Baker Gala and Auction a HUGE Success…

Just imagine the Westin Crown Center Ballroom in Kansas City awash in tasteful lighting and beautiful flowers while being laid out with china, silver, fine linen and crystal at the 48 tables set for the Gala. A pre-function room was set with dozens of silent auction offerings which were displayed on tables throughout the room. The items included vacations, sports and music memorabilia, artwork, fine wine and a multitude of other interesting gifts. The room quickly filled and became a maze as the ladies who were finely attired in evening gowns or cocktail dresses and the gentlemen in tuxedoes worked hard to move about bidding and protecting bids previously made on the items that had been donated.

That is what the over 450 guests that attended the culminating event of the University's 150th year of celebration encountered on April 19th. Inside the ballroom the guests dined on a delicious filet dinner with all the trimmings and afterward enjoyed video updates on the University along with a welcome from President Long and entertainment from the Baker Speech Choir and the Baker Chamber Singers. A Fund-a-Scholar auction was a huge success and was lead by Dr. Long's nephew, Brett Anthony, the M.C. and local NBC 41 weather personality. In all the Gala and Auction netted the University nearly $100,000 for the Alumni Scholarship Fund which far surpassed the goal established by the committee.

“The purpose of the event was to celebrate Baker's 150th anniversary and raise money for the scholarship fund,” said Lindsay Ferrell, assistant director of development and auction chair. “Through table sponsorships, ticket sales, the silent auction and the fund-a-scholar auction we exceeded our expectations and hopefully set the stage for future auction events.”

The Alumni Association Scholarship is an endowed fund with Baker. The association annually provides current students from the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Professional and Graduate Studies, School of Education and School of Nursing with additional scholarship aid. Auctions held in the 1980’s and early 1990’s began the fund and license plate sales have also increased the fund through the past few years.
Nearly 800 to Graduate…

Nearly 800 undergraduate, graduate and nursing students will be honored at four separate commencement exercises on the Baker campus this month.

At 1 p.m. May 10, undergraduates of the School of Professional and Graduate Studies will be recognized. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Wallace S. Hartsfield, vice president-at-large of the National Baptist Convention of America Inc., and past president of the General Baptist State Convention of Kansas, Missouri and Nebraska.

At 4:30 p.m. graduate degrees candidates from the School of Professional and Graduate Studies students will be honored. Steve Doyal, senior vice president of Public Affairs and Communications at Hallmark Cards Inc., and Baker Board of Trustee member, will speak.

At 1 p.m. May 18, the University will recognize undergraduates from the College of Arts and Sciences, School of Education and School of Nursing. Michael J. Nolte, president of Nolte's Bridal Inc. and author of “Burned But Not Broken,” will be the speaker.

At 4:30 p.m., Baker will hold its final service for School of Education students receiving graduate degrees, including the University’s first class of 13 (Baker’s Dozen) doctoral students. Baker is the only private school in Kansas to offer a Doctorate of Education in Educational Leadership. Josh Anderson, a teacher at Olathe Northwest High School and the 2007 Kansas Teacher of the Year, will be the keynote speaker. He received his master's degree in school leadership from Baker. Congratulations to all!!!
Honors for Faculty Award Winners…

Baker honored a Faculty Hall of Fame inductee, two retirees and six professors on Saturday, April 26th at the Faculty Recognition Celebration in Lawrence.

Walt Bailey ’62, became the 24th member of Baker’s Faculty Hall of Fame. Bailey began teaching at his alma mater in 1965 and currently serves as special assistant to the president for the development of the arts.

Pablo LaRosa, assistant professor of Spanish, and Tony Brown, professor of psychology, were recognized for their contributions to Baker. LaRosa and Brown will retire after the 2007-2008 academic year.

Faculty award winners were Martha Harris ’78, United Methodist Exemplary Teacher Award; Randy Miller, Distinguished Scholar Award; and Cynthia Appl, Distinguished Faculty Award.

Winners of the Faculty Incentive Program awards were Gwyn Mellinger, teaching and academic advising; Tim Buzzell, teaching and scholarship; and Ryan Beasley, teaching and service. Congratulations and thanks to all of these outstanding faculty members!!!

Students Present to Trustees…

A portion of the recent Board of Trustee meeting included an opportunity for Trustees to hear presentations from a selection of outstanding Baker students representing all four schools. I was fortunate to have the chance to listen in on several of the presentations and was just amazed by the depth of knowledge and the presentation skills of the students whose sessions I attended…(everyone of them would have received an “A” from me) ! I sat in on the following: Witchcraft in early Britain; GIS positioning applications in history & geography; Original research on orange Taridigrades; Overseas study opportunities/ outcomes; and a piano presentation of Music of French composers whose music has a nationalistic tone. It was such an educational and fun experience that I almost found myself wishing I was back in school! :)
April’s Trivia Answer…

The question was: What is the official “shade” of orange that is Baker's official color??
And...for extra credit...With what one other University in the nation does Baker share the distinction of having the single color orange as its official color? The Answers are: Cadmium Orange and Syracuse University. Several persons had one answer correct...several had both answers correct including: Dave LaFrenz ’99, Jessica Wessel ’06 and David Garrett ’87. I enjoyed the e-mail from Dr. Robert Soulen ’54 who remembers well his former chemistry professor, E.J. Cragoe, lecturing about the correct scientific composition of “cadmium”. See Note below for more info:

Make Plans to Attend Alumni Weekend…

Alumni Weekend this May 16-17th would be a great time to visit campus and to reconnect with former classmates and friends. With the 200+ Alpha Chi’s and all the members of the 12 classes holding reunions I will guarantee that if you attend, you will know several people. Even better, invite a friend or classmate or two to come with you. The reunion parties being held at the Doubletree Hotel in Overland Park are NOT just for those in the reunion classes—they are open to any former student or graduate. A visit to campus the next day would be a great way for you to take part in the last official activities related to Baker’s 150th year of celebration. Be sure to visit the Baker web-site to get more specifics or contact Debbie Papps in the Alumni office for questions or to make reservations! Debbie.papps@bakeru.edu or 888-781-2586. Hope to see you on campus later this month!!!

More Information on Trivia Answer…

Brief description of Cadmium orange:

Pronunciation: Kad-Mee-Uhm

Cadmium sulfide can be made in various shades ranging from very light yellow to deep orange. It has very high hiding power and good permanence.

Word origin: The name "Cadmium orange" comes from Latin cadmia = zinc ore calamine, from Greek kadmeia = Cadmean earth, first found near Thebes, city founded by the Phoenician prince Cadmus.

Use: The pigment was used sparingly following its discovery (1811) due to the scarcity of cadmium metal.

Artificial variety of pigment: Precipitation of a solution of cadmium(II)-nitrate with sodium sulfide.

Source: Minerals: greenockite and hawleyite

Events…

May 6  Last day of classes
Graduating senior art show, 5 p.m., Holt-Russell Gallery-Parmenter Hall

May 10  Commencement-SPGS undergraduates, 1 p.m. Collins Center
Commencement-SPGS graduate students, 4:30 p.m. Collins Center

May 14  Wandering Wildcats Pre-cruise Social
6:00-8:00 p.m. Collins House

May 16  College of Arts and Sciences class reunion, Doubletree Hotel, Overland Park, Kansas

May 17  Alumni luncheon, 11:45 a.m., Harter Union
On-campus activities (all day)

Alpha Chi Omega Reunion
Dinner, 6:00 Harder Union

May 18  Commencement-CAS, SON and SOE undergraduate degrees, 1 p.m., Collins Center

Wall of Honor induction ceremony, 3 p.m., Case Hall
Commencement– SOE graduate degrees, 4:30 p.m., Collins Center

May 19  Deep and restful sleep for students, faculty, staff and administration :)

I Hope You Have a Great Month of May!
I’ll write again in June!

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

I Will Finally Begin to Accept Donations for the 150th Celebration!!!

I hope you will join me in this effort.

Jerry