Baker Gala Was Magical...Raised $135,000…

The second annual Baker Gala, held November 14th at the Hyatt Hotel Crown Center in Kansas City was indeed a magical event and a complete success!!!

Volunteer Co-Chairs, Connie Sollars ‘71 and Gary Coleman ‘72 along with Assistant Director of Development, Lindsay Ferrell Vise ‘03, planned and carried out a memorable evening for everyone in attendance.

The “Black-tie-optional” evening began with a social hour and bidding on silent auction items ranging from trips to sports memorabilia to artwork to Green Bay Packer tickets. Alumni, former students, donors and corporate sponsors and their guests enjoyed conversation amidst the bidding while also enjoying magic tricks performed by a local magician/illusionist.

Following the fabulous banquet, a video featuring Baker Students who receive tuition assistance scholarships produced by senior Andrew Patch ‘10 was viewed followed by live remarks from several of these same students.

President Pat Long offered greetings and made a surprise announcement that Peggy and Andrew Cherng ‘69/’70 had generously pledged a total of $50,000 to match dollar for dollar all pledges made to the “Fund-a-Scholar” portion of the evening. With this announcement, success of the evening was insured!

The Fund-A-Scholar portion of the evening was lead by TV 9 personality/Chopper pilot/reporter, Johnny Rowlands ’73, along with Alumni Director, Doug Barth ’91 and Baker VP for Endowment/Planned Giving, Jerry Weakley ’70/’92. Rowlands challenged those attending to pledge money to hear Weakley sing a song—which with $12,000 in hand he did. Weakley then issued back a challenge for pledges to see Rowlands announce a fictional traffic situation at 8th and High in Baldwin City with the accompanying traffic backup.

All in all it was a fun and fabulous night! Most important...
Baker Alma Mater…

For those of you who attended/graduated prior to the mid-1980's there really wasn’t an official “Alma Mater” that was recognized and used at Baker.

Many remember the tune “Baker Wins!”...the official “fight song” played at athletic contests, but not our Alma Mater. The trivia question for December just below deals with the history of the song now used as our Alma Mater.

In case you want to brush up on the tune prior to attending graduation later this month or at Alumni weekend in May here are the words to the Alma Mater:

“To the Orange”

“To dear old Baker unto thee...
Our grateful song we sing.
In triumph sound throughout the land...
Loud let thy praises ring.
Our alma mater will reign...
Across the vast fair Kansas plain.
Hearts to the Orange forever true...
We’re children of old Baker U.”

To hear the Alma Mater sung by an outstanding student quartet, copy and paste this address into your browser:
www.youtube.com/watch?v=azddyYYSemQ

Baker Trivia for December…

Name the person responsible for composing the music for the Alma Mater.

Next, name the former faculty member responsible for having written the words to go along with the music.

Finally, for extra credit, what was the first year that the “Alma Mater” was sung at an official “high University occasion”.

Wandering Wildcats Planning to Wander Again…

It’s been over a year and a half since 30+ alumni, former students, trustees and friends joined Dr. Long and her husband Dennis on a fantastic 12 day cruise of the Mediterranean and Adriatic seas. Since that time, the economy has not been exactly conducive to organized group travel for university’s in general—and Baker has been no exception!

Now that it appears that the worst part of the near recession is either approaching or is behind us (we hope), we are beginning to plan for the next opportunity to host an exciting trip for one and all--most likely in the summer of 2011!

So, here’s a homework assignment for YOU! The following list are those ideas that have been expressed to me by individuals who are interested in for traveling with the Wandering Wildcats. Please look over the list and select your top 3 destinations. E-mail your response back to me. If you don’t see any that excite you, feel free to detail a trip of your own choosing to me as well. I will dedicate a future article for the purpose of narrowing the list before making a final decision.

Everyone is welcome to join us on any Wandering Wildcat tour. Pat and Dennis will be “leading” each tour backed up by me and others from across the University. Can’t wait to hear where YOU want to go! Here’s the current list:

Bermuda Cruise (possibly with New York Theater add on)…
Vienna/Salzburg…(including side trips to central Europe)...
A Scandinavia Cruise...
Greek Isle Cruise (Some have mentioned including Turkey)...
Bus tour of Italy with several days spent in Tuscany at a Villa...
Cruise of Asia/Tailand/Hong Kong etc...
A Tour of the Galapagos Islands...
Peru with a trip to Machu Pichu...
Mississippi River Boat Cruise...
Copper Canyon train trip into Mexico...
Various Caribbean cruise destinations 7-14 days...
Alaska Cruise...

*Wandering Wildcat trips are generally summer time trips that coincide with a slightly less hectic schedule at the University! We have travelled twice during the University’s spring break before so that is an additional possibility on a shorter duration trip.
Baker Sends Season’s Greetings…

In case you missed the e-mail, check out a beautiful and well-designed holiday greeting card “Celebrate the Season” that was sent to everyone in the Baker family with a good e-mail address. Cut and paste the following web address into your browser: www.bakeru.edu/external/alumni/holiday_card.html. It’s 1 minute and 15 seconds.

Dallas and New York/New Jersey Area Alumni/Former Students/Friends Meet…

Frisco, Texas, a northern suburb of Dallas was the gathering site in November for numerous friends of Baker from all across the big “D”. Meeting at the Fox Sports Grill on Legacy, over 30 individuals representing classes from 1952 to 2008 gathered for food, fun, conversation and networking opportunities with others who have attended or graduated from Baker.

Just a couple of weeks later the Hyatt Regency, Vu Lounge, in Jersey City, New Jersey, was the site of a gathering for 25 individuals from that area. The view across the Hudson River toward mid-town Manhattan was spectacular and the conversations with our guests (classes of 1953-2009)-even better!

The alumni association is sponsoring a limited number of “Baker After Hours” events in cities across the country. These informal, come-and-go events are proving in many cases to be more popular than the previous formal gathering-dinner-meeting format that we have used for years.

Over the course of the next several years the University intends to expand the number of these gatherings to cities to which we have not traditionally travelled.

If you would like to suggest a major metropolitan city in which you reside to host such a function, contact Doug Barth ’91, Director of Alumni Relations, at 1-800-726-1554 or Doug.barth@bakeru.edu. We can also use your expertise on the “best” place to host such an event! This is a great way to become involved and reconnected with your alma mater!!!

William Jewell to Leave NAIA/HAAC …

William Jewell College, Liberty, Missouri, one of the original members of the Heart of America Athletic Conference going back to 1971, has announced that it will leave the NAIA and the HAAC following athletic competition in the year 2010-2011. In a vote of the Great Lakes Valley Conference Council of Presidents, Jewell will be allowed to join with 15 other institutions in this NCAA Division II conference. Other conference schools include: Bellarmine University (Louisville, Ky.), Drury University (Springfield, Mo.), Kentucky Wesleyan College (Owensboro, Ky.), Lewis University (Romeoville, Ill.), Maryland University (St. Louis, Mo.), Missouri University of Science & Technology (Rolla, Mo.), Northern Kentucky University (Highland Heights, Ky.), Quincy University (Quincy, Ill.), Rockhurst University (Kansas City, Mo.), Saint Joseph’s College (Rensselaer, Ind.), University of Illinois at Springfield (Springfield, Ill.), University of Indianapolis (Indianapolis, Ind.), University of Missouri-St. Louis (St. Louis, Mo.), University of Southern Indiana (Evansville, Ind.) and University of Wisconsin-Parkside (Kenosha, Wis.). The GLVC was established in 1978 and is one of the largest NCAA Division II conferences in the country. With the addition of William Jewell, the GLVC will include 16 institutions from five Midwestern states.

No replacement school(s) have been announced for the Heart of America Conference at this time.

A Wildcat Christmas Memory…

Here’s a picture from the 1943 Baker Wildcat showing 15 year old Jane Glass (Julianna Lerner) as the Angel in the Christmas Pageant. Jane came to Baker as a Jewish Holocaust survivor through New York, originally from Vienna, Austria. She lives now in Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she has been active for years in activities supporting the memory of the Holocaust.
November’s Trivia Answer…

The Question was:

True or False…

Baker is currently offering a doctorate in one of its four Colleges/Schools?

If you answer “true”...for possible extra credit...Which College/School is offering such a degree? (Answer in December!)

The Answer is:

TRUE! Baker’s School of Education offers the Doctorate of Education degree!!!

Weaver Announces Retirement…

Rick Weaver, Baker head men’s basketball coach for the past twenty five years recently announced to his team that this would be his final year of coaching the ‘Cats. With over 350 victories, a Conference Championship and lots of outstanding graduates to look back upon with pride, Weaver felt it was time to step-aside to allow some “fresh-blood” to lead the team forward. He will continue at the University through at least 2010-2011 while teaching and doing some fund raising for athletics. If you would like to contact Coach Weaver to add your words of congratulations you may contact him at rick.weaver@bakeru.edu or 785-594-8422. (He’s still accepting donations for the Roundball Club too!) :)

Upcoming University/Alumni Events …

December

12th-1:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.
Commencement Services
George F. Collins Jr., Sport and Convention Center

13th-1:00 p.m.
Commencement Services
George F. Collins Jr., Sport and Convention Center

February

25th...5:30-7:30 p.m.
Baker After Hours- Oeno Wine Bar, 330 N. Mead, Wichita, Kansas

March

Baker Alumni/Former Student Socials-Green Valley, Scottsdale and Sun City, Arizona.
Times/places to be announced in January…

NCATE Visit Goes Well…

Every 7 years members of the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education visit every college campus in the business of certifying teachers for the purpose of accrediting their program. This was Baker’s year for a campus visit which occurred a couple of weeks ago. Dean Peggy Harris was extremely pleased with the comments made by members of the visitation team and looks forward to Baker receiving high marks and another 7 years of accreditation. The committee’s final report will be sent to the University sometime after the first of the year. Congratulations Peggy, the education faculty and everyone that participated in their visit!!!

Another Great Way to Check up on Campus Activities…

You can stay abreast of the most current activities on campus by checking out this Youtube site from time to time: http://www.youtube.com/knbu

I Hope You Have a Great Month of December…
I’ll write again in January!!!

Jerry L. Weakley ‘70

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Income Tax Deductions - the 50% and 30% Rules…

As we find ourselves once again at the end of a calendar year we know that Uncle Sam and the fighting IRS are just waiting for us in the next few months. This month’s Planned Giving article will deal with tax deductions and specifically the rule regarding deductions at the 50% level and 30% level.

As you may be aware, there are several limits for deducting charitable gifts. Generally, cash gifts and appreciated gifts to public charities are deducted first. Then, cash and appreciated gifts to private foundations are deducted. If there are carry-forwards in either category, those are deducted next if the current gifts have not reached the applicable deduction limits.

The deduction limit for gifts to public charities is 50% of the contribution base. The contribution base is the Adjusted Gross Income (AGI), disregarding any net operating loss (NOL). Since very few taxpayers have an NOL, to simplify this discussion, the contribution base will be referred to as the AGI. See IRS Sec. 170(a).

A donor may deduct gifts up to 50% of his or her AGI in one year. A gift of cash may be transferred and deducted in that year. If the donor gives more than the 50% limit, the excess is carried forward and may be deducted over the next five years. Reg. 1.170A-10(b).

A second common category of gift is long-term capital gain property. This property is a capital asset such as stock or land that has been held for a year and a day and therefore has long-term capital gain status. The full value of the asset is deductible, but the gift limit is 30% of donor's AGI. Sec. 170(b)(1)(C). Gifts in excess of the 30% limit may also be carried forward for five years.

Gifts of cash and appreciated property may be combined, provided that the total gifts do not exceed the 30% or 50% limits. With combined gifts, the cash is deducted first and then the appreciated gift.

If you would like information on how to structure a current or planned gift to the University through the use of appreciated property or would like information on creating an endowment within the University please call me (Jerry Weakley) today at 785-594-8332.

*Much of the above material was supplied by national planned giving consultant, Crescendo inc., whom Baker utilizes for maintenance of its planned giving web site at: http://bakeru.giftlegacy.com. You will find articles of interest every week at this web-site. Included, is a calculator that can produce estimates for life-income streams produced through charitable gift annuities and uni-trusts. I invite you to visit the site often!

*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!”