response to the *May Arbor*...

"Thanks for the *May* issue of "*From the Arbor*".

I was glad to read of the "Janice & David von Reisen Welcome Center" at *Baker*. As you may know, Janice & David's estate also provided the lead gift for the David & Janice von Reisen Education Center renovation at the First United Methodist Church in Manhattan, where DonnaDee '61 & I are both members.

Janice was a dear friend, and loved *Baker* with all her heart. It was our pleasure to bring her to Baldwin on more than one occasion for Stag Night, or some other significant event. My mother was also a Phi Mu from *Baker*, and my dad, uncle & I were all Kappa Sigs from *Baker*. Though DonnaDee was a Tri Delta from *Baker*, we always felt a special attachment to Janice."

Mel Chastain '61

Thanks Mel, for the memory of such a fine lady!!!

Trivia Question For June/July...

The question:

There is a small round aluminum plate sunk in concrete somewhere on the Baldwin City campus that details the altitude of that exact spot.

Where is that plate located, what was the agency who conducted the research leading to the revelation of the altitude listed, what was the elevation on the plate and the date on the plate???

The answer :

Will be detailed in the next issue of the *From the Arbor*.

Presidential Search Committee at Work...

Hoot Gibson '73, Search Committee Chair, continues to meet with the committee at large along with Ms. Julie Tea, search consultant. The committee will soon begin the daunting task of reviewing all the vitas it has and will receive from prospective candidates for the presidency here at *Baker*. The committee hopes to hold interviews in late summer/early fall and have a successful candidate named by *December* who will then become *Baker's* 29th president on *July* 1, 2014. For more info go to: <http://www.bakeru.edu/presidential-search2/search-prospectus>

Have a Great Start to *Summer* ...
I'll write again in *August*...

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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Memorial Gifts...A Great Way to Remember Loved Ones...

Over the course of the past five months I have often been reminded of the wonderful and long lasting impact that Memorial Gifts make at **Baker**. During these past months, several individuals and families have contacted me wanting information on how to have memorial gifts from friends and family members, made in their loved one's memory, benefit the University.

Those remembered are often alumni or former students of the University, but not always! Memorials this year alone have honored alumni, former students, the faculty, a former member of the staff and a mother, sister and aunt of several family members who attended **Baker**.

On most occasions, the resulting gifts from such memorials are lumped into a larger **Baker** Memorial Fund that benefits any number of ongoing projects. Families who want to designate a specific fund to benefit (like a department, a capitol project etc.) can do so by indicating that in the obituary or through the funeral home or memorial program. A third potential beneficiary for memorial gifts is the endowment of the University.

As I have detailed on several occasions in previous issues of *From the Arbor*, permanent named endowments may be created once a fund reaches \$10,000. For example: A family decides to earmark memorial gifts to **Baker** and those gifts from 78 individuals amount to a total of \$3,700. The family can then add a gift of their own to the University totaling \$6,300 and thereupon determine a name and beneficiary (ex: "The XYZ Memorial Endowment for Scholarship") for the permanent endowment that will then be established.

The University tracks all such giving to memorials. Should donors provide appropriate information regarding name and address, they will also receive a receipt for having made a charitable gift that can be used if they itemize deductions on their tax return.

If you would like to consider having memorial gifts on behalf of a family member benefit **Baker**, please contact me so we can discuss alternatives. You may reach me 785-594-8332 or % **Baker** University, P.O. Box 65, Baldwin City, KS. 66006.



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". 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 plan!*