



From the Arbor

@ Baker University...

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

Achievements Across the University in 2012-2013...

2012-2013 has been a fiscal year marked by memorable accomplishments throughout all of the University. As I begin this issue of the *Arbor* I thought that you might like to view again a few of these impressive and noteworthy achievements:

Opening and dedication of the Janice and David von Reisen Welcome Center and the Donald R. and Martha Hardy Mather Admission and Financial Aid Suite in Denious Hall.

Classes begin in and the dedication of the \$11.3 million Ivan L. Boyd Center for Collaborative Science Education and the Ross and Christine Hartley Hall addition to Mulvane Hall.

Dr. Brian Posler becomes the executive vice president for academic affairs and dean of the college of arts and science.

Baker Orange (online) was honored with its first ever national Pacemaker Award by the Associated Collegiate Press and National College Media — one of five honored based on size.

Ten **Baker** students and three members of the faculty are inducted into an honorary society for international scholars.

Baker receives accreditation from the Central Board of Higher Education and Ministry.

16 **Baker** students and two alumni are inducted into an international honor society for nursing.

Baker is the honored for the third consecutive year by The Arbor Day Foundation for effective campus forest management and for engaging staff and students in conservation goals.

Announcement of the renovation and expansion of Harter Union with the expansion being named for President Long.

(Story Continues Inside at Page 3)

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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

Inside This Issue:

Achievements Abound Across University... 1

Trustees Meet-Approve Strategic Plan... 1

Wandering Wildcats...2014... 2

Messer Named SPGS Dean... 2

Trivia Answer for April... 3

This...That...and...the Other... 3

The Trivia Question for May... 4

Baker Alumni/Campus Calendar... 4

RN to BSN Program Goes On-Line... 4

Planned Gifts Help Baker NOW Too!!! 5

Trustees Meet in May...

The Spring meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on the Baldwin City campus on Friday, May 3rd. Twenty-five member of this important group gathered for a full day to discuss and decide important university business including the 2013-2014 budget, the University's new strategic plan, approval of graduates scheduled to commence in May and a range of other important topics.

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

Before President Pat Long and 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 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 (sailing for the first time in **May** of this year) the Breakaway...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 to New York City. Those not continuing to Part B will fly home later that day (Saturday the 7th of **June**).

Part B...Retuning 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. Pricing for the trip is in the works though the air portion will not be finalized until **July**. An estimate of costs will be provided over the coming months of spring. 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.

New SPGS Dean Hired...

Dr. Brian Messer was recently announced as **Baker's** new vice president and dean of the School of Professional and Graduate Studies by President Pat Long.

Messer, who most recently served as vice president for online studies at Ottawa University, received a Ph.D. in higher education administration from St. Louis University. During his tenure, Messer launched 18 new programs and concentrations, which led to an online enrollment growth of 45 percent in just two years.

He has professional oversight experience in academic operations, academic affairs, instruction, admissions and marketing. Before accepting a position at Ottawa University in 2009, Messer worked at the University of Phoenix for eight years.

"We are delighted Brian has decided to join our leadership team," President Long said. "During his interview it became very clear that he values academic responsibility, innovation and growth, which makes him a great fit for **Baker** University."

As vice president and dean of the School of Professional and Graduate Studies, Messer will inherit and lead **Baker's** MBA program, which ranks No. 1 in the Kansas City metropolitan area for enrollment. His other responsibilities will include implementation of new programs, academic review of existing programs, faculty appointment and development, revenue generation and strategic planning. Welcome aboard Brian!!!

From the **Baker Orange**...

Six former **Wildcat** football standouts attended scouting combines and worked out for NFL teams over the early months of the spring in hopes of continuing their football careers following college. Good luck to Kyle Bolton, Reggie Harris, Joel Murphy, Steven Stewart, Garrett Chumley and Caleb Johnson in chasing your dreams!!!

(Continued From Page 1)

The Speech Choir received a grant from the Kansas Humanities Council to present programs on the Civil War along the border of Kansas and Missouri.

A college guide book, Colleges of Distinction, lists **Baker** as a “Hidden Gem”.

Baker students and faculty present research findings and academic papers to associations and conferences throughout the nation.

Baker students continue to perform countless hours of community service and volunteer for a myriad of socially beneficial activities...150 students alone sign up as donors to the Bone Marrow Drive.

The University receives designation again as a “military friendly” college.

The Gala raises the most money for scholarships for a single event in **Baker's** fundraising history.

Student-led radio/television stations receive five awards from the Kansas Association of Broadcasters

The Chronicle of Higher Education's College Completion survey lists **Baker** as the top public or private university in the state for four-year graduation rate.

These are just a few of the hundreds of honors and achievements earned this year. Congratulations to all the students, faculty and staff members who brought further distinction to **Baker** this year!

Baker Trivia Answer For April...

The Question: As we know, the Phi Mu Sorority house at **Baker** was unfortunately closed by their national organization in 2010. In addition to the Phi Mu Sorority, there have been two other national fraternities (one male, one female) who formally had membership and houses on the Baldwin City campus...name them!

The Answer..Delta Zeta (Sorority) and Tau Kappa Epsilon (Fraternity)...both had houses in Baldwin City. There have been other fraternal organizations at **Baker**, but none with a formal “house”.

This, That and the Other...**Alumnus Promoted to the “Show”...**

Former standout baseball pitcher, **Vidal Nuno '09** has followed his dream of pitching in the major leagues all the way to the New York Yankees. Nuno pitched two years for **Baker** before being drafted in 2009 by the Cleveland Indians. He began the 2013 baseball season as the opening day pitcher for the Yankees AAA farm club. Compiling a 2-0 record there, he was brought up to the parent club in April and promptly threw 3 shutout innings in a relief appearance against Houston. Congratulations and best wishes, Vidal!

Student Receives Fulbright Scholarship...

Sydney Doster, a graduating senior from Gardner, KS, has been named as a recipient of a 2013 Fulbright Scholarship. She will leave in **July** for an 8-month English teaching assignment in Nepal. There she will work alongside a teacher, instructing students ranging from elementary to high school. She intends to become totally immersed in the culture of the country and study the Nepali language to add to the language skills she already has from having studied and traveled in Switzerland, Spain and Peru. Congratulations and best wishes, Sydney!!!

Mahogany Returns...Teaches & Performs...

International recording star and touring jazz vocalist **Kevin Mahogany '81** returned to his Baldwin City campus roots as Distinguished Visiting Professor of Music the last few days of **April** and the first weekend in **May**. He met with numerous classes and visited with students and faculty during his one-week assignment that continues in the year 2013-2014.

During his visit he personally performed several of his popular tunes and feature selections while accompanied by students in the various university musical ensembles, both instrumental and vocal.

Shortly after his visit to Baldwin City, he was “back on the road again” heading back to the Ukraine where he did a long stint in the fall of 2012.

I certainly hope he makes it on time as I just received a FaceBook post from him indicating he was most likely going to miss a connecting flight from Frankfurt! Good luck, Kevin...travel safe!!!

Alumni/Campus Activities...

May 11, 19... Graduation Exercises...George F. Collins, Jr. Sports and Convention Center, Baldwin City Campus. (See article below):

Baker University's spring commencement ceremonies will be May 11 and May 19 at the George F. Collins Sports and Convention Center on the Baldwin City campus. More than 340 undergraduate students and more than 230 graduate students are candidates for degrees.

The School of Professional and Graduate Studies undergraduate students will be honored at 1 p.m., Saturday, May 11. Graduate degree recipients from the School of Professional and Graduate Studies and the School of Education will be at 4:30 p.m., Saturday, May 11. The ceremony for undergraduates in the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Education, School of Nursing will be at 1 p.m., Sunday, May 19.

May 17-19... Annual Alumni Weekend...Golf Tournament (Friday, 17th at Alvamar GC, Lawrence), Alumni Reunion Dinner (17th at 5:00-Sheraton, Overland Park), Awards Luncheon (18th on the Baldwin City Campus-Harter Union), Stag activities at Greek Houses, and Commencement (19th-Collins Center). The *Baker Pride* that was sent out in *April* contains registration information for all events of the weekend! You can also find this same information at www.bakeru.edu/alumni

Baker to Offer Online RN to BSN Program Next Fall...

Baker's RN to BSN program is now available online. Courses will start next fall, and students in the program can earn their BSN in 18 to 24 months, depending on how many prerequisites they transfer. Flexible online courses make it more convenient to prepare for advancement or a specialization. The RN to BSN curriculum builds on initial nursing education to better meet the complex demands of patient care. For more information, contact Cara Bonfiglio at 888.866.4242 or cara.bonfiglio@bakerU.edu.



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Trivia Question For **May**...

The following question comes as we begin the fundraising for the expansion and renovation of the current student Union...

The Question...(in four separate parts)...In what year was the current student union built...what facility on the Baldwin City campus did it replace as the main dining facility and for whom is the current union and the dining room named???

The Answers...Will be featured in the **June** issue of the **Arbor**.

If you have a question you think would make an interesting trivia question, e-mail it to me at jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu

National Statistics on Charitable Giving...

According to the Council for Aid to Education (CAE) charitable contributions to colleges and universities in the United States increased 2.3 percent in 2012, reaching \$31 billion. In a more select group of private, precollege institutions, contributions declined 3.4 percent during that same time frame.

Have a Great Month of **May**...

I'll write again in **June**...

Jerry L. Weakley '70/MBA '92

Vice President for

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Baker is proud to be affiliated with the United Methodist Church.



Planned Gifts Help NOW...as Well as in The Future...

Baker, along with hundreds of other colleges and universities, from time to time finds it necessary to obtain short-term credit. Borrowing of this nature is used to cover unforeseen major expenses and to fund on-going operations at times throughout the year that are outside of September and January when tuition dollars are infused into the University's bank account.

In the economy that has emerged since the economic downturn of 2008-2010, banks have become much more critical in their evaluation of any potential borrower—including colleges and universities. Assets that once were given considerable weight in the evaluation and rating of credit risk are now much less favored and have in some instances been completely discounted in the evaluative process.

Baker has been fortunate to have not only a well maintained physical plant but also a wealth of additional resources that off-set risk even under the keen microscope of a bank's lending committee. Items such as gas and oil leases and even art holdings have in the past offered additional resources to those balance sheet items considered more traditional.

Planned Gifts, **that have been communicated to Baker in writing**, can also be of immense help NOW in generating lines of credit. Even though the benefits of a will or trust or other type of Planned Gift will not actually be received for many years, the presence of such an impending gift in the University's records can be used in this important way and is of certain benefit. Such a gift can mean the difference in gaining credit or not, or even help lower the interest rate charged!

I encourage each of you who have, or will one day soon, make a designation to the University through a Will, a Trust or bequest to notify me of that intention. Your intent is always held in the strictest confidence. Additionally, receiving word of such a plan NOW entitles the donor to membership in the Pulliam Endowment Society and offers the opportunity for fine-tuning exactly how the gift will one day be utilized once received. Please contact me to discuss such pre-planning or to inform me of your intent. 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!*