



## *From the Arbor* *@ Baker University...*

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

### A Restatement of Admissions Standards...

Last month's article on this subject omitted some important details and may have potentially caused confusion in regard to the current admission's standards of the CAS. I have restated the full details for clarification after conferring with Dr. Rand Ziegler, Dean of the College of Arts and Science.

The Academic Standards and Enrollment Management Committee of the College of Arts and Science faculty made a motion to the CAS Faculty Senate to modify admissions standards/procedures at CAS. After discussion, the measure was passed. It will now go on to be presented for approval by the UAC. If passed by the UAC the measure will then be presented to the Board of Trustees in May for final approval. The new proposal would set the "clear admit" standard for an applicant at an 18 ACT and a minimum 2.75 high school GPA. Those applicants falling below these numbers and down as far as a 16 ACT and 2.3 GPA would then be referred to the Enrollment Management Committee for consideration of their individual eligibility for admission. Students who are denied admittance by the committee are always free to attend another school (2 or 4 year) and then re-apply for admission to **Baker** after successfully completing college level courses.

### Orton International Cone Box Show Returns to **Baker**...

**Baker** will exhibit more than 150 unique ceramic pieces at the Orton International Cone Box Show April 1-25 at the Holt-Russell Gallery at Parmenter Hall. An opening reception was held on Tuesday, April 1st. More than 400 entries from around the globe were submitted for the show, which **Baker** hosts every other year. Artists were challenged to create ceramic artwork no larger than 3 inches by 3 inches by 6 inches, the dimensions of the Orton Standard Pyrometric Cone Box from which the show takes its name. The pieces are composed of at least 50 percent clay and could not exceed \$150 in value. Artists from Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, Denmark and Japan are represented in this year's show.

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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 an endowment*  
785-594-8332
- ***Baker Orange** on-line*  
[www.thebakerorange.com](http://www.thebakerorange.com)

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*Alpha Chi Omega 100th...*

It's still not too late to join with other Alpha Chi Omegas this May 16-17th in celebration of the sororities' 100th anniversary. Stag night (May 17th) dinner reservations are still available by contacting Lindsay Ferrell, **Baker** University, P. O. Box 65, Baldwin City, KS. 66006. Phone: 785-594-4590. Cost of the dinner will be \$30. Please join the other close to 200+ that organizers anticipate will attend!

## Baker Recognized by Kansas Governor Sibelius...

Following a February visit to both the Kansas House and Senate for the presentation of proclamations on behalf of Baker's sesqui-centennial year, President Long led a small delegation of University representatives once again to the capitol this past month, this time to the office of the Governor, Kathleen Sibelius. The Governor had earlier sent a proclamation to the University in regard to its 150th birthday but was unable to be present for a photo opportunity on the exact date of Baker's birthday (February 12th). The photo below was taken in the Governor's office that will soon be closed for nearly two years as a part of the capitol's renovation.



Left to Right:

Jerry Weakley '70, Vice President Endowment/Planned Giving,  
Lindsay Ferrell '03, Assistant Director of Development,  
Edrie Swanson '99, Executive Assistant to the President,  
Ms. Suzanne Richardson Teel '69, Chair-Elect-Baker Board of Trustees  
Kansas Governor Kathleen Sibelius  
Dr. Kathy Harr, Vice President and Dean of the School of Nursing  
Dr. Pat Long, President-Baker University  
Steve Rottinghaus, Director of Public Relations

## Baker Trivia Question for April...

What is the official "shade" of Orange that is Baker University's official color???

For extra credit...What one other University in the nation does Baker share the distinction of having this single color orange as its official color with?

(The answers will be featured in the May Arbor.)

## 150th-Baker Gala...

### Call for Reservations for the 150th Gala...

With the number of days dwindling until the University's April 19th Gala it will now be necessary to call the University Advancement office to secure tickets for the evening's events. The Gala committees responsible for the entire range of activities associated with the Gala have been working non-stop to insure great success for this capstone event on the University's 150th birthday year of celebration. In addition to the splendid cocktail party and dinner that has been arranged at the Westin Crown Center Hotel with silent auction items and a live Fund-A-Scholarship auction. In addition there will be some Baker entertainment and plenty of time for visiting with classmates, friends and others along with an opportunity to meet and greet President Pat Long and her husband, Dennis. For more information or tickets contact the University Advancement office by phone at 800-726-1554 or [advancement@bakeru.edu](mailto:advancement@bakeru.edu).

Tickets are \$150 with \$100 deductible.

### Dorm Construction Progress...

Workmen were able to "button-up" the new student housing unit during the workable days of winter and prior to the arrival of heavy spring rains. The building now stands with walls, windows and roofing in place. Work continues inside with plumbing, electrical, communication wiring and heating/cooling items currently demanding most of the workers' attention. Dry wall will begin arriving shortly and will be installed at the conclusion of these other projects. It is still estimated that the 190 bed structure will be open and available for occupancy for the fall semester 2008. More later!

## Baldwin City Receives Facelift and Major Improvements Downtown...

If you haven't driven through the downtown of Baldwin City for some time now, you may not recognize what you will see the next time you do. Over the course of the previous year the downtown landscape has taken on a much improved visual appearance and user-friendly feeling. The work includes new sidewalks, accessible curb-cuts, lighting and landscaping projects that add substantially to the overall beautification and the historic nature of downtown Baldwin City. Included in the project is a lovely fountain dedicated to Baker in honor of its 150th Birthday. The work is being paid through local taxes with help from a loan from the federal government. The total cost of the project is \$1.2 million. Baldwin City Mayor Gary Walbridge '72, who also serves as Baker's Director of the Physical Plant, says that the project will be substantially complete by Baker's Alumni-Commencement Weekend May 16-18th. I hope you will plan to drive or walk through the lovely downtown that we will all enjoy through the coming years very soon!

## SPGS Students Assist with Ethics Program...

School of Professional and Graduate Studies students assisted for the second consecutive year with the Heart of America Ethics in Business Awards Program, sponsored by Kansas City-based Midwest Christian Counseling Center for stress or depression treatments. "We are looking for organizations where atmospheres are such that employees thrive," said David Ehman, the center's executive director. "We want to honor places that treat their employees and the environment well, that give back to the community and that operate with integrity."

Twenty-eight area businesses, nonprofit organizations or individuals were nominated. Baker students were responsible for visiting and interviewing the nominees. Their reports were forwarded to the selection committee formed by the counseling center to pick the four winners in 2008.

## The History of Parmenter Hall...

I thought it might be of interest not only to former students and alumni of the College of Arts and Science but to our SPGS, SOE and SON alumni as well that during our 150th year celebration to learn the history behind one of the more famous and oldest college buildings west of the Missouri River...

Baker's own Parmenter Hall. I have had the rudiments of this document in a computer file for many years and have added bits and pieces to it through those years. The person(s) who did the earlier research and authored the original document, however, are unknown to me.

This building was the first erected on the Baker campus proper-- an ambitious undertaking in the era of the Civil War. The estimated cost was thirty thousand dollars, and the University's financial agent traveled widely seeking contributions. The most illustrious of these was a sum of one hundred dollars from the President of the United States, Abraham Lincoln. A copy of the original ledger entry at the Baldwin State Bank of this gift can be seen to this day in the Lincoln/Kemper Parlor on the 2nd floor of the building.

The laying of the cornerstone took place in June of 1866, the year Baker graduated its first college class. The lack of adequate resources halted the construction for long intervals and it took five more years before the faculty and students could in March of 1871 occupy one floor and thus abandon the "Old Castle."

During the William Henry Sweet administration (1880's) enrollment and improvement of finances led to the completion of the building and full occupancy. In 1882 the University was able then to add the cornice and the cupola or tower for the housing of the bell.

From early descriptions the interior was very plainly furnished but in the course of time with the construction of Centenary Hall, the first experienced internal modification. In the 1890's members of the student literary organizations financed the furnishing of rooms on the third floor, which formerly had been the chapel. They then installed colored windows, which for many years was one of the structure's most distinctive features.

The building served a wide variety of needs in those early years, with the installation of gymnastic apparatus on the top floor as well as facilities for chemistry. Besides the laboratories for scientific studies, there was also the library, moved from one floor to another to accommodate the changing situation. When the University was able to construct a separate gymnasium and library, the structure fitted well the name "Old Science Hall" until the gift for the construction of Mulvane Hall, occupied in 1925. After this event deterioration set in, and there was doubt about "Old Science's" future.

In 1938, however, the trustees approved the renovation of the building as a student union, and they chose to name it as a

## April Events...

- 4/1- 4/25 Orton International Cone Box Show  
Holt-Russell Gallery  
Parmenter Hall
- 4/8 The Baker Sesquicentennial Reading Series  
7:30 p.m. Location TBD featuring Baker  
Students reading original poetry
- 4/17 Artist and Lecture Series 150th Signature  
Series featuring author Bob Reiss discussing  
His career as a reporter for the  
Chicago-Tribune  
Owens AV Room  
Adults \$15 Youth \$10
- 4/19 An Evening Under the Arbor Gala  
And Auction  
6:00 p.m. Westin Crown Center Hotel  
Kansas City  
Tables and seats still available  
For Information Contact:  
Lindsay Ferrell '03 at 785-594-7866 or  
Lindsay.ferrell@bakeru.edu

## Parmenter History Continues...

tribute to the long revered Professor Charles Sylvester Parmenter, who had taught at Baker for many decades. Students made class gifts that financed the furnishings of a lounge on the main floor, on which also were a dining room and kitchen. Following World War II, with the rapid growth of the enrollment the ground floor became a dormitory for male students. Meanwhile the destruction of the University's gymnasium by fire in 1943 led to the new conversion of the third floor to a women's gym for a few years. Eventually it became a gallery for the display of works of art and storage of a wide-assortment of stuffed mammals and birds from the science department.

In the late 1960's and early 1970's the structure was once again falling rapidly into deterioration. A partial renovation project enabled the building to be placed back into full-time service in 1977. Ten years later, however, the University was forced to close the building again, awaiting opinions from noted restoration architects on whether the building could indeed be saved due to structural damage to the south wall.

In 1989 the university began a \$1,000,000 campaign to raise money for the total renovation once the architects declared the project to be "possible". In December 1989, mason specialists from Double Eagle Construction Company of Kansas City began dismantling the south wall of the old building, painstakingly removing the sandstone, piece by piece, to be fit together again after repairs. Some badly damaged stone was

## March's Trivia Answer...

The question was: What is the name of the two individuals for whom the current Baker Student Union Building is named and from what college did they graduate?

The Answer is: Sylvia and Edward Harter—Missouri Wesleyan College in Cameron, MO. When the college closed in 1930 the Harter's records, along with those of other MO Wesleyan alumni, were transferred for maintenance to Baker. Upon their passing in 1990 a gift from their trust left Baker a gift of \$2.7 million for endowed scholarships. The Baker Student Union was named in honor and memory of the Harters.

## Parmenter History Continues...

replaced by closely-matched aged sandstone and stone that had originally comprised the inner most portion of the wall. The renovation was completed due to a \$300,000 challenge grant from the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation of Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Parmenter Hall was reopened in August of 1990. Classrooms, offices, an art gallery/loft and theatre are still located there. In addition, Parmenter currently houses the University's offices of Admissions, Advancement Services and Alumni Relations.

So now in the University's 150th year the 142 year old building has withstood the challenges of time, weather and changing strategic needs within the University. It will continue as a symbol of Baker to those of us who have studied on this campus and is ready to serve the multiplicity of needs of another generation of Students.

I Hope You Had a Wonderful Easter  
and Will Have a Great Month of  
April!

I'll write again in May!

*Jerry L. Weakley '70*

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and Planned Giving  
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