From the Arbor
@ Baker University...

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

Baker Scholarship Gala A Tremendous Success...

The 3rd Annual Scholarship Gala was held Saturday, November 20th at the Hyatt Regency, Crown Center Hotel. This year's theme, “LIVE-From the Orange Carpet”, had alumni, former students, friends and corporate guests arriving to a Hollywood-type experience of interviews and photographers snapping pictures. The more important action came though, once the guests entered the ballroom!

A silent auction room offered dozens of items for attendees to bid on from a Tom Russell painting to sports memorabilia and exciting dining and travel opportunities. With beautiful background music provided by the Buel Hill String quartet, the Hollywood image continued.

The dinner, live auction and Auction for Student Scholarships was hosted by masters of ceremony, Johnny Rowlands ’73 and me, who began the evening on the dais in top hats while sporting spats, white gloves and canes. During dinner, guests enjoyed Hollywood and Broadway-themed piano numbers skillfully played by Baker senior, Will Duncan. During the program, five videos produced by Andrew Patch ’10 and Chris Smith ’10 along with members of the Marketing and Communications staff provided interesting and emotional insights into some of Baker’s most outstanding students and recent graduates. Matthew Potterton, of the Baker Music faculty, concluded the evening with a tremendous vocal number.

The bottom line on the entire event, and the reason that the University held the event, was that we raised more dollars for student scholarships than at any previous single event in the University’s history! Stepping forward to make sure that happened was Baker alumnus, Andrew Cherg ’70, along with his wife, Peggy ’68, who matched every dollar raised at the event, so that our final total, considering all income, was over $174,115 net of expenses. This amount will now generate over 100 new scholarships for students with need and who through merit are deserving of such future support. Thanks to everyone who participated and especially to Andrew and Peggy! I hope to see you on the Orange carpet next year!

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The Arbor is Brought to You by...

Thanks to Jim ‘60 and Becky Kean of Boulder, Colorado, whose generous gift will ensure that everyone receiving the Arbor by regular mail will receive it through 2011.
Baker Trivia for December…

Question: Guess the fiscal year in which Baker University’s overall operations expenses exceeded $1,000,000 for the first time!

The Answer will be found in the January issue of the Arbor.

Gala Pictures.....

Top to Bottom/Left to Right...

Former first lady and Baker President Ralph and Judith Tanner
Gordon ’93 and Marti ’93 Lansford
Andrew Cherng ’70, Janice DePalma Simpson ’70, President Patricia Long, Jack Bow-er man ’70 and Richard Simpson ’68
Diane ’70 and Murray Blackwelder ’69
M.C.s...Johnny Rowlands ’73 and Jerry Weakley ’70/’92
Featured Alumnac...Dr. Cynthia “Mama J.” Johnson Ed D ’10
President Long and Andrew Cherng ’70
Chairman of the Baker Board of Trustees, Hoot Gibson ’72 greets guests

Woman’s Soccer Goes to Nationals...

Based upon victories at the conference tournament over Lindenwood, Graceland and William Jewell, the Lady Wildcat Soccer team went on to advance all the way to the NAIA semi-finals by defeating Mckendree College, Martin Methodist and once again, William Jewell. The Cats streak came to an end with a loss to Hastings College in the semi-finals by a score of 3-1. Baker ended the season with a record of 14-6-4 and with the highest national finish ever!!!

Congratulations ladies and coach Nate Houser ’94!!!
Responses From the November Arbor…

From Dr. Roger Boyd ‘69…”Jerry, here is a link some of your readers might find interesting regarding the on-going situation with the road in Lawrence through the Baker Wetlands”…

http://www.nbcactionnews.com/dpp/news/region_kansas/lawrence%27s-road-to-nowhere-may-now-be-going-somewhere-

Dail Blake ‘86…”Very nice job to everyone on the football video. The images not only of Charlie Richard but Jim Irick really warmed my day.”

Sharon Milliken Crocker FS ‘65…” Here’s an idea for a column~~solicit stories from students or faculty about dogs, or cats, that spent their lives on the Baker campus while their masters were students. I do remember that Mike Philpot ’67 (I think) had a dog (possibly it had the name of some alcohol, like Bacardi) who accompanied Mike to his classes. You might get some interesting responses, for a human/pet interest story.”

Editors response: Thanks Sharon! If anyone has an interesting stories of this nature please send them to me (pictures too if possible)...

David Garrett ‘87…”The football video is just outstanding. As I was watching the Charlie Richard years portion of the video, I was thinking about all of the numerous "Charlie Richard Show" segments that I recorded each week in his office. There was Charlie rocking back and forth in that "120-year old " chair with that big wad of chewing tobacco in his mouth. The sound of that chair still rings in my head today...screech, screech, screech...week after week, year after year. We would talk about the upcoming opponent...Culver Stockton, William Jewell, Tarkio, Benedictine, Emporia State, whoever we were playing that week, but it was always "...we will have our hands full this week." "Man, they have some talent at the skill positions,"!! Then Baker would go out and just pound the living daylights out of every team!”

Please feel free to send comments or replies to any Arbor by sending a note to me at: Jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu

(Careful what you send...you may see it again! :))

Commencement Ceremonies Scheduled…

Baker will honor 525 graduates with three commencement ceremonies Dec. 18-19 at the Collins Center. The School of Professional and Graduate Studies graduate degree ceremony is set for 1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 18. There are 181 candidates for master's degrees. The School of Education graduate degree ceremony will be at 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 18. There are 117 candidates for degrees, including three who will receive their doctorate. Baker alumnus Jeff Magee ’86, leader of Jeff Magee International, Inc., a leading management and development firm will be the keynote speaker at both services.

The undergraduate ceremony for the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Nursing, School of Education and School of Professional and Graduate Studies will be at 1 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 19. There are 272 candidates for undergraduate degrees. Baker alumnus, Charles Agro ’79, manager of resources and grants for the Office of Emergency Management, a division of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, will be the keynote speaker.

Baker Graduates Provide Leadership…

Baker continues to make strides in the rankings of institutions preparing graduates entering in leadership positions at schools in Kansas. In 2010-11, there are 69 assistant principals in Kansas who have received a master's degree from Baker. That figure ranks second behind only Emporia State (76).

There are 58 principals in Kansas with master's degrees from Baker. That figure is the highest among the state's private universities and seventh overall behind the six regents schools — Fort Hays State, Wichita State, Emporia State, Kansas State, Pittsburg State and the University of Kansas.

"I believe this speaks to the quality of our program and the graduate faculty should be commended,” said Peggy Harris, dean of the School of Education.

Miller Selected to NAIA All-American Team…

Colton Miller, a four-year starter in the defensive secondary for the Wildcats was named last week a first-team All-American. Congratulations, Colton, on this honor and for your outstanding career. We hope to see you playing on Sundays in the near future!!!
Alaskan Adventure—Still Time to Join Us…

For more information on the Alaska cruise scheduled for June, 2011 please contact John Novotny, our travel advisor from Travellers in Lawrence. John has all the details and current pricing information. John can be reached at 1-800-382-6700. Hope to see YOU aboard!!! (32 are going at this present time!) We will soon be announcing plans for another trip in the summer of 2012!!!

Basketball Shot Viewed by Nearly 1 Million on Youtube...

Baker’s men’s basketball home opener in early November against Kansas Wesleyan was supposed to be about welcoming new head coach, Brett Ballard to the hardwood sidelines. But after a see-saw game that featured less than spectacular shooting percentages for both teams, the Wildcats found themselves on the short end of a 52-50 score with 2 seconds remaining and with Kansas Wesleyan having the ball out of bounds under the Baker basket. After the Coyotes took a time out to discuss strategy for the throw-in, a most incredible set of circumstances unfolded. The Wesleyan player with the ball threw a long pass down and across the mid-court stripe where Baker guard, Sam Kenney, intercepted it and in one single motion, turned and threw an overhand shot toward the BU basket that hit the backboard and went through the rim as the game-ending buzzer was sounding. As you can imagine, a huge celebration broke out in the stands and on the floor as players, students and fans relived the shot….but wait a minute. The referees of the game huddled near mid-court and then informed the coaches that they would need to review the video of the play to make sure that the ball had cleanly left Kenney’s hand before the buzzer started. After a 10 minute review of the game video, the head referee came to center court and raised his arms over his head indicating the 3-point shot was good!

Thus Baker won the most thrilling comeback basketball victory in recent history (maybe ever) by a 53-52 score. Watch the video that has been viewed by over 917,000 people by copying this web address into your browser:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DAW9qyeiSRM

Baker Trivia Answer for November...

The first question: Name the 3 remaining designations given each entering CAS class…example…House of Hanover…

The Answer: Columbian Commonwealth, King Arthur’s Court and Senatus Romanus.

Question #2: Name the individuals whose pictures appeared in a 1967 “Playmates Calendar”, (A fundraiser on Baldwin’s campus in 1966-1967).

“Miss January”…Mike Philpot ‘67
“Miss March”…Doug Watkins ‘68
“Miss December”…Jack Black ‘70

No one answered the first question correctly, several who responded had one or two of the names of the “Playmates” correct and three had all three names correct…all responded within literally seconds of one another:

Jeanne Benz Balke ‘69
Dana “Woody” Hobson ‘69
Ed “Sneezy” Schneeberger ‘70

Thanks for your responses!!!

Have a Great Month (and very Merry Christmas) in December… I’ll write again in January!

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End Of the Year Planning...

While on a trip to the upstairs closet to find my heavy winter coats that were successfully stored there at the end of last February, I encountered the sack of items that I have been gathering all year and saving in preparing for the upcoming “tax-season”. Most of us who itemize deductions have a system in place for capturing and retaining all important receipts and other papers that will be necessary in the preparation of our annual income tax.

More recently, some of these items can be literally stored on a computer’s hard drive as I had done following the 2009 season. Unfortunately, I had NOT saved the electronically-prepared 2009 report and receipts to a backup drive, and only to the main memory drive of the computer I used in its preparation. And, of course, it crashed in May! For me...a lesson learned the hard way! So, if you file electronically and have your taxes in that form, it would be wise to save the documents in more than one place electronically and even though you would be using some paper, it might be wise to have a separate hard-copy as well.

Now, to avoid the impact of a meltdown of every computer and backup drive I own, I am once again employing a system that worked for me for about 40 years...storing items in a grocery sack with the year marked in black magic marker on the outside of the sack. Once my taxes are completed and filed, the preparation information will go back in the sack and go to the basement to be stored in something a bit more fireproof than a #2 mayonnaise jar on Funk and Wagnall’s porch along side similar information from the previous 6 + years.

Regardless of the system you employ, it’s time once again to start thinking about and actually gathering deductions, receipts, medical statements, tax receipts etc. as you consider filing your 2010 taxes. As congress is still hammering out the final details on future taxes, it would be good to stay abreast of the news regarding these changes. It will be particularly important to visit with any tax consultant or preparer that you employ to make sure that they are up to date on all the changes and how they may affect your particular circumstances this year.

Stock Transfer Instructions to Baker…

I receive one or two calls a month from individuals who wish to donate shares of appreciated stock to the University. In virtually every case, they ask for the current instructions for transferring such shares to our account. In case any of you are considering doing this as a year-end tax-wise giving strategy I thought I would include those transfer instructions now:

Have your stock broker or agency contact Meri Gorecki with M&I Marshall & Lisley Bank (Participant #992) at 414-815-3621. Tell her this transfer will be For the Benefit of: Intrust Bank, N.A. #74-2051-01-4; For Further Credit to Baker University-Custody Account # 75-0083-01-6. Provide Meri with the Name of the Stock, Ticker, Number of shares and any restrictions you place upon the gift by the University.

Jerry L. Weakley

* 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. Crescendo software is often used to prepare estimates.

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!