



# From the Arbor

## @ Baker University...

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

Volume 7, Issue 3

March, 2009

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### An Open Letter From President Pat Long...

Dear Alumni and Friends:

We have so much to be grateful for at Baker. Our students continue to excel; enrollment has grown to more than 4,000; we have approval to offer seven degrees online; our sports teams experienced great success in the fall; and our new residence hall has been extremely popular. We are also so thankful for your continued support.

Unfortunately, even with all the good news and progress at Baker, we are not immune to the current economic challenges facing our nation. Virtually every day I receive communications from university presidents detailing the actions being taken on their campuses to ensure balanced budgets.

Today I am writing a similar message to you about the proactive steps we have taken and will continue to take to ensure a strong foundation for the future of Baker University. Over the past few months we have adjusted our current budget by implementing a hiring freeze, reducing travel, delaying of professional development opportunities, decreasing mailings and publications, trimming costs for traditional marketing and advertising, downsizing events significantly, combining low enrollment classes, and renegotiating outside contracts. Regrettably, we have also found it necessary to go through the sorrowful process of a staff reduction. Our decisions have not been easy but our priority has been and will continue to be to protect the academic integrity of our University for our current and prospective students. This reduction in workforce will not impact our full-time teaching faculty on the Baldwin City campus. While we are saddened to see our colleagues leave Baker, these steps are necessary for us to prepare for a positive and productive future.

I have been deeply encouraged by the notes of support, gifts and voluntary actions across our constituency to help us with closing the budget deficit. Baker's leadership team committed to giving back the equivalent of two weeks of pay between

Continued on Page Two...

### Inside This Issue:

<i>Letter From President Long...</i>	1-2
<i>Baker Trivia for March...</i>	2
<i>Baker Receives Military Honor...</i>	2
<i>Russell Receives Civic Honor...</i>	2
<i>Wetlands Restoration Update...</i>	3
<i>Education Wall of Honor...</i>	3
<i>Dancing with the Stars???</i>	4
<i>Former Dean Continues as</i> <i>President at Luther College...</i>	4
<i>February Follow up...</i>	4
<i>February Trivia Answer...</i>	4
<i>Alumni Weekend Dates...</i>	4
<i>Planned Giving Feature...</i> (for those 50 ++)	5

## Open Letter from President Long Continues...

now and June 30, 2009. At the Board of Trustees meeting two weeks ago, the Trustees pledged close to \$120,000 in special gifts to help Baker during this time. We have had faculty come forward and offer to teach and gift the remuneration back to the University, students who want to do fund-raisers for scholarships, and staff and faculty who have made donations or volunteered to take pay decreases. As one of our Trustees, Dr. Myron McCoy, said, "Many small miracles make one large miracle." The Baker spirit is one such miracle.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your continued support especially during these challenging economic times — your help right now means so much to our students and our faculty. In the next few weeks many of you will receive the spring fund-raising mailer. If you have not contributed this year, I am making an appeal for you to consider a special gift to your University. To those of you who have given, thank you so much! If you are moved to make an additional gift at this time, we would be so appreciative!

I am confident in our University's future. Baker and the "Baker Family" have shown great fortitude and creativity adapting to economic challenges throughout the last 150 years. As we turn one year older, we do so with renewed energy, a clear vision and an unwavering commitment to the University's academic goals.

Thank you,

President Pat Long

## Military Magazine Honors Baker University...

Baker University has recently been named one of America's 2008 Top Military Friendly Colleges and Universities by Military Advanced Education Magazine.

Honored in recognition of its commitment to military personnel and their families through educational support, Baker offers reduced tuition rates and waives the application fee for all active duty service members and spouses. In many cases, students can receive college credit for military training and specialized schools. Baker also received high marks for having a corporate education specialist travel to military bases to visit with prospective students and educate them about the degree programs.

"Baker strives to help our service people gain new educational advantages and the tuition discount is an important tool that we use to aid them in getting this new education," said Marvin Hunt, Dean of Baker's School of Professional and Graduate Studies.

## Russell Honored at Civic Event...

Baker Emeritus Professor of Art, Tom Russell, was recently honored at the 21st annual Baldwin Community Arts Council Chocolate Auction. Tom, who turned 92 on his last birthday, has painted for over 75 years. During the years he taught art at Baker, he met and later married, Alice Anne Callahan '48. Alice originated the idea of an annual chocolate auction for the purpose of raising scholarship monies for aspiring artists. Through the years many thousands of dollars have been raised through this event. Congratulations, Tom!!!

## Baker Trivia for March...

This interesting geological sight is located approximately 5 miles west of Baldwin City. Though located on private property, it was often used in class biology labs as well as for picnics and parties held by students from the 1910's to approximately the 1980's. Name the area that has been featured in several Kansas Geological Surveys...

The answer will be provided in the April issue of the Arbor.

## School of Nursing Faculty Honors...

Five School of Nursing faculty members were honored for their years of service on Feb. 13 at the 46th annual employee awards banquet. Libby Rosen (25 years), Judy Ackeret (20), Jada England (10), Linda King (5) and Cindy Light (5) were recognized for reaching milestone anniversaries. Lenora Kinzie, health sciences librarian, was recognized for 10 years of service and received the Clyde Clifton Leadership Award at the employee awards banquet on Feb. 13. The award honors an employee in an administrative or management position who demonstrates excellence in leadership. Congratulations one and all!!!

## Baker Wetlands Restoration...

Last August Baker University signed an agreement with KS Dept of Transportation for additional land to be added to the Baker Wetlands. Engineers at KDOT, US Army Corps of Engineers, and Dr. Roger Boyd, Emeritus Prof. of Biology at Baker University developed a plan to restore over 300 acres of cropland back into wetlands. These acres are within the 100 year floodplain and used to be wetlands more than 150 years ago when the land was first cultivated.



Dr. Boyd finalized the site plans last summer and helped develop the agreement with KDOT that will fund Phase 1 of the project. Since fall harvest, the prior corn and soybean fields have been transformed back to native habitat. Dr. Boyd hired Mark Wellendorf who graduated from Baker in May 2008 with a Wildlife Biology degree to be Refuge Manager. Mark is living in the farmhouse/office that is on the western portion of the farm ground where the project is underway. Besides the equipment that they have purchased to maintain the area, the two have been working with a local company, Rockers Excavating of Baldwin City, to make this transformation. The area is just west of Louisiana St. which parallels the west side of the current Wetlands. The project is divided into two tracts by a county road. The northern tract of 30 acres has been completed with a berm surrounding the project and 17 irregular shaped swales have been constructed on the inside. These swales will eliminate the linear pattern that the past 150 years of agriculture have created. There is a 3 ft water control structure in the lowest point and nearly 11,000 cubic yards of dirt was moved in the process.

## Wetlands Restoration Continues...

The southern tract will restore 112 acres of wetlands. There is a large 3 bay 20 foot wide concrete water control structure in this area. The berms have been completed as are over half of the 42 swales. When this tract is complete over 45,000 cubic yards of dirt will have been moved.

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, Jon Boyd, Roger (and Jan) Boyd's son, and the 3rd generation of the Boyd family to have work in the Wetlands, will be joining the crew. These three workers will begin building several trails and boardwalks, a parking area, information kiosk, and two picnic areas. They will also be working with the University of Kansas School of Architecture in transforming a silo into an observation tower. Also this spring, the swales will be planted with over 12,000 grams of wetland seed collected by Mark, the Boyd family and a number of Baker students at the current Wetlands this past fall.

Phase 1 is being funded by KDOT with \$975,000 from the Federal Highway Administration. Phase 2 will consist of construction of the road and an additional \$5 million in funds to Baker University from KDOT to restore an additional 160 acres of wetlands, build a visitor center and establish an endowment for Baker University to staff and manage the area in perpetuity.

I hope if you are in the area you will stop by and witness some of this on-going project in person!

## School of Education Wall of Honor...

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. To be included, an honoree must have completed student teaching, a master's program or the doctoral program at BU and 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](mailto:Merrie.Skaggs@bakeru.edu) or (785) 594-8491 or Harold Frye at [Harold.Frye@bakeru.edu](mailto:Harold.Frye@bakeru.edu) or (913) 491-4432. The next time you are on the Baldwin City campus, please stop by Case Hall to see the Wall of Honor.

## “Dancing With the Stars” to Feature Husband of Baker Graduate...

If you are into watching this form of reality TV- you will definitely want to watch the next season of the show which will begin on Monday, March 9th. Steve Wozniak, an American computer engineer who co-founded Apple Computer, will compete along with 12 other celebrity/notables on this ABC syndicated show. Steve was married in 2008 to Baker's own Janet Hill Wozniak '84. Go “Woz” go!!! Here's hoping you get nothing but “10's”!!! (It's a good thing he's not playing tennis against Janet...because he would lose!)

## Former Baker Dean Continues as President of Luther College...

The Luther College Board of Regents has extended President Richard Torgerson's contract through the summer of 2013, a two-year extension of his current contract.

Torgerson became Luther's president in July of 1999 and is in the middle of his second six-year term. The Luther Board of Regents asked him to serve an additional two years so that the college's sesquicentennial year celebration in 2011 would not include a presidential transition. Dr. Torgerson served as Vice President and Academic Dean at Baker for three years in the early-mid 1980's.

## Follow-up from February...

In regard to the note from Butch Ritter in the February Arbor regarding the United Conference of the Methodist church came this further note:

“My father, Rev. Harold L. Soulen, served as an usher at the uniting conference. He was a young minister serving Metropolitan Ave Methodist Church in KC Kansas. His hymnal from the conference has a gold lettering stamp on the front--Uniting Conference--THE METHODIST CHURCH, Kansas City, MO. April 26, 1939. I guess you are also aware that the hymnal of 1964 had Bishop Eugene Frank as a member of the committee and Prof. William C. Rice and Gerald O. McCulloh as consultants. Methodists are leaders in Christian singing. Sincerely, Bob Soulen '54”. Thanks, Bob!

## February's Trivia Answer...

The question was: Name the last United States President to have visited the Baldwin City Campus of Baker...for extra credit...what year??? President Gerald R. Ford, the nation's 38th president, delivered the Opening Convocation address on the Baldwin City campus on October 17, 1990.

The first of several persons responding with the correct answer was Dr. Rand Ziegler, VP and Dean of the College of Arts and Science. I guess the internet had a shorter distance to travel! :) (He has an autographed program from the event!) Congratulations Rand!!!

## Orangeline on TV Again...

The first episode of a brand new season of Orangeline is now playing on KNBU-TV, which can be seen on Mediacom channel 70 and YouTube! Here's the internet link:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VF\\_19-KmhE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5VF_19-KmhE)

Remember: Alumni Weekend is Coming:

May 15-16, 2009...Make plans to attend!!!

I Hope You Have a Great  
Month of March!  
I'll write again in April!

*Jerry L. Weakley '70*

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## While Still Early in a New Year...

Near the beginning of a new year is a great time to review your will/trust and estate plan. As you now consider giving up on exercise and diet plans that seemed reachable in earliest January and begin to assemble your tax documents why not give renewed attention to your finances and investments as they apply to your estate plan?

With the events of the past year still fresh in your mind, now would be a great time to ensure that your will still meets your family's needs and your personal goals. Now, if you happen to be in the 60-70% of Americans who have not even the most basic will—now would be a great time to get one! But, for those of you with a will or trust—you may want to consider these estate-plan impacting circumstances.

### \* A change in tax laws...

An attorney can help you determine if anything in your will is affected by federal or state tax law changes.

### \* A change in your family...

Your own marriage, remarriage or divorce, or the death of your spouse, should trigger an update of your will. Also, consider the circumstances of your current beneficiaries. Should your child's marriage or divorce change the division of your estate? Do you have a new child, stepchild or grandchild for whom you'd like to provide? Has one of your beneficiaries passed away since your last will revision?

### \* A change of assets...

Do you no longer own certain items mentioned in your will, or the reverse of that...you own several new assets not specifically mentioned in the older document? Are there new ways to minimize estate taxes to preserve the bulk of your estate?

### \* A change of needs or goals...

Are your children financially independent now? Do you and your spouse have more than ample assets? Do you want to continue or to increase your support of charitable causes even after your lifetime?

### \* A change of residence...

Does your will conform to the laws of the state were you now reside? Has your will been reaffirmed by local witnesses? **(This is often overlooked)**. If the named executor resides in another state, will she or he be able to, (or be allowed to) complete the required duties you have designed and envision?

It is always my recommendation to see an attorney who is versed in estate planning to ask how some of the questions posed above might potentially impact your individual estate and its distribution. I know it seems like a lot of work/bother, but believe me...those you care about will be so thankful you went to this extra trouble!!!

*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!"*

**\*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 such information.**