



From the Arbor *@ Baker University...*

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

Volume 6, Issue 12

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Of Special Interest:

- *Recommend a student-
800-873-4282*
- *Alumni Office-
888-781-2586*
- *Make a donation
800-726-1554*
- *Create a planned gift or create
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785-594-8332/913-449-9540*
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www.thebakerorange.com*

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Commencement Schedule/Speakers Announced...

Baker will honor graduates for the fall semester with three commencement ceremonies the weekend of Dec. 13-14 at the George F. Collins Sports and Convention Center on the Baldwin City campus.

The School of Professional and Graduate Studies graduate students will be recognized at 1 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13. The School of Education graduate degree ceremony will be at 4:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 13. The ceremony for undergraduates in the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Education, School of Nursing and School of Professional and Graduate Studies will be at 1 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 14.

Ethan Whitehill, chief executive officer at Two West, a branding and communications company, will speak at the first ceremony on Dec. 13. He has a Master of Business Administration degree from **Baker**. Richard Hedges, a 1960 **Baker** graduate and a member of the Kansas Board of Regents who was inducted into the University's Athletic Hall of Fame in October, will be the speaker for the School of Education. Tony Brown, a professor at **Baker** since 1990 and currently the State Representative-Elect for the 10th District of the Kansas House, will address undergraduates at the Dec. 14 ceremony. Families and friends are invited to receptions for graduates at 2:30 p.m. both days at Harter Union Lobby.

Baker Holiday Tradition in Baldwin City...

Vespers set for Dec. 7 at First United Methodist...

The **Baker** University music department will present the 78th annual Christmas Candlelight Vespers on Sunday, Dec. 7, at First United Methodist Church in Baldwin City. The first performance will begin at 4 p.m. and the second at 7:30 p.m. This year's performances will mark the end of the long association with this event for Dr. John Buehler who along with his wife, Dr. Susan Buehler, plan to retire at the end of the spring semester. Hope to see you there!!!

The Baker Annual Fund Phon-a-thon Concludes...

The annual Phon-a-thon that began last month will conclude for the fall on December 5th. To date, gifts and pledges have been made by over 100 individuals with a total of over \$10,000 having been raised. The Spring Phon-a-thon will actually begin in late February and will continue into April with calls being placed to all alumni and former students who were not contacted in the fall.

If you would like to make an end of the taxable year gift for 2008 you may simply send your check to the Office of Advancement, % Baker University, P.O. Box 65, Baldwin City, KS 66006. Checks may be made payable to the "Baker Fund". We greatly appreciate these annual gifts that go toward making Baker the best possible institution that it can be!

Congress Extends Giving from IRA's...

The IRA Charitable Rollover was reenacted as part of the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 on October 3, 2008. The IRA Charitable Rollover permits taxpayers at the age 70½ and older to make tax-free charitable gifts totaling up to \$100,000 per year from traditional Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) and Roth IRAs during 2008 and 2009. There are many advantages for individuals of this age who are desiring to make such a charitable gift to use this method of giving without it having an adverse affect on their taxes. You can give your required distribution to a qualified charity (such as Baker) without having to count it in your taxable income. Call me at 785-594-8332 if you would like to receive additional information about making a gift in this way.

Student Places First in Collegiate Piano Competition...

Adrienne Willems, a freshman music education major from Lawrence, placed first at the freshman-sophomore division of the Kansas Music Teachers Association's collegiate piano competition on Nov. 9 at the University of Kansas. Willems performed works by Beethoven and Lees. Will Duncan, sophomore music and math major from Baldwin City, also competed, performing works by Chopin and Prokofiev. Willems and Duncan both received a Certificate of Recognition for their participation in the auditions. Willems received an engraved medal for placing first. Congratulations Adrienne and Will!!!

Late Note...I just received a copy of an article from the Buffalo (NY) News that included mention of Baker's Clarice Osborne Chapel. The article concerned the feasibility of dismantling, moving and reconstructing a local Buffalo Church and mentioned the success of the 1995-96 project undertaken by Baker. The article was sent by Nancy Hefner '66 of Niagara Falls. Thanks very much, Nancy!!!

Alumni Reactions to Baker's New Web Site Favorable...

Baker's new Web site at www.bakerU.edu has been up and running now for over a month. I have fielded numerous notes from many of you that have been 90%+ favorable to the changes which have been incorporated into the University's new site. With any such web-site, Baker's will always be a work-in-progress with minor changes and improvements being made as necessary. If you haven't taken a tour of the sight as of yet I encourage you to spend a few minutes. If you have any questions or suggestions you may contact Neil Kubilski, Web-master, at 785-594-4791 or neil.kubilski@bakerU.edu

Baker Trivia for December...

Name the former member of the Chad Mitchell Trio, a 1960's American Folk Music group, who later went out on his own to become a national recording superstar who performed in concert with the trio at Baker in 1967...

The answer will be featured on page 4 of the January issue of the Arbor. Hints: Wire-rimmed glasses, sunshine and mountains...

Did you Know...

Approximately 90% of all undergraduate students on the Baldwin City Campus are on some type of student aid or scholarship??? This figure rarely changes and has hovered around that figure for nearly 20 years. Students receiving scholarships get them through distributions from endowed scholarships from within the University's general endowment, from gifts made to the Baker Fund, through Quayle (church related) Scholarships or through corporations and organizations who make donations for specific students in general or by name.

Dream Seasons Come to a close for **Baker** Soccer and Football...

No. 11 seed Westmont (Calif.) College forward Dan Sargent scored the only goal of the game as the Warriors defeated **Baker** by a score of 1-0 in the second round of the NAIA Men's Soccer National Championship. **Baker** concluded its season with a record of 14-7-2. The Wildcats earned the trip to the National tournament for the first time since 2004 with a dramatic 1-0 win over 10th Nationally ranked Park College. Congratulations to Coach Houser and the 2008 Men's Soccer squad!!!

On the football side of the ledger it was a case of too much offense by Morningside College against a **Baker** defense that had experienced several key injuries over the last few games of the season. Although the Wildcats jumped ahead on an early touchdown by junior running back, Richie Bryant, the Mustangs threw an aggressive passing game at the Wildcats that over the course of four periods netted 7 touchdowns. Even the 350 or so fans of the Wildcats who travelled to see the game in snowy Sioux City couldn't prevent the final score of Morningside 65, **Baker**- 27.

Though the final result of the game was not to a Wildcat fan's liking, the end of the season naming of the Heart of America Athletic Conference's "All-Conference Team" certainly was. Seven Wildcats were named to the 1st team while an additional 9 players were selected for 2nd, 3rd team and honorable mention honors....16 of the starting 22! Selected for 1st team honors were: Richie Bryant, junior running back, Louisiana, MO; junior quarterback Mack Brown, Liberty, Mo; senior wide receiver Tyrell Spain, San Diego; senior offensive lineman Andy Bibb, Springdale, AR.; junior defensive lineman Levi Calhoun, Oklahoma City; senior cornerback Eric Allen, San Diego; and sophomore safety Colton Miller; Largo, FL. Congratulations Coach Grossner, all the Wildcat assistant coaches and the entire 2008 Football squad!!!

Richard Family Much in the News...

If you would have recently happened upon retired Assistant Dean of Students, Nancy Richard, you would have been well aware of the grin on her face that extended from ear to ear...not unlike the Cheshire Cat from Alice in Wonderland. The reason for her smiles has been nothing other than that of being an extremely proud parent. Daughter Amy Richard Hercules '95 was recently featured along with her school at which she is the Principal in an ABC Evening News special on Watchdog Dads Go Back to School. Amy has been deeply involved in the program at Countryside Elementary in Olathe for some time. This program for which Amy has been such an advocate has now spread to over 300 schools nationally. If you would like to view the program that was broadcast and learn about the Watchdog Dads, copy the following link into your browser: <http://abcnews.go.com/video/playerIndex?id=6275174>.

While Amy was garnering the national media attention, Nancy's son, Pat '91, was getting lots of local headlines, TV coverage and his own spot on a local Kansas City Sports talk show. Pat, who has been the head football coach at Orrick, Mo. for the past several years just last weekend won his second consecutive State 1A title in a dramatic double overtime victory over Thayer. Pat's father, Coach Charlie Richard, coached the **Baker** Wildcats to great heights from 1980-1994. It certainly appears that this apple didn't fall far from the tree! Congratulations Amy...Pat...and Nancy too!!! You all make **Baker** proud!

Director of Enrollment Honored...

Kelly Belk, director of enrollment at the School of Professional and Graduate Studies, has been selected as the 2008 recipient of the Annual Achievement Award from the Institute for Professional Development. She received a crystal award as recognition for her outstanding service and dedication to adult higher education. The award is given to the outstanding candidate who demonstrates exceptional service to IPD and the partner institution, contributes to the growth and success of both organizations, practices superior relationship building with all customers, proves successful in problem solving and displays model ethical behavior and uncompromising integrity. Belk was nominated by her staff, co-workers and **Baker** leadership. Congratulations Kelly!!!

Alumni gathering in Dallas a success...

With alumni and former students covering the years of 1948-2007, every decade had at least one or more representatives present at this annual gathering. Dr. Pat Long and members of the Advancement Office greeted over 35 guests last month for a fun and casual evening. The lively gathering had plenty of good food and conversation—much of which centered on the success of Baker's Athletic teams this fall along with updates on programs from across all of the University. All four of Baker's Schools had graduates represented and thus it was truly a "University" event. Special appreciation is given to Tammy Spiva Hawks '72, a current member of the Baker Board of Trustees. Tammy and husband Dale hosted a wonderful dinner for a smaller group of Baker supporters in their lovely home in Frisco the night before. Thanks Tammy and Dale! And, thanks to all of you who turned out for one or both of these great events. It was great to see you!!!

Friday, December 12-7:30 p.m.
School of Nursing Pinning Ceremony
Grace Episcopal Cathedral-Topeka, Kan.

Saturday, Dec. 13-10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Commencement Brunch
Harter Union Cafeteria
1 p.m.
School of Professional and Graduate Studies
Graduate Degree Commencement Ceremony
George F. Collins, Jr. Sports and Convention Center
2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Reception for graduates
Harter Union Lobby
4:30 p.m.
School of Education
Graduate Degree Commencement Ceremony
George F. Collins, Jr. Sports and Convention Center

Sunday, Dec. 14-9:30 a.m.
Worship Service Featuring Rev. Dr. Ira DeSpain '70
Clarice L. Osborne Chapel
10:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
Commencement Brunch
Harter Union Cafeteria
1 p.m.
College of Arts and Sciences
School of Education
School of Nursing
School of Professional and Graduate Studies
Undergraduate Degree Ceremony
George F. Collins, Jr. Sports and Convention Center
2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.
Reception for Graduates
Harter Union Lobby

November's Trivia Answer...

The question was: Name the person who became the first alumnus to serve as the Dean of what is now the Baker University College of Arts and Science. For extra credit...name the last alumnus to serve in this same position.

The answers are: The first alumnus to serve in this capacity was Homer Kingsley Ebright and the last alumnus to serve in the dean's position was Dr. Neal Malicky '56. After serving as dean and later as acting president, Dr. Malicky went on to become President of Baldwin Wallace. He has now retired to the area and serves as a member of the University's Board of Trustees...

Upcoming Alumni and Advancement Events...

Athletic Luncheon
810 Sports Zone-KC on the Plaza
Thursday, January 22nd—11:30-1:00
(Anyone welcome!)

President's Club Dinner
Lake Quivira Country Club
Sunday, January 25th—6:00 p.m.
(By Invitation)

Baker Buzz...

Watch student produced TV (Baker Orangeline)...copy this link in your browser: www.youtube.com/knbu

I Hope You Have a Great
December and Christmas!
I'll write again in January!

Jerry L. Weakley '70

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Consider these Tax-Saving Strategies Before 12/31/2008!!!

TAKE OUT A COPY OF YOUR 2007 FEDERAL TAX RETURN THAT YOU FILED...

Look specifically at all the deductions you may have claimed on Schedule A with the purpose of determining whether or not you have maximized the use of similar deductions for this current year. It might be possible for you to “bunch” deductions from the next year (2009) by making payments on the house, taxes etc. ahead in December of 2008.

INVESTIGATE POSTPONING THE RECEIPT OF SOME INCOME INTO THE NEXT YEAR...

Unless you expect to pay Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) you may want to try to defer some investment income (if there is such a thing anymore :() until the next tax year. If you are planning to sell a property that you own, ask your advisors about using an installment sale contract that postpones some of the tax until later.

EVEN THOUGH IT MIGHT NOT BE A PLEASANT TASK RIGHT NOW—DETERMINE IF YOU HAVE SOME STOCKS IN YOUR PORTFOLIO THAT SHOULD BE SOLD AT A CAPITAL LOSS...

Capital losses are fully deductible against capital gains, and any excess losses can be deducted against ordinary income up to \$3,000. Unused capital losses can also be carried over to subsequent years. If you sell stocks at a loss, remember to wait 30 days before repurchasing the same stock. After that time, you may want to consider establishing a new position in a good stock that has been beaten down by the general economic climate.

CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING THE MAXIMUM TO YOUR QUALIFIED RETIREMENT PLAN/IRA...

This may be particularly true if your employer matches any portion of your own contribution to the plan. If you are already making the maximum contribution to your plan, consider contributing to a nondeductible IRA.

CONSIDER MAKING GIFTS TO FAMILY MEMBERS OR OTHERS...

In preparing this I had a difficult time trying to ascertain the current amount that any individual can give another individual without adverse tax implications. The last figure I saw published was for the tax year 2006, and that amount was \$12,000. At that time any individual could make an annual payment of this amount to any other person free of federal gift tax. This is one way to work down an estate by giving it away slowly over time so as not to incur an Estate Tax upon death. Check with your own consultant to acquire the current figure.

MAXIMIZE CHARITABLE DEDUCTIONS...

You may want to consider making donations to **Baker** or to other favored charities before the end of the year. If needing additional deductions you could bundle donations you want to make in 2008 with those you would normally make in 2009. Gifts of appreciated securities that you have owned for over a year is another excellent way to make a wonderful gift and also to save on potential capital gains if you were to sell the security yourself. The same strategy is possible with the transfer of real estate that has appreciated or with collectibles. Using these gifts, coupled with the creation of a life-income arrangement might make an excellent way of providing a gift to charity and a stream of income into retirement.