From the Arbor
@ Baker University…
Monthly news from Jerry Weakley, VP for Endowment and Planned Giving

Self-Study Process Begins Prior to Accreditation Visit by the Higher Learning Commission…

Usually classrooms and meeting rooms on campus hold groups of students and a professor locked in discussion of the salient points of a particular lesson at hand that day. Recently though, many such classrooms and meeting spaces on the Baldwin campus have held gatherings having a totally different agenda.

Every few years (traditionally 10), all universities and colleges seeking re-accreditation are charged with forming numerous committees for the purpose of conducting a stringent pre-accreditation “self-study”. This process of self-study is to provide substantive quantitative and qualitative data regarding that particular school’s ability to meet its mission objectives and to provide on-going evidence of its ability to provide quality educational programs to its students. This process usually takes from 2-3 years to conduct/complete with the completion due prior to an actual on-campus site-visit from an Accreditation/Visitation Team.

Committees comprised of Baker faculty, students, administration, staff, alumni, Board of Trustee members and members of the general community have been assembled and have been meeting for some time now in preparation for the writing of the self-study document that will be provided to the visitation team-prior to their visit which is scheduled for November, 2011.

Envisioned at this time are five chapters to the self-study document that will discuss each committee’s individual topics of discussion and discovery. A 6th chapter will concentrate on bringing to the front those 4-5 main topics compiled from all the other chapters that need to be fully addressed along with a full discussion on how the University intends to work through these most important issues.

(Continued on Page Two)
Committees have been established along these subject areas:

Chapter One...Mission
Chapter Two...Financial Resources and Future Planning
Chapter Three...Student Learning and Assessment
Chapter Four...Faculty/Staff Development...
Chapter Five...Community Service/Engagement
Chapter Six...(As described above)

President Long, Randy Pembrook and Simon Maxwell (Co-chairs of the entire accreditation task force) along with several of the chapter co-chairs, all of whom are members of the Steering committee, traveled to Chicago in March where they learned first-hand the expectations and requirements of the process from representatives of the HLC. There they learned that the entire process of accreditation will likely change shortly after Baker goes through its final visit. Instead of a 10 year window between visits, the process will likely change to a more ongoing process with intermediate steps in the overall procedure.

I will attempt to bring you updates on this most important exercise from time to time through the next several months.

Breakdown on the 2010 Spring Graduates...

SPGS undergraduate students: 260
SPGS graduate students: 293
College of Arts and Sciences/School of Education Undergraduates: 130
School of Nursing: 40
School of Education graduate students: 237
Total 960

Phon-a-thon Calls it Quits…

After 37 nights of calling this spring the University’s advancement department has completed the Spring phon-a-thon. Here are the final details:

Number of callers: 23
Nights of calling: 37
Total number of calls: 23,062
Avg. calls per night: 623
Total Gifts/Pledges: 315
Avg. Gift size: $106.39
Total Gifts/Pledges: $33,512.16
Total phon-a-thon gifts/pledges for FY10 was $73,779.56. This amounts to about 10% of our total Baker Fund goal. Thanks to everyone who called and those who gave!!!

Baker Trivia for May...

What was the “BLUE-PRINT” and for what purpose was it used???

The answer will be found on page four of the June/July Arbor.

Baker Athlete Wins at KU Relays!!!

Baker Junior, Aaron Hannon, became the first Wildcat athlete in over 50 years to win an event at the recently completed KU Relays. Hannon won the decathlon with a career best 6,948 points in the 10 events. He easily outdistanced the 2nd and 3rd place finishers, University of Nebraska’s Teran Walford (6,785 points) and Arkansas State’s, Taylor Short who had 6,413 points.

“It means a lot to have a smaller school like Baker come in here and compete well against such large universities. Baker has been trying to build its track program recently and hopefully this will help attract more quality athletes to its program,” said Hannon. In the process of winning the decathlon, Hannon scored victories in the 100, 400 and javelin. He also took second place in the 110 hurdles, the shot put and the long jump.

“It is really fun to win at the KU Relays because my family was able to be here, and just being so close to Lawrence my whole life, it was really exciting to win it,” Hannon said.

Just a week later, Hannon was honored with the Conference Track Athlete of the Week Award as well. Congratulations Aaron!!!

Trustees to Meet on Campus 5/7…

The spring meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held the end of the first week of May. Our 24 of the members will be on hand for an in-depth look at University finances and a look at the upcoming 2010-2011 budget.
Wandering **Wildcats** Trip for 2011...

After more than four months of surveying and talking with interested individuals and previous travelers we have determined that an ALASKA Cruise met with the most positive responses.

Those of you voting for the Greek Isle/Turkey cruise...we plan to follow up the Alaska-2011 trip with plans for a Greece/Turkey cruise in the summer of 2012! So, start saving your pennies/nickels and dimes now!

I am still looking at three separate companies and slightly different itineraries for the Alaska adventure. I do hope to have solid pricing (Princess is yet to set their prices for group travel in June of 2011) by June. The other cruise companies we are looking to provide pricing are Holland America and Celebrity.

Here’s an approximation of the itinerary that we are hoping to be able to offer:

1. Anchorage (Whittier), Alaska
2. Hubbard Glacier, Alaska (Cruising)
3. Glacier Bay National Park, Alaska (Cruising)
4. Skagway, Alaska
5. Juneau, Alaska
6. Ketchikan, Alaska
7. At Sea
8. Vancouver, British Columbia

Provided the cruise portion begins in Alaska, the plan is to offer a pre-cruise portion that takes us into Fairbanks with either a bus/train through the Denali Park with a couple of additional nights of lodging in Fairbanks and the park before joining up with the ship. If we begin in Vancouver (or other northern US embarkation port) then the Denali trip would follow the cruise and the flights home would be from Fairbanks.

As a reminder, Wandering Wildcat trips are arranged by Baker personnel, are hosted by President Long and husband Dennis and are open to all former students, alumni, students, faculty, parents, friends and donors.

I hope you will make plans to join us in 2011! Let me know if you are interested!

---

**Baker Football Memory...**

As we continue to march toward the huge football celebration that will be held at Homecoming next fall, the Arbord is featuring a “Football Memory” in each issue until October. In case you haven’t heard...If you played even a single year in the pads and helmet of a Wildcat football team member you are invited to join your teammates in a commemoration of the 120 Years since Baker played in the first college football game in the State of Kansas. (We beat KU 21-9!)

Friday night the 22nd of October will feature the Annual Athletic Banquet and Hall of Fame Induction at the Double Tree Hotel in Overland Park. A special video honoring Baker's football past will be featured throughout the dinner and program. The next day on campus we’ll once again bring together all former players for a huge tailgate cook-out, introduction of all team members by decade at the game and a post-game victory BBQ along with Coach Mike Grossner's 2010 edition of the Wildcats. I hope you will plan now to attend! We are looking for former players/volunteers to help us communicate with and recruit their teammates to attend and assist in other meaningful ways. If you would like to help, please contact Alumni Director, Doug Barth ‘91 at doug.barth@bakeru.edu.

This month’s memory comes from Nancy Richard, wife of former head football coach, Charlie Richard and mother of former Baker quarterback, Pat Richard ‘91 (who assisted with details). In 1989, Baker gained the NAIA playoffs and was matched against Peru State of Nebraska in the 1st round at Peru. It was an exciting game, start to finish. With 1:31 left, Peru scored to take their first lead at 27-24. Baker took the kickoff and moved down the field on short passes until an interception killed their drive and chances for a win...or so everyone THOUGHT! Baker was out of timeouts and all Peru State needed to do to win was have the quarterback “take a knee” 4 times. Instead, for some unknown reason, Peru called a running play up the middle where he was met at the line and the ball was stripped and recovered by P.J. Born on the Peru State 37 yard line with 33 seconds left. Richard then found Randy Klohman on a fantastic 4th down pass at the 15 yd. line before tossing the winning T.D. to receiver Leonard Jenkins. Baker escaped a Peru 48 yard field goal attempt and won a tough fought 30-27 victory and a second round game against Missouri Valley (which they also won 35-28!) Along with a last second 2 point win at Graceland—these three games secured a forever nick-name for the 1989 Wildcats as the “Cardiac Cats”!
April’s Trivia Answer…
The Question was: identify the person featured in this newly discover drawing...
The Answer is: I still don’t know for sure, but I had one guess!! Linda (Carlson) South ’72 offered that the picture reminded her of former Baker English Language and Literature Professor Ms. Vera Lawellin. So the mystery still continues unless I can find other pictures of Ms. Lawellin and do a comparison. Don’t you just love a good mystery??? :)

Harlaxton Reunion to be Held at Stag...
If you have been one of the 431 individual students or 31 faculty sponsors who have spent a semester at Baker's English College, Harlaxton, there will be a special 20th Year reunion held at this year's alumni weekend celebration. A separate room of the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park will be set aside for you to meet, look at pictures, share stories and visit with fellow Harlaxton “grads”. The reunion will take place as part of the overall annual reunion party on Friday evening, May 21st!

Invitations to those for whom we have e-mail addresses have been sent. I hope you will plan to attend! (There will be no planned exhibitions or re-running of the “special” mile at the reunion!) :)

Communication Department Receives Top Honors...
The Kansas Associated Collegiate Press conference in Wichita selected the Baker Orange for its All-Kansas Award, recognizing Baker’s student newspaper tops for a four-year private college in Kansas. The Orange has captured the honor 11 times in 13 years. The Orange Online site was also awarded a gold medal.

Chris Smith, editor of the Orange for the fall 2009 semester, was honored as Journalist of the Year for four-year colleges and universities in Kansas. The Orange won 25 individual awards in the newspaper competition, including six first-place honors.

First-place winners from the Baker Orange were Amanda Helm, single ad design; Cate Richards, cartoons; Baker Orange staff, illustration; Lauren Anderson, interior page design; Chris Smith, sports features; and Reina Murphy, Alesha Miller, Kelsey Epperson and Smith, multimedia storytelling. Congratulations Media/Communications department students and faculty advisors!!!

Remember, Alumni Weekend is NOT just for members of the reunion classes...but is open to every former student and alumnus...so make plans to attend one or more events of the weekend and I will see you there!!!

Don’t delay in signing up your foursome…
Wildcat Classic Golf Tournament | Prairie Highlands Golf Course…
Friday, May 21, 2010
KU basketball coach Bill Self will make a special appearance on behalf of Baker's new men's basketball coach Brett Ballard.
Plus, there will be incredible sports auction items that you can bid on:
A portion of your fee can be designated as a gift to your favorite athletic team at Baker!
Registration deadline is May 17TH!!!
We have 84 players to date, so don’t be late!

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

Jerry L. Weakley ‘70/’92
Vice President for Endowment and Planned Giving
P.O. Box 65, Baldwin City, KS 66006
1-785-594-8332
jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu
What You Might Want to Know about a Charitable Gift Annuity…

People often confuse various types of commercial annuities with Charitable Gift Annuities that are offered exclusively by charitable organizations (501-C-3).

A commercial annuity is established with a for-profit organization such as an investment firm, bank or insurance company. Individuals place given sums of money with the firm in exchange for a life-long stream of income that can not (in most cases) run out or decrease. Basically, this serves as a form of insurance for the annuitant and provides an income stream throughout retirement. As with any other investment firm or insurance product, the company placing the annuity and offering the life-long income is going to make a profit from having done business with the annuitant. Whatever amount of money that is generally left in a traditional annuity upon the annuitant’s death goes to the for-profit corporation.

A Charitable Gift Annuity while providing a life-long income for the annuitant differs in several important ways from its commercial “cousin”.

First, since the Charitable Gift Annuity is placed with a charitable organization, a portion of the amount used to fund the annuity is actually deductible as a gift to the charity for those that itemize deductions on their federal income tax returns.

Additionally, charitable gift annuities offer another significant benefits:

- A portion of the annuity payment is tax-free return of principal and is therefore non-taxable income (at the time the annuitant lives beyond their life expectancy the annuity payment will be taxed as ordinary income)
- Annuity rates for seniors in the past have ranged from 7%-11% and higher
- Charitable Gift Annuities may be for one life or two lives
- Cash, bonds, stocks or real estate may in some cases be used to fund a Charitable Gift Annuity. If an appreciated asset is used to fund the Charitable Gift Annuity, the capital gain on that asset is spread out over the life of the annuitant
- The annuity amount is fixed and will not change due to economic downturns or market conditions
- After all payments have been made for two lives—the charity still benefits from the Charitable Remainder

P.S. Call me at 785-594-8332 if you would like more information on Charitable Gift Annuities.

* 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!