



## *From the Arbor*

### *@ Baker University...*

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

#### University Names New Dean for S.P.G.S...

Dr. Marvin L. Hunt has been named the VP/Dean of Baker's School of Professional and Graduate Studies. He will begin his duties May 1, 2008. Dr. Hunt earned his PhD at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln in Educational Studies. He also holds BGS and MA degrees from the University of Kansas - both in the field of Communication Studies. Dr. Hunt is currently Assistant Dean of Continuing Education at the University of Kansas having served earlier as a Program Manager in the same area. Previously he served for several years as the Public Services Administrator and Grant Coordinator in the Department of Speech-Language-Hearing at the University of Kansas. Prior to joining the academic world, Dr. Hunt was a professional musician. Dr. Hunt was able to join with his fellow members of Baker's administrative cabinet for a retreat in February at which discussions of the 2008-2009 budget were held along with the on-going discussion of the University's Strategic Plan and Mission, Vision and Values statement. Congratulations and welcome aboard Marvin!!!

#### Faculty Move to Increase Admissions Standards...

After much discussion and study the Academic Standards and Enrollment Management Committee of the College of Arts and Sciences faculty made a motion to the faculty senate to increase the admissions standards at CAS. After discussion, the measure was passed. Applicants must now possess a minimum 16 on the ACT and a GPA of 2.3 to be considered for admission to Baker. Should a prospective student not meet these standards, they will then be required to successfully complete college courses at an approved college-level institution (2 or 4-year college) before being eligible for admission. This action came as a result of a study concerning the number of Baker students who had previously been admitted with lower standards and then either fell into academic probation, or due to low grades, were ineligible to return to Baker. The committee is charged with continuing to study the results from these new standards and be prepared to offer additional proposals for potential adjustments in the future.

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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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<b>Alpha Chi Omega 100th...</b>	

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: 800-726-1554. Cost of the dinner will be \$30. Please join the other close to 200+ that organizers have planned for!

## Baker Recognized in Kansas Legislature...

On Thursday, February 28, State Representative Tom Holland presented a proclamation recognizing Baker University's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the House floor at the Statehouse in Topeka. Immediately following the House proclamation, Senate President Steve Morris and State Senator Roger Pine also recognized Baker in the Senate chambers. On hand for the milestone events in commemoration of the University's 150th year of celebration was President Pat Long along with three former presidents of Baker University: Dr. Daniel Lambert, Dr. Ralph Tanner and Dr. Neal Malicky '56.

Seated on the front row of the House was the Honorable Marti Crow '66, representative from Leavenworth, who left her seat to greet and congratulate the Baker contingent upon the passing of the resolution and its being entered into the official record.

Dr. Tanner, who spent two terms in the Kansas House following his tenure as President of Baker, greeted numerous friends and colleagues from both sides of the aisle and from both houses of the legislature during the morning's activities.

I was pleased to have joined a number of other officers of the University who made the trek to Topeka and who came together with the Baker Presidents for brunch at a local restaurant following the ceremonies in the legislature. Following the brunch, Dr. Long returned to the Capitol for a legislative luncheon with all the other presidents of Kansas Colleges and the current President of the Kansas Independent College Association/Kansas Independent College Fund (KICA/KICF) Dr. Doug Penner—former President of Bethel College (Kansas).

I suppose it should also be mentioned that since I only heard "ayes" on the two resolutions that were presented on Baker's behalf that day, I assume that the representatives from Ottawa were either missing, abstained from the vote or felt compelled to vote with the overwhelming majority. :)

## What's that Crunching Sound Coming From Baldwin???

Over the course of the past several weeks members of the University's Administrative Cabinet have been deeply involved in crunching numbers over and over again in order to prepare the University's 2008-2009 budget for review by the Board of Trustees when they next meet in May. Led by President Long and Vice President of Financial Services, Jo Adams, these discussions have helped define the goals and strategies the University will have for determining expenses that will be largely paid for from revenues generated by enrollment, investments and new fund raising. The early budget forecast appears that Baker will be moving close to, if not over, the threshold of exceeding \$40 million dollars in that year!

## Baker Buzz...

### Last Call for Donations and Table Sponsors for the 150th Gala...

Lindsay Ferrell '03, chair of the 150th Gala and her committee are still collecting a few last minute items for the auction at this keynote event of the University's 150th anniversary. She is looking for just a few more items to go with these items that will be auctioned: A one-week stay at the beautiful guest house of Ross '70 and Chris Ann Hartley in Jackson Hole, Wyoming (adjacent to the ski slope in Teton Village), an overnight stay and round of golf for up to 8 persons at the National Golf Course in Kansas City, an original Tom Russell painting, a week's stay at a condo in Breckenridge, Colorado, a one-week stay in St. Maarten in the Caribbean and an electric guitar previously owned and played by recording group Rascal Flatts. Table sales for the event have gone very well and we expect a crowd in excess of 500 alumni, former students, parents, faculty and donor/friends. The Gala will be held on Saturday, April 19th at the Westin Hotel in Mid-town Kansas City. I hope YOU will plan to attend! For more information you can go to the Baker web-site or for tickets or table-sponsorships contact Lindsay Ferrell at [lindsay.ferrell@bakeru.edu](mailto:lindsay.ferrell@bakeru.edu) or at 800-726-1554.

### New Roof for Irwin Hall...

With heavy spring rains just around the corner the University has moved quickly to solve a roof leakage problem at Irwin Hall. This winter's unusually harsh freeze-thaw cycle opened some cracks in the 25 year old roof causing leaks in several student's rooms. The students moved into open rooms on other floors and the University has had a roofing contractor patch the cracks until they can return to put a new roof on the building this summer. Cost of the new roof will be over \$85,000! Ouch!!!

## Television Productions Bring Real World Experience for CAS Students...

Under the tutelage and mentoring of Baker Assistant Professor of Mass Media and Communication, Dr. Joe Watson, Baker Communication students are getting more and more opportunities for hands-on work in the field of television writing, production and on-camera work. A brand new episode of *Orangeline* is now playing on KNBU-TV, which can be seen on Mediacom channel 70 and YouTube! Each week students produce a number of interesting shows with interviews of students, professors and athletic coaches. To see all the current segments, go to KNBU-TV's YouTube page at:

<http://www.youtube.com/profile?user=KNBU>

Congratulations Joe and students for some great work. Undoubtedly we will be seeing more Baker students on local and national news and sports channels in the near future!

## Wandering Wildcat Trip Being Planned for June 2009...

For over 20+ years, former professor of music, Alice Ann Callihan Russell '48, led student and alumni groups to Vienna Austria and the surrounding area for cultural and learning opportunities. In honor of her long-time devotion to this vibrant city, the University is planning a reunion trip that will revisit many of the stops made on these former trips. Included as stops in 2009 include: Salzburg and Munich and perhaps even Prague and Budapest through day-trips. While being developed to encourage those alumni, former students and friends who traveled with Alice Ann previously, the trip in '09 will also be available for any alumnus, former student, donor or friend of the University. I am currently working on details with former professors Bob Courtney '56 and Walt Bailey '64, who have also made numerous journeys there and know well the art and culture of the city of Vienna. I will assist as always with side trips and travel details while planning evening outings to fun places!!! I hope you will plan now to join us in June 2009!

## Test Results from School of Education...

The Baker School of Education recently received word that a total of 54 of the 59 Baker Master of Arts in School Leadership students who completed the School Leadership Licensure Assessment in January passed the exam for a success rate of 91.5%. At this point, since The Kansas State Department of Education established a SLLA cut score of 165, the University has had 215 of 223 pass the SLLA for a 96.4% pass rate.

In addition, in the last academic year for which data is available, Baker had a 100% pass rate on the Praxis pedagogy tests (for all undergraduate programs...elementary, secondary, and pre-kindergarten-12 license programs). Baker also had a 100% pass rate on the content test for elementary education candidates. Elementary education is the only group that is large enough for ETS to provide the pass rate for our institution. Congratulations to all the members of the graduate and undergraduate program faculties in education...students too!!!

## Baker Trivia Question for March...

What is the full name of the two individuals for which the current Baker Student Union Building is named and from what college did they graduate?  
(The answer will be featured in the *April Arbor*.)

## Levering Presents Reading...

Poet Donald Levering '71 was the featured writer for the third installment of the Baker Sesquicentennial Reading Series in late February. Levering has received a National Endowment for the Arts Fellowship Grant in Poetry, a Devine Fellowship in Poetry and was a winner of the Quest for Peace rhetoric contest. He currently lives in Santa Fe, N.M. and has earned a Master of Fine Arts in creative writing from Bowling Green State University. Three full-length volumes of his work — "Outcroppings from Navajoland" in 1985, "Horsetail in 2000" and "Whose Body" in 2007 — have been published. He is a native of Kansas City and works as a human services administrator. In addition to his career as a poet, he has been a computer operator, freelance journalist, groundskeeper and teacher on a Navajo Reservation. His mother, Lois Levering '36, of Sun City, Arizona surprised her son by secretly flying in to attend the reading. A number of additional family members and a full-house of students and faculty were on hand for the presentation. The Reading Series for the Sesquicentennial concludes with a final event planned for later in April.

## March-April Events...

- 3/21 Good Friday, campus closed
- 3/26 (Besides being my ?? birthday)... :)  
Artist and Lecture 150th Signature Series:  
Featuring City in Motion Dance Theater.  
7:30 p.m. Rice Auditorium  
Adults \$15 Youth \$10
- 3/27 BU Symphonic Winds Concert,  
7:30 p.m., MidAmerica Nazarene  
Olathe, KS.
- 3/30 Earth We Are highway cleanup, 9 a.m.
- 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 800-726-1554or  
Lindsay.ferrell@bakeru.edu

## Spring Break Group Assisting with Hurricane Cleanup...

Hurricane damage continues to plague certain areas of the gulf coast nearly two years after the destruction originally occurred. To help with the on-going cleanup in and near the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge in Baldwin County, Alabama, 12 current and two former **Baker** students along with group sponsors traveled there and are working during the University's Spring Break (March 7-14<sup>th</sup>). Organizers of the trip who will also be helping with hurricane cleanup are campus minister Ira DeSpain '70, his wife, Barb DeSpain '71, and student activities director, Cassie Gilmore. This is the same area that Rev. DeSpain has led numerous trips to in the past for the purpose of assisting in the construction of Habitat for Humanity dwellings. The group will take a few hours for R&R each day as well but will work on specific projects for the general cleanup of the area. Thanks to all for this important **Baker** outreach to those less fortunate and who are having great difficulty getting back to normal living conditions following these natural disasters!!! You make **Baker** the special place that it has become!

## February's Trivia Answer...

The question was: "Name the Baker graduate who was the wife of a one-time Kansas Governor and U.S. Senator who 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 to her alma mater." And the answer is...Elsie J. Nuzman Allen. The correct answer was sent in by Ginnelle (Hummelke) Gordon '96. (Ginnelle grew up down the street from the Allen house.) Congrats!!!

## Los Angeles and San Diego Next Up for Alumni/Former Students to Gather...

If you live in Southern California, be on the look out for information on the forthcoming April gatherings in your area. Events have been planned for both San Diego on April 2nd and for Santa Monica on April 3rd. These gatherings will be a great time to get together with former classmates or others who have shared the **Baker** experience. President Pat Long and Lyn Lakin, Vice President for Advancement, will lead the **Baker** delegation and are looking forward to meeting as many former students, alumni, parents, donors and friends of the University as they can. For further information contact Debbie Papps at 785-594-4526 or Debbie.papps@bakeru.edu

Have a Safe and Sane  
**St. Patrick's Day and Month!**  
I'll write again in **April!**

*Jerry L. Weakley '70*

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