

# Baker Scholars Newsletter

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*Have an idea for the  
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or correction regarding the  
content of this publication?*

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## Bakers Visit Atlanta in October

This year the Baker Scholars headed south to Atlanta, GA for the Fall trip. With hopes to explore a city and business environment which differed from the traditional New York code of business-as-usual, the scholars eagerly awaited the trip which was in planning for the better part of five months.

The trip began on Wednesday October 18<sup>th</sup>, when the scholars flew into Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport in Atlanta—reportedly one of the most frequented airports in the country—and then traveled via public transportation (MARTA) to lodging in Buckhead, a neighborhood in North Atlanta.

A Thursday full of visits with a morning meeting at CNN, where the Scholars accompanied by Trustee **Jeffrey Craven (C'81, GULC '87)** met with President of CNN worldwide **Mr. Jim Walton**, as well as Turner Broadcasting Systems (TBS) President of Domestic Distribution **Mr. Andrew Heller** and General Counsel **Ms. Louise Sams**. After a tour of the newsrooms and a Q & A session with each of the speakers, the group moved on to Delta Airlines, where COO **Mr. Jim Whitehurst**, and Executive Vice-Presidents **Mr. Joe Kolshack** and **Mr. Glen Hauenstein** fielded questions about the airline industry and their role in it.

### **Thursday Itinerary:**

9:00 am CNN  
11:45 am Delta  
2:00 pm Atlantic Station  
4:00 pm State House  
7 pm Dinner with  
Consultants



**Atlantic Station**

After the lunch meeting at Delta, the scholars visited a recently developed residential and retail urban renewal project called Atlantic Station where developer **Mr. Brian Leary** and AIG real estate supervisor **Mr. Craig Robinson** spoke about their projects with the Bakers.

To round out the first day of the trip, the group headed to the state house to meet with Secretary of State **Secretary Cathy Cox** and to tour the historic building. Over dinner, the Bakers met with a group of management consultants from AT Kearney, led by Baker Alum **Ms. Leslie Parker (C'97)**.

**Friday Itinerary**

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7:30 am St. Joe's Hospital  
10:00 am Spear Group  
11:30 am Georgia Pacific  
2:00 Trammell Crow  
4:00 Powell Goldstein, LLP  
5:30 Convex Group  
7:30 Dinner with Entrepreneurs

Friday began early with a 7:30 am breakfast meeting at St. Joe's Hospital with Georgetown Alumnus **Mr. Bruce Simmons (MSB '69)**, now serving as the hospital's Chairman of the Board and **Mr. Kirk Wilson** the hospital's CEO.

The next meeting of the day was at the business of another Georgetown Grad **Mr. Sean Durkin (C'81)**. Durkin is CFO of The Spear Group, a company which staffs engineers on utilities projects.

Around noon the Scholars headed to the headquarters of Georgia Pacific for a lunch meeting with Director of Marketing **Ms. Kim Burrows** and her team of marketing coordinators and brand managers.

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After lunch the Bakers were met by **Dr. Bernie Cook (C'90, MA '91)** who accompanied the group for the remainder of the trip. The next stop for the Bakers was the international real estate development firm of Trammell Crow, where they spoke with Georgetown Alumnus and former roommate of **Mr. Frank Mita (C'76)**, **Mr. Larry Pantlin (C'76)**.

The schedule of visits was far from completed by the time the scholars left the world of real estate development to visit a panel of lawyers at firm of Powell and Goldstein LLP led by President of the Georgetown University Club of Georgia, **Curtis Romig (C'94)** The last official meeting of the day was with Baker Alumnus and unofficial ambassador to the Bakers throughout their trip **Mr. Mike Cascone (C'96)** at his place of employment, the Convex Group.

Finally, the day culminated with an incredible dinner at Bones Steakhouse, rated number one steakhouse in the country by Zagat's dining guide. The scholars were joined by a group of Entrepreneurs, including Next Media founder **Henry Rischitelli**; Paddywax candle company principal **David Duncan**; owner of the local Atlanta newspaper *The Sunday Paper* and Georgetown alum **Conal Byrne (C'96)**; and **John Duncan** from the U.S. Department of Commerce. Each spoke about their individual business ventures as well as the life-style of an entrepreneur in the city of Atlanta.

Although the official meetings were over, Saturday morning the Bakers woke up early for a breakfast meeting with yet another Georgetown Alumnus **Mr. Dick Williams (C'65)** at renowned Atlanta haunt The White House. Then the Bakers toured the Martin Luther King Center and the Atlanta Aquarium before heading to the Airport for an evening flight back to D.C.

## Returning to Tradition, Dean Advises Bakers

### Meet Dr. Bernie Cook

Fifteen years after Bernie Cook (C '90, MA '91) strode across the Georgetown campus as an undergraduate, he still crosses through Healy gates most mornings, but now as Dr. Cook, a College Dean among the many other hats he wears.

Originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, southern blood runs through his veins. His father a native of Mississippi, his mother hailing from St. Louis, Dr. Cook says he still has a soft spot for the city of New Orleans as well as the National Champion St. Louis Cardinals. After high school, however, he decided to venture to Washington, DC, mainly because of his interest in politics.

Dr. Cook is a busy man now, as a College Dean, a professor of American Studies, an advisor to several prominent on-campus groups as well as fulfilling his role as a loving father to two young children. But if he seems busy now, you should have known him when he was an undergrad. In those days, Dr. Cook was an undergraduate at Georgetown he was a leader of NSO as well as several class committees, he worked at Yates, wrote for the Voice, was a member of GPB and somehow found the time to create a course of his own, when he found that Georgetown didn't offer a class on film studies.



#### A Few Favorites:

**Favorite Films:** Chinatown, Miller's Crossing, Man With A Movie Camera, Thin Blue Line

**Favorite Food:** Seafood

**Favorite Season:** Fall

**Favorite Restaurants:** Evening Star (in Del Ray), Firefly (in D.C.).

It was that very subject that Dr. Cook pursued after Georgetown. After completing a Masters Degree at Georgetown he headed west to Los Angeles to pursue a PhD in Critical Studies in Film and Television at the University of California, Los Angeles.

After several years of teaching experience, as well as a few other jobs under his belt, Dr. Cook returned to Georgetown in 1998 to teach in the English and American Studies Departments, as well as to advise the John Carroll Scholar program. When the opportunity to join the College Dean's office arose, Dr. Cook took it, because he understood the position to be an avenue for dealing with students on a day to day basis, advising on academics, as well as supporting the College, specifically, to which he felt very attached.

When asked to give one piece of advice to 21 year olds, Dr. Cook paused a moment before answering with a smile: "Take yourself seriously, believe in yourself, and get the most out of every opportunity you can—being at Georgetown, being a Baker Scholar, take advantage of it all."

Better advice is hard to find.