

# BAKERPRIDE

SUMMER 2009

## Baker participates in innovative program

Convinced that the Inside-Out Prison Exchange program could break down social barriers, Jacob Bucher designed a class in which Baker University students went beyond university walls to deepen their knowledge of crime and justice.

Bucher, BA '02, assistant professor of sociology, instructed 15 College of Arts and Sciences students and 15 female inmates at the Topeka Correctional Facility during the spring semester. Women of all ages and educational levels shared their life stories and reflections on prison life, punishment and rehabilitation. Meeting with the students weekly in a circle, they generated ideas on how to solve problems related to crime and the administration of justice.

"I can lecture about criminal justice for an hour and we can read books," said Bucher, whose class was the first in Kansas to participate in the Inside-Out Prison Exchange Program launched in the late 1990s at Temple University. "But being inside a prison and interacting with people provides a real-world application. I think it was successful. They learned about the criminal justice system, but even more about themselves." Bucher's commitment to the program inspired him to purchase the textbooks for the inmates with his own money.

The inmates appreciated the students' willingness to listen to their stories and ideas.

"I was afraid that we wouldn't be able to communicate because we lead such totally different lives," said Diane Rabb, an inmate. "When you come to prison, you start to feel isolated and you start to feel like you're losing touch with the outside world." 

View video at [www.bakerU.edu/sociology](http://www.bakerU.edu/sociology)



## School of Nursing reaches milestone

Founded in 1991, Baker University's School of Nursing continues to prepare nurses for a field in high demand.

The School of Nursing reached a milestone in May, graduating its 1,000th student. Showing steady growth since partnering 18 years ago with Stormont-Vail HealthCare, Baker graduated six nursing students in December 1991 after they started coursework at St. Mary of the Plains College. The average graduating class per semester is now 40 students and the first-time National Council Licensure Examination pass rate of those graduates is above 90 percent.

"It is gratifying to see the increased interest in nursing," said Dr. Kathy Harr, dean of the School of Nursing since 1997. "I hope when we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the school in 2011 we will have more than 1,200 graduates."

Graduates of the program are typically employed in acute care hospitals working on medical surgical units, adult and neonatal critical care, emergency departments, obstetrics, pediatrics and psych-mental health. 

## Grantham Honored with International Award

**Curiosity has taken Dr. Jared Grantham a long way from the tiny town of Johnson, nestled in the southwest corner of Kansas.**

For more than 50 years, Baker University has fueled that journey. He met his wife at Baker, launched a successful career in the sciences, inspired his children and first grandchild to attend his alma mater, led efforts to transform Mulvane Hall on the Baldwin City campus and acted as a mentor for students pursuing advanced degrees.

The first one in his family to go to college, Grantham in 1954 boarded a train and stood 12 hours on an overnight trip with one suitcase in hand before arriving in Kansas City. His aunt and uncle picked up the aspiring scientist at Union Station and traveled to Baldwin City, dropping off their nephew at a small house across from Old Castle Museum, his home for the next four years.

More than 50 years later, after receiving an anonymous scholarship to attend Baker, Grantham has been recognized as an internationally renowned researcher determining the basis of certain kidney diseases.

"I dearly love asking questions, particularly when they pertain to a disease," said Grantham, the Harry Statland professor of nephrology at Kansas University's School of Medicine. "I thoroughly loved science growing up. When I went to the Kansas University School of Medicine after graduating in 1958 from Baker, I felt well prepared. I was hungry to learn and Baker helped promote that. I am curious by nature, and that's what drives my research."

Grantham recently was honored in Milan, Italy, as the recipient of the International Society of Nephrology's Jean Hamburger Award. The award is named after the surgeon who performed the first renal transplant in France. In 1992, the Baker alumnus received the American Society of Nephrology's Homer W. Smith Award, which recognizes those who contribute to the understanding of how the kidney functions normally and in disease states.

"It is quite an honor to receive this award and I was extremely humbled," Grantham acknowledged. "The Homer Smith Award and the Jean Hamburger Award are highly prized awards for people in the nephrology field. I didn't seek out this kind of recognition. I don't even know who nominated me. I wish they would identify themselves so I could thank them."

Grantham's interest in studying nephrology peaked between his freshman and sophomore year of medical school while working in a research lab with one of his mentors, Paul Schloerb.

"He was a surgeon working with an artificial kidney and he put me on a project using the kidney on live animals to see if we could remove certain minerals from the body," Grantham recalled.

Grantham and his wife, Carol (Gabbert) Grantham recently celebrated their 51st anniversary. They started dating their sophomore year, were married two weeks after graduating from Baker and have established a legacy at the University. Two of their children, Janeane Houchin, '84, and Taylor Grantham, '85, graduated from Baker. The Granthams' first grandchild, Ashley Houchin, walked across the commencement stage in May.

"Everything has worked out beautifully," Grantham said. "Baker is a very special place and I have a deep love of the institution."

**"I WAS HUNGRY TO LEARN AND BAKER HELPED PROMOTE THAT. I AM CURIOUS BY NATURE, AND THAT'S WHAT DRIVES MY RESEARCH."**

Continued on the next page

Jared Grantham story continued from previous page

## Transformation of Mulvane

Grantham, a member of the Board of Trustees, is currently involved along with classmate Dr. Larry Wilson, '58, in leading the transformation of Mulvane Hall.

"We are in the process of helping administration with raising funds to augment Mulvane," Grantham said. "After visiting with the faculty, it occurred to me we are doing the transformation because of the quality of our faculty and their enthusiasm for teaching. Baker has graduated some really fine students who have gone on to do extraordinary things. We can be proud of the quality and achievement of the graduates who have emerged from the Baker science program."

## Mentoring influence

Grantham loves to share his Baker experiences with others and encourages them to consider the University to fulfill their higher education needs. He recently persuaded Niraj Kapur, a former research assistant, to pursue a Master of Business of Administration at Baker.

Kapur is currently a clinical oncology specialist at Genentech. He helps provide medical products to cure cancer patients.

"He has a wonderful intuition," Grantham noted. "There is a lot of room for people who have a good business sense to be working in the science industry."

Kapur and his wife, Julie, are on schedule to receive their MBA in May 2010.

"Dr. Grantham has been patient enough to give me guidance for the past 10 years," Niraj Kapur said. "Every major professional decision in my life he has influenced. He knew I was hungry for more knowledge and development. My wife and I enrolled into the program together. I trusted his opinion and this was the only MBA program we applied for. I respect him so much. He is a tremendous role model."

 **Find us on Facebook**

The number of Baker University's Facebook friends continues to increase. To join go to [www.facebook.com/BakerUniversity](http://www.facebook.com/BakerUniversity)

## Sports Roundup

### Wildcat drafted by Cleveland Indians

Baker University baseball player Vidal Nuno, a left-handed pitcher from National City, Calif., was drafted by the Cleveland Indians in the 48th round of the Major League amateur draft. Nuno, the Heart of America Athletic Conference pitcher of the year in 2008, compiled 15 victories and a 1.98 ERA in two seasons pitching for the Wildcats. It marked the first draft pick in Phil Hannon's nine years as Baker baseball coach.

### Baker ranked No. 12 in preseason poll

Fresh off its first playoff appearance since 1993, the Baker University football team enters 2009 ranked 12th in the NAIA preseason poll for the first time under head coach Mike Grossner. The Wildcats, 8-4 and third in the Heart of America Athletic Conference in 2008, open the season on Sept. 5 at Missouri Valley. The Baker home opener is Sept. 12 against MidAmerica Nazarene. Kickoff for both games is 6 p.m.

### Former Wildcat on Chiefs' roster

Former Baker University football player Tanner Purdum, a 6-foot-3, 217-pounder from Hewitt, Texas, is on the Kansas City Chiefs' roster this fall as a long snapper. Purdum earned four letters as a long snapper and backup quarterback for the Wildcats in 2003-2006 before graduating in 2007. Purdum worked with Wildcat wide receivers as a graduate assistant in 2008.

### University announces Hall of Fame class

Four former Baker University students and a longtime administrator, will be inducted into the University's Athletic Hall of Fame on Oct. 2 at the DoubleTree Hotel in Overland Park.

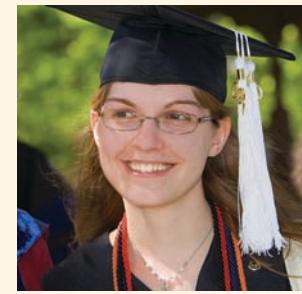
The inductees are Clarence Hawk, '59; Jerry Steele, '53; Dan Harris, former athletic director; David Johnson, '85; and Charlotte Lewis Piper, '43. (Piper will be inducted posthumously).

### New programs launch in 2009-2010

Baker University will provide two additional sports — wrestling and women's bowling — in 2009-2010, expanding the Wildcat athletic program to 20 offerings.

Jimmy May, a longtime high school coach, will lead the wrestling program. He was inducted last year into the Nevada Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame. The wrestling season runs October through March.

Kristal Wilson, a three time All-American and former Wichita State University standout, will coach Baker's bowling team.



## Graduate selected as Fulbright Scholar

Justine Greve, '09, embodies the mission of a Fulbright Scholar.

Established more than 60 years ago, the scholarship program strives to increase mutual understanding between residents of the United States and other countries through the exchange of persons, knowledge and skills.

With broad interests in the humanities and fine arts, Greve, has excelled academically since childhood when her parents, Robert and LaVerta, introduced her to books and piano lessons. From September to June, she will serve as an English teaching assistant at a school in Greifswald, Germany.

"I hope I can change some German students' perceptions of Americans," said Greve, Baker's first Fulbright Scholar since Jim Selzer in 1970. "We are people who care about other cultures."

Lucy Price, professor of English at Baker, believes the recent graduate will flourish in her new surroundings.

"As a Fulbright English teaching assistant, she will have many opportunities to share her knowledge and experience of America with her German students and community," Price said. "At the same time, she will live as a fully integrated member of the German culture. This is cultural exchange between peoples at its very best."

A well-rounded student, Greve majored in German, English and history. She was a violinist for the Baker Orchestra. Confident in any academic setting, Greve was selected to present her works at the annual Baker Reading Series after receiving national recognition in creative writing.

"My parents have always put a lot of significance in academics," she acknowledged. "The closer it gets for me to leave America the more excited my family becomes about my opportunity to teach in Germany. It is still hard to believe."



## Business student receives McGowan

A dedicated student and president of Delta Tau Delta, Baker University senior Jeff Skillman continues to thrive on the Baldwin City campus.

He will enter his final year at Baker as the recipient of the prestigious William G. McGowan Scholarship, which recognizes the academic achievements of students pursuing a degree in business or a related field. Leadership ability, interpersonal skills, and a significant involvement in academic, campus and community activities are the basis for the scholarship.

"I'm very excited about the prospect of pushing myself to new heights in terms of educational enrichment and I hope that I can leave a lasting impression on Baker's campus, much like the impression Baker has left on me," said Skillman, who will receive \$18,000 as a McGowan Scholar.

Skillman has demonstrated his potential and aspirations to transfer his academic knowledge into today's business world.

"Jeff is an outstanding individual who exemplifies the spirit of the McGowan Program and will continue the McGowan Scholar tradition at Baker started last year," noted Gary Irick, '79, and assistant professor of business and economics. "In addition to an impressive academic record Jeff's commitment to service and maintaining high ethical standards separated him from the other candidates."

Baker is among a select group of colleges and universities to participate in the program.

As part of the scholarship program, Skillman is enrolled this fall in an independent study class, where he plans to study corporate governance. It will provide an opportunity for him to actively participate in collaborative learning experiences with peers and faculty.

"The idea behind the McGowan research project is to make a potential curricular impact on the business curriculum," Skillman said. "I plan to come up with the basis for a corporate governance course that can be added to the Baker business and economics department."

During his time at Baker, Skillman interned in the criminal justice information services division at the FBI in Virginia after being encouraged by his academic adviser Martha Harris, '79, professor of business and economics.

"The professors are very invested in your success," Skillman said. "They will go above and beyond the call of duty to help you succeed. Hopefully the internship will jump-start my career."

Before moving on to life after college, Skillman is looking forward to a final year in connecting with his fraternity brothers.

"The bonds you make inside the house are more powerful than any relationships," said Skillman, named the University's Greek Man of the Year in 2009.

# BakerWorld

As part of a campus-wide sustainability initiative, the *Baker World* is available at [www.bakerU.edu/bakerworld](http://www.bakerU.edu/bakerworld)

For immediate access to a calendar of events, class notes, more Alumni Weekend photos and profiles on Baker alumni, go to the enhanced Web site. Profiles will be updated throughout the month.

The *Baker Pride* will continue to be published three times a year — spring, summer and fall.

## Retirement News



Music professor honored for contributions to choral art  
Former music professor and department chair John Buehler recently

received the 2009 Harry Robert Wilson Award.

Buehler retired at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year after 25 years of service to Baker University.

The award is presented annually to a Kansas choral director who has demonstrated a high level of commitment and contribution to the choral art in Kansas.

Susan Buehler, associate professor of music and John's wife, also retired after the spring semester.



### National organization salutes Harris

Dan Harris, former athletic director at Baker, was honored in June as the National Association of Collegiate Directors Central Division Athletic Director of the Year.

Harris retired at the end of the 2008-2009 academic year after 26 years at Baker, including 14 years as head of the Wildcats' athletic department.

## Wall of Honor salutes four inductees

The School of Education inducted four Baker alumni into the Wall of Honor during Alumni Weekend on May 16.

The University recognized Alesia Hamilton, MAEd '01, and Kristy Thrasher De La Cruz, '96, for their national honors. Hamilton is a first-grade teacher at Edison Elementary School in St. Joseph, Mo., and was selected as one of People magazine's "Heroes of the Year, Heroes Among Us." De La Cruz became a National Board Certified Teacher in '06 and served as an English as a second language coordinator in New York City Public Schools.

Alumni honored for their state award recognition were Barbara Duffer Cole, MAEd '05, and Jeline Kelsey Harclerode, '73. Cole, a seventh- and eighth-grade art teacher at Shawnee Heights Middle School, was a 2009 Master Teacher Award Recipient. Harclerode, a Connect Teacher at Emporia Middle School, also received a Master Teacher Award in 2009.

# Alumni Weekend

May 15 & 16, 2009



**Golden Alumni Class of 1959:** Front Row (L to R): Nancy Milliken Gustavson, Jackie Baker, Deane Collins Parke, Jane Fothergill Johnson, Sarah Lawrence Wille, Jean Sundbye Hines, Kathleen Weidman Keefe, Marie Haigh Wicke, Dr. Patricia Long. Second Row (L to R): Jerry Johnson, Gretchen Frank Beal, Melba Reeves Johnston, Judy Craig McMonigle, Margaret Jones Johnson, Diann Watts Smith, Keith Smith. Third Row (L to R): James Faulkner, Pete Johnson. Fourth Row (L to R): Tom Van Sickle, Claire Bixby Bamesberger, Barbara "Perk" Cochran Snow, Michael Malone, Jim Dexter. Fifth Row (L to R): Roger Noonan, Carl Cordill, Ray Trowbridge, Paul Brockman.

## Honorees

**Family of the Year:**  
Gessner/Polen/Cowherd

**Grace Irwin Award:**  
Ruth Sarna

**Honorary Alumni Award:**  
Lee Hedrick

**Alumni Citation Award:**  
Bary Marquardt

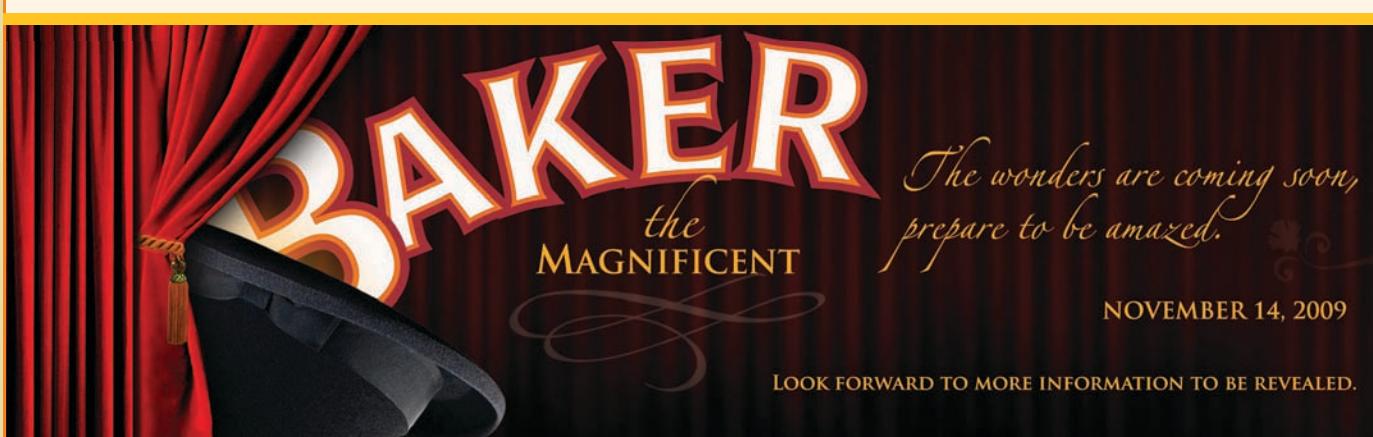


**Family of the Year: Gessner/Polen/Cowherd** Front row: Annalie Polen (daughter of Amy and Dallas), Hayden Polen (son of Amy and Dallas), Emmalie Gessner Polen Cowherd, Harrison Polen (son of Amy and Dallas). Back row: Joyce Polen (wife of Allen), D. Allen Polen, '62, Amy Polen (wife of Dallas), Dallas A. Polen '91, Luke Polen (son of Benjamin), Benjamin Polen '89.



**Grace Irwin Award:** Ruth Sarna; **Honorary Alumni Award:** Lee Hedrick, Pat Long, **Citation Award:** Bary Marquardt.

Go to [www.bakerU.edu/flickr](http://www.bakerU.edu/flickr) to view other Alumni Weekend highlights.



NOVEMBER 14, 2009

LOOK FORWARD TO MORE INFORMATION TO BE REVEALED.

### Join the Baker Bridge

- Update your directory listing
- Have some fun, create a profile
- Find and catch up with classmates
- Share what's going on in your life through Class Notes
- Register for alumni events

Stay Connected | [www.bakerU.edu/alumni](http://www.bakerU.edu/alumni)

Questions? [alumni@bakerU.edu](mailto:alumni@bakerU.edu) or 888.781.2586

 50% total recycled fiber,  
including 30% post-consumer fiber

# ALUMNI CALENDAR

SHOWING BAKER PRIDE ...

**AUGUST**

**17, Mon.** **SON** 1st day of classes  
8 a.m. Breakfast  
SON, Topeka

**SEPTEMBER**

**3, Thur.** **Baker After-Hours**  
5:30-7:30 p.m. Brick Oven, 3030 SW Wanamaker Road  
Topeka

**17, Thur.** **Baker After-Hours**  
5:30-7:30 p.m. JP Wine Bar  
4311 W 119th Street, Leawood

**22, Tues.** **Scholarship Reception**  
6:30 p.m. Social  
7 p.m. Program, Collins House

**OCTOBER**

**2, Fri.** **Homecoming Hall of Fame Banquet**  
6 p.m. Social  
7 p.m. Dinner  
Overland Park Doubletree  
10100 College Boulevard, Overland Park

**3, Sat.** **Homecoming**  
Noon Tailgate  
1 p.m. KidZone  
2 p.m. Baker vs. Culver-Stockton

**NOVEMBER**

**14, Sat.** **Gala & Auction**

**19, Thur.** **Baker After-Hours Social / Dallas**  
5:30-7:30 p.m. Fox Sports Grill, The Shops at Legacy  
5741 Legacy Rd., Plano, TX

## YOUR ALUMNI CONNECTION

## BAKERPRIDE

SUMMER 2009

President ..... Dr. Pat Long  
 Vice President of University Advancement ..... Ms. Lyn Lakin  
 Vice President for Endowment and Planned Giving ..... Mr. Jerry Weakley, '70, MBA '92  
 Director of Alumni and Corporate Relations ..... Mr. Doug Barth, BA '91  
 Baker University Board of Trustees Chair ..... Ms. Susanne Teel, fs '69  
**Baker University Alumni Association Board of Directors**  
 President ..... Mr. John Bennett, BS '69  
 VP Philanthropy ..... Ms. Mary Kay (Pinnell) Brooks, BS '69  
 VP Membership Affiliation ..... Mr. Curtis Coffman, MLA '06  
 VP Public Relations ..... Ms. Diane (Wilson) Blackwelder, BA '70  
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**A Publication of the Office of Marketing and Communications**  
 Graphic Designer ..... Mr. John Masson  
 Public Relations and Writing ..... Mr. Steve Rottinghaus  
 Marketing Director ..... Ms. Joanne Tolkoff  
 Contributing Photographer ..... Mr. Mark Hutchinson

For reservations or for more information, contact the Alumni Office at 888.781.2586 or at [alumni@bakerU.edu](mailto:alumni@bakerU.edu).  
 For a complete schedule of alumni events go to [www.bakerU.edu/alumni](http://www.bakerU.edu/alumni).

## FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends:

Since joining more than 200 inquisitive freshmen as part of the Baldwin City campus community at the start of the 2006 fall semester, I have felt a special connection to the Class of 2010. Entering my fourth year at Baker University I take pride in sharing in the development of these students as they continue their academic journey in preparation for commencement in May.

At Baker, our primary concern is providing the highest quality education and service for students at all four schools — College of Arts and Sciences, School of Professional and Graduate Studies, School of Nursing and School of Education. Despite demanding economic conditions, we continue to deliver on our promise to students: academic excellence and student engagement in a respectful, inviting learning community.

Students, faculty, staff and alumni have enabled our University to improve on the good work we do. With fall enrollment at all four schools increasing, we look forward to the upcoming year:

- SPGS is expanding off-campus delivery of courses.
- SON enrollment has experienced a record number of applications and enrollment for this fall and spring 2010.
- SOE recruitment has resulted in an exceptionally high number of applications for their Ed.D program.

Thank you for your loyal support to our University. I hope you are able to visit our campuses soon and join us for Homecoming in October.

With Baker Pride,

Patricia N. Long