

From the Arbor

@ Baker University...

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

Baker and Habitat for Humanity Planning to Partner on Building Project in Baldwin City...

On January 14th there will be an informational meeting held at the Baldwin City Public Library regarding plans to construct a "Habitat House" in Baldwin City. Jeremy Hahn, executive director of the Lawrence Habitat for Humanity, and Ruth Sarna, **Baker** University director of student health services, will host the meeting that is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. The meeting will inform people about all aspects of the project, and the special fundraising efforts that will be needed. The first purpose of the meeting will be to identify a family for the house that will be constructed. One of the biggest obstacles to building a Habitat House is finding a family that qualifies and who will live in the house once completed.

Besides finding a family to reside in the house other items high on the list of importance in such a project include finding a location to build the house and the funding of the materials for both exterior and interior construction. Plans call for **Baker** to become the primary fundraising group for the project. To be successful, **Baker** will need to raise around \$90,000 for the house to be built. It is hoped that individuals and civic groups will become closely involved with the project and successfully fund the project to completion. **Baker** is also hoping to get all three of its campuses involved.

Baker students decided to take on this Habitat for Humanity house as a part of the celebration of the University's 150th anniversary. Project coordinator, Ruth Sarna, said the **Baker** Student Senate was the primary leader in organizing this effort but that the entire University is squarely behind this important community and civic project.



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Of Special Interest:

- *Recommend a student-
800-873-4282*
- *Alumni Office-
888-781-2586*
- *Make a donation
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- *Create a planned gift or
create an endowment
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- ***Baker Orange** on-line
www.thebakerorange.com*

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Work Progresses on Residence Hall...

In spite of 4-5 inches of snow near Christmas, work has been able to progress on the new Residence Hall. With the ground floor now poured, a forest of 2"x 4"s that will soon form walls are going up daily. The elevator shaft and stairwell are also now blocked in. Needed supplies and materials for work ahead are stacked adjacent to the project and together with the heavy equipment in use presents a picture of a true construction site. If you are traveling to Baldwin soon, stop by and see the work in progress. Parking is being limited however in the immediate proximity to the construction site on Dearborn (between 6th and 7th and on 7th from Dearborn to the alley just north.)

Alumni Office Interviewing Alumni...

Baker's interesting alumni history is contained in files of both the Alumni Office and the archives of the University. Unfortunately, there is just not as much of that history available for review and use in publications etc. as the University would like to have. In fact, much of that history is forever interred with some of our older alumni. The stories, history of family attendance, achievements, records and record of employment are all very important to a school such as **Baker**.

To address this issue, the Alumni Office of the Advancement Department has procured a new video camera and is in the process of beginning to do local area interviews with some of **Baker's** alumni. An interterm class lead by Dr. Leonard Ortiz is actually going to work on the project this January and conduct interviews with about a dozen alumni in and around Baldwin City. Members of the alumni office and development office will also tote a camera with them while traveling so that they can make appointments to conduct interviews with alumni in distant cities and states.

If called for an appointment, I hope you will participate so we can form a more complete history of the University's outstanding alumni.

Baker Trivia Question for January...

How many "full-time" employees (this includes faculty, administrative staff and administration) does **Baker** currently have on its payroll? (A good guess would be +/- 25 from the actual number.) (Source—**Baker's** HR department—Connie Deel '79.)

Baker Buzz...

Musicians Selected for Kansas Band...

Six members of **Baker's** Symphonic Band have been selected to perform with the 2008 Kansas Intercollegiate Band. **Baker** will be represented by Tim Obiefule, Lawrence, contra-alto clarinet; Eric Riggs, Chanute, trumpet; Michael Stickelman, Maryville, MO., French horn; Jenna Collins, Lawrence, French horn; Luke Bowerman, Derby, French horn; and Jesse Kern, Osawatomie, tuba. The Kansas Intercollegiate Band consists of students from all of the state's university bands. They will perform Feb. 29 at the Kansas Music Educators in-service workshop at Century II in Wichita. Director Emeritus, Paula Crider, of the University of Texas, will direct the band. Congratulations to all of these fine young musicians!!!

Kicker Named an NAIA All-American...

Even though the 2007 football season is well behind us, Derek Doerfler, a junior from Lee's Summit, has been garnering awards for his performance this last season. Doerfler, who completed this last football season as the best ever for a **Wildcat** kicker while finishing with a school-record 23 field goals, was recently named to the NAIA First Team-All-America Team. During the season, Doerfler was named the "special-teams player of the week" on three separate occasions. In 2007, Doerfler also set school records for most field goals in a game (five) and longest field goal (62 yards) which is an NAIA record. He was featured in the Faces in the Crowd feature in Sports Illustrated in mid November. Congratulations once again, Derek, for your outstanding season! We can't wait to see you and the rest of the **Wildcats** in action next fall!

Former Student Competes at Miss Kansas USA Pageant...

Ashley Stewart fs '10, Desoto, Kansas recently completed in this long-held pageant as Miss Johnson County. She attended **Baker** during her freshman year before enrolling at the University of Kansas where she is currently a criminal justice major who plans on attending law school at KU following graduation. While at **Baker**, Ashley was a member of Delta Delta Delta, was a member of the **Baker** Dance Squad and was a member of the Dean's honor roll. Congratulations Ashley!!!

Baker's Annual Fund Update...

The Annual Fund stands at over \$427,000 towards its \$1 Million dollar goal for the year. The University's fiscal year ends June 30, 2008. Thanks to everyone who has made a gift or a pledge commitment for this most important fund raising activity!!!

Kappa Sigma Alumni Gather...

A New Year's eve day tradition continued this year as 30 alumni members of **Baker's** Kappa Sigma Chapter met for lunch as they have for the previous 20 years. Jimmy's Jigger and Jazz-A Louisiana Kitchen at 39th and Stateline was the site as it has been for most of the past 20 years. Luncheon organizers Jim Piper '74 and Jack Black '70 are going all-out to have a considerably larger crowd representing more years attend the event next year. It will be held once again at noon on New Year's Eve day. If you are a Kappa Sigma from **Baker**—you are invited!!! Put it in your Treo now!!!

DeSpain takes a Pie to the Face...

Baker's Minister to the University, Rev. Dr. Ira DeSpain '70, recently made good on a pledge that he had made by taking a pie in the face. DeSpain offered the opportunity if students and the community helped the Baldwin Food Pantry acquire enough food for the season. When his goal was met...the pie did fly!!!

Baker's Holden Inducted to Hall of Fame...

Former **Baker** football player Ron Holden '95, who currently serves as the University's multicultural affairs coordinator, was inducted into the Minor League Football Hall of Fame on Thursday, December 6th, at the Oasis Resort and Casino in Mesquite, Nev. He also played in the Hall of Fame Game on December 8th in Mesquite.

Holden, who was inducted as a linebacker, played defensive end on three Heart of America Athletic Conference championship teams at **Baker**, including the national semifinalist in 1993. He started his minor league football career in 1996 with the Kansas City Jazz. He also played for the Kansas Plainsmen, Dayton Skyhawks, Cincinnati Kings Comets, Cincinnati Heat, Cincinnati Ravens and Missouri Minutemen. He was named team most valuable player for the Plainsmen in 1998 and was a member of the Team USA All-Star team. While with the Heat, Holden was named to the Ohio Valley Football League All-Star team. Congratulations Ron!!! Do you have any **Baker** eligibility remaining??? :)

Winter Commencement Held on Campus...

All four schools of the University held winter commencement exercises in the Collins Sport and Convention Center on the Baldwin City campus over the weekend of December 15-16. This is the first time that the University has utilized more than one day to hold such services.

On Saturday at 1 p.m. students who had earned a Master of Arts in Education and School Leadership received their diplomas. At 4:30 p.m. that afternoon similar ceremonies were held for those earning diplomas in the Master of Business Administration program, in a Master of Liberal Arts or a Master of Science in Management Degree.

On Sunday the 16th a 1 p.m. service was held to award degrees to all undergraduates in the College of Arts and Sciences, the School of Education, the School of Nursing and the School of Professional and Graduate Studies.

Nearly 600 degrees in total were awarded at these winter services. Congratulations to all, and welcome grads to the **Baker** University Alumni Association!!!

January Events...

2nd–18th Interterm on Baldwin Campus

Baker University Concert Choir to Tour...

Baker's outstanding Concert Choir will be touring during much of the month of January. They departed on Tuesday the 8th for Dublin, Ireland and several other points of interest on the Emerald Isle. Following performances in Ireland they are to continue on to London, England with stops in Grantham, Sproxton (the original home of the Osborne Chapel), Cambridge and Bath. 43 students and 10 adults are making the trip which is being led by Department of Music Chair, Dr. John Buehler and his wife, Dr. Susan Buehler. Bon Voyage to one and all!!!

Baker Receives Grant from the Rice Foundation...

The Ethel and Raymond Rice Foundation (Lawrence, Kansas) recently awarded the University \$35,000 in support of undergraduate student scholarships. The gift will be added to the endowed Rice Scholarship Fund which provides annual scholarship support for graduates of Douglas County (Kansas) high schools attending **Baker**.

"Scholarships are critical in our efforts to attract promising students to **Baker** University," **BU** President Dr. Pat Long said. "The University is delighted that the foundation renewed its support which demonstrates its commitment to the outstanding students here at **Baker**."

The foundation has long recognized **Baker's** contributions to the region with gifts that have supported student scholarships, student health and academic programs. The foundation established the Rice Scholarship Fund in 1998, with an initial \$60,000 gift. This most recent addition brings its total for the University's specially endowed fund to \$145,000.

December's Trivia Answer...

The question posed in the December issue of the *Arbor* was...How many total degrees did **Baker** award during the year 2006-2007? (This includes all degrees from all schools and all campuses). And the Answer is...**1258** (from page 53 of the University Fact Book-2007). The first person to e-mail me with the exact answer was Curtis W. Coffman MLA '06. Congratulations Curtis!!!

Last Chance to Join in for Travel—2008...

Time to join the **Wandering Wildcats** trip to the fabulous Mediterranean and Adriatic Seas in early June 2008 is nearly over. To date we have 29 alumni and friends who have made deposits and are planning to join Dr. Pat and her husband, Dennis, along with members of the trustees, alumni, faculty and friends of the University. There are a few cabins remaining- so why not make plans to go with us? E-mail or call me at the address or number below for all the details. It is sure to be a grand time. The cruise consists of one night in Rome prior to departure. The ship makes stops at Naples-Venice (2 nights)-Dubrovnik-Sicily-Barcelona-Cannes-Pisa (Livorno) and back to Rome! Get on board!!!

Have a Great January!!!

I'll Write Again in February—
(about 5-6 pounds lighter—I hope!!)

Jerry L. Weakley '70

Vice President for
Endowment
and Planned Giving

P.O. Box 65,
Baldwin City, KS 66006
1-800-726-1554

jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu