

# B BAKER SCHOLARS

THE GEORGE F. BAKER SCHOLARS PROGRAM  
GEORGETOWN COLLEGE

Baker Scholar Newsletter

Summer 2008 Issue

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## Royden B. Davis Weekend 2008

By: Eden Schiffmann C'08

Over 70 Baker alumni, scholars and university partners convened at Georgetown for an outstanding Royden B. Davis Weekend 2008! The event, "RBD/08", took place April 18-20<sup>th</sup>. Bakers paid tribute to Father Davis for his vision and care in shaping the Baker Scholars Program at Georgetown. The event was a living embodiment of the "Baker Web", a community he and the founding trustees envisioned to support and sustain the Program.

Attendees enjoyed a series of events, beginning Friday evening with a reception in Georgetown's Riggs Library. Interim Dean of the College, Chester Gillis introduced himself and remarked on the value of the Program to the College. Founding trustees, **Vince Wolfington (C'62)** and **Vinnie Andrews (C'62)** reflected on the history of the program, its success and its future.



Vince Wolfington and Vinnie Andrews reflect on the founding of the Baker Program and their hopes for the future.

The evening ended in the New South Viewing Room with a viewing of *Roman Holiday*, a Fr. Davis favorite, which was introduced by **Dean Bernie Cook C'90, G'91**, the Program's decanal advisor.

Saturday morning began early with the return of the Baker Book Exchange, hosted by trustee **RJ Cellini C'84**. Bakers introduced a book or CD that held special meaning, offering it to a fellow Baker who needed it. Over 30 books/CDs were exchanged.



Kathleen Long C'98 introduces her contribution to the Baker Book Exchange - a favorite activity during the last two RBD Weekends.

Attendees then participated in a number of small group discussions organized by three topic areas: Baker Program, Work & Career and Faith & Service. Baker trustees and **Chris Steck, SJ** and **John Haughey, SJ**, members of the university faculty and the Jesuit community, led these dynamic and engaging discussions.

Former trustee **Tom Thees C'82** shared his transformative journey on the Camino de Santiago, the thousand-year-old Christian pilgrimage through Spain to the cathedral where the remains of the apostle, St. James the Great, are buried. Complete with photos and background music by Bruce Springsteen, Tom brought the experience to life for all.

**Fr. Ryan Maher, SJ** celebrated a poignant and reflective mass in Copley Crypt that aligned perfectly with the theme of RBD/08.

**Sam Edelson C'04** and nearly a dozen alumni from 2001-2007 introduced the new Junior Baker Council Initiative during an open discussion in Red Square. The goal of this new effort is *(Continued next page)*

## RBD/08 Continued

to provide practical advice and support to the current Scholars on interviews, resume-writing and other relevant topics and skills.



RBD/08 attendees participate in a breakout session.

The weekend wound down with campus tours and a Sunday brunch in Copley Formal Lounge. Bakers left campus with a renewed connection to the Baker Scholars Program, a strengthened Baker Web and rekindled memories of Fr. Davis.

Much of the work of RBD/08 has continued past the weekend. The ongoing work of the Baker Web committee will create a more interactive online presence for the program. Trustees and alumni are developing a comprehensive funding plan to support the Program well into its next 35 years. Communications will continue to increase, promoting Scholar- and alumni-driven programs.

The entire weekend could not have happened without the leadership of Trustee co-chairs **Colleen Arons C'97, G'03** and **Frank Mita C'76** and the Board, Scholar co-chairs **Bob Scully C'08** and **Katie Kaplun C'08** and the tireless work of program coordinator **Nikki Elston**. Thank you to all RBD/08 participants for an outstanding weekend!

## Bakers and the Big City: The 28th Annual New York Trip

By: Sean McNamara C'09

In early January, 20 Baker Scholars again braved the snow flurries of Manhattan for the 28<sup>th</sup> annual New York Trip. This year's trip consisted of 15 visits with 35 professionals over the course of three days, providing an abundance of knowledge, guidance, and inspiration. The success of this year's trip stands as further testament to the strength of the Baker Web.

Bakers flew in from all parts of the globe on Wednesday morning, January 2<sup>nd</sup>, to gather at the Wellington Hotel and prepare for the first visit. The Bakers kicked off this trip with a visit to **Avenue A/Razorfish**, a digital advertising and marketing agency. Baker alum **Neal Gorevic C'06** introduced this fascinating company before turning the presentation over to **Jim Warner**, Eastern Region Executive VP, who shared secrets to success in a digital world.

A jaunt up Broadway took the group to the **Frick Collection** where assistant curators gave them private tours of Henry Clay Frick's 1913 home, which now houses his renowned personal art collection. The Frick's Chief Financial Officer gave an informative presentation on managing the Frick's \$270 million endowment while the Scholars admired the priceless paintings by Vermeer and Titian that lined the museum's conference room.

With no time to spare the Baker's ran for their morning news update at Newsweek, where they met with **Johnnie Roberts**, a senior writer at **Newsweek** who has covered many breaking business stories.

The Bakers next visited HBO's Co-President **Richard Plepler** at HBO's 42<sup>nd</sup> St. headquarters. Plepler gave the Scholar's a feast of food for thought on his philosophy of business as politics.

Celebrating some of New York City's cultural opportunities, the Bakers ended their first day with one of New York's top Broadway shows, **Rock and Roll**. The play, written by British playwright Tom Stoppard, takes a fascinating look at the emergence of the democratic movement in eastern bloc Czechoslovakia.

Dawn on Thursday found the Bakers in a breakfast meeting with **Tom Graham C'63** and **Charles Griffith** at the University Club. Mr. Graham gave a brief history of his successful Real Estate career before giving the group Real Estate 101, and arming them with a few of his own tools. Charles Griffith is a Senior Architect at Polshek Partnership Architects where he specializes in "Green" building and sustainable design, a specialty that gives him and his firm an edge on market competition.

Later that morning, the Bakers met with **Major League Baseball** where, in the conference room, the pitches came just as fast as on the diamond! **Eileen Buser**, MLB's Senior Event Planner, greeted the Bakers and presented them with a lineup of six of the company's top professionals. **Tim Brosman**, **Rob Manfred**, **Marla Miller**, **John Brody**, **Jaqueline Sparks**, and **Francisco Estrada** served as the Executive VP's of Business, (Continued next page)

## New York Trip Cont'd

Labor Relations, Special Events, Corporate Sales and Marketing, Advertising and Marketing, and Recruitment.



The Bakers enjoyed a night on the town in Times Square and huddled together to keep warm.

The next visit at Video Egg shed further light upon the Digital Revolution. Video Egg provides the nation's top companies and news agencies with user-friendly solutions to video advertising on the Internet.

Next, the Bakers headed to **Lehman Brothers** where a panel of bankers, recruiters, and Georgetown alums filled them in on financial markets before heading uptown to the offices of **International AIDS Vaccine Initiative**, a non-profit that daily confronts a challenge most have given up on. **Seth Berkley**, CEO, and **Linn Dorin**, CFO, apply the skills they gained at the Rockefeller Foundation and Morgan Stanley, respectively, to the task that lies before them.

The Alumni Dinner at the University Club united the current scholars with over 90 Baker Alumni and included a cocktail reception, a year in review speech by Baker Co-Chairs **Bob Scully** C'08 and **Katie Kaplun** C'08, thought-provoking remarks by Dean **Bernie Cook** C'80, as well as welcoming words by Trustee Co-Chairs **Frank Mita** C'76 and **Colleen Arons** C'97, G'03.

After a festive evening the Bakers arose bright and early on Friday for a fresh look at some budding entrepreneurs. **Jennifer Kane Kelley** changed the path of her highly successful marketing and advertising career to start her own company where she excels as a project development and marketing consultant. **Paul Hurley**, a serial entrepreneur since the age of 12, also reminded us of the hard lessons he learned at a young age: never write a long business plan, talent can not make up for direct practice, and don't have partners!

At the next stop, key journalists from "the gray lady" lay in waiting for us at the *New York Times'* brand new 50-story headquarters that, as a LEED Gold certified building (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), is replete with eco-friendly amenities such as a wooded

atrium and window shades that track the sun's movement! **Jan Benzel** C'77, G'82, a Senior Travel Writer, walked us through the average day, and night, of a journalist.

Serving as the second Baker reunion of the trip, **Morgan Stanley** provided a fresh perspective on Bakers and personal leadership. The visit started with an introduction by MS Associate **Catherine Hyland** C'00 before traders **Chris Tansey** C'06 and **Julie Johnson** C'07 led the group through the raucous trading floors. The Bakers also met with **Jim Runde**, former Vice Chairman and current Special Advisor to MS, along with **Paul Donahue**, current Vice Chairman.

**Courtney King** C'02 welcomed the Bakers to **Sotheby's** auction house and introduced them to **Diana Phillips**, the Global Director of Press and Corporate Affairs, **Mitchell Zuckerman**, the Chairman of Financial Services, and **Christina Lehmejian Karaszewski**, Head of Marketing.

Another Baker, **Courtney O'Donnell** C'98, deserves a sincere thank-you for providing the scholars with their final visit to the **Bill Clinton Foundation**. At the offices on 125<sup>th</sup> St. the Bakers met a diverse panel of professionals who fielded their questions about the organization's global initiatives. Although the Bakers did not meet the man himself, they did get a long look in his office, and some even sat at his desk!



**Baker Synergy:** Mere hours after architect Charles Griffith used the NYT building as a part of his presentation on eco-friendly construction, the Bakers got to visit the unique building!

Prepared, inspired, and a bit tired, the scholars left New York full of new ideas and primed for the New Year. The 28<sup>th</sup> annual New York trip was an immense success thanks to the efforts of the entire Baker Web. Special thanks to **Mary Ann Halford** C'80, **Paul Cappuccio** C'83, **Frank Mita** C'76, **Kathleen McCabe** C'94, **Matt Luckett** C'94, and **Tim Hanlon** C'88 for securing these incredible visits. Thanks also to the tireless New York Trip planning committee chaired by **Camilla Thees** and **Christina Timmins**, with support from **Sean McNamara**.

# John Quigley Hosts the Bakers at 1789

By: Caitlin McDevitt C '08

Most current Baker scholars frequent the Tombs for food and drinks, but only on rare occasions do they enjoy a meal at next-door's 1789 restaurant.

On February 7<sup>th</sup>, not one scholar missed the opportunity to meet with Baker alumnus **John Quigley C'76**, who returned to campus and treated the scholars to a night of fine food and even finer conversation. Quigley personally addressed each of the scholars and invited us to share some of our experiences and reflections. Quigley then described his experience as a Baker and his path post-Georgetown. Following his selection as a Baker, Quigley worked in San Francisco in a position Vince Wolfington helped him secure. During his time in California, Quigley set his sights on Stanford, where he would eventually earn a JD/MBA. He began his career as an attorney with Kirkland & Ellis in Chicago. Mr. Quigley gained experience in the private equity business as a partner of leveraged buyout sponsor Adler & Shaykin in New York during the 1980s.

Among other accomplishments, he is the founder of Nassau Capital, the private investment firm that manages Princeton's endowment. Since the early '90s, Quigley has taught courses at Columbia Law School, NYU's Stern School of Business, Stanford Law, and, most recently, Princeton. Through travels and life changes – personal and professional – Quigley has stayed in touch with Georgetown and the Bakers. "Since those early years in the 1970s when I was a Baker Scholar, it has been thrilling to watch the program evolve into a network of extraordinary folks sharing the bond of a guiding philosophy," he said. Quigley's regard for the program grew during his time of service as a program co-chair during Father Davis' final year as College Dean.

Senior Kayte Nelson organized the evening as an opportunity for scholars to learn from the insights of distinguished and dedicated alum. Yet, Quigley conceded he always finds he himself has much to learn from meetings with the young scholars, saying, "Truth be told, I get a heckuvalot from the experience." He said it was his pleasure "to tune into the group's blend of talent, enthusiasm, smarts and commitment to social justice, and the joie de vivre with which they gaze out at the mysteries which await them after Georgetown."

## Community Service Recap

By: Jon Ocana C'08

For the past two years, the Baker Scholars have worked with the SEED School in Washington, DC. SEED schools are high-performing, college-preparatory boarding schools that serve under-resourced communities. Now in its tenth year, The SEED School is at full capacity, serving 320 seventh- through twelfth-grade students in Southeast DC.

The Bakers gathered regularly with eight to ten SEED sophomores and juniors to work on different academic curriculum needs. Each Baker was paired up with a SEED student to enable mentorship. Each week Bakers and SEED students worked for two hours in a relaxed environment to review chemistry, History, and English, and any other academic responsibility imaginable.

However, the close relationship forged between Bakers and SEED students also allowed for talks on social topics and future plans. Bakers led discussions on a variety of issues with the SEED students ranging from knowledge and power to race in present day America. These talks provided an outlet to facilitate the SEED student's articulation of their thoughts on complex issues affecting their society.

This past year has been very successful in helping the SEED school and Bakers meet the goals we chose to focus on in the spirit of the Baker Scholars Program as a whole. Hopefully, the future will allow for the relationship to strengthen and produce more success.

# The Baker Scholars Hold Annual DC Day

By: Eden Schiffmann C '08

On April 11th, the Baker Scholars capped off an extremely exciting year of DC-based events with this year's installment of DC Day.

The Bakers started off the day by having lunch with **Geoff Tracy C '95** at his third restaurant, Lia's, in Chevy Chase, Maryland. Mr. Tracy shared the story of how he started in the restaurant business after graduating with a Theology degree from Georgetown. He dispensed advice on how to choose a career field, how to be happy with it and the necessity of hard work and determination for success.

After enjoying a delicious lunch, the Bakers drove across town to Gallery Place where they met with **Peter Biché**, President of Business Operations and CFO of Washington Sports & Entertainment, which owns the Washington Wizards and operates the Verizon Center. After explaining the business model and challenges facing the sports entertainment and venue industry, Mr. Biché shared his thoughts on the industry as a whole and its relationship to public policy. Mr. Biché pointed to the Verizon Center's role in revitalizing the Chinatown/Gallery Place neighborhood of Washington as an example of the positive effect that businesses such as WS&E can have on the larger community.

Finally, the Bakers visited **Jonathan Weisgall**, Vice President for Legislative and Regulatory Affairs at MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company, a property of Berkshire Hathaway. Weisgall also serves as the chairman of CEERT, or the Center for Energy Efficiency and Renewable Technologies, and as the president of the Geothermal Energy Association. Weisgall has taught at the Georgetown University Law Center since 1988 as an adjunct professor. He used his extensive knowledge of both the energy industry and public and regulatory policy to lead the Bakers in a discussion of the future of the energy business as well as how it intersects with technological innovation, the environment, public policy, and the economy as a whole. He also shared the story of his decades of involvement with the lawsuits by the former residents of Bikini Atoll to receive compensation for the land taken from them during nuclear testing as well as for the clean-up of the island, which has resulted in numerous courtroom victories, a book, and an Oscar-nominated documentary for which he was credited as the executive producer.

This year's DC Day sent the Baker Scholars all across the city to meet with achievers in three incredibly different lines of work. All of the visits, though, shared the same excellent quality, and the Baker Scholars would like to thank **Kayte Nelsen** on the student side as well as new **Trustee Co-chair Beth Bartholomew C'79** and all of the trustees who helped in setting up this year's events.

## Congratulations to Our Graduating and Newly-Named Baker Scholars!

The Baker Scholars Program would like to congratulate the Class of 2008 on their graduation and thank them for all of their contributions over the last few years:

Katie Kaplun  
Caitlin McDevitt  
Kayte Nelsen  
Jonathan Ocana

Keano Pavlosky  
Xavier Ringer  
Eden Schiffman  
Bob Scully

Rob Summers  
Camilla Thees  
Christina Timmins

Welcome to the newly selected Class of 2010:

Wynne Dillon  
William Handke  
Thomas Hsu-Yao  
Katherine Hays Jones

Charles Nutting  
Bradford "Chip" Malt  
Meredith McGrath  
Andrew Molchan

Natalie Murchison  
George Roche  
Sarah Zlotnick