



From the Arbor

@ Baker University...

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

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Numbers of Importance:

- *Recommend a student-* 800-873-4282
- *Alumni Office-* 888-781-2586
- *Make a donation-* 800-726-1554
- *Create a planned gift or create an endowed scholarship-* 785-594-8332 or 913-449-9540 (Jerry Weakley)
- *Baker Orange on-line-* www.thebakerorange.com

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The **Arbor** is Brought to You by...

Those of you receiving the **Arbor** by U.S. mail are receiving it due to a specific gift from a **Baker** alumni-donor that has underwritten all the of the issues from **October** to **June, 2010**. These issues have all been made possible through a gift from Jim Kean '60 and his wife Becky, of Boulder, Colorado.

Thanks so much for this support!!!

Baldwin City Campus Draped in "High Fashion"...

Several of the responses I received to the "late" **October** issue of the **Arbor** spoke about memories of the campus in the autumn of the year and specifically about having attended or participated in previous Maple Leaf Festivals. I thought it was appropriate to begin this issue by offering a lovely photograph taken by one of our students, Shanlee Randel, a senior education major from Oklahoma City. In this shot, the colors of the campus maples are at their height and accentuate the stone and colorful tile roof of the Osborne Chapel. This picture was taken from the general direction of south-east



The Clarice L. Osborne Memorial Chapel-2009

toward the north-west. The mild temperatures toward the end of **October** and into the first full week of **November** allowed many of the species of trees to hold on to their color and leaves just a bit longer than in a typical year.

Thanks, Shanlee, for having given permission for me to use this outstanding photograph in the **Arbor**. It may not be too late to change your major to photography!!! :)

Baker Planning for the Future...

The Plan...

In 2005, the University engaged PGAV Architects to help design a plan for the future of the Baldwin City Campus. The master plan was developed to honor the rich history, architecture and traditions of Kansas' oldest four year college. Refinements to that plan continue to reflect and promote Baker's vision and mission of ensuring student learning and developing competent, confident and responsible contributors of society by:

Providing outstanding teaching spaces...

Providing outstanding student living spaces...

Providing outstanding student activity and social spaces...

Since the adoption of this plan the University has made significant progress toward these three physical plant goals. First, in 2006, Liston Stadium received a much needed and over-due upgrade through the installation of a new artificial Field Turf playing surface for both football and soccer along with an 8-lane artificial surface track which surrounds the playing field. Completion of the Sauder Baseball Field and major improvements to Cavaness Softball Field along with state-of-the-art scoreboards for all venues brought the University's athletic complex into a much more competitive position with other local schools and conference member programs.

In 2007-2008 the North Park Soccer field received much needed improvements and was fitted with a new scoreboard, new seating, fencing and landscaping.

Also in 2008, the new Student Living and Learning Center was completed and occupied. This facility addressed two of the main goals listed above as it significantly improved the University's ability to house students on campus and added two much-needed classroom facilities to its over-worked arsenal of classrooms.

Looking to the Future...

While much has already been accomplished, there is much more that needs to be done. Included in the short-term plan that continues to address the three listed goals above are these following projects:

* Completion of fundraising for The Mulvane Science Building Transformation project that will significantly improve the University's ability to recruit, retain and graduate outstanding students majoring in any of the several sciences...

* Completion of the Denious Welcome Center and One-Stop Shop for services directed toward student needs...

* Rice Auditorium renovations...

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Baker Plans Continued...

* Harter Union and Truman Allen Dining Hall upgrades...

* Joliffe Hall recreated into a new Administrative Center

* Renovation of Irwin and Gessner residence halls

* Expansion of Rice Auditorium and addition of "black box flexible use spaces"

* Harter Union expansion

* Future Academic Center

While the cost figures continue to fluctuate almost on a monthly basis, it is safe to say that if we took just the top 5 projects listed above and began construction on them immediately that the total cost would be well in excess of \$20 million. The projects that fall below the top five while important to the longer-range plans for growth and sustainability are a bit further out and have not been cost-out. If a funding source is identified for ANY of the projects listed above the University would naturally move forward immediately to make that project an immediate priority. If you have interest in or questions about any of these projects you can contact either me or Patrick Mikesic at 1-800-726-1554. (P.S. We are still accepting pledges-cash-checks-stocks-bonds-real estate and credit cards!) :)

Baker Trivia for November...

(You have a 50% chance of getting this one correct...) True or False...

Baker is currently offering a doctorate in one of its four Colleges/Schools?

If you answer "true"...for possible extra credit...Which College/School is offering such a degree? (Answer in **December!**)

Baker Student Servant Leadership...

The national press is always quick to highlight stories of wild parties-pranks-hazing incidents-alcohol abuse and a wide range of other actions/activities of a non-positive nature that are often associated with college students. More often than not the positive and socially redeeming actions of students go largely unnoticed and under-publicized.

Having recently attended the Inauguration of Dr. Paul J. Mauer at Sterling College, I was made aware that many of Sterling's 772 students are there specifically for opportunities afforded them to participate in Servant Leadership projects.

Upon return to the Baker campus I visited with University Minister, Rev Dr. Ira DeSpain '70 about this same topic here at Baker. Based on that conversation I am much more aware of the totality of the projects with which Baker students have been and continue to be involved with throughout their tenure on campus...most of which garner little more than a note in a local or campus publication.

Listed below are several of the activities and projects of this nature that our students (and in several cases our faculty, staff and alumni) have recently been involved with:

* Spring Break trips to work on hurricane restoration and working on Habitat for Humanity projects in Alabama as well as other Habitat for Humanity projects in Kansas and Missouri.

* The Community Service Club goes to Jubilee Café each Tuesday and Friday mornings to serve breakfast to homeless citizens of Lawrence.

* Each Greek organization has a designated philanthropy and a chairperson to lead efforts. Two examples are Zeta Tau Alpha is heavily involved in the Susan Komen Foundation to fight Breast Cancer and Alpha Chi Omega sponsors a volleyball tournament each year to raise funds to "Spike out Domestic Violence."

Service was a part of new student orientation this past August. 150 new students participated in one of about 6 different projects for the morning lead by members of the Student Development office staff.

Student Leadership Continues...

* Neighbors Helping Neighbors is a joint effort between BU students and area churches to do home repair, painting, yard work, etc. for local residents who cannot physically do the work themselves.

* Coming up shortly is the annual Baldwin City Leaf Raking Day held on the first Saturday in December. Student volunteers rake leaves in the yards of those unable to do it themselves due to infirmity, illness or age.

* "Nothing but Nets" is a program on campus that recently raised money for malaria netting to protect citizens of the African continent from this disease. This is a project of the NBA, Sports Illustrated and the United Methodist Church.

* Also, there is currently a canned food drive underway to fill the pulpit of Osborne Chapel with canned goods to be used at the Baldwin City food closet-named "Bring your Can to the Chapel".

- "Up 'Til Dawn" is a national collegiate program that is also receiving student attention at Baker that in March raises funds for St. Jude's Children Hospital in Memphis.

These are just a few that Rev. DeSpain has been directly involved with or has knowledge of. I know in the years I have worked at Baker there have been many additional projects that have benefitted greatly from Baker student involvement! Thanks to all of our current and former students for participating in such worthy causes!!!

Annual Gala...November 14th...

The second annual Baker University Gala and Auction will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2009 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center! This year's theme, Experience the Baker Magic, is sure to not only entertain but also remind you of the amazing influence that Baker has on our students and alumni. The evening will feature a silent auction, dinner, entertainment and a live Fund-A-Scholar auction to help raise funds to support student scholarships. The silent auction promises to be a hit again this year with trips, vacation homes, golf packages and more! To attend or receive information on how to sponsor a table or purchase tickets, please contact Lindsay Vise at (785) 594-7866 or Lindsay.vise@bakeru.edu. I hope to see you there!!!

Upcoming University/Alumni Events ...

November

14th...The Scholarship Gala
6:00-9:30 p.m. Hyatt Regency Hotel at Crown Center,
Kansas City MO.

19th...5:30-7:30 p.m.
Baker After Hours-Fox Sports Grill, The Shops at
Legacy, 5741 Legacy Rd., Plano, Texas

December

3rd...6:30-9:00 p.m.
Baker After Hours-
New York/New Jersey
Hyatt Hotel, Jersey City—Vu Lounge

6th...4:00 and 7:30 p.m.
79th Annual Christmas Vespers
First United Methodist Church-Baldwin City

February

25th...5:30-7:30 p.m.
Baker After Hours-Oeno Wine Bar, 330 N. Mead,
Wichita, Kansas

March

Baker Alumni/Former Student Socials-Green Valley,
Scottsdale and Sun City, Arizona.
Time and place to be determined...

Another Great Way to Check up on Cam- pus Activities...

You can stay abreast of the most current activities
on campus by checking out this Youtube site
from time to time: [http://www.youtube.com/
knbu](http://www.youtube.com/knbu)



Baker now has 983 “friends” on it’s official Face-
book site...why not join the conversation???

October's Trivia Answer...

The Question was: What are the top 3-4 re-
quirements for a student to earn the MLA de-
gree from **Baker**???. (The answer can be
found somewhere on our Website and will be
revealed in the **November** issue of the **Arbor**)

The Answer is: Successful completion of an ap-
proved 36-credit-hour Master of Liberal Arts cur-
riculum, completion of all Master of Liberal Arts
core requirements (21 credit hours), successful
preparation, presentation and defence of the MLA
Portfolio and a 3.0 overall grade point average with
no more than one course completed with a “C”
grade .

Alumnae Stars in Hollywood Movie...

Kathleen (Kat) LaGue '84 who now resides in California
is starring in a movie released this summer. The name
of the thriller is “**Razortooth**” and it’s about a bio-
engineered Asian Eel that escapes into the Florida Ever-
glades only to reek havoc on both those who are unaware
of its presence and who are hunting for it. Kat plays the
female lead in the role of Sheriff Ruth Gainey-Coates.
In addition to some spine-tingling encounters with the
eel there is some gorgeous cinematography of the Ever-
glades. Kat claims it is also meant to be a comedy...just
not so much for the victims of the eel I assume. I found
my copy on Amazon.com and watched it on Halloween.
Congratulations Kat...looking forward to your next one!!!

I Hope You Have a Great
Month of **November**...
I'll write again in **December!**

Jerry L. Weakley '70

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Making A Charitable Gift Though Your Retirement Plan

Hopefully by now you are taking full advantage of any retirement saving plan that is made available through your employer or individually as well. 401(k), 403(b), Keogh, SIMPLE, SEP, SARSEP or other more traditional pension plans which are still available in about 25% of all American corporations, companies and governmental agencies along with individual IRA's are some of the qualified retirement plans. All of these are great ways to set aside money for use in retirement and at the same time delaying and saving significant tax dollars on such earnings going into these plans. The funds left to expand through regular donations and various types of earnings over a period of years grow tax-free until they are withdrawn and can then be used not only for the benefit of the person who created the fund, but in most cases, for the benefit of families and other beneficiaries as well.

In addition, many retirement plan assets can also be used to make an important and lasting gift to Baker or any other qualified charitable concern...503 C (3). Anyone who has established a qualified retirement plan may want to consider the benefit to their estate of designating either a portion or all of a certain plan to go to charity to create an endowed fund or to fund a project of personal interest.

There are several benefits to giving to a charity through a designation in this way. Such gifts can allow for support of heirs first with only remaining funds going to the charity. Retirement plans can be designated to support heirs with an income stream during a portion or entirety of their life with a final disposition of the remaining assets to a charity upon the end date or death of that heir. Designations to charity can also avoid taxes upon the estate through estate taxes or to beneficiaries in the form of income taxes.

For individuals 70 1/2 and above, you are once again able to make a Charitable IRA Rollover up to \$100,000 to the University prior to December 31, 2009 from an IRA plan without recognizing any income or capital gains taxes on the distribution. This legislation has been in place since 2007 and has provided numerous individuals with the opportunity to make a gift from something other than their most liquid assets. You must contact your IRA custodian for the appropriate forms. And, the gift must pass directly from the IRA to the charity so as to avoid taxation on the distribution. If you would like additional information on the specifics of these types of charitable gifts please contact Jerry Weakley at 785-594-8332 or by e-mail at jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu.

***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 this or similar information.**

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!...(Updated to include your retirement plan)!"

_____ I have/have not (circle one) previously notified you, but I have included Baker in my estate plan through:

_____ My will _____ My Trust _____ An Insurance Policy _____ My Retirement Plan

(Name)

(Address)

(City, State, Zip)

(Phone)

(You can "select" or "copy" this above portion of the Arbor and save it as a document on your computer—fill it out and then attach it back in an e-mail to me at jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu). (This information will be held in strictest confidence!)