



From the Arbor

@ Baker University...

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

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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

Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs Named...

President Pat Long announced early last week that Dr. Brian Posler has accepted her offer to become Baker's new Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs/Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences beginning July 1, 2012. Brian and his wife, Christy, and their children, Tom (13) and Emma (11), are excited about moving to Kansas...and even more excited about the opportunity at Baker.

Following an extensive search process, the feedback from faculty, staff, students, administration and the Board consistently pointed toward Dr. Posler as the first choice. Brian's embodiment of Midwestern values and understanding of the Baker community immediately appealed to the committee. Brian's academic background, his energy, his experience and his ability to connect and contribute to the University's strategic plan implementation were strengths that Dr. Long consistently heard throughout the search process.

Dr. Posler currently serves as the Associate Provost for Academic Affairs at the University of Southern Indiana (Evansville, IN). A Manhattan, KS native, he received his Bachelor of Arts degree with distinction from Cornell College (Mt. Vernon, IA) with a dual major in Politics and American History. He earned his Master of Arts and Doctorate in Political Science from Rice University (Houston, TX).

I hope you will find an opportunity to meet Brian and personally welcome him and his family into the Baker family!

Baker Touted in Journal-World Article...

Baker received a wonderful endorsement of its educational program, faculty and students in a column that ran in the *Lawrence Journal-World* on March 7th. You can go to this link to read the entire article by columnist and distinguished KU Law Professor, Mike Hoeflich: <http://www2.ljworld.com/news/2012/mar/07/liberal-arts-still-relevant/>

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Contact me at jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu of any changes to your e-mail address or if you are now able to receive the Arbor electronically. It is our hope to have this publication go entirely by e-mail by the beginning of the 2012 fiscal year. Bleed Orange-Think Green. Please consider the environment before printing copies of the Arbor...

Hartley Gift to Mulvane Announced....Expansion to Mulvane Named in Honor...

Baker President **Pat Long** made a surprise announcement during the 2012 Scholarship Gala and Auction on March 3 in Overland Park. Her announcement was that of a extremely large donation from **Ross '70** and **Christine Hartley** of Jackson Hole, Wyoming in the amount of \$1.6 million. The gift was given to the Ivan L. Boyd Center for Collaborative Science Education. It was also proclaimed that the 9,000-square-foot expansion to Mulvane Hall would be named "Ross and Christine Hartley Hall".

"We enjoy giving back to the University," said Ross, a 1970 **Baker** graduate and former member of **Baker's** Board of Trustees who had a successful career working with his father in the family's insurance company and co-founded NIC, Inc., a leading provider of electronic government services in the U. S.

As a student, Ross took several classes—math, chemistry and physics—and labs at Mulvane. He and his wife strongly believe in the \$10.3 million transformation of Mulvane, essential to preparing the next generation of scientists.

Though not a **Baker** graduate, Ross's wife, Christine, has an undergraduate degree from Bethany (KS) as well as a nursing degree from KU. She fully supports and understands well the need for **Baker** to be successful in funding this facility and how this expanded centre for research and the study of science will greatly enhance **Baker's** ability to recruit, retain and train the best and brightest students for a career in a science related field. "I think anybody who gives philanthropically always discovers that they are the ones who gain the most pleasure, even more than the recipient," Christine said.

Thanks so much to you both for your continuing support!!!

Update to Zeta Tau Alpha Celebration in **May**...

Pat Wooster-Jackson '71 wrote to inform me that as a part of the overall 100th celebration activities during Alumni Weekend the display of historical memorabilia scheduled for Holt-Russell Gallery will have some extended hours for viewing. The historical exhibit committee, led by **Maribeth Ogg Brennaman '78**, has been hard at work putting together memorabilia that will be of interest to many on **Baker's** campus, non-Zetas included. The committee will be setting the exhibit a week in advance. It is the plan for the exhibit to be open Saturday, May 19, from 10:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m., and again on Sunday, May 20, from 10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. The Zetas invite everyone to drop by to view the assemblage of historical pictures and memorabilia.

Gala Most Successful to Date...

The 4th annual Scholarship Gala and Auction held March 3rd was a record event in many ways. First of all, those attending set a record as over 400 filled the Sheraton Ballroom in Overland Park. The Auctions (silent/live and Fund a Scholar) together raised nearly \$150,000 **Andrew '70** and **Peggy Cherng '68**, owners of the Panda Restaurant group matched \$100,000 of that total to bring the entire amount raised for scholarship support to nearly a quarter million dollars. Finally, those attending claimed it was the "most fun" event of its type they had ever attended as **President Long**, and co-emcees **Johnny Rowlands '73** and yours truly showed a "behind the scenes look at **Baker**" that was entirely "tongue-in-cheek". For those of you unable to attend, hopefully in the next issue I will be able to provide you with a link so that you might get a brief idea of the feeling of the evening.

Zeta Chi to Host Charity Event...

The members of Zeta Chi are hosting their annual Poly euphony concert at Rice Auditorium on **March 25**, 2012 at 3:30 p.m. The concert will benefit the Lumberyard Arts Center, a local organization supporting arts in the Baldwin City Community. The event will feature **Baker** senior **William Duncan**, playing ensemble piano music with other students and members of the staff. You may RSVP for this event by email to warrentswenson@stu.bakeru.edu.

Thanks for your support!!!

Greek Alumnae Council Founded...

Over the past year sorority advisory board and corporation board members from all National Panhellenic Conference (NPC) groups at Baker University have been meeting with Dr. Pat Long and other Baker administrators regarding recruitment and other issues facing sororities. All alumnae involved feel this has been extremely beneficial in addressing issues together with the university, the office of Greek Life and also in assisting with communication between all sorority alumnae as we try to come together to insure the continued strength and collective viability of NPC sororities on Baker's campus.

A concern of sorority alumnae was that this positive momentum and improved communication might not continue with the passing of time, change of administration, or change of individual house advisory boards and corporation boards. Consequently, a small group of alumnae from each active NPC sorority met to discuss how to formalize this communication vehicle for the future. As a result, this new alumnae group was formed.

Dr. Long and other university administrators were presented with a mission statement and overview of this proposed council for Baker and it was enthusiastically received.

The new Greek Alumnae Council made a presentation to introduce itself to Baker Panhellenic collegiate members in February. It will sponsor its first event, a parent and prospective student information session as part of BU Weekend in late March. Six alumnae, two from each sorority, will hold a social and informational session at Collins House designed to promote the benefits of sorority membership and answer questions. This will be an "all-Greek" presentation, with no identification of any alumnae participant's chapter membership.

Future events are planned to assist with promoting Greek life in general on the Baker campus and to bring larger groups of sorority alumnae together in collective efforts to strengthen and preserve the Greek system at Baker and encourage unity among all sorority alumnae.

Congratulations to the organizing committee for having the foresight to establish such an important new alumnae organization!!!

Baker Trivia for March...

Name the person who operated the "Gem" theater in Baldwin City for most of the 1960s and '70s...Any stories about the Gem would be appreciated and perhaps used in future issues of the Arbor...

The answer will be revealed in next month's issue.

Wandering Wildcats Trip: June 17-29, 2012...

The Wandering Wildcats are anxiously awaiting the arrival of June and their exciting cruise to the Greek Isles. Each month in the Arbor I have been highlighting one of the ports of call on this trip. To date I have written about Venice Italy, Dubrovnik Croatia, Corfu, Olympia, Athens and Mykonos, Rhodes and Santorini Greece as well as our stop at Kusadasi (Ephesus) Turkey. This month we learn about the Crown Princess' final stop (other than to disembark in Rome) at Naples, Italy....

Located along the beautiful west coast of Italy, Naples is the capital of the region of Campania and of the province of Naples. It is known internationally for its history, art, architecture, music, and gastronomy, and has played an important political and cultural role both within and beyond the Italian peninsula throughout its 2,800-year existence. Naples' historic city centre is the largest in Europe, covering 4,200 acres, and is listed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Over the course of its long history, Naples has been the capital of duchies, kingdoms, and one Empire, and has consistently been a major cultural centre with a global sphere of influence, particularly during the Renaissance and Enlightenment eras. Naples is the jumping off point for day travel to the Isle of Capri, the Roman ruins of Pompeii and travel further down the beautiful Amalfi coast to Sorrento and Positano. In 2011, Naples had a population of 957,465.

If you are still interested in joining the group, contact John Novotny, our travel agent at Traveller's in Lawrence, Kansas at 785-749-0700 or 800-382-6700.

Men's Basketball Qualifies for Tournament...

Following the most successful season in many years, Baker (21-11) has qualified for the NAIA Division I National Tournament which will be held at Municipal Auditorium. Baker's first-round opponent will be a high-scoring team from Our Lady of the Lake University of San Antonio, TX. Game time is Wednesday, March 14th at approximately 6:15 p.m. Further information on tickets and pre-game info can be found on Baker's website.

Alumni/Campus Activities...

March 15...Dallas Area Alumni/former student/donor After Hours Social...5:30-7:30., Coal Vine, 2404 Cedar Springs Rd., Dallas, TX.

31...Alumni Board Meeting...Baldwin City

April 12...Washington D.C. Area Alumni/former student/donor After Hours Social...Ebbitt's Grill 5:30-7:30...

May 18...Annual Golf Tournament-Prairie Highlands G.C. Gardner, Ks. 7:30 a.m.

Reunion Classes Reception/ZTA Centennial Reunion...Sheraton Overland Park,...5:00 p.m.

19-20...Alumni Weekend/Commencement

For more information on the above activities:
888.781.2586 or alumni@bakerU.edu.

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

January Trivia Response...

"The Class of '53 is very acquainted with and surely remembers that "passage" through the campus that you referred to as a "street" in the January issue of **The Arbor**. There was little evidence it was graded – much less improved, even primitively with gravel. The campaign for President for the Student Council in about 1952 had a platform plank: "Fix the road" – I won the election. After the election, **President Horn** invited me to his office and said something like, "I understand you campaigned for the improvement of the campus road. What did you have in mind?" Before I admitted the emptiness of my idea, he said, "I agree. I think we can fix the road and help you keep your campaign promise". The road and the ditches on either side were graded, the base was stabilized with lime and a penetration asphalt surface was put on it. It was never better, thanks to **President Horn**. (And now we know the "rest" of the story!) Thanks to **George Schrader '53** for that great memory!!!



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February Trivia Answer...

The Question...What new academic program out of Overland Park has the initials-MSSE?

The Answer...Master of Science in Special Education...This new Education program is set up for both K-5 and 6-12. It is both an on-ground and an on-line program of 36 credit hours. It includes both a 45 and a 90 hour practicum leading the successful student to a Restricted License in Special Education. For more information, contact **Linda Reynolds** at 785-594-6037.

Arizona Alumni Meetings Well-Attended...

Three separate gatherings of alumni, former students, donors and friends of **Baker** were held in late February in Green Valley, Sun City and Scottsdale. All three events attracted good numbers of individuals representing a wide range of graduation classes and programs. Those that attended had lots of fun hearing about university-wide news and updates from **President Long** and other members of the staff while also visiting with and getting to know **Baker** folk from right there in their own city. Several individuals have begun texting and are now "Facebook friends" and plan to continue getting together from time to time on their own. Be sure to attend the next alumni gathering in a city nearest your home...no dues...no fees...just friends!

Have a Great Month of
March...I'll write again
in **April...**

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

The Gift of Life Insurance to Charity...

Life insurance is certainly an asset, but one that is often overlooked by donors wishing to make gifts to **Baker** or other charities. It is not uncommon for people to move through life into a situation that no longer requires the protection that life insurance once provided and the policies that have been sitting in a drawer or safety deposit box go largely unnoticed.

Individuals Gift of Insurance:

A gift of your life insurance policy is an excellent way to make a gift to us. If your life insurance policy is no longer needed or will no longer benefit your survivors consider making a gift and help us either add a substantial gift to a capitol project or to create a permanent endowment for scholarship or other important cause.

Make a Gift of Life Insurance Today:

Did you know that you can give your life insurance policy to us today and receive a charitable income tax deduction? Provided the policy is not “paid-up”, you can actually make your annual payments on the policy to the University and receive the same tax deductibility as making any other charitable donation to us. We benefit from the proceeds of your policy.

Designate Us as Beneficiary of Your Policy:

You can also designate **Baker** as the beneficiary of your life insurance policy. You will continue to own and can make use of the policy during your lifetime. The policy will be included in your taxable estate when you pass away, but your estate will benefit from an estate tax charitable deduction for the value of the gift to us upon your passing.

Contact Me for More Information:

If you have any questions about making your gift of life insurance, please contact me 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.

*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!*

For more timely information on this and other Planned Giving issues please visit our website location at <http://bakeru.giftlegacy.com/>