



From the Arbor @ Baker University...

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

Volume 8, Issue 9
October, 2010

Numbers of Importance:

- *Recommend a student-* 800-873-4282
- *Alumni Office-* 888-781-2586
- *Make a Gift-* 800-726-1554
- *Create a planned gift or create an endowed scholarship- 785-594-8332 or 913-449-9540 (Jerry Weakley)*
- *Baker Orange on-line- www.thebakerorange.com*

Baker Grad to Perform at Maple Leaf Festival...

Dolan Ellis, a 1957 Baker University graduate who is known as Arizona's official state balladeer, will return to Baldwin City to perform at 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 16, at Rice Auditorium. Dolen has enjoyed a long career as a singer, songwriter and entertainer. A founding member of the New Christy Minstrels, he and the other members of that singing group appeared on the Andy Williams television show for 39 consecutive weeks. The group also earned several gold records and a Grammy Award in 1963 for best musical group. Dolen has made several appearances in Baldwin through the years and looks forward to seeing former classmates and friends once again. Admission for the performance is \$25 for adults and \$15 for youths. Tickets will be available at the door of Rice Auditorium.

Baker Mission Statement Appears in Publications, Commercials and Public Relations Releases...

I received a question recently from a former student regarding the University's mission statement and the tag-line "Own Confidence" and how they came into existence. The mission statement is:

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

Both were developed about 3-4 years ago after an exhaustive process in which the University closely examined its Strategic Plan, its Mission, Vision and Values. You will continue to see them used throughout University based publications and in communications to the general public.

Miss an Earlier Issue of The Arbor???

Previous issues of the Arbor can be accessed by copying this address into your browser:

http://www.bakeru.edu/bakerworld/?page_id=1041

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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 insure that everyone receiving the Arbor by regular mail will receive it through 2011. Thanks Jim and Becky!!!



Picture Draws Lots of Responses...

This picture, originally sent to me by **Jim Heaton '60** created something of a minor firestorm of opinion from readers of last month's issue of the **Arbor**. The pep-band pictured here on the north side of Baldwin's First United Methodist Church in the mid-late 1950's generated lots of conjecture about the individual composition of the group. I received calls, visits, e-mails and replies of all sorts with the most popular guesses including: **Melba Reeves Johnston '59** at right on clarinet (she confirmed this fact), **Swede Malm** (or a look-a-like) on tuba (could it be he took time for this from the basketball court???) and **Jon Cochran** on trombone (his sister, **Barbara "Perk" Cochran Snow '59** confirmed this one). Another guess for the trombonist was **Stan Miles '60**. The male saxophonist was identified as **Daryl Rundis** while the female sax player and sousaphonist (possibly a french horn???) were not identified.

School of Education Wall of Honor...

The School of Education has created a Wall of Honor in Case Hall to highlight the accomplishments of those who have completed teacher or school administrator training at **Baker University**. To be included, an honoree must have completed student teaching, a master's program or the doctoral program at BU and been recognized at a state or national level either during or after completing their **Baker** work. Recognition may be based on any school-related duty, including teaching, administration, sponsoring, or coaching. If you or someone you know qualifies, please contact **Merrie Skaggs** at Merrie.Skaggs@bakeru.edu or (785) 594-8491 or **Harold Frye** at Harold.Frye@bakeru.edu or (913) 491-4432. Notification for induction at the Alumni Luncheon in May must be received by March 1. The next time you are on the Baldwin Campus, please stop Case Hall to see the Wall of Honor.

School of Nursing 20 Years Old...

Founded in 1991, **Baker University's** School of Nursing celebrated its 20th year with a reception and open house for all of its nursing alumni, faculty and staff from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 13, at the School of Nursing in Topeka. **Baker** currently serves approximately 170 nursing students at the School of Nursing at Stormont-Vail HealthCare. The nursing program continues to receive positive reviews by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools and is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education. In 2009, Stormont-Vail HealthCare achieved magnet recognition for excellence in nursing from the American Nurses Credentialing Center. Congratulations to Dean Harr, her staff and faculty, all nursing alumni and students!!!

Interesting Data from Fall CAS Enrollment...

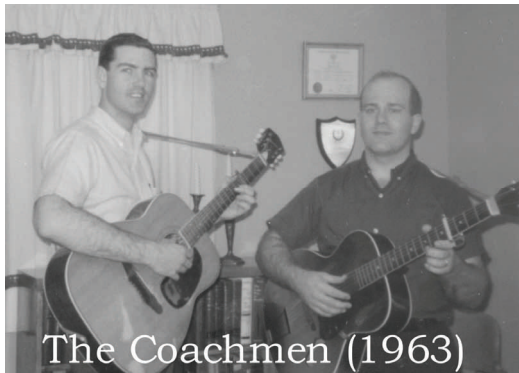
Baker's freshman-sophomore retention rate was approximately 82% this fall (this is the percentage of the fall 2009 first-time freshman who are still enrolled at **Baker**). This is the highest freshman-sophomore retention rate we have ever had at the Baldwin campus "in all of recorded history" (or since **Rand Ziegler** first started tracking these data in fall 1986). We also retained our fall 2009 new transfer cohort at a very high rate -- approx. 78% of those students remain at **Baker** this fall. You have to go back to the fall 1998 group to see a higher retention for fall transfers at the Baldwin campus. Congratulations go to many on campus for this encouraging news, particularly **Cassy Bailey** and the entire Retention Committee, all of whom play a very important role every day in creating these retention victories! This information (and many more important data trends are tracked by **Dr. Judy Smrha**).

Responses From the September Arbor...

Joe DiFrancisco '80..."I also only had one good sunflower seed in the packet that was sent but it grew in the fertile Maryland soil to over 12' high with over 50 seed-heads at one point! After 30 years in retail, I have recently taken a position with the National Institute for Health (NIH)."

Tom Van Sickle '59..."I want to thank you for obtaining the information on my speech class and my fine arts class at Baker taken "a few years ago". The information you were able to obtain was sufficient to allow me to skip those same courses during my current course of study here in Arizona. As a result, I will be able graduate (again) next spring after I successfully complete my current class in critical thinking and a basic math class in the spring. Then when I graduate, with honors, (a new experience for me), I will have to decide what to do with the rest of my life." :) Editor's note: Tom will be delivering the commencement address to the SPGS graduating classes this December.

Patricia Cassity Dunnivant '63 confirmed the names of the two individuals featured in the picture below "The Coachmen" as Richard McDowell '60 (left) and Stewart (Stu) Entz '62 (right). Richard, who actually sent the picture to me also correctly identified both himself and Stu! :)



Patricia Pasley Dexter '57..."I went to Baldwin Institute the first time in 1950 and it was at the same time as the 1950 flood in Kansas City as well as in all the Eastern Kansas rivers flowing into the Missouri River. Those of us at Baker were having such a good experience that we did not worry about the flood until it was time to go home. Many of us had to find alternate routes but that just added to the "high" we had gotten at Baldwin Institute. I attended Baldwin Institute for three summers and the highlights were Rev. Eugene Frank who was the senior pastor at First Methodist in Topeka. My parents and I listened to him on the radio and so it thrilled me to listen to him face to face. Several decades later I knew him on a personal level as a retired Bishop. The other outstanding feature of the Institute was worshiping in the beautiful Baldwin church and committing myself to Jesus Christ."

Thanks, one and all for your responses to the Arbor!!!

Celebrating 120 Years of Baker Football Memories...

As we arrive at the celebration of 120 years of Baker football that will be held in a few days on October 22-23rd at Homecoming, the Arbor will feature one final "football memory" in this issue. In case you have been on a safari in the desert and haven't heard, the University is honoring ALL former players (even if you played only one year for the Wildcat football team) as a part of this year's Homecoming celebration. You and all other football players 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. As you may know, our opponent in that first game was the University of Kansas...a game which the Wildcats won by a score of 21-9!

Friday night the 22nd of October will feature the Annual Athletic Banquet and Hall of Fame Induction. A special video honoring Baker's football past will be featured during the program. (I have seen it, and it is fabulous...thanks Andrew Patch!!!) The next day on campus will once again bring together all former players for a huge pre-game 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! If you plan to attend the banquet we need to know, so call Kathy McCrary at 1-800-726-1554 to register and for information on time and place. If you are attending the game there will be a table inside the stadium to register your attendance so that your name will be read by the stadium announcer during the game. Hope to see you there! And now, the memory: It comes from Dr. Gary Rayson '79... Professor of Mathematics at New Mexico State University.

"I relay these memories in part because I seldom see anything written regarding the "turn around" years of Coach Joe Girardi. The success of his successor is often described (deservedly so), but it was those years of 1977, 1978 and 1979 when one in four male students were on the football team and were suited out for every home game. (The sight of orange and black lined up from goal line to goal line was an awesome sight and one that I will always remember. I often tell the story when someone states that a losing team cannot turn-around in a single season. My response is always "Yes they can! Let me tell you the story of the 1977 Baker University football team..." Editor's note...after Baker went 2-7-1 in 1976, Coach Girardi came on to lead the 1977-79 teams with records of 8-2/8-3/7-3 with a trip to Baker's first ever bowl game! Thanks Gary!!!

Alaska Trip Available...Come with Us!!!

There is still time to join with 29 other astute travelers who will be going on the June 2011 Wandering Wildcats trip to Alaska and cruise. As with all Wandering Wildcat trips, it's open for everyone regardless of your prior association with **Baker** and is certain to be a great time for all—so why not join us? Contact John Novotny, our travel advisor from Travellers in Lawrence, for more details and current pricing information. John can be reached at 1-800-382-6700. Hope to see YOU aboard!!!

Upcoming Events...

October 15th-17th: Maple Leaf Festival
Parade on Saturday the 16th...10:00 a.m.

October 22nd: Annual Athletic Banquet and Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Celebrating 120 years of Baker Football.

Doubletree Hotel, Overland Park, Kansas (I-435 and 169 Highway.) 6pm Social—7pm Dinner and Social.

October 23rd: Homecoming!!!

Athletic Hall of Fame Reunion—Collins Sports and Convention Center—10:30am

Tailgate Luncheon—Liston Stadium (in the tent)—Noon.

Game versus Culver Stockton—2:00pm

A new and improved KidZone will be featured in the East end-zone before and during the game.

November 20: Gala Scholarship Auction

Hyatt Regency Crown Center Ballroom
Social at 6:00 p.m./Dinner and Program begin at 7:30. All proceeds benefit the University's General Scholarship Fund. Call Kathy McCrary at 1-800-726-1554 for information and registration.

Baker Trivia Question for October...

Name the 2008 **Baker** Graduate that is currently the long-snapper for the **New York Jets** of the NFL... (His number is 46 and he was mentioned for having good/sure hands during the rainy game played on national television this past Monday against the **Minnesota Vikings**.) The answer will appear in the **November** issue of the **Arbor**.

Baker Trivia Answer for September...

The question: Name the event pictured in the rather blurry picture provided that was mostly black with small dots of white.

The Answer: (and it would have been a pure miracle for anyone to have guessed this)...It was a picture taken from the top of Parmenter Hall of a candlelight service during a 1950's Methodist Institute on the Baldwin Campus...now wasn't that easy? :)

Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Nears...

Six former Wildcat standouts — Bob Courtney '56, Bill White '59, Fred Purvis '70, Brad Roepke '83, Terry Roepke '85 and Jessica Walters Ohlde '02— will be inducted into the **Baker** University Athletic Hall of Fame on Friday, Oct. 22, during a ceremony at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park, Kan. The inductees will be recognized at halftime of **Baker's** football game against Graceland at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 23. Everyone is welcome and invited to attend the induction banquet and celebration of 120 years of **Baker** football. For reservations call Kathy McCrary at 1-800-726-1554.

Have a Great Month of **October!**
...I'll write again in **November!**

Jerry L. Weakley '70/'92

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Crescendo Aids in Charitable Gift Planning

For the past fifteen years or so I have used the services of a California based company, Crescendo, inc. to aid **Baker** donors in the preparation of planned and estate type gifts to the University. Many of the services offered by this premier company assisted in the preparation of trusts and charitable gift annuity paperwork.

Through the years, Crescendo has continued to expand its services and its ability to meet the needs of hundreds of charities just like **Baker**. Headed by Dr. Charles Schultz, one the nation's most highly thought of gift planning attorneys, Crescendo continues to be looked upon as one of, if not THE most significant company of its kind in this country.

How you may ask, can Crescendo assist you???

On **Baker's** main web-site page... www.bakeru.edu you can click on "alumni" and then click on "planned giving" and be taken directly to a page that Crescendo provides to **Baker** that is newly refreshed each week! Included on this page and successive pages related to the site are timely articles on investing, recent government decisions and legislation, taxation, retirement planning, Social Security and gift planning techniques to assist you in finding the best way of making charitable gifts to charities while at the same time providing a significant gift to heirs. There is even an inter-active calculator that allows you securely to play with any number of scenarios of amounts, time, interest rates, different types of planning techniques etc. Your privacy is insured while using this calculator and no one will even be made aware that you have used it!

If you have questions based upon any of the articles or case studies you read at this site you are always free to discuss them with me for clarification or expanding the possibilities of any of the planning techniques.

I hope you will visit the site and use it on a regular basis!



Jerry L. Weakley

P.S. Call me at 785-594-8332 if you would like more information on how to get to the web sight of Crescendo or any question relative to something you read there.

*** 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!*

