Lights-Camera-Action! Documentary set to Open…

The documentary “Bauer, Baker and Baldwin City: Electrifying a Small Town’s Identity” held its premiere on Friday, Oct. 23, at The Lodge, 502 Ames Street. A grant from the Kansas Humanities Council supported the project as part of its Kansans Tell Their Stories Program. The Lodge and the Baldwin City Chamber of Commerce served as hosts of the screening.

The eight-minute documentary captures the story of Professor W.C. Bauer, Baker and Baldwin City being forever linked in 1906 when the young academic electrified the University and then the entire town.

A research paper by a Baker University student last year inspired the documentary. Tracy Light, a senior history and secondary education major, conducted all of the primary-source research associated with the story.

Bauer’s work allowed Baldwin and Baker to gain all the benefits associated with electricity in those early years without waiting for a big city electric company coming forward to offer power production at a premium price.

A panel discussion, led by John Richards, assistant professor at Baker, followed the documentary. He was joined by Light; Loren Litteer, former Baldwin City mayor; Julie Mulvihill, executive director of the Kansas Humanities Council; Brad Roszell, of Hometown Collaborations; and Susan Emel, professor of communication at Baker.

The University plans to eventually have this documentary available for viewing either through a link on the University’s web page or, perhaps, available on YouTube. I will keep you informed so if you care, you can watch this most interesting and historical production regarding Baker and Baldwin City.
Trustee Gift Creates Important Library in Texas…

Earlier this month I was honored to have been asked to attend the dedication of the Susan L. Perry Library within the American Wind Power Center and Museum of Lubbock, Texas as a guest of Ms. Perry and a representative of Baker. Susan, formerly of Kansas City and now of Albuquerque, New Mexico, is in her second term as a member of the Baker Board of Trustees.

Several years ago, a gift and pledge she made to Baker provided for the Susan L. Perry Chair in American History. Among others, additional gifts from her to Baker through the past 20 years also have created the bronze wildcat that guards the south entrance to the Harter Union and provided funding for the Perry Gate that adorns the east entrance to the Sauder Garden of the Clarice Osborne Chapel. In addition to Baker, Susan has numerous other charities and organizations she annually supports, including this Wind Power Center and Museum.

Susan was adopted and raised by parents that ranched in northwest Texas, some 90 miles from Lubbock. It was through this close association between her own early roots and experiences on the ranch that further developed her interest in both southwestern history and the interrelated history of wind generators... and now the Wind Power Center and Museum.

The museum itself was founded in 1993 by Mr. Coy Harris of Lubbock, who has an engineering degree from Texas Tech. The Museum's holdings are constantly being expanded and currently has on display virtually every type of wind-powered generator known and used throughout the entire history of the United States...most in working order. It is a fascinating collection which details the history of the importance of wind generators to the development of the Southwestern portion of the country. A new mural at the center depicting the history of wind generators was just completed by local Lubbock artist and takes up over 6,000 square feet of the building's main two walls.

The Perry Library and office complex within the center made possible by Susan’s gift now holds the largest collection of data and information on these various wind machines. The literary collection was donated to the center by a couple from Iowa.

From a personal standpoint, having now spent several hours in the museum, I have a much better understanding of these machines both from the historical perspective but also for the promise that “Wind Farming” may hold to both our state and country as well. I encourage you to look at the Wind Power Center on the internet by googling American Wind Power Center. I would also recommend a visit to the center if you ever find yourself in that part of the state of Texas!

Bits and Pieces…

Swine Flu Precautions in Place…

Director of Student Health Services, Ruth Sarna has announced the University’s plan to deal with a potential outbreak of the H1N1 virus, better known as Swine Flu. In the event a student comes down with the virus they are advised to first of all return home if they live close by. They are encouraged to notify the Health Center of their condition, e-mail professors informing them of their illness and remain at home until 24 hours after their fever has subsided without the use of fever reducers. Additional information regarding the virus and the University’s plan can be found on the Baker Web Site in the Health and Safety Information section. The H1N1 Virus vaccine has not yet reached Douglas County or campus but will be here for priority groups beginning Nov. 7th. To date 35 students have been isolated with flu-like symptoms though none have been confirmed as H1N1.

Baker Trivia for October…

What are the top 3-4 requirements for a student to earn a MLA degree from Baker?? (The answer can be found somewhere on the Baker Website and will be revealed in the November issue of the Arbor).

Music Concerts set for late Oct...

Both Baker's Orchestral and Choral groups within the department of music are set to perform near the end of this month. The annual Fall Orchestra Concert will be held in Rice Auditorium on the Baldwin campus on Sunday, October 25th at 3:30. The Annual Choral Concert is set for 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 27, at First United Methodist Church, 704 Eighth St. Admission is free to both events and are open to everyone!
Homecoming Attracts 1979 and 1989 Football Team Members…

Four Members of the 1979 football team celebrated their 30th reunion for the team that started Baker’s climb to the top in NAIA football and who won the University’s first-ever Heart of America Conference championship in that sport. Stan Shaw from California, Bob Viola from New York, Rob Pike from Shawnee Mission and former assistant coach, John Heckathorn from Baldwin all attended the game. The 1979 team ended with a 7-2 regular season record and was the first team in the modern era to be invited to play in a post season bowl game against Chadron State of Nebraska. The Wildcats have built on the 1979 team’s success and now have a total of 12 conference championships and 15 years in post-season play.

Also attending the game were approximately 17 former teammates from the 1989 football team that played in the national NAIA semi-finals. That year the Wildcats went through the regular season with a record of 8-1 having lost only a heartbreaker to Mo. Valley. The ’Cats easily qualified for the playoffs and pulled out a stunning come-from-behind victory against Peru State (Nebraska) on the Peru State home turf in the first round. Following a critical recovery of a Peru State fumble, quarterback Pat Richard found Leonard Jenkins with a last second pass in the end zone to secure the victory.

With that win in hand, Baker went on to the second round of the playoffs and were given an opportunity for redemption as they were paired against conference rival Missouri Valley. With the offense clicking and the defense getting critical stops when needed, Baker pulled out another come-from-behind victory by mounting a long drive late in the 4th quarter to win by a score of 35-28…thus securing the nick-name of the “Cardiac Cats” for that team for all-time!

Following the drama and excitement of the hard fought victories in the first two rounds, Baker eventually lost to the University of Wisconsin Lacrosse by a score of 21-6 in the semi-finals. But, what a great season for coach Charlie Richard and his team with a record of 10 and 2 and numerous all-conference, all-district and all-American players!

2nd Annual Gala Readies for November…

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! If you would like to make a donation to the silent auction 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 you will make plans to attend this most important event. I look forward to seeing each of you there!!!

A Note of Sadness...

Through the past several years I have intentionally not covered the passing of alumni and former students in the Arbor, leaving that for more in-depth coverage and as a special feature of the Baker World. However, I do want to note with a great deal of personal sadness that just one week following his induction into the Baker Athletic Hall of Fame, Clarence W. “Babe” Hawk ’63, Osage Beach, Missouri passed away suddenly at his home due to an aortic aneurysm.

Babe is survived by his wife, Carole Curless Hawk ’64, a son and daughter, two grandchildren, his mother and four siblings, all of whom attended Baker: Mel Hawk ’58, Lois Hawk Snively ’66, Larry Hawk ’66 and Galen Hawk ’69. Babe participated fully in all of the weekend’s activities connected with the Hall of Fame induction and later attended his 50th high school reunion in Atchison, Kansas. Both friends and family noted that he seemed to be in great health and had greatly enjoyed this special honor such a short time before his loss.

Babe is survived by his wife, Carole Curless Hawk ’64, a son and daughter, two grandchildren, his mother and four siblings, all of whom attended Baker: Mel Hawk ’58, Lois Hawk Snively ’66, Larry Hawk ’66 and Galen Hawk ’69. Babe participated fully in all of the weekend’s activities connected with the Hall of Fame induction and later attended his 50th high school reunion in Atchison, Kansas. Both friends and family noted that he seemed to be in great health and had greatly enjoyed this special honor such a short time before his loss.

Babe was truly one of Baker’s most outstanding former basketball players. He was one of the top scorers in the University’s history when he graduated and he continues to hold the record for the most rebounds in a single game with 28 against Friends University.

(Those 1989 players attending the game are listed on Page 4…)
September’s Trivia Answer…

The Question was:
What is the combined 2009 fall enrollment for Baker’s College of Arts and Science and School of Nursing???

The Answer is: As of the “Official” 20th day of the fall semester:

Headcount CAS= 992
Headcount SON= 162
Combined total=1,154

1989 Football Team Members Attending the Homecoming Game…

Mark Green, Rusty Strodtman, Brad Qualls, Dan Decker, Ben Last, John Saunders, Bill Miller, Kevin Johnson, Bob Magan, Jeff Summers, P.J. Born, John F. Campbell, Ron Litchfield, Alex McAfee, Tony Rider, Hank Darnell and Pat Richard.

It was great to see you...hope you will come back again soon...perhaps even again next year as Baker celebrates 120 years of playing football! (If any of you have any remaining eligibility please contact Coach Grossner!) :)

Upcoming University/Alumni Events …

October
23-24th...Board of Trustees Meeting

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 Campus 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

I Hope You Have a Great Month of October!
I’ll write again in November!

Jerry L. Weakley ’70
Vice President for Endowment and Planned Giving
P.O. Box 65,
Baldwin City, KS 66006
1-785-594-8332
jerry.weakley@bakeru.edu
Planning For a Solid Financial Future  
Through Creating a Charitable Trust

Beginning about ten or more years ago, we unofficially entered into one of the greatest periods of wealth transfer from one generation to the next that we have ever experienced in this or any other country in history. The World War II generation--well documented among others in Tom Brokaw’s Book, “The Millionaire Next Door” was beginning to pass away in large numbers and were leaving family fortunes of more than insignificant amounts to heirs, beneficiaries and charities. It is expected by those that forecast such events that this wealth transfer will continue well into this century and perhaps, beyond.

Though not every estate contains anything close to a million dollars or more, through equities/bonds/real estate and other assets that have become highly appreciated (even in light of our most recent economic malaise) many estates have accumulated significant wealth that can be easily shared by heirs and charitable concerns.

One of the things that I have suggested to those who have found themselves suddenly in possession of such a transfer is to create a written plan for the distribution/use of such monies. By doing so, you are forced to determine again, what is most important to your current and future life-style and desires. After paying off large credit card balances, mortgages and planning for eventual educational and health expenses for members of the family, many people would like to accomplish two additional tasks...produce additional annual income from the remainder and provide a meaningful gift to Baker or another institution or charity.

To accomplish this last task, I often recommend that an individual investigate creating a charitable remainder trust (annuity trust or unitrust) with us. In the process of establishing such an arrangement, the donor will receive an immediate income tax deduction (for those that itemize deductions), an income stream FOR LIFE of either a set amount or a variable amount based on annual trust asset valuation (part of which is excluded from taxation), and the knowledge that through this gift, they are able to give back to the University a gift that will in the case of an endowed fund, be able to attract and retain future generations of students, build or remodel campus buildings and facilities or add significant support for athletic/music or academic programs.

If you would like additional information on the specifics of these type of Charitable life-income gifts why not call Jerry Weakley today at 785-594-8332.

*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!”