Significant addition to Mulvane Science Hall Slated to Begin in the Fall...

After literally returning to the drawing board on numerous occasions over the past 10+ years, the University recently announced a final plan for a revitalization and addition to Baker’s Science hall has been approved by both the science faculty and Finance and Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees. Work on the new addition to the facility will with full Board approval begin in the fall of 2011. 9,000 square feet on three separate floors will be added to the current building.

The renovation of the current facility is scheduled to take place over the summer months of 2012 with the entire project set for completion by the opening of school that fall semester.

Included in the additional 9,000 square feet will be faculty offices, laboratories, meeting space, and a student lounge. While there is only one traditional classroom slated for the science building, the plan calls for labs to be constructed in such a way that the lecture portion of all the classes may be held in the same space at considerable cost savings to the project.

Numerous leaderships gifts and pledges from generous donors have been silently adding up through the past several years. The total of these gifts now stand at around $4.5 million. Some of that went for fire-code work, architect renderings and new equipment for Mulvane. To successfully complete the project, the University will need to raise an additional $5.8 million over the course of the next two years.

Lyn Lakin, Vice President for Advancement and Patrick Mikesic, Senior Director of Development are confident that the University will be able to secure the necessary gifts from its generous alumni base and area foundations with which the University has had significant support over the past 50 years.

There are numerous naming opportunities in this facility so if you would like to inquire about those you may contact Patrick Mikesic at patrick.mikesic@bakeru.edu or by phone at 785-594-8447. You may also contact me at jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu or 785-594-8332.
Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees Named for Fall…

Four outstanding athletes and coaches have been named to the Athletic Hall of Fame and will be inducted at Homecoming on October 21/22nd. Named for induction this year are:

Greg Mohns ‘72. A two-year letterman on the Offensive Line who went on to have a fabulous career in coaching at the Division I level at Oklahoma State and Arizona State among others. He moved into the NFL ranks with the Kansas City Chiefs and held numerous positions with the Chiefs over six years. He moved on to the CFL where teams he was the head coach of and was director of player personnel among other job titles won two Grey Cup Championships. He currently is assigned to build the Omaha Nighthawks of the UFL from the ground up.

Bobby Bates ‘81. Recruited and played for Joe Girardi while completing his eligibility for Coach Charlie Richard. Bobby became one of the leading receivers in Wildcat football history as a possession type receiver. During his career he became the 2nd leading receiver with 1,945 yards spread over three years in which he was the leading receiver each year. Also he leads in touchdown receptions in a career with 26 and in one season with 16 and as such was part of several team offensive records in his playing years. Bobby has a long and distinguished coaching career and work with youth in athletics.

Carl Danzig ‘87. Carl remains one of the highest point men in Baker basketball annals. He graduated having served for two years as Team Captain for Coach Rick Weaver and having scored the 2nd most points ever-1,732. He went on to coach as a graduate-assistant at UMKC where he earned a Masters before moving on as a full-assistant at Bucknell University. In his 11 years there the Bison’s posted a winning percentage of .571 (180-135) and played for the league championship four times. In 2001 he was named the University of Scranton’s head coach and has led the Royals to a record of 82-53 (.607) and to a “Sweet-16” appearance at the NCAA Div-III tournament following a 24 win season in 2003. In 2010-11 he led the Royals to a record of 21-7 and the school’s 20th appearance in the NCAA tournament.

Patti Phillips ‘88. Following a four-year career as a starter in Basketball where she won numerous awards and was named to two all-tournament teams, Patti went on to become the head basketball coach at Ottawa University leading the Braves from the cellar to the top of the KCAC conference and a National ranking. Following the attainment of a Masters she has gone on to a successful career in sports/athletics having moved from the NCAA to Win for KC and just last year was named the Chief Operating Officer of the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators. She is also a frequent color commentator of several national sports networks for woman’s basketball and volleyball. See next column for nomination info.

Pictured above are members of the Baker University Dance Team that competed and won first place at the NAIA National Dance Association meet in April.

Competitive cheer and dance currently is considered an emerging sport in the NAIA. Under NAIA guidelines, competitive cheer and dance reached emerging sport status in 2009 when more than 25 institutions declared to participate as a varsity member. Under the NAIA governance structure, 50 member colleges and universities must declare in order for the sport to reach varsity status.

Congratulations to Coach Lynsey Payne and the team members for bringing home such a great National Championship and honor!!!

Nominations for Hall of Fame...

If you would like to nominate an individual Baker athlete or coach for induction to the Athletic Hall of Fame...address a letter of nomination to Jerry Weakley, % Baker University, P.O. Box 65, Baldwin City, KS 66006. E-mail nominations are also acceptable at jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu. Please include as much personal information and honors/awards/records/achievements as you can in the nomination. The selection committee meets in January each year to elect the inductees.
Phi Mu Chapter Ordered to Close by National Sorority Leadership…

In late March, Phi Mu National leadership informed the University of their final decision to suspend operations of our local chapter at the close of this semester, May 22, 2011.

The National Sorority became concerned some three years ago that the local chapter here at Baker was considerably under the Pan-Hellenic quota at the end of rush for several years in a row which resulted in the house membership falling far below the membership numbers of any of the other Baker sororities.

Beginning two years ago, the local chapter was given specific rush goals and chapter numbers to meet...which over that period of time were unable to be achieved. The national leadership group had made it quite clear that if these numbers were not met, they would strongly consider suspending the operations of the chapter.

Over the past two years the University and the Board of Trustees had worked with the students, alumnae of the Phi Mu chapter to mount a campaign to delay or permanently reverse this decision of the national sorority.

The chapter is continuing to appeal National's decision and Baker is working with them to provide information and support to this effort.

It is certainly hoped by all here at Baker that even should the closure take place that the National Sorority would look at the possibility of a re-colonization at some point in the near future.

The University will continue to work with and support the alumnae of the Phi Mu sorority and provide space for meetings and at STAG as well.

The alumnae association of Phi Mu has requested permission to hold a chapel service in the Clarice Osborne Chapel on STAG Saturday this year. The service is open to everyone and will begin following the Memorial and Endowment Service which concludes just before 4:00 p.m.

Baker Trivia for April/May...

In 2008 the Living-Learning Residence Hall came online at the Baldwin City campus. The still new residence hall sits immediately to the north of the Harder Student Union and adjacent to the west of Joliffe Hall. Prior to its construction there had been an asphalt parking lot there for over 40-50 years. The question for this month however is...What was located at that same approximate location prior to the construction of the Parking Lot???

Orange Wins Award Again…

The Baker Orange, Baker's student newspaper, and its online site received top honors at the Kansas Associated Collegiate Press’ annual conference April 17-18 in Hutchinson.

The Orange received the KACP's All-Kansas Award for four-year, private-college newspapers and bakero-range.com won the All-Kansas Award for all four-year newspaper websites. All-Kansas recipients earn the highest point total in their competitions. This was the 12th time the Orange has received the All-Kansas newspaper award since 1998.

Congratulations to editor, Kyle Davis, a senior from Topeka, his staff and to Gwyn Mellinger, professor of journalism, and Dave Bostwick, assistant professor of mass media, co-advise the Orange and bakero-range.com!!!

Board to Meet...Service of Remembrance to Follow...

The Spring meeting of the entire Board of Trustees will be held on the Baldwin City campus on Friday, May 6th from 8:00-4:00. Among the various committee reports and an in-depth look at both the current year budget year-to-date and the proposed budget for fiscal year 2011-2012 there will be a number of student presentations and the update on Mulvane Science Hall.

Following the conclusion of the meeting there will be a Service of Remembrance for former trustee Susan Perry Chavez. Susan retired from her second term on the Board just last May. She passed away unexpectedly at her home in Albuquerque on Christmas Eve this past year. The service will be held in Osborne Chapel and is open to the public. Susan was 64 years old.
March’s Trivia Answer…

The question was:

On average, over the previous five years, how many students graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing Degree from the Baker School of Nursing in Topeka???

The Answer is:

(71.6) ...In the year 2005/06 there were 67 graduates; 2006/07=67; 2007/08=69; and in 2009/10 we had a total of 77 graduates according to the University’s Fact Book.

Alumni Activities for the Spring…

May:

6th: Trustee Meeting 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Memorial Service of Remembrance for former Trustee, Susan Perry Chavez, 4:00 p.m. Osborne Chapel (open to the public)

20th...Golf Tournament/Prairie Highlands GC, Gardner KS 6:45 a.m. register/ 7:30 tee off

5:00 pm...50 year graduating class (CAS) medalion presentation, Doubletree Hotel, Overland Park

6:00 pm...All years “Former Student/Alumni Reunion Party” at the Doubletree Hotel, Overland Park

21st...Baldwin Campus tours/former student-alumni banquet and award ceremony/society meetings/Endowment-Memorial service/Phi Mu Chapel Service/Greek house Stag Dinners/After-Hours Party

(See your issue of the Baker Pride which provides additional information and opportunities to make reservations for the weekend.)

June:

18-29...Alaska Cruise with Wandering Wildcats

October:

21/22...Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Banquet in Overland Park, Kansas. Homecoming on Campus the next day.

Facebook Friends Continue to Grow…

Join hundreds of other former Baker students and alumni on Facebook!

Find out what’s happening and get scores from all the teams almost as they happen by signing on to and “friend” the various departments and athletic teams that are represented on Facebook.

Have a Great Month of May…I’ll write again in June...

Jerry L. Weakley '70/'92

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Baker Alumnus James Houston Turner ’69 to do Publicity Stop on Campus in October.

Internationally renown Author, James Houston Turner will include a stop in his former home town in Baldwin City for a book signing/reception at Collins house during a long USA tour. Turner, now of Adelaide, Australia has published a number of successful books. This current novel, The Identity Factor, is set in Cairo, Jerusalem, Austin, Washington, DC, and San Francisco. It is a sweeping and suspenseful tale about a Texas journalist pursuing the identity of Abu Nazer, whom no one has ever seen. The journalist, however, finds his own deeper agenda threatened when a rookie analyst with the CIA begins peeling back the layers of his hidden identity…

(More on this in upcoming Arbors...so stayed tuned! :) )
Charitable Gift Annuities Provide Security and Income Stream...

I recently began working with an alumnus on creating the largest Charitable Gift Annuity that I have ever written for Baker. The annuity is now fully funded by the transfer of stocks and mutual funds this annuity is well over $300,000. Based upon the age of the two donors they will receive an income stream of something over $22,000 per year...$17,490.00 of which is “tax-free” income for nearly 8 years.

At the beginning of the annuity, the donors will be able to take a tax deduction of $147,772 that at their current tax rate may save them up to $36,943 in taxes that can be spread out should they need up to five years.

When combining the amount of the annual annuity along with the income free portion and the tax deduction available this couple is earning an effective payout rate of 10.7%. Compare that to what you will get on any type of saving device in a bank, credit union or saving and loan!!!

There is not a lot of paper work involved with creating a Charitable gift annuity. I use software created by a California Company with whom I have worked for over 20 years, Crescendo Inc. Their software gives me the ability (and you too if you want to use the calculator that is part of the Planned Giving site on the Baker web site) to closely estimate such things as payment, tax deduction, effective payout and several other calculations.

As with the alumni couple listed above, many people choose to pre-determine the amount of the Charitable Remainder of the annuity once they have passed away. In other words, at the outset of creating the annuity-you have the ability to say how you would like to have the University use or apply what ever money remains in the annuity at your death. In the case above, the couple has selected to create a Memorial Endowment in their name that will in perpetuity support and important new endowed scholarship fund.

I encourage you to call me to inquire what benefits a Charitable Gift Annuity with Baker can do for you! It may be, that this would be a great retirement planning tool for you, while at the same time greatly benefitting Baker!

Jerry L. Weakley
Vice President
Endowment/Planned Giving

P.S. Call me at 785-594-8332 if you would like more information on any aspect of Charitable Gift Annuities or any other type of life-income or charitable gift.

* 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!