Baker Bullets Across the University for March …

Here’s a brief compilation of some of the major issues and initiatives that are currently being discussed, planned for or are currently in progress across all of our campuses.

Facilities Improvements:

- A replacement and update schedule for all classroom furnishings and equipment is in progress
- Denious Hall is undergoing renovations to create a welcome-center for prospective students. The first floor work will be completed by July 1, 2011

Technology Planning:

- An assessment of technology needs is in process that includes input from faculty, students and staff

Program Planning in Academics:

- A Summer Bridge Program that will provide for a 5 week residential program designed to aid the transition to college for admitted freshmen who need additional preparation is being developed
- A full-time MBA program is being considered and studied at the College of Arts and Science
- Re-alignment of departments to focus on interdisciplinary “super departments” is being discussed and studied
- Faculty training programs are being developed at SPGS
- New business partnerships are being developed in Wichita to provide onsite courses for students within corporations
- A cohort agreement with a large Kansas City area school district is being developed by the School of Education
- The School of Nursing is moving towards online portfolios that will allow students to store and present coursework that demonstrates successful attainment of student learning outcomes
- The School of Nursing is also exploring grant funding that will allow for the simulation lab to be reconstructed

These are but a few of the important programs and initiatives being discussed/developed across the University.
Baker Trivia for March...

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???

Gift Creates Video of Speech Choir...

Thanks to a generous gift, The Department of Communications was recently able to make a video that answers that age-old question: “What is a Speech Choir?”

While not going into a great deal of detail here, the Speech Choir is about 5 years old and is comprised of students wishing to perform various forms of written material in any of a number of University sponsored settings. They have performed historical pieces, humorous material, original pieces and a multitude of other material. I encourage you to take the time to look at the production featured in this recent video to experience for yourself this most unique outreach for Baker Students. The Speech Choir was envisioned and developed by Dr. Susan Emel, Chair of the Department. The video is now available at the link below. It's about 13 minutes long, but if you choose to watch, I'm certain you will enjoy it!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gESLRgu4k2Q

One Ringy Dingy-Two Ringy Dingy...

When your phone rings one night soon, I hope you will answer it. It's March and the annual spring Phon-a-Thon for the University’s Annual Fund is underway. Since 1979 students and other callers have manned phones to talk with former students, alumni, parents, donors and other friends of the University. This year's annual fund goal is nearly $700,000 and we are hopeful of raising that and perhaps even a little more! Please make a pledge when your phone rings and join the other 2700 annual donors to this important fund. Thanks in advance for your support!!!
Travel Info ONLY Here in the Arbor…

Over the course of the past several years it has become so very expensive to market and publicize the University’s travel experiences with the Wandering Wildcats by way of four-color/two-color brochures, individual letters or other publications/mailings. To make better use of limited resources I have found it necessary to utilize the Arbor as the primary communication device for all current and future travel with this group. I apologize to those of you who may have only recently learned that the Wandering Wildcats will be going on a June, 2011 cruise to Alaska. 35 individuals are signed up as of this time. If you still would like to go, please contact me immediately at jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu and I will get the information to you as soon as possible.

In the meantime, I announced in last month’s issue that the trip we are planning for 2012 will be a cruise in the general area of Greece and Turkey. At this time, the cruise line that I am leaning toward using due to the unique nature of their 2011 itinerary has still not announced its 2012 schedule. It is my understanding that schedules on this particular cruise line will be open for bookings as of March 17th. It is my intent to solidify a plan by the time I produce the April Arbor. Please continue to watch future issues of the Arbor for this and all future trip offerings.

Responses to February’s Arbor…

It’s always a pleasure to hear from readers of the Arbor. Please feel free to send me a note regarding anything you read herein at jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu. In response to an earlier trivia question that revolved around the “Baker in Botswana Project” from 1967 I received some great photographs and written memories from Dr. James Allen ’69 who participated in the project. Here are some of his memories: (Thanks very much, Jim!)

“We were there in 1967, the year after Botswana had gained independence from Britain. They were trying to build their country, which was quite poor at the time, and help came from many volunteers of many kinds. Education was being revamped. Historically, children there did not start school until age 10-12, so although I was teaching 10th graders, many of my students were older than me. Bob Williams (class of ’69) was slight of build and did not look strong, and got some teasing from the students so he challenged them to a race.

(Continued Next Column)
Alumni Activities for the Spring…

March:

16th-17th...Dinner/Luncheon: Green Valley (16th) and Sun City, Arizona (17th)

25th ...Memorial Service-Dr. Harold Kolling
4:00 p.m. Osborne Chapel (open to the public)

April:

14th...After Hours Social/ Old Ebbitt Grill, Washington DC 6:00-8:00

21st...After Hours Social/ Trezo Vino, Leawood, KS.  5:30-7:30

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 Registration 6:45 a.m.

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

6pm...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/Greek house Stag Dinners/After-Hours Party

(Watch for your issue of the Baker Pride which will provide additional information and opportunities to make reservations for the weekend.)

June:

18-29...Alaska Cruise with Wandering Wildcats

Facebook Friends Continue to Grow…

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

February’s Trivia Answer…

The question was: What is the current Mission Statement for the entire University

The answer is: Baker University is committed to assuring student learning, and developing confident, competent and responsible contributors to society.

As the University enters this final year of its current self-study evaluation prior to the HLC visit in November much discussion and writing that supports how Baker is accomplishing its mission, vision and values is taking place across all campuses.

Students Enter Leadership Challenge…

Five students will represent Baker on April 7-8 at the Leadership Challenge Event at Washburn University in Topeka. Baker’s student leadership team consists of Tracie Babbitt, Kansas City, Mo., junior; Mariah Barnett, Salina, junior; Tonia Karpowicz, Independence, Mo., senior; Chelsea Pennock, Colorado Springs, Colo., sophomore; and Caleb Watts, Smithville, Mo.; sophomore. The intercollegiate event challenges students to address a variety of problems and situations where the outcome of the simulation is dependent on leadership decisions. It honors intellectual achievement and practical experience in leadership while building camaraderie and networks between competitors. GO BAKER!!!

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

Jerry L. Weakley ‘70/’92

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Endowment...Long an Important Topic Within Baker...

From deep in the archives of the University I recently came across a clipping from the Baldwin Ledger dated August 23, 1895. The author of the article was none other than Baker alumnus and later, President, William A. Quayle. The article was a proposition that Quayle was laying out to current students, citizens of Baldwin City and to alumni and former students of the University as well.

Then, just as it continues to the current day, the search for monies to support the operation and ongoing mission of Baker was a considerable function of the President’s daily agenda. Now, as the University has continued to evolve and add others responsible in part for fundraising activities, it is even more important to raise not only the “annual fund” dollars that help off-set expenses not covered by fees and tuition but to raise endowment dollars that will serve the University well into succeeding generations.

The plan that Quayle proposed upon that writing has in one way or another been one of several plans employed by universities and other charities and one that I have addressed from time to time here in the Arbor or in earlier publications dedicated to planned giving and endowment creation. Enjoy both the language employed and the thoughts that young Mr. Quayle employed in authoring the following piece: (It is my opinion that his use of the word “student(s)” most likely referred to an alumnus).

“Dear Friend:

The need of Baker University for endowment is my apology for writing. Of course, an immediately productive endowment is the desideratum, but if that can not be secured, a remoter one should be attempted. My suggestion is this: I will be one of fifty students of Baker University to take out a life insurance policy for one thousand ($1,000) dollars, in favor of Baker University. Could fifty students be induced to do this, in fifty years, $50,000 could become productive. Let us now endow a “Students Chair.” Straight life insurance can be had for from $15 to $17 annually per thousand. Surely among all the students and other who have enjoyed the tuition of Baker University, fifty could be found to pay $15 a year to the institution.

Many students of the institution are in positions of responsibility and profit, yet, today, no plan of endowment has enlisted the co-operation of any considerable number of them. It is high time we begin to do and I venture this offer to you as an officer of the Alumni Association.”

Cordially Yours,

W.A. Quayle

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 making a testamentary planned gift or a current gift in support of an endowed fund through life insurance or any other means.

* 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.