THE STATE OF BAKER

JULY 2013

SUMMER EDITION!
Introduction

Hey Baker! I hope your summer is going well! It’s been a while since I’ve sent out another State of Baker Address, and I thought it would be a good idea for me to make a couple of Summer Editions so we can all stay connected:) So here’s the first, and look forward to another one in the beginning of August!

In this edition, check out:
- New weekly Baker polls!
- Updates from Baker Gov!
- Bakerites around the world!
- Baker summer birthdays!
- President survey results!

Weekly Polls!

Since we’ve got many weeks between now and the start of the school year, why not use this time to get some feedback from y’all on what we can do to make Baker better?

So from now on, look out for a poll every week (sent out on Monday) and give us your opinion! I’ll try to compile the data and let y’all know the results on a weekly basis too.

Look out for the first poll on Monday, July 8th!

Also, if you have an idea for a poll question, don’t hesitate to send it to me!

Updates from Baker Gov

Coordinators’ Update:

Hello, Baker! We coordinators have been hard at work getting everything ready for O-Week and the new students. We just finished the O-Week book (InDesign is hard, guys) and are now getting creative and thinking of some t-shirt designs. We find out who the new Bakerites are in early July, and then we’ll spend hours poring over their forms to match them with roommates. We hope everyone is as excited to welcome the new students as we are!

Love,
Kaitlin, Dana, and Dennis
Jesse’s PI Update:

Our new pool felt came in with Baker's beautiful crest in the middle. A new wall has been erected in the laundry room to add additional storage space to the area as we move to start the renovation of the new Baker lounge on the top floor of Old Wing.

Victoria’s Baker Website Update:

Raven Graves, Connie Feng, Morgan Jones, and Peter Washington have been busy this summer overhauling the Baker website. The site will be updated by the end of the week with information for the incoming freshmen, but expect a brand new site to be up and running for the 2013-2014 school year as a resource for current Bakerites and freshmen alike!

Some features to look out for include social media feeds for Baker's Twitter and Facebook pages, a Google form to make space reservations, and a database of Baker’s PAA’s, RHAs, and academic mentors.

Bakerites Around the World!

Wherever you go, you’ll find Bakerites doing cool things. Check out what these Bakerites are doing around the world!

Jeff Brown - Yigo, Guam  Ecology of Bird Loss Program

I am working with the Ecology of Bird Loss program. Guam lost all it’s bird pollinators due to the invasion of the brown tree snake and now the fate of the jungle is unknown. I am also conducting personal research with orb-weaving spiders for my senior thesis.

Andrew Stout - Maastricht, Netherlands  Artificial Meat Research at Maastricht University

Andrew decided to write a Haiku... here it is...

Making Lab Grown Meat
Three Months in the Netherlands
Hashtag Yolo Meat

If you’re curious to what this might mean, check out:
Monica Sosa - Urubamba, Peru  Loewenstern Fellowship: Projects Abroad - Nutrition

I work in the Urubamba district of Peru (about 2 hours away from Cusco) in different “Centros de Vigilancia.” These centers target families that are at risk. My daily activities vary from workshops (malnutrition, anemia, how to wash your hands, how to brush your teeth) to house visits (where we go check in on families that haven’t been going to the center). Education is the main focus of my service project.

Natalie Gaynor - Santa Barbara, California  Music Academy of the West

This summer I, along with fellow Bakerite Zach Spontak, are attending the Music Academy of the West, an eight week summer music program in Santa Barbara, California! Our days are filled with orchestra and chamber music rehearsals, masterclasses, coachings, personal practice, and of course trips to the beach and downtown. I love getting to know and playing music with these young professionals from all over the world!

Claudia Iriondo - Mexico City, Mexico  Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México

Currently I’m doing neuroscience research at UNAM, and relaxing with my friends and family in my free time.

Scott Solomon - Lots of places...

So far this summer, I spent a couple of weeks in Belize teaching my course on tropical field biology, which was great as always. We just got back from a trip to Utah, where Catharina, Nyala, Nicholas and I spent a few days in the mountains outside Salt Lake City. I was there for a conference, but we also got to do some hiking in the beautiful Wasatch range. Now we are busy preparing for our trip to Africa in three weeks. In addition to visiting with family, we plan to do some scuba diving, safaris, and mountain climbing. After that we will back here for the start of O-Week! Summer sure flies by fast!

Also, congratulations to our SME Fellows this year! They are Kathleen Abadie, Ana Builes, Haley McCann, Kiara Aguirre, and Julia Madden. Here are a couple updates from them:

Ana Builes - Paris, France  Institut Français des Relations Internationales

I’m working at the Institut Français des Relations Internationales, or IFRI, which is the best think tank in France. I’m mentoring with Dr. Laurence Nardon, who is the director of the US Program. Hmm some cool things I’ve done: doing a paper for their potomac series over affirmative action in the US from a french perspective that will be published in December, started a new social media campaign to revive their use of linkedin, and met some cool peeps. Including the Assistant secretary of Economics and Business and the Interior Minister of Colombia!
Kathleen Abadie - San Francisco, California  Celgene Corporation

Hey Baker. I’m doing drugs in San Francisco this summer. And by doing I mean producing, and by drugs I mean cancer drugs. I hope you all are having wonderful summers!

Haley McCann - Washington, D.C.  Office of Senator Cornyn

I’ve been working in Senator Cornyn’s office for a month now and been right in the middle of all the dramatic bills that were voted on this past week (DOMA/Prop 8, immigration, Wendy Davis’ awesome filibuster). It’s been wildly exciting! Beyond that, I’ve just been doing some major sight seeing and am off to Bermuda for vacation next week.

Hope your summers been going well!!

If you or another Bakerite you know is doing something cool, let me know! I’m sure all of Baker would like to know what you’re up to! :)

Baker Summer Babies Birfdays!

We’ve got plenty of Baker summer babies! Be sure to wish them a happy birthday and let me know if I missed anyone!

Past:

- Alex Kornajcik
- Sally Huang
- Kurt Kotzung
- Monica Sosa
- Evan Byun
- Jordan Rothfeld
- Alberto Rodriguez
- Jeremy Hunt
- Ellen Trinklein
- Jacob Stautzenberger
- Dishu Kumar
- Kyle Shepherd
- Chiomaa Nwozuzu
- Bonnie Kalos
- Tianshi Ji
- Dennis Budde
- Radina Khalid
- Alex Clouse
- Anthony Schmucker
- Emma Terrell
- Lizzy Bache
- Melissa Martinez
- Adrian Jones

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<td>May 12th</td>
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<td>May 18th</td>
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<td>June 9th</td>
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<td>Dishu Kumar</td>
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<td>Kyle Shepherd</td>
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<td>Melissa Martinez</td>
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Coming Soon! (July):

- AMURRICA!!
- Jamie Oblein
- Chansun Park
- Sirus Jesudasen
- Sidney Cauthorn
- Eric Baueuerle
- Abby Gordon
- Jesvin Chandy
- Larry Zhu
- Wyatt Doop

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President’s Survey Results

As promised, here are the results to the survey I sent out in the beginning of May! Thanks to everyone who provided feedback. It definitely will help me improve and try to make Baker a better place for all of us. I’ll try to gather more feedback from you guys in the future so be sure to look out for those and contribute your opinion! <3

If there is one thing that you would change about cabinet, what would it be?

“Whatever happened to having full on food rather than snacks at cabinet? Is it an issue with the Baker budget? My freshman year we used to regularly have Tacos-a-go-go, pizza, and other actual food items.”

“It is really late Tuesday nights, so that is kind of a deterrent for off campus students to attend.”

“Make it more friendly to those who do not hold a position. I do not have a position, but I go to get information about what is happening on campus and at Baker. Often, stuff is said in cab that is not publicized well around the rest of Baker. I wish some of that stuff was better advertised.”

“Room reservations (aka Baker common space) and money take really long....”

“Make it less announcement-focused and more discussion based. I know it could be difficult to come up with discussion topics every week, but I think you’ve done a great job bringing up something from the Baker “What If” page.”

“I would have the break earlier because sometimes cabinet just seems to keep going.”

“Limit discussion lengths - propose a time for longer discussions later or if it’s something that is controversial, have class reps gather feedback from classes individually.”

“Allow time for Bakerites to bring up discussion topics, questions, concerns, etc.”

“That some decisions are open to nonvoting members”

“I would limit the interactive discussion time and have the person leading the discussion (Example: SA senator) stay after to hear more opinions. I would also advertise in the cab email (if possible) what things we are going to ask for feedback on so relevant people with solid opinions can show up.”

“Give people chances to talk about issues before they are brought up at cabinet? Like a “here’s what shall come up?””
If you could change anything about Baker government and/or have comments about getting involved, please share!

“As with any student government, a some of it has to do with popularity which don’t totally agree with, but this is government in general. It is difficult to find ways to get involved in Baker unless you are on government which I am not necessarily interested in. Also, it is difficult to find these other opportunities to get involved or they do not interest me. I would like to get more involved but it is difficult.”

“I feel like committee members should be more involved with their committees (Socials, Spirit) because usually as it stands now, the two or three chairs do all of the work and then scramble to find people to help them with setting up, cleaning up, etc.”

“I feel like a lot of people assume that the role of student government is to run things as efficiently and effectively as possible. When they see mistakes are made, they get turned off and say “student government is a waste of time.” I don’t know how to do this without delegitimizing what we do, but I would like to try pitching getting involved in Baker as a learning experience (especially for freshmen) rather than an opportunity to give back. Then ideally, all the VPs and other positions with actual responsibility will be upperclassmen who have learned how to “be good.””

“USE THE TV FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS!! GET RID OF THOSE TERRIBLE TABLE-FLYERS!!”

“I am encouraged that even though I’m not directly involved I know how to get involved or who to talk to (and direct others to)”

“More accountability once people do get involved”

“too cliquey, SOOOO cliquey, there’s a core group of people who control the system and think they own it all and know everything and the drive to “get involved” limits diversity”

“Pres is cool, a lot of the other people are not and play politics”

“Involve people outside of Baker government more in decisions.”

“make activities more accessible, too many cliques. if you’re in the not-involved-in-residential-college clique, then it’s difficult to motivate yourself to join up and integrate yourself into baker.”
I wish I knew more seniors. Most of them kept to themselves. That can’t really be helped though since they’re graduating, but I hope the rising seniors aren’t the same to the incoming freshmen.”

“More cohesiveness.”

“Less emphasis on drinking culture activities”

“More college-wide support for throwing parties.”

“Fewer cliques! Less bro culture!”

“I wish we didn’t have so much of a divide over drinking... For example a lot of people were looking forward to college night, but didn’t participate when activities didn’t happen and powerhour seemed to just drag on”

“I would prefer a less clique community than is prevalent at Baker.”

“There’s a lot of support at Baker, but obviously a lot of people don’t actually sense it.”

What is in your ideal community that is not at Baker?

“I honestly love Baker’s location and different living choices, but I kinda don’t like the how apathetic we are. I think this problem becomes glaringly obvious during Beer Bike when we embarrassingly come in last. I would rather be in a college with more spirit because after four years Baker just feels like a set of buildings I lived in.”

“Sometimes I wish that Baker was not as “clique-y” as it is because it can be kind of difficult for those not in a clique to truly feel like they belong at Baker. Also, it kind of sucks that Baker is really apathetic about a lot of events and activities on campus. I hope that there is more Baker attendance and participation at events around campus, such as varsity sports events, IM sports, cultural show/attendance, etc.”

“I wish that people of other years would communicate more.”

“A more wide-spread interest in getting involved, staying involved, and supporting those who are involved.”

“I really like the kudos idea. I still don’t like this divide between drinkers and non-drinkers, and I really don’t like how all the suits turned out for next year. We’re becoming such a cliquey college and it definitely excludes people. But it’s an odd method of exclusion. I feel it just discourages certain individuals from getting involved. Once someone gets involved, I think they are supported (unless they keep messing up, which I don’t think should be a reason for not supporting someone). The hard part is getting people to step out of their shell and take that first step of getting involved. But then again, the argument could be made that all this is just a function of the individuals who are at the college at any given time. Once this year’s freshmen class is in charge, things are going to be a lot different. This is a tough issue and I’m not even sure how to begin addressing it.”

“Deliberate interaction with specific individuals as opposed to convenient group settings. This is hard to address on a structural level; but I feel like this is the largest threat to friendships at Baker. The fact that everyone is available within a close range of space and especially in the commons makes it harder to have closer, more private relationships with individual friends.”

“more chill events where everyone can just meet up and socialize, seems like everyone just knows each other from partying and it’s difficult to break into social circles if you don’t party or drink.”
If you could point out one thing he needs to work on, what would it be?

“Making a point to get to know people outside of his friend circle, especially some of the more shy individuals at Baker. I feel like some of the shy people feel like they don’t belong here and if they have the chance to talk to the president than that might change their minds.”

“Sometimes I feel like people are cliquey sometimes. It is probably not possible for you to do anything but just putting that out there.”

“You are fantastic.
In my opinion, I really want to see less of the cliquey culture, so if you could lead by example in making everyone friends with everyone (super tough to do), that would be awesome.”

“Keep up the good work man. Presence is great, and trying to constantly find ways to improve is awesome. I love it! And it makes me proud to be a Bakerite to have someone that cares so much for the college and the people in it.”

“Less micromanagement”

“Nothing you need to work on. I would just keep in mind that changing something for the sake of change is not always a good idea...ps I love you”

“I just hope Adrian can keep putting the same enthusiasm throughout the year. People are going to get busy, and I'm not sure our Friday activities will survive (but I hope they do)”

“He's doing a great job!”

“didn't hear state of baker address. Adrian seems like a genuine guy through and I appreciate his efforts to gather data, maybe I'm just picky with who I hang out at Baker with, maybe it's the fact that I didn't make much of an effort freshman/sophomore year to get to know Bakerites (cause I was just then getting out of my shell even then after not having much social experience), but I hardly know anyone at Baker outside of my immediate group and it’s hard to see that changing next year. I’ve been making more of a personal effort but a lot of my friends are from other colleges and those other colleges seem so much more welcoming as a result. seems awkward introducing myself when I’m expected to “know” every Bakerite already.”

Thanks again to everyone who participated in the survey, and I look forward to working with you all to make Baker the best it can be. These comments provide both encouragement and constructive feedback, and I really appreciate those of you who took the time to help me in my personal growth as a student, leader, and a Bakerite.

Don’t hesitate to shoot me an email if you have a new idea, a comment, or if you just want to say hi!

For now, have a good summer! : )