

BAKER UNIVERSITY *Spring Commencement*

UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES
COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL OF NURSING

SUNDAY, THE EIGHTEENTH DAY OF MAY
THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FIVE
ONE O'CLOCK IN THE AFTERNOON
THE GEORGE F. COLLINS, JR.
SPORTS AND CONVENTION CENTER
BALDWIN CITY, KANSAS

Today's Commencement

THE ADDRESS

F.E. “Skip” Kalb, Jr. is a highly respected figure in the rail and logistics industries, with a career spanning over four decades. He earned his Bachelor of Science in Biology and Chemistry from Baker University in 1973. While attending Baker, he participated in various groups, serving as president of the Delta Tau Delta fraternity, engaging in journalism, and earning letters in football and baseball. After earning his Master of Business Administration from the University of Kansas in 1975, Kalb began his professional journey by joining the Real Estate and Industrial Development Department of the Santa Fe Railway Company in Topeka, Kansas. His dedication and expertise allowed him to grow within the company, which ultimately became part of BNSF Railway Company following a merger in 1995. After 41 years of dedicated service, Kalb retired from BNSF.

Throughout his illustrious career, Kalb was instrumental in spearheading numerous strategic, rail-centric multimodal transportation development projects. Noteworthy projects under his leadership include the Alliance Consolidated Transportation Center at Alliance, Texas, and BNSF’s Logistics Park-Chicago multimodal complex at the former Joliet Arsenal. He also played a pivotal role in developing Logistics Park-Kansas City and served as the project lead for several major customer initiatives, notably the largest bulk export facility and the crude-by-rail terminals in North America.

Kalb’s early work on intermodal strategies had a significant influence on the industry. His contributions laid the foundation for what is now recognized as the nation’s intermodal hub co-location real estate development strategy. He also took part in a landmark legal case concerning rail-to-truck transloading, which was ultimately resolved in favor of the industry by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Kalb has been a prominent leader in various industry organizations. He served as chairman of the NAIOP Research Foundation and president of the American Railway Development Association. He was associate chair of the former International Development Research Council (IDRC), now known as CoreNet Global, where he received the Master Professional designation, awarded to only 5 percent of its members. Kalb’s academic contributions were recognized during his time at the Economic Development Institute (EDI) in Oklahoma, where his thesis was honored with the Outstanding Thesis Award by the Midwest Economic Development Council.

Kalb serves as an advisor for two international expert networks focused on rail logistics and development issues. He is the principal of Skip Kalb Strategies, LLC, where he continues to consult on rail-oriented developments and logistics projects. Throughout his career, Kalb has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to innovation and leadership in the rail industry, leaving a legacy that has shaped the future of rail logistics and development.

Kalb has been a member of the Baker University Board of Trustees since July 2008, serving as chairman from July 2019 to June 2022. His expertise and skills have significantly contributed to the governance provided by the Board. Through his leadership, the Baker Wetlands Task Force was established to promote and ensure that the Wetlands continue to provide a high-quality research and learning environment for Baker faculty and students.



THE UNIVERSITY

In the mid-1850s, a group of Methodist ministers sought refuge from the brutality of a territory torn by economic and social disagreement. It was decided that such a retreat could only be found in the presence of education. A sanctuary of culture and civility was planned, but it was not until the Palmyra Association made a considerable donation of land that Baldwin City was selected as the location for Kansas' first university. Named for Osmon C. Baker, the first American bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, Baker University was granted a charter by the territorial legislature on February 12, 1858.

Throughout its history, the university has produced educated contributors to all fields. Baker boasts four Rhodes Scholars, a Pulitzer Prize winner, and countless others who have made a lasting impact as explorers, clergymen, politicians, writers, and academics.

In the 167 years since its inception, Baker has evolved from a small university and preparatory school to a comprehensive university with four schools and degrees ranging from associate to doctorate. From the first graduating class of three in 1866, Baker now serves students across campuses in Kansas and online around the world. The College of Arts and Sciences offers undergraduate degrees in more than 40 areas of study on the Baldwin City campus. The School of Professional and Graduate Studies serves working adults with numerous online programs. At the School of Nursing, Baker partners with Stormont Vail Health in Topeka to offer bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing. The School of Education offers bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees in Baldwin City and online.

CLASS ORGANIZATIONS

Baker University's Class of 1891 began the tradition of naming itself and bequeathing its title to the incoming freshman class. Thus, each organization's name and traditions are passed on through generations. During any given year, four organizations are represented among the freshman, sophomore, junior, and senior classes: Columbian Commonwealth, Senatus Romanus, King Arthur's Court, and House of Hanover. The class of 2025 is part of Senatus Romanus, and the class of 2024 is part of Columbian Commonwealth. When the class of 2029 enters Baker in the fall, it will assume the traditions of Senatus Romanus.

DESIGNATION OF SCHOLASTIC HONORS

These designations are applicable to baccalaureate degrees:

Summa Cum Laude – With Highest Honors

Magna Cum Laude – With High Honors

Cum Laude – With Honors

THE ACADEMIC REGALIA

The pageantry and dress of the academic procession have been inherited from the medieval universities of the eleventh and twelfth centuries where academic life began, first in the Church, then in the guilds. Principal features of academic dress are the gown, the cap, and the hood.



The bachelor's gown has pointed sleeves. Sleeves of the master's degree gown are long and closed with a slit at the wrist. Doctoral gowns have full bell sleeves with three velvet chevrons across them and are faced with velvet. University presidents usually wear academic regalia that represents the school.

The colors of the hood generally represent the school and discipline. Traditional colors associated with disciplines are Maize, Agriculture; White, Arts, Letters, and Humanities; Drab, Accounting and Business; Copper, Economics; Light Blue, Education; Orange, Engineering; Brown, Fine Arts; Russet, Forestry; Crimson, Journalism; Purple, Law; Lemon, Library Science; Green, Medicine; Pink, Music; Apricot, Nursing; Silver Gray, Speech; Dark Blue, Philosophy; Sage Green, Physical Education; Golden Yellow, Science; Citron, Social Work; Scarlet, Theology.

THE UNIVERSITY SYMBOLS

In 167 years, Baker has developed many rich traditions. Along with these traditions came a series of symbols holding special meaning to the university and its rituals.

The Presidential Medallion was first worn on April 22, 1967, by Baker President James E. Doty for his inauguration. A gift from Doty's alma mater, Mount Union College in Ohio, the sterling silver and gold medallion is worn by university presidents during ceremonial events, such as commencement and convocation, to signify the official authority and responsibility of the president.

The Baker University seal was added as a university symbol when the university celebrated its golden anniversary. Its Latin motto translates "Let him first be a man," adding to the display of three Greek words: mind, body, and soul. At the center is the lamp of learning on the open book of knowledge.

The Baker University mace symbolizes the power and authority of learning. Commissioned for the 1974 inauguration of Baker's 24th president, Jerald C. Walker, Walt Bailey, emeritus faculty member whose career at Baker spanned 42 years as a professor of art, created the mace from remnants of Baker's Centenary Hall and historic Parmenter Hall. Bearing the name of Baker's 30 presidents, the mace is carried in the procession of official university ceremonies by the Grand Marshal. The traditional symbol was derived from a battle instrument of the knights in the Middle Ages.

FLAGS

The flags represent the countries of origin of our graduating students and faculty. This year we have flags representing Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Canada, China, Colombia, England, Germany, Hungary, Jamaica, Netherlands, Nigeria, Peru, Romania, Scotland, and Spain.

KOPKE AWARD

The Jennie Howell Kopke and Verda R. Kopke Award for Distinguished Teaching recognizes annually a Baker faculty member who has a record of excellence in teaching and in transforming students into scholars, who brings honor to the university, and who exhibits good moral character.

JABARA LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Jabara Leadership Award recognizes one graduating male and one graduating female student who demonstrate leadership, academic excellence, departmental involvement, and career potential while completing their degree at Baker.

THE ALMA MATER

TO THE ORANGE

by Warren Shepard

arr. by Roger Kugler

Andante

To dear old Ba - ker un - to thee our grate - ful song we sing. In
6 tri - umph sound through out the land loud let thy prais - es ring. Our Al - ma Ma - ter
11 will reign a - cross the vast fair Kan - sas plain. Hearts
14 to the Orange for e - ver true. We're child - ren of old Ba - ker U

THE PROGRAM

This program lists degree recipients together with candidates who plan to complete requirements in the near future. It is not an official list of graduates.

Exit Procedures: In the event of an emergency, please remain calm and move to the exits in an orderly fashion. There are three exits from the building, including the main entrance behind you, the exit behind the stage, and the exit in the hallway on the right side of the auditorium. Please move quietly and quickly to the nearest exit.

Thank you.

Order of the Ceremonies

PRESIDENT HOOT GIBSON
PRESIDING

*Processional Kansas City St. Andrew Pipes and Drums

*Invocation The Reverend Kevin Hopkins
University Minister

Welcome and Introductions Mr. Hoot Gibson
30th President
Baker University

Remarks Rachel Sterner, Class of 2025
Senior Class President

Commencement Address F.E. “Skip” Kalb, Jr.
Class of 1973
Board of Trustees

Authorization to Confer Degrees and
Bestow University Honors and Recognition Mr. Dustin Baker
Board of Trustees

Presentation of University Recognition. President Gibson

Jennie Howell Kopke and Verda R. Kopke
Award for Distinguished Teaching. President Gibson

2025 Outstanding Senior Awards. Dr. Cassy Bailey
Vice President of Enrollment Management

Professor Fran Jabara Leadership Awards Dr. Judy Smrha
Professor and Chair
of Business and Economics

Presentation of Candidates. Dr. Matthew R. Bice
Vice President of Academic Affairs and Provost

Conferral of Degrees President Gibson

Presentation of Degrees Dr. Bice

College of Arts and Sciences
and School of Education
Undergraduate Candidates. Dr. Darcy Russell
Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

Recognition of Candidates
for Teacher Licensure. Dr. Bice

School of Nursing Candidates Dr. Libby Rosen
Dean of the School of Nursing

Assisted by Ms. Ramie Nation
University Registrar

President’s Charge President Gibson

*The Alma Mater Led by Nguyen Nicholson
Senior, Music Education

To *The Orange* by Warren Shepard
arr. by Roger Kugler
Lyrics are available on page 4.

*Benediction The Reverend Hopkins

**Recessional Kansas City St. Andrew Pipes and Drums

*All who are able will stand.

**Audience members please remain standing until the recessional is completed.

The University Marshals are Dr. Sara Crump – Head Marshal,
Dr. Tony Brown, Professor John Richards, and Dr. Vicky McGrath.

We would like to extend our gratitude to local Boy Scout Troop 65
for their outstanding service as the color guard.

College of Arts and Sciences and School of Education

CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES

BACHELOR OF ARTS

ANN VIGNERON BEALL

EMALEE BIGLEY *

MAX BLACK
CUM LAUDE

RUBY KATHERINE BOSWELL
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

MADISON MICHELLE BYERLEY
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

CADE URICK KEENAN CHAMBERS
SUMMA CUM LAUDE

ALYSSA JASMINE COOK
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

SETH EDWARD DANKENBRING *
CUM LAUDE

MAYA RAE DEMERITT

TORY DILLARD

THOMAS JAMES FERGUS

BROOKE ANASTASIA FREDERICK

AFTON J. HAAYER

JAMES ROBERT HENGGELER *
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GRACE HIGGINS

RICHARD N. KELLY

AALIA MAY KHAN

MARLON DESHON LEWIS II *

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AUDREY LUFFMAN
MAGNA CUM LAUDE

PAULA MARTÍN MONTERO
CUM LAUDE

FENRIS VICENTE MARTINEZ
GUERRERO

DYLAN B. MCCALL

EMMA J. MLIVIC

JOAQUIN MUÑOZ URTEAGA

NOAH RIGATUSO

DYLAN MICHAEL ROUSH

BAILEY SHUMAN *

EASON A. SMITH *

SERGIO DIDIER SORIANO-ZARATE

ALAINA ROSE TRAIGER

CHRISTIAN VILLEGAS

LILLIAN GRACE WOOD

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MACIE RAYNE ALBRIGHT

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

MASON W. ANDERSON

LILA JEWEL AVILA

CUM LAUDE

JESSE-LEIGH BAKER

BREANA BARCHAK

JAKE RUSSELL BARNES

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

SOPHIA BARRETT

EMMA SUZANNE BERKLEY

TREVOR J. BOLDEN

KENDYL R. BOLINDER

CUM LAUDE

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JAIDON BOWERS

JACILYNN ROSE BREWER

LYDIA MARIE BRINKER *

CUM LAUDE

SETH ANDREW BROWN

CUM LAUDE

KRISTI CHAMBERS *

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

GRACIE LAREE CHILDS

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

OLIVIA CHRISMAN

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

KOLBIE LEIGH CHRISTENSEN

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

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ELIZABETH M. CLARK

MAGNA CUM LAUDE

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SEBASTIAN CORDOVA

COOPER CROCKETT

REESE RENEE CURRY

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ANTHONY DAVIS

OLIVIA DEICHMANN

CUM LAUDE

CLAYTON DOUGLAS DETHERAGE

FALCO JOHANNES JACKOB DIJKHUIS

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SYDNEY ANN ERLANDSON

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KEEGAN BROOKE WEINGARTNER

SUMMA CUM LAUDE

MOLLY WISE

* SIGMA THETA TAU INTERNATIONAL



1858

BAKER
UNIVERSITY