

# Baker Scholars Newsletter

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JANUARY 2007

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 3

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## Bakers Ring in 2007 with Annual New York Trip

Just three days after 7,000 pounds of confetti and a 1,070 pound ball dropped in Times Square, 20 Baker Scholars accompanied by program coordinator **Nikki Elston** and Dean's Office Advisor **Dr. Bernie Cook** (C'90) dropped in on several prominent businesses in Times Square and across Manhattan. When all was said and done, the Bakers had visited 14 offices and held meetings with over 40 professionals—all in a mere two and a half days.

The Bakers convened at the Blakely Hotel, 136 W. 55<sup>th</sup> street, just before noon on Wednesday to begin the highly anticipated trip. First on the agenda was a meeting at Google with Vice President of Ad Sales, **Tim Armstrong**, as well as several other executives and first year employees (also known as "googlers"). Highlights of the visit included sharing New Years' resolutions with these impressive business professionals, discussing Google's recently profiled hiring practices, and partaking in a world class lunch at the illustrious Google cafeteria.

Then it was on to City Hall, where the Bakers were addressed by **Marc Ricks**, Chief of Staff to the Deputy Mayor for Economic Development, and Finance Commissioner, Martha Starck. The visit was capped off with a guided tour of the building which, standing just two stories high in a city of skyscrapers, is home to the Mayor's office, as well as architectural and historical legacies.

The Alumni Dinner marked the perfect end to a great day. This year the annual dinner and cocktail hour was held at the Harvard Club, 27 W. 44<sup>th</sup>. Over dinner the current scholars presented a year-in-review, which recapped the Atlanta Trip, the Service Project's accomplishments and future arrangements, as well as a new Baker initiative to provide consulting services to a New Orleans' school.

The Bakers began their Thursday visits at the personal office of **John Whitehead**, whose career accomplishments are equally impressive and varied. In his time, Whitehead has served as a leader in the military, chairman of a major Wall Street firm, acting Secretary of State, and a movie star—all in a mere 86 years. It was, to say the least, an inspiring way to start the morning.

Then it was on to Credit Suisse, where the Bakers met with a panel of bankers and traders and were afforded the opportunity to break into small groups to speak one on one with the employees.

Remnants of those 7,000 pounds of confetti still lined the streets as the Bakers headed to Times Square for the remaining three visits of the day. First, the group met with **Nada Stirratt** and **Josh Epstein** of the Ad



New York City Sky Line

Sales and Business Development units of MTV Networks. After a meeting that was equal parts enlightening and exciting, the Bakers headed across the Street to the offices of Lehman Brothers where they met with **Charles Best**, founder and CEO of Donorschoose.org, a charitable giving website that is revolutionary from both a philanthropy and for-profit business perspective.

The Bakers rounded out the evening at the musical *Hairspray*, after which they were treated to a private meeting with most members of the cast, including **Kevin Meaney**, one of the starring actors and husband of trustee **Mary Ann Halford** (C' 80).

Friday began with a meeting at the corporate headquarters of Six Flags, where the Bakers were welcomed by **Wendy Goldberg**, Senior Vice President of Communications, **Andrew Schleimer**, Executive VP for In-Park Services, and **Lou Koskopolis**, Executive VP for Corporate Alliances. Then it was on to Condé Nast, where the Bakers enjoyed hearing from Senior VP of Corporate Sales, **Suzie Grimes**, Editor-in-Chief of Glamour Magazine **Cynthia Leive**, and several other professionals from the ad sales and business developments sectors of the business.

Around noon the Bakers headed downtown to the offices of Goldman Sachs, where they met with a panel of Georgetown grads working in different units of the investment bank. The Bakers also were treated to a sneak peak of the trading floor, with tours guided by recent Georgetown grads who work on the floor every day.

The last meeting of the trip was at the New York Stock Exchange where the Bakers met with Director of Education **Murray Teitelbaum** who answered questions and showed the group the trading floor; the Bakers watched from above as all the commotion that Wall Street is famous for unfolded down below.

Without question, the 2007 New York trip was a great success. Of course, it could not have been nearly as educational, enjoyable and inspiring without the leadership of the New York trip planning committee chaired by **Tommaso Trento** (C'07) and **Greg Davis** (C'07), with support from **Caitlin McDevitt** (C'08), and **Christina Timmins** (C'08). The Bakers would also like to thank **Paul Cappuccio** (C'83), **Joel Stickney** (C'93), **Frank Mita** (C'76), **Mary Ann Halford** (C'80), **Matt Lockett** (C'94) and **Martha Warner** for their help in securing the incredible visits which made the trip what it was: unforgettable.

## New Semester Brings New Service Project

After three semesters of mentorship with students at the Wilson High school Academy of Finance, the Baker Scholars have decided as a group that it is time to pursue another service project.

The Wilson high school service project, conceived and implemented by 2005-2006 service chairs **Seth Lavin** (C'07) and **Pam Papapetrou** (C'07), was a great success. One day a week the Baker Scholars traveled to Wilson to meet with juniors, seniors and even a few sophomores who chose to join the program to enhance their resumes, college applications and interviewing skills. The challenges of creating a brand new service initiative from scratch were considerable, although many were overcome by persistent and dedicated Baker Scholars, classes 2006-2008.

The Wilson project involved marketing the new program to the students and the Wilson administration, dealing with logistical challenges to finding classroom space and a time that fit as many students' schedules as possible and keeping Wilson students' attendance numbers up—as well as the usual tasks of creating lesson plans, coordinating van drivers and making sure that every session was mutually beneficial, educational, and enjoyable for the Wilson students and the Bakers.

In the late fall of 2006, service co-chairs **Chris Putko** (C'07) and **Julie Johnson** (C'07) called a meeting to discuss the future of the community service project. The Bakers decided unanimously that while the Wilson initiative had been an incredible experience, it was time to move on to another project. In the following section, service Co-Chair **Chris Putko** describes the service project the Bakers will be taking on in the spring semester, 2007.

"The Bakers have forged a new partnership with the SEED School of Washington for the spring service initiative. The SEED School, a DC charter school that integrates a rigorous academic program with a nurturing boarding program, is college preparatory in focus and admits students from various parts of the District. In our new partnership with SEED, the Bakers find an opportunity to live out many of the core values central to the Baker ethos: mentorship, exposure, and service. We will be meeting weekly on Monday evenings with approximately 25 SEED students in grades 11 and 12. In addition to tutoring and helping SEED students with their larger writing assignments, the Bakers will offer the students various activities and opportunities to meet with local Baker Trustees, university professors, and other Georgetown organizations. These efforts, in keeping with the Baker tradition, will be pursued in the spirit of developing a close and helping relationship with the SEED students."

---Chris Putko (C'07)



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