From the Arbor
@ Baker University...

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

University Listed In U.S. News and World Report...

Baker was recently ranked in the Best National Liberal Arts Colleges category in the 2011 edition of Best Colleges by U.S. News Media Group.

The rankings, which include more than 1,400 schools nationwide, are available at www.usnews.com/colleges and will be published in the September issue of the U.S. News and World Report magazine, due out on newsstands starting Aug. 31.

Baker was listed 144th in the Best National Liberal Arts Colleges rankings. A national liberal arts college was defined as emphasizing undergraduate education and awarding at least half their degrees in the arts and sciences.

Over the past 26 years, the U.S. News college rankings, which groups schools based on categories created by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, has grown to be the most comprehensive research tool for students and parents considering higher education opportunities. The America's Best-Colleges ranking package, which includes extensive editorial content and multimedia resources, has helped families navigate the difficult decisions involved throughout the college process, from college admission and selection to financing options.

Congratulations President Long, members of the Board of Trustees, faculty, students, administration and staff for making this honor possible!!!

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...

Once again, Jim ‘60 and Becky Kean of Boulder, Colorado, stepped up to send in a check that will pay for the paper, envelopes and postage for all 11 issues of the Arbor for the next year! If you receive it currently by mail, you have the Keans to thank, as do I!!!
Daughter or Son Preparing for College???

It should go without saying that Baker would particularly welcome a son or daughter of any of its former students and alumni who has prepared well for study at the collegiate level. Every year I am so pleased to become acquainted with the son or daughter of the hundreds of alumni that I have come to know—many of whom I first met when they were students here themselves!!

I was recently reading some new research that has been conducted on a subject that has been studied for years...how students persist at a specific college based upon their connectedness to the school and its related activities. Regardless where you son or daughter ends up enrolling—there is one thing you as a parent should try hard to accomplish with respect to that child's eventual success. In addition to encouraging them on studying and their in-class success, you should attempt to get them to become involved with any number of activities connected to that college yet ones outside the classroom!

There is much data that definitively shows that students that join athletic teams, music ensembles, theatre/drama troupes, student government groups, Greek houses or any number of special clubs within the confines of a school's campus have a much greater chance of becoming connected to the school and staying on to graduate rather than dropping out or transferring.

I encourage you to review similar research and then help get your students interested in a wide-range of activities that will not only promote stability once they reach college, but will add significantly to the quality of the lives they are still developing.

Greeks Announce Pledges…

The early numbers are out for Greek Pledges on the Baldwin City Campus. Approximately 45% of the Freshman class have joined Greek Organizations, according to Cassie Bailey, Dean of Students. 38.6% of all full-time, degree seeking students are now members of Greek organizations. Here's a look at the organizations and their number of new pledges: (These will change slightly over the next two-weeks or so.)

Alpha Chi Omega-15
Delta Delta Delta-15
Phi Mu-6
Zeta Tau Alpha-12
Delta Tau Delta-19
Kappa Sigma-11
Sigma Phi Epsilon-14
Zeta Chi-6

Baker Trivia for September...

Name the year this photo was taken and any of the names of the student/pep-band members pictured...

Two Bonus Trivia Pictures...

Name these two guitar playing singers from 1963.

And, Finally…

Try to name this event and guess the year!!!

(It's fuzzy, so use some imagination)
Education Associate Professor Wins Award…

Elizabeth Ann Sanders, associate professor and director of Continuing Education at Baker, has been named a recipient of the 2010 M. Claradine Johnson Award. The award will be presented at the awards luncheon of the AdvancED Kansas Fall Conference on Oct. 5 at the Marriott Hotel in Wichita. Criteria used for selection included:
- History of work with AdvancED/NCA and AdvancED Kansas
- Leadership within the school/district/state
- Educational excellence and/or innovation
- Service to school, district, and/or state
- Other/extra factors

Sanders has embraced many leadership roles in public schools, higher education, and professional organizations. Among numerous other activities she has previously served as the director of senior high education and a principal in the Olathe Public Schools, has supervised student teachers for the University of Kansas, and taught in the Shawnee Mission Public Schools. Congratulations Ann!!!

A Few Responses From the August Arbor…

Paxton Williams ’72…Only had one good sunflower seed in the packet that was sent but planted it and it grew…he also purchased some giant sunflower plant seeds and grew them with great success! He is now the “Sunflower King of Texas” and all the critters really enjoyed the fruits of his labor.

Don Clardy…Professor and former Executive Vice President and Dean of SPGS…recently returned from having climbed Mount Blanc in the Swiss Alps…”We had 8 days of fantastic views and great outdoor hiking in Switzerland, France and Italy”.

George Wiley…Professor of Religion-CAS…”Thanks for your thoughts about the oil spill. There’s lots of exaggeration going on, possibly with a political agenda—drilling ban maybe?”

Virginia Fambrough…Associate Professor of English-CAS…”I especially appreciate your comments on the power of the press and the damage it has done to Gulf coast tourism. My sister and brother-in-law live near the beach in Gulf Breeze, Florida, just outside Pensacola, and have been saying all summer just what you said about the hard and successful work to protect the beaches and the unfortunate lack of visitors.”

Baker Football Memory…

As we continue to march toward the huge football celebration that will be held October 22-23rd at Homecoming, the Arbor is featuring a “Football Memory” in each issue. 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. 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 throughout the dinner and program. The next day on campus will 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 celebration at Hickory Creek BBQ, 711 High St., with Coach Mike Grossner. I hope you will plan now to attend! We will also be 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.

And now, the memory: It comes from Ernie Anselmi ’52, an inductee to the University’s Athletic Hall of Fame.

“My senior year we were playing C of E (College of Emporia). They had a huge defensive lineman that was really the first 300 pound player I had ever seen or certainly ever played against (Ernie was a guard and weighed about 170). John Zorn, who played center for us and I decided that we would have to both block him when we went to his side of the field. On the first play to his side we decided that John would hit him high and I would try to hit him low and take out his legs. Well, the plan worked…But, the guy fell fully on top of me as I lay on the ground and I nearly couldn’t breathe. He took what seemed like forever to get up and off me and I thought I was going to die. The next time we ran to his side, I suggested to John that since he was the center and was already down low, that it made a lot of sense for him to hit the guy low and I would hit him high…That proved to be a much better arrangement from my standpoint :) Thanks for that great (and funny) memory, Ernie!!!
Alaska Trip is “ON”...R U Going???

The number of individuals signed up for the Alaska Cruise for next summer continues to grow! Now that Don and Ruth Ann Nutt have signed up, we have 27 individuals who have made deposits for the June, 2011 Wandering Wildcats’ Alaska cruise. Also joining Baker President Pat Long and her husband Dennis will be Janet and Robert McDowell, Barb and Don Wardwell, Betsy and Grant Galyardt, Nancy and Roger Arnold, Theresa and Dennis Krebs, Carol and Richard Felder, Lee and Tom Hedrick, Theresa and Roger Driver, Jan and Robert Maxwell, Suzanne Teel, Judy Rapp, Lyn Lakin and Patti and Jerry Weakley. I know of several others who continue to consider going and there’s still plenty of time to commit and get a great cabin. As with all Wandering Wildcat trips, it’s certain to be a great time for all—so why not join us? According to John Novotny, our travel advisor from Travellers in Lawrence, we should be able to get some additional cabins since we have used the allotment Princess originally gave us to book. So, call me at 785-594-8332, or John at 1-800-382-6700 for more information or to reserve one for you!

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

October 23rd: Homecoming!!!

Chapel Service—10:00am
Athletic Hall of Fame Reception-Collins Sports and Convention Center-10:30am
Tailgate Luncheon-Liston Stadium (in the tent)-Noon.
Baker vs. Culver Stockton-2:00pm

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

Baker Trivia Answer For August...

The question: In one of the older buildings on the campus of Arts and Science in Baldwin City is a commemorative plaque that details the founding of a National Methodist Organization at Baker University. What is the building in which the plaque is hung, what is the name of the organization and the year it was founded?

The Answer: In CASE Hall is a commemorative plaque that states that the Methodist Youth Fellowship (MYF) was founded at a meeting held on the Baker Campus and the 1st UMC of Baldwin City on Aug. 28–Sept. 3, 1941. No one got this one correct! :(

Sunflowers Apparently Grow in Colorado…

The Picture below comes from James (Jim) Heaton ’60 of Ft. Collins, Colorado. Jim also sent several other pictures from his days on the Baldwin City Campus of Baker. Some of those other pictures he sent provide us with the trivia questions for the month of September. I continue to invite readers to send in your own picture taken with the product of the sunflower seed packet that the University’s Advancement office sent out in the spring. Let’s see what other states can grow sunflowers!

Have a Great Month of September...I’ll write again in October!

Jerry L. Weakley ’70/’92

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A donor who has collected a number of significant Western paintings throughout her life recently inquired about the possibility of gifting one or more to the University. While these types of gifts happen occasionally, there is still the need to review the basics behind and the advantages of making such a gift. First, artwork to Baker is deemed qualified for a charitable deduction since the University has a Department of Art and regularly uses its collection in the study of the art form by its students. It also has public display of many of its pieces that add to the mission of education within this field.

If the painting is valued in excess of $5,000, for the donor to receive full benefit from the gift, there needs to be a "qualified" appraisal. Such an appraisal must be made by a person who has the education and experience to make such an appraisal (more below) along with a completed IRS Form 8283. Furthermore, the appraisal must be made not earlier than 60 days prior to the gift and not later than the date the return is due (with extensions). Form 8283 must include a description of the property. For artwork, this description should include the general condition of the property. Any restrictions on use of the art should be disclosed. The appraiser will be deemed qualified if he or she has an appraisal designation from a recognized organization, has otherwise met comparable education experience requirements, regularly performs and is paid for appraisals, has verifiable education and experience with the type of property appraised, has not been prohibited from practicing before the IRS and has not been excluded by Treasury regulations from serving as an appraiser.

The appraisal document also should include the name, address and other applicable information about the appraiser. The appraiser must affirm that the appraisal was done on a specific date, that the property was valued as of the date of the gift and that the appraisal was done for income tax purposes. Also, the appraisal must disclose the methodology used in deriving the property value.

There are potential penalties for both the appraiser and the donor if the appraisal is too high. The appraiser penalties for incorrect appraisals are the greater of $1,000 or 10% of the understatement from a substantial or gross valuation misstatement, with a cap of 125% of the appraiser's gross income from the appraisal. Accuracy related penalties for donors are also potentially applicable. A substantial valuation misstatement exists with overvaluation of 150%. A gross valuation misstatement exists with overvaluation of 200% of correct value.

For gifts of property over $5,000 in value, ($10,000 for closely-held stock), Part B of Form 8283 must also be completed. In addition, both the appraiser and the charitable recipient must sign Form 8283.

Example: A donor and her CPA secure the services of an independent appraiser who regularly values Western art for tax purposes. She determines that the painting has a fair market value of $89,000. Since a deduction is claimed for a gift of artwork and the value is greater than $20,000, then the complete signed appraisal must be submitted with Form 8283. In addition, either an 8" x 10" color photo or a 4" x 5" color transparency of the painting must be provided.

The signature of a representative of Baker University is merely to acknowledge that it has received the property. Furthermore, when the University signs Form 8283, it incurs an obligation to file Form 8282 within 125 days of the sale of the asset (painting) if that sale date is within three years of the date of the gift.

P.S. Call me at 785-594-8332 if you would like more information on making a gift to the University using a painting or other work of art.

* 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!