

Baker Scholars Newsletter

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In This Issue:

Pg 1...Gibson Island

Pg 2...Meet Father Steck

Look out for these

articles in our next

Issue:

- *Atlanta Trip Review*
- *Baker Service Update*
- *And More!*

*Have an idea for the
Newsletter?*

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question or correction*

*regarding the content of
this publication?*

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Baker Fall Retreat on Gibson Island, Maryland

For the second year in a row the Baker Scholars held the fall retreat at Gibson Island, Maryland, a picturesque community 50 miles north of Washington, DC. The current Bakers were joined by almost a dozen trustees as well as **Dr. Bernie Cook (C'90, G '91)**, who was recently appointed as the Deans' office advisor to the program.

Friday evening the group arrived at Gibson Island and gathered for a pizza dinner and for time to socialize and recap summer activities.

Business commenced early on Saturday as the current scholars presented their plans for the Fall Trip (this year to Atlanta, GA), the New York Trip (January 2-5, 2007), community service, and a new consulting initiative

to be led by Baker Scholar Co-Chairs **Pam Papapetrou (C'07)** and **Greg Pope (C'07)**.

To round out the afternoon, Baker Trustees **Colleen Arons (C'97, MSB '03)** and **Frank Mita (C'76)** presented an informational workshop on interviewing tips and techniques, and current scholar **Lauren Tanick (C'07)** gave a short talk on her recently published book, *Where to Date in D.C.*, a city guide which reviews 100 ways to enjoy greater Washington.

After the meeting was adjourned, the Bakers enjoyed some free time on the island. As the weather cleared, the group headed outside to take walks, boat rides and even a swim.

Saturday night the group gathered at the Hyde house for a hearty dinner, which for some included cracking fresh Maryland crab. The Bakers talked and laughed together until almost 2 am, playing charades and getting to know one another better.

The Bakers spent the last few hours of the trip in a morning mass lead by **Father Otto Hentz**, followed by a bagel brunch on a perfectly cloudless Sunday morning. Around noon, the Bakers loaded the bus back to Washington still buzzing with excitement after an incredible weekend.

The current scholars would like to thank all those who made the 2006 trip to Gibson Island possible, including but not limited to program trustees who could join us for the weekend **Frank Mita, Colleen Arons, Katya Nieburg (C'97), Mary Ann Halford (C'80), Beth Bartholomew (C'79), Matt Sippel (C'1986), Joel Stickney (C'93), John Patek (C'1976)** and **Jeff Craven (C'81, GULC '84)**; program advisor **Dr. Cook**, and Mrs. **Martha Warner** who coordinated most of the retreat, as well as all those others who helped out behind the scenes.



Gibson Island, MD

to be led by Baker Scholar Co-Chairs **Pam Papapetrou (C'07)** and **Greg Pope (C'07)**.

Gibson Island Recap:

Friday Evening

-Arrive at Gibson Island, pizza dinner, introductions

Saturday

-Planning session, proposals for 2006-2007 programs
-Dinner at Hyde House, socializing

Sunday

-Mass with Father Hentz, Bagel Brunch

Spiritual Advisor and Friend: Meet Father Steck

Although he is spending this semester on sabbatical, the Bakers would like to thank Father Steck for taking on the role of Jesuit advisor to the Baker Scholar program. This is already Father Steck's third semester of involvement with the program—but better late than never for a formal introduction to the man who does so much.

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The fourth floor suite of New South dormitory—“The Penthouse” as Father Christopher Steck calls it—is warm and inviting, much like the man who lives there. That man, Father Steck, is the new Jesuit advisor to the Baker Scholar Program.

Father Steck was asked to join the Bakers when Father Maher took an administrative position at the new Georgetown University campus in Qatar.

Born in Port Arthur, Texas, Father Steck has retained two things in particular from his childhood: his voice has the soft hint of a southern accent, and he has always had an interest in science.

That interest, no doubt, was fueled by the fact that his was a family of engineers.

“My grandfather, my father and all my siblings were all engineers of one kind or another,” says Father Steck.

Father Steck's early career began with a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Louisiana State University. Out of college he worked for Texas Instruments where he designed circuits, and quite successfully—one of his circuits even has a patent on it.

Though he was still interested in science, Father Steck knew he didn't want to work at Texas Instruments forever. Instead, he thought he would like to teach high school.

Around the time he was 21 years old, Father Steck began to take his Catholic faith more seriously. His interest in joining the Jesuits, he says, came later, and was derived from his interest in teaching. The Jesuits run many high schools across the nation, and so after a few years as a high school theology teacher, Father Steck went back to school for his seminary training to become a Jesuit.

During that time Father Steck became intrigued by philosophy and ethics. Fascinated by the field of ethics and its practical applications in the world of teaching, Father Steck decided to go back to school one more time, this time for a Ph. D. in Christian Ethics from Yale University.

In 1999, Father Steck started teaching ethics at Georgetown University, where he was an assistant professor until the summer of 2005 when he received tenure. While at Georgetown he has written a book, *The Ethical Thought of Hans Urs von*

Balthasar, which was published in 2001 and recently translated into Italian; he has adopted Jack the Bulldog, Georgetown's favorite pet and mascot; and most recently, of course, he has joined the Baker Scholars as a Jesuit advisor and dear friend.



Father Steck's Advice for College Seniors: “Don't make the same mistake I did and focus in too early on a job that isn't right for you.”

FATHER STECK FAVORITES

Book: *The Power and the Glory* by Graham Greene

Movie: *Babbette's Feast*

Season: Fall

Animal: Jack the Bulldog

Color: Blue

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