

BAKERPRIDE

SPRING 2009

Military magazine honors University

As a member of the Navy Reserves who has served two years in Iraq and as a Baker University student, John Pugh appreciates the support provided by the University while pursuing his business administration degree.

“The financial aid personnel have been really helpful,” said Pugh, who lives in Independence, Mo., and attends classes at the campus in Lee’s Summit, Mo. “I fill out the required paperwork and if I need help with something they fix it right away. I appreciate all they do.”

Because of its commitment to military personnel such as Pugh, the University has been named one of America’s 2008 Top Military Friendly Colleges and Universities by *Military Advanced Education* magazine. Pugh is on pace to graduate a year from now.

Baker offers reduced tuition rates and waives the application for all active duty service members and spouses. Students receive college credit for all military training and specialized schools. The University 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 members gain new educational advantages, and the discount is the most important tool that we use,” said Marvin Hunt, dean of Baker’s School of Professional and Graduate Studies. “Military personnel often pursue one of the many business degrees we offer.”

Lisa Fassett, a system integrator in the billing wholesale division at Sprint in Overland Park, is benefiting from the 25 percent tuition discount for military spouses. Her husband, Stanford Fassett, has served 20 years in the Marine Corps.

“The discount has been most helpful,” Lisa said. “I checked on a couple of other colleges before deciding on Baker. The Overland Park location is close to my work, and I didn’t want to have to travel.” 🍁



digs & divots
Baker celebrates Dan Harris

Let’s salute the Baker athletic director after his 26 years of service to the University.

ROAST
Sunday, April 26, 2009
Holiday Inn
101 West 151st Street
Olathe, KS

GOLF TOURNAMENT
Monday, April 27, 2009
Prairie Highlands Golf Course
14695 South Inverness
Olathe, KS

For more information or to register online go to:

www.bakerU.edu/digsanddivots

or contact the Alumni Office at 888.781.2586
or alumni@bakerU.edu.



Ephantus Mwangi and Hottensiah Kimori.

School of Nursing Graduates Plan a Return to

Kenya

Reprinted with permission from the *Topeka Capital-Journal*.

Ephantus Kimori Mwangi and his wife, Hottensiah Kimori, remember the helplessness they felt when their plane had taken off from a Kenya airport in 2003 to head back to the United States.

The couple had returned to their homeland for a visit and were stunned by the explosion of HIV/AIDS, persistent typhoid fever and deepening poverty there.

People wait in line for hours to get medical care at a health fair in Kenya. The number of cases of HIV/AIDS and typhoid fever is growing rapidly in the African nation.

“AIDS has devastated the country, and every home we went to had a sad story or they were sick,” Hottensiah, 40, said. “On the plane back, we said, ‘We have to do something. But where do we start.’”

“We were just so depressed,” her husband added. “We sensed there was something we could do to help and realized we needed an understanding of health care. It was not easy to feel so helpless.”

It was at that moment that the couple made a commitment to help their fellow Kenyans. It was a decision that would lead them to enroll at Baker University School of Nursing and begin making plans to establish health facilities in Kenya.

“It was on that plane that we knew we had to get into health care and we started looking at schools,” Ephantus, 42, said.

Five years later, the couple have made good on their commitment. They graduated from the School of Nursing on Dec. 14 and already are helping establish a health clinic and Neema Hospital in Kenya.

Hottensiah grew up in an underdeveloped rural community in the Rift Valley Province, west of Nairobi. She lived with her parents, eight sisters and three brothers.

“We were quite poor,” she said, adding that her family had to walk two hours to get to the nearest clinic.

While most men toiled on farms, her father was employed as a clerical worker by British governmental officials. He eventually returned to school and later was able to get a job as an entomology technician at a research lab.

Hottensiah said her father valued education and broke tradition when he decided to send his daughters to school.

To get to her elementary school, Hottensiah had to walk one hour. To go to high school, she had to pass a national exam and then leave home to live in a missionary boarding school. It was at the boarding school where she realized a better life was possible.

“One of my motivations was the poverty I saw around me and the dream of a way to break it,” she said.

SHE REMEMBERS WALKING TWO HOURS TO BUY A NEWSPAPER TO FIND OUT IF SHE WAS AMONG THOSE WHO COULD CONTINUE THEIR SCHOOLING.

[Return to Kenya story continued from previous page](#)

Hottensiah had to take another national exam to qualify for college. The names of those passing the test were published in a newspaper. She remembers walking two hours to buy a newspaper to find out if she was among those who could continue their schooling.

"I remember crying when my name was there," she said.

She attended Kenyatta University in Nairobi from 1988 to 1991 and majored in education arts.

"The girls were told, 'You can't do sciences.' You could be a teacher or nurse," she said.

Hottensiah worked as a high school teacher and used her salary to help her father pay for her siblings' schooling. Later, she worked for Compassion International, a Christian child advocacy ministry, to ensure children living in the slums of Nairobi were attending school.

Hottensiah and Ephantus married in 1997 and lived in Nakuru, where Ephantus was born.

Ephantus' father grew up in Kenya when it was a British colony. At that time, native Kenyans couldn't attend school and were hired mainly to work menial jobs, such as a cook or housekeeper.

But like Hottensiah's father, he also valued education. So, he took evening and summer classes and eventually was hired as the city's accountant and chief internal auditor.

Ephantus said he went to elementary and junior high schools, where his Irish missionary teachers taught him English and about different cultures and opportunities within his reach.

He left home to attend a secondary-level boarding school in central Kenya, about 20 minutes from his home, where he

met British missionaries and a biology teacher with the Peace Corps. He next enrolled at Egerton University in Njoro, where a teacher from Nebraska taught him agronomy.

Ephantus graduated in 1990 with a bachelor's degree in agriculture and was hired to teach at a high school in a rural community.

"I learned about the hardship of the rural people and farmers, and how the weather made them so vulnerable," he said. "I still had a nagging desire to come to America, and realized I did not have much of a future in teaching high school. I wanted to do something meaningful to help those around (me). America was the land of opportunity."

He and Hottensiah tried to obtain U.S. visas three or four times before they learned in 1998 they could have their names placed in a lottery that would allow 50,000 people

to gain green cards and legal entrance into the United States.

In August 1999 they landed in the United

States and came to Lawrence, where one of Hottensiah's sisters was a graduate student at the University of Kansas.

"It was a cultural shock, and we realized we had to think in a hurry what we wanted to do here," Hottensiah said. "It had to be something that could be helpful to us, but also helpful for our people and make a change."

Ephantus was hired by Cottonwood Inc., an agency serving those with developmental disabilities. Hottensiah got a job as a housekeeper in a nursing home, and by 2002 she had finished the requirements to be a certified nurse's aide, certified medication aide, home health aide and licensed practical nurse.

After they returned from their visit to Kenya in 2003, Hottensiah decided to apply to Baker University School of Nursing. When Ephantus saw the application form, he decided to fill one out, too. Both of them were accepted.

Juggling jobs, nursing school and parenting of their two daughters, ages 3 and 6, wasn't easy.



A proposed clinic in Kiserian upper Matasia in Ngong, Kenya.

"But it was fulfilling," Hottensiah said.

During their first year at the School of Nursing, Hottensiah and Ephantus contacted a community near Nairobi to see if its residents were interested in establishing a one-day health fair there. They were.

In June 2007, more than 900 people were treated at the health fair; 500 of those people were screened for HIV/AIDS. Some of the pregnant women who stood in line had never seen a doctor; others had never seen a dentist or had immunizations.

"We realized the need is so huge," Ephantus said.

"We said, 'Now, we are right. We need not one day, but we need something that they can come to continuously,'" Hottensiah said. 🍁

To read this story in its entirety, go to [Baker World online](#).

Advocate of Greek communities serves as international president



As an 11-year-old delivering *TV Guide* in Baldwin City, Jim Selzer looked forward to a certain stop on his route: the Delta Tau Delta fraternity house.

"I was always impressed when three or four guys made a point to take the time to talk to me because I did not merit

that kind of attention," Selzer said. "I am sure they had much better things to do than visit with me."

The hospitality shown by the Greek members made a lasting impact on Selzer, who a few years later became an active member of Delta Tau Delta at Baker. A longtime advocate for the Greek community since graduating in 1970, Selzer was elected last summer to a two-year term as international president of Delta Tau Delta.

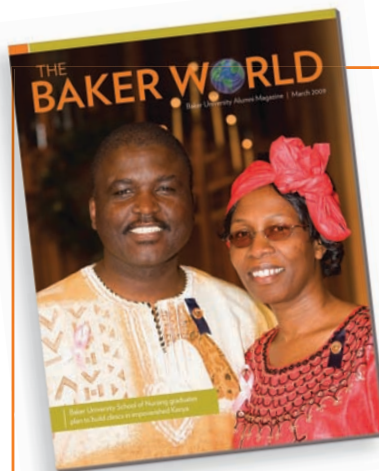
"The primary function of fraternities is to try to motivate young men to make wise decisions throughout their life," Selzer said. "The goal is to give young men the tools to be better men, better fathers, better husbands and better supporters of the charities."

In October, Selzer was honored at the Collins House for his contributions to Delta Tau Delta and his new role as president. Current members of Delta Tau Delta presented him a plaque.

"I reconnected with a lot of good friends and learned more about the current members," said Selzer, who is a lawyer with Sinson, Morrison, Hecker LLP in Kansas City, where his practice focuses on corporate finance and securities. "A fraternity lends itself to long-term relationships."

A lot of those relationships are fostered at STAG dinners during Alumni Weekend in May. Selzer hopes Greek members appreciate the annual event.

"Most undergraduates believe similar things happen across the country, but that is not always the case," Selzer said. "STAG creates a tremendous opportunity for people to maintain connections and is unique to Baker." 🍁



Greek news

Baker University's Greek community actively participates in campus programs, community service and leadership opportunities. Check out the recent highlights from Baker's five fraternities and five sororities.

A rising star

Chris Lash is familiar with all of his students and greets them by name, with a wave, handshake or high-five. He enjoys popping in classrooms or the lunchroom for impromptu discussions and saying "Good morning" to teachers and students.

A former part-time custodian, Lash now serves as principal of Rising Star Elementary School in the Kansas City area.



Chris Lash, principal of Rising Star Elementary in Lenexa, greets kindergartner Gareth Oehrig before school.

Baker World on the Web

John Thomson is driven to succeed

While most kids his age were playing video games, a budding entrepreneur was tuning into "Nightly Business Report" on public television.



Faith inspires recent graduate

With his right hand placed on a shoulder of a classmate, Greg Rogers was guided to the commencement platform at the Collins Center. Blind since birth, Rogers walked without assistance across the raised stage before being presented his diploma by Baker President Pat Long as more than 2,000 in attendance applauded.

Don't miss **STAG** Dinners

During Alumni Weekend | Saturday, May 16 | 6 p.m.

For more information, contact Alumni Relations at 888.781.2586 or your chapter houses.

Check out these stories, class notes, and more at www.bakerU.edu/bakerworld



Matt Germain scores winning goal for the Baker soccer team.

Wildcats savor memorable run

Baker University enjoyed a fall sports season to remember by competing on the national stage.

A trip to the NAIA Men's Soccer National Tournament and return to the NAIA football playoffs highlighted a memorable run for the Wildcats.

"This has to be one of the best overall fall seasons in many years," said longtime Baker athletics director Dan Harris, who will retire at the end of the academic year. "I am so proud of our coaches and student-athletes for their commitment and dedication to winning in our conference. We have one of the most competitive conferences in the nation, and success for us is a great measure of the level of our accomplishments."

Playing in the national soccer tournament for the first time in program history, the No. 21-ranked Wildcats defeated Park University 1-0 in overtime at Liston Stadium in the opening round before falling 1-0 to Westmont College in the quarterfinals. Nate Houser, 1994, is the director of soccer and head coach of the Wildcats, who finished 14-7-2.

The Wildcat football team finished the regular season ranked 12th nationally and qualified for the NAIA playoffs for the first time in 15 years and the 11th time in program history. Baker closed the season with a loss to Morningside College to finish with an 8-4 record for its best mark this decade.

In men's cross country, Arnold Sirorei became the Wildcats' first national qualifier in four years.

In volleyball, the Wildcats peaked in the final month of the season, winning nine of 10 matches before falling to Lindenwood in the Heart of America Athletic Conference championship match. Baker finished with a 23-13 record. 🍁

Alumni Weekend

Celebrate One Baker Traditional alumni, nurses, teachers and professionals spend some time reconnecting with classmates. Join us for Alumni Weekend events and make it a time to remember.



Friday, May 15

Baker Class Reunions

All Classes to Celebrate Together

1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004

Overland Park Marriott
10800 Metcalf, Overland Park, Kan.
Tickets are \$45 per person

Medallion Presentation to the

Class of 1959 • 5:30 p.m.

For graduates of the class of 1959 and their guests.

Registration and Social • 5-9 p.m.

Dinner • 7 p.m.

DJ • 9 p.m.

School of Nursing

Pinning Ceremony • 7:30 p.m.

Grace Episcopal Cathedral,
701 SW Eighth Ave., Topeka, Kan.

Reception for

Award Recipients • 11 a.m.

Collins House

Alumni Luncheon • Noon

Allen Dining Room, Harter Union

Seating begins at 11:30 a.m. Tickets are \$20.

Class Photos • 1:30 p.m.

Class of 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959

Annual Alumni Association

Board Meeting • 2 p.m.

Memorial Service and

Endowment Dedication • 3 p.m.

Clarice L. Osborne Memorial Chapel

Co-op, Co-opperette,

Independent (non-Greek) Dinner

6 p.m., Harter Union

Tickets are \$20

STAG Dinners • 6 p.m.

Greek Houses

Sunday, May 17

Baccalaureate Service • 9:30 a.m.

First United Methodist Church

Brunch • 10:30 a.m.

Allen Dining Room, Harter Union Tickets are \$7

Class of 1959 prepare for

Commencement March • Noon

Collins Center

Commencement • 1 p.m.

College of Arts and Sciences,
School of Nursing, School of Education
Undergraduate Degrees

Reception • 2:30 p.m.

Collins Center North Lawn

For all undergraduates, graduates,
family members and friends.

Commencement • 4:30 p.m.

School of Education Graduate Degrees



Saturday, May 16

Registration • 9 a.m. - 11:30 p.m.

Harter Union Lobby

Campus Tours and Oral History

Interviews • 9 - 11 a.m.

Van or walking tours available.
Harter Union. Reservations required. RSVP to
alumni@bakerU.edu or 888.781.2586

The Alpha Delta Sigma

Annual Meeting • 10:30 a.m.

McKibbin Recital Hall,
Owens Musical Arts Building



Register Online Today at www.bakerU.edu or complete the form below

Alumni Weekend Registration

Return this form with payment by May 8 to: Office of Alumni Relations, Baker University, P.O. Box 65, Baldwin City, KS 66006-0065.

Please print your name and names of your guests and class years, if applicable, as they should appear on name tags.

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Maiden _____ Class Year _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Maiden _____ Class Year _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Maiden _____ Class Year _____

Address _____

Phone _____

If you have questions, contact Alumni Relations at 888.781.2586 or alumni@bakerU.edu

Friday Events	No.	\$ Total
CAS Class Reunion Party \$45 per person		
Class Photo 8" x10" (also available online to download) \$5 each (reunion classes only)		
Saturday Events	No.	\$ Total
Alumni Luncheon \$20 per person		
Co-op/Co-opperette, Independent (non-Greek) Dinner \$20 per person		
Sunday Events	No.	\$ Total
Brunch \$7 per person		
Total Enclosed \$		

Form of Payment:

Check enclosed (payable to Baker University)

Visa Mastercard

Discover American Express

Account # _____

Exp. Date _____



All alumni are invited to join The Baker Bridge, an online community where former Baker University students can interact and keep posted of alumni events. Membership is FREE for all Baker alumni. Check out the online community link under www.bakeru.edu/alumni to connect with your Baker friends and classmates.

Join the Baker Bridge

- Update your directory listing
- Have some fun, create a profile
- Find and catch up with classmates
- Share what's going on in your life through Class Notes
- Register for alumni events

Stay Connected | www.bakerU.edu/alumni

Questions? alumni@bakerU.edu or 888.781.2586



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ALUMNICALENDAR

SHOWING BAKER PRIDE ...

APRIL

14, Tue. "It's A Jungle Up There –
Exploration of Rain Forest Canopies"
Owens AV Room
7:30 p.m.

26, Sun. Digs & Divots Dan Harris Roast
Holiday Inn, Olathe
6 p.m.

27, Mon. Digs & Divots Golf Tournament
Prairie Highlands Golf Course
Olathe
8 a.m.

MAY

9, Sat. SPGS Commencement
Undergraduate Ceremony
Graduate Ceremony
Collins Center
1 p.m.
4:30 p.m.

15-17, Fri. **Alumni Weekend!**
See full schedule inside.

For reservations or for more information,
contact the Alumni Office at 800.781.2586
or at alumni@bakerU.edu.

For a complete schedule of alumni
events go to www.bakerU.edu/alumni.



From \$2,499.00 per person double occupancy, includes
airfare from Kansas City

Join Baker alumni for trip to Ireland, a country
unlike anywhere else in the world, a land of constantly
changing colors, magnificent and varied landscapes, a
land of folklore and legend.

For more information, contact the Alumni Office at
888.781.2586 or alumni@bakerU.edu

GOING GREEN

As part of a campus-wide sustainability initiative, Baker University will be merging the *Baker World* and *Baker Pride* alumni publications.

The Baker World will be published twice a year – in the spring and the fall. Content previously reserved for the *Baker Pride* now will be included in the *Baker World*.

Also, Baker alumni now have the opportunity to receive their *Baker World* online. If you are interested in going green, please go to www.bakeru.edu/goingGreen



GO GREEN-Receive the *Baker World* online.

FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Friends:

The Baker Spirit is strong! Whether it be in the classroom, on the field, in sororities and fraternities, or in life, Baker students, current and past, continue to thrive and amaze. In this edition of the *Baker Pride* and the online *Baker World* you will meet and reconnect with many of these students and alumni.

In these challenging economic times, that Spirit is the distinguishing factor that will differentiate Baker from other institutions. Although we are having to take measures to trim our budgets, the feeling of community and caring continues. We are committed to emerge from these times stronger than ever. We are having bold discussions and imagining a future that preserves our traditions and propels us into a bright future. Baker and the "Baker Family" have shown great fortitude and creativity adapting to economic changes throughout the last 150 years. As we begin our next 150-year journey, we do so with courage, renewed energy, a clear vision and an unwavering commitment to the University's academic goals.

Thank you for your continued support, and I hope to see many of you during Alumni Weekend.

With Baker Pride,

Pat Long
Patricia N. Long

