



From the Arbor

@ Baker University...

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

Efforts Lead to Retention Increases at CAS/SOE and Enrollment numbers at SON...

The University not only has enrolled the highest number of students on any recent year for the spring semester but it has made gains in an important area of the overall student enrollment process—retention! Retention of this year's freshmen class from the fall semester was 89.7%, a 1% increase from last year. The most significant increase in retention numbers reflected in the annual Spring Enrollment Report, however, has come from the retention of freshmen who initially enrolled at **Baker** in the fall of 2004 and who are now seniors. The retention number for that group is up significantly to 67.5% from 52.9% a year ago. Much of the University's efforts in increasing overall enrollment at CAS/SOE is not just targeted at recruiting new students but in finding ways to retain as high a percentage of the students initially recruited as possible. It would appear from these figures that the combined efforts of the campus community in this effort is meeting success. The total number of 162 nursing students in Topeka at the School of Nursing is the highest in the history of the school!!! Congratulations to everyone involved in making all of this great news possible!!!

School of Education Wall of Honor...

As I have previously reported, 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 have been recognized at a state or national level. 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. I invite you to stop by Case Hall and visit the Wall of Honor the next time you are on campus.

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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

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Kahle Honored...New Scholarship Created...

Longtime **Baker** Professor of German, Robert Kahle, was honored at a reception on campus, Friday, January 25th where it was announced that a number of his former students, colleagues and friends have funded an endowed scholarship in his honor. You may send donations to help build the corpus of the fund % Kahle Scholarship, **Baker** University, P.O. Box 65, Baldwin City, KS. 66006.

Alpha Chi Omega Centennial Celebration...

Alpha Chi Omega's Centennial Celebration is set for the weekend of May 16-17, 2008. This is Omicron Chapter's 100th Anniversary and it will be celebrated in grand style during Baker's annual Stag Weekend. A committee of alumnae has been working for over a year on plans for the celebration and accompanying activities. All alumnae of the chapter are invited and encouraged to attend. On Friday, the University has reserved an area at the annual Alumni Weekend Reunion party/dinner for Alpha Chi Omega alumnae and their spouses to get together. The party/dinner will be held at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park. The evening begins around 6 pm. The cost to attend will be announced in the upcoming Baker Pride Newsletter (most likely around \$30 as it was last year). Baker will take all reservations for this evening. When making reservations with the University, please indicate that you are with Alpha Chi Omega. This evening will be a great time to get faces and names back together in a more casual atmosphere before the formal celebration that will be held on campus on Saturday. There is a block of rooms at the Doubletree in Overland Park. If you are interested in reserving the discounted Baker rate, call the hotel and let them know that you are with Baker University. On Saturday, May 17th, alumnae may visit the chapter house to see changes that have been made in the past few years and to view memorabilia from the past 100 years that will be displayed. There will be a display for each decade throughout the house featuring Alpha Chi along with Baker memorabilia. At 5:00 p.m. there will be a plaque presentation at the house followed by the Centennial Banquet. This will be held at the Harter Union on campus in the dining room. All alumnae are invited to attend. The cost for dinner is \$30. This will be a wonderful celebration of AXO history and the future as guests from Alpha Chi Omega National Headquarters and the University will be on hand. The program will be memorable and will feature many surprises! Call a sister and plan to attend!!!

Baker Trivia Question for February...

This Baker graduate who was the wife of a one-time Kansas Governor and U.S. Senator was a connoisseur of art. Her home in Wichita was a commissioned work of world-famous Frank Lloyd Wright and it was filled with art which had been collected from across Kansas and the world. Upon her death in 1951 she donated this collection of art that she and her husband had collected throughout their lives to her alma mater. Totalling over 100 pieces, the collection included paintings, prints, drawings and even a collection of Russian icons. The collection has been exhibited across campus and in special shows for over a half century. She also donated the sum of \$10,000 at the time of her passing for maintenance of the collection. Name this 1891 Baker Graduate... (The answer will be featured in the March Arbor.)

Baker Buzz...

Last Call for Donations for 150th Gala...

Lindsay Ferrell '03, chair of the 150th Gala and her committee are still in the process of soliciting items to auction at this keynote event of the University's 150th anniversary. The Gala will be held at the Westin Hotel in Kansas City on April 19th. Specifically, Lindsay is looking for collectibles, new electronic equipment/computers etc., vacation packages to resort destinations, paintings, jewelry, sports memorabilia and other items. The proceeds from the auction will benefit scholarships for Baker students. If you own or have access to items such as these to donate, please contact Lindsay at 800-726-1554 or lindsay.ferrell@bakeru.edu.

Oops—I goofed...

There has been little doubt that some of you are reading every word of the Arbor—as you have been very kind in pointing out the few (fortunately) mistakes I have made as I have written and compiled this publication. The last misstep was caught by the sharp eyes of Becki Cargo Almeida '04. She wrote to tell me that the NAIA record field goal is currently 69 yards and not the 62 yards I incorrectly listed for the field goal made against William Jewell this past fall by junior Derek Doerfler. Becki should know, she currently serves as a Championship Sports Manager for the NAIA! Sorry Derek, I tried!!! :)

Marketing Receives Awards...

At the recent CASE District VI conference in Denver, Baker's outstanding Marketing team received five individual awards for excellence in publications/design. Baker was also named as runner-up for the Sweepstake Award for schools of like-size. Congratulations to all the winners!!!

Search for SPGS V.P. and Dean Nears Conclusion...

A national search for a full-time successor to Dr. Donald Clardy, who resigned a year ago to become a full-time member of the Baker SPGS Faculty in Overland Park is nearing conclusion. Three candidates have been invited and accepted an opportunity to visit SPGS headquarters and Baldwin City for a final round of meetings and interviews prior to the committee making a final selection. The new Vice President will be a member of the President's Administrative Cabinet and will be responsible for the on-going and future operations for this important component of the University. SPGS offices are headquartered in Overland Park with auxiliary operations located in Topeka and Wichita. Dr. Steve Cohen has served as the interim vice president since Dr. Clardy's departure. Dr. Cohen plans to return to his successful consulting company that he has operated for several years. The University looks forward to naming a successful candidate in the search in the next few days/weeks. I will update you in March.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebrated on the Baldwin City Campus...

The Rev. A.D. Washington, senior pastor of the Asbury Mount Olive United Methodist Church of Topeka was the speaker at the University's annual observance of this important celebration. The formal service of worship was held on January 24 in the Osborne Chapel on campus. Rev. Washington's sermon was "Choose to See" from Luke 16: 19-31. Rev. Washington was originally from Atlanta, Georgia and is widely known for her work in community affairs in Topeka. She is also active, not only in the life of her own church, but in Christian Witness in the Development of a relationship-oriented ministry. A standing room only crowd of students, faculty, administration and staff joined with members of the Baldwin Community to celebrate the life of the slain civil rights activist through the words of Rev. Washington, Dr. Ira DeSpain and by special performances from the Baker Speech Choir and guest singers.

News and Notes from School of Nursing...

65 of the 67 graduates in 2007 passed the NCLEX on the first attempt and 100% have now passed and are members of the RN workforce.

Twenty-six 2007 graduates were inducted into the Eta Kappa Chapter at Large of The Honor Society for Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International.

During the first Stormont-Vail Health Care Excellence in Nursing Awards ceremony on January 15, 2008 Chris Alumbaugh (2002) received an award for distinguished community service and Lizbeth Gogolski (1997) received an award for excellence in nursing practice. Congratulations Chris, Liz and all the 2007 grads!!!

Green Bay's McCarthy Honored...

Baker Alumnus and Green Bay Packer's Head Football Coach, Mike McCarthy, has been named the NFC's Coach of the year for leading the Packers to a most successful 14-4 season. The Packers who were figured by most experts to finish near the middle of the NFC pack had a tremendous season. They also won a first-round playoff game against the Seattle Seahawks before losing in the NFC Finals in overtime to the New York Giants on a field goal. McCarthy '87, who was inducted into the Baker Athletic Hall of Fame during the Packer's bye-week in October has also been named the NFC Coach of the Year by the Kansas City Chiefs Committee of 101. The banquet accompanying that award is scheduled for Saturday, March 8th in Kansas City. Congratulations Mike, and best wishes for another great season in 2008!!!

Baker Musicians Perform in England...

Members of Baker Music Department's Wind Ensemble, Choir and String Orchestra performed a concert in Central Methodist Church in Grantham, England, on their recent trip to the British Isles. The concert was given in honor of the relationship between Baker and the village of Sproxton, England. Sproxton was formally the home of the Clarice L. Osborne Chapel prior to it being moved to the Baker campus in 1995. Once rebuilt, it was dedicated in October, 1996. A number of village residents who attended the concert have also traveled to the Baker campus to visit the former redundant Methodist Chapel. This is the 2nd visit to the area by the University's Department of Music chaired by Dr. John Buehler.

150th February-April Events...

- 2/5 Opening: "The Next 150-Celebrating a View Toward Tomorrow" Art Exhibit
5 p.m.-7 p.m. Opening Reception
Holt-Russell Gallery, Parmenter Hall
- 2/12 Founders Day Celebration
150 years ago Baker's Charter was signed.
A full day of historical activities and a
Commemorative all-campus luncheon
- 2/19 University Forum:
"Tardigrades of North America: Fact,
fiction and Opportunity:
Dr. Randy Miller on his recent research on
These microscopic Tardigrades.
11:00 a.m. AV Room, Owens Hall
- 2/24 Exploring our Methodist Heritage:
Celebrating 300 Years of Charles Wesley
Hymns.
Drs. John Buehler, Susan Buehler and
Susan Emel present this program of
commentary and hymns.
2 p.m. Grace United Methodist Church
Olathe, Kansas
- 2/28 The Baker Sesquicentennial Reading
series Featuring Baker graduate and
Poet, Donald W. Levering '71.
7 p.m. AV Room, Owens Hall
- 3/6 Artist & Lecture 150th Signature Series:
Featuring Cello Quartet- CelloRondo.
7:30 p.m. McKibbin Recital Hall, Owens
Adults \$15 Youth \$10
- 3/26 (Besides being my xx birthday)... :)
Artist and Lecture 150th Signature Series:
Featuring City in Motion Dance Theater.
7:30 p.m. Rice Auditorium
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

January's Trivia Answer...

Here's the answer to the question posed in the January issue of the *Arbor* that asked "How many full-time employees (including faculty, administrative staff and administration) does the University currently employ?" According to Connie Deel '79, of the Human Relations Department, the answer is...333. Connie went on to say that if we count part-time employees and adjunct faculty the number springs to over 800! I can remember when Baker barely had 800 total students!!!

Alumni Office in Process of Organizing Alumni get-togethers and Socials in Arizona and California for March and April...

All alumni, former students, parents and friends of Baker will soon have an opportunity to meet one another and to greet President Pat Long and members of the Baker Advancement Office over the next two months. Be sure to watch this publication or go on-line to the alumni pages of the Baker Web site to get up-to-date information on dates, times and places. Alumni socials are a fun way of connecting with a wide range of fellow-area Baker folk and can lead to a lifetime of friendships, mentoring and even the possibilities of snagging a new job or a date! We had nearly 40 alums join us in Dallas in December. Lets see if California and/or Arizona can top that!

Have a great Month!
I'll write again in March!

Jerry L. Weakley '70

Vice President for
Endowment
and Planned Giving

P.O. Box 65,
Baldwin City, KS 66006
1-785-8332

jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu