

# B BAKER SCHOLARS

THE GEORGE F. BAKER SCHOLARS PROGRAM  
GEORGETOWN COLLEGE

Baker Scholar Newsletter

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## Scholar Paints Mural in Dominican Republic

By: Caitlin McDevitt (C '08)

Last May, Xavier Ringer (C '08) traveled to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic and left her mark – literally. Xavier created a mural on the pre-school building of the Escuela Basica Oferia Maria Rivas Elementary and Middle School of the Cinco de Abril section of San Cristobol. "The mural depicted the value of education in hopes to use art for advocacy and to empower children," she explained. Xavier planned and fundraised extensively in order to make this project a reality. The Baker Scholars program funded her airfare to the country in addition to assisting with plans for additional fundraising. Xavier studied abroad in the Dominican Republic last spring, so this trip was a return for her to a country she knows quite well. She expressed her gratitude for the assistance on what she considered a unique and invaluable Baker experience. "This project allowed me to interact with professional leaders within the non-profit sector and communicate my agenda and goals in an international environment," she said, "In turn, I used business knowledge to pursue an entrepreneurial project and spread social awareness to passersby in San Cristobol." Besides enhancing her growing business skills,



Xavier Ringer (C '08) standing in front of her completed mural alongside Daniel Torres and Rosanna German at the Escuela Basica Oferia Maria Rivas Elementary and Middle School in San Cristobal

Xavier was able to express herself creatively through her art. She worked daily on the mural that depicts colorful scenes of children in school and in the world, under the heading, "Tu tienes derecho a la educacion," which translates as "You have the right to an education." Mr. Daniel Torres, an art instructor as well as a well respected artist in San Cristobol, assisted her with the project. He painted a mural that has been featured for the past 2 years on a major highway in the capital. Through Mr. Torres, Xavier was able to work directly with the students to foster their artistic growth as well. "We worked with 6 school age boys each day, teaching basic painting skills, and we discussed the value of art and murals. Each assisted in the painting of the mural." She said this trip will always remain close to her heart as she was able to impact these children's lives through her mentorship at the time and the art that she left behind.

### Upcoming Baker Events

New York Trip: January 2-4 - Alumni Reception January 3<sup>rd</sup> @ The University Club  
Royden B. Davis Weekend 2008: April 18-20 (More information to come!)

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# Bakers Retreat to Gibson Island

By: Eden Schiffmann (C '08)

This year's Fall Planning Retreat took place, as has become tradition, on Gibson Island, Maryland. The Bakers and the trustees met from September 28th-30th to plan the coming year, reflect on the Baker Scholars Program, and foster the relationships that make the Baker Scholars Program unique. Friday, the first day of the retreat, began in the afternoon with a trustee meeting lasting several hours. When the current Bakers arrived in the early evening, the rest of the night included reflections from the scholars and trustees about what they had done that summer, and then the group broke apart to socialize in smaller circles for several hours.



2007 – 2008 Baker Scholars and trustees gathered for a photo during the Gibson Island weekend.

Saturday began bright and early at 7 AM with breakfast in the Gibson Island Clubhouse. This year, the Gibson Island Planning Committee decided to organize the day in a series of breakouts rather than presentations. The first breakout, titled "Getting the Most out of Baker," focused on finding ways to maximize the value of the Baker experience. Trustees and seniors shared their stories with the juniors, encouraging them to reach out early and often to the trustees and the Baker Web, as well as take advantage of the incredible opportunity for mentorship that forms a key part of the Baker Scholars Program. Along with the trips and exposure to a wide variety of business fields, the relationships cultivated through the program represent the most meaningful and enduring part of Baker. In the second breakout, students on the various Baker Committees presented their yearlong action plans to their committee's trustee advisors and received feedback. In the next breakout session, trustees gave overviews of the different fields of finance, consulting, entertainment and media, and

entrepreneurship, shared their experiences, and offered advice to the Bakers on how to prepare to enter those fields. The day concluded with a round table discussion of summer business courses, activities, and options. Trustees and scholars discussed different ways for current liberal arts students to get academic exposure to business courses, for example through Georgetown's own Summer Gateway to Business course.

The next few hours of free time was spent relaxing on the island's beaches, canoeing and fishing on the island's lake, running on the island's paths, and enjoying each other's company. Dinner began with several bags of fresh Maryland crabs bathed in Old Bay Seasoning. Scholars and trustees shelled and ate the crabs along with dinner before breaking out again for conversations and socializing well into the night. After cleaning up, returning to their respective houses, and, in some cases, going nightswimming, the last night of the retreat ended. In the morning, trustees and scholars met one last time for breakfast in the Gibson House and pictures on the beach before heading home to New York, Philadelphia, Minneapolis, Washington, and, of course, Georgetown.

## Alumni Spotlight: Tom Thees

Shortly after hosting the Baker Scholars at the Bruce Springsteen concert in Philadelphia in November, Tom Thees (C '82) departed for Europe. He completed the Camino de Santiago in Spain and wrote a blog about the experience.

Congratulations to Tom and check out his blog at <http://tommytfreedomtourblog.blogspot.com/>

## Baker Scholars on the Fast Track

By: Yamiche Alcindor (C '09)

This past summer Baker seniors Keano Pavlosky and Eden Schiffmann interned for Amtrak in the offices of Planning and Analysis and Government Affairs and Corporate Communications from May until August. Keano first became interested in the company at the Bakers' DC Day 2007 when Mr. Alex Kummant, CEO of Amtrak, spoke to the Bakers. "I was intrigued by his presentation and was curious to learn more about Amtrak's partial public-partial private business model," Keano remembered. "I also wanted a better understanding of the issues that affect Amtrak in its provision of a public good -- rail transportation." Eden, meanwhile, though studying abroad in Italy during Mr. Kummant's presentation, remembers hearing about it very positively from the scholars back home and jumped at the opportunity to learn more. "Problem solving is one of my main interests in a career, and it sounded like Amtrak would give me the opportunity to study many complex, persistent and compelling problems up close," he said.



Keano Pavlosky (C '08)

Keano spent her time collecting data and other statistics for major hospitals and colleges in the United States and working with a mapping program called "TransCAD" to help the Planning and Analysis Department study crew allocation and the effect on this allocation of expected changes in related legislation. Eden did market research on Amtrak's potential growth in product categories primarily dominated by the air travel industry, and wrote and researched station profiles in support of the Great American Stations Project, Amtrak's effort to promote public-private partnerships aimed at restoring and redeveloping Amtrak's run down depots. "On some days I got to ride the trains or tour different departments in operations to get a better idea of all the aspects of Amtrak's business, and which factors those responsible for Amtrak's business strategy must consider," Keano said of her days away from the desk. Eden cited his coworkers as one of Amtrak's biggest perks: "Everyone there made sure I got to work on things that interested me and would help me develop skills relevant to my desired career, and I ended the summer with many new friends - and a few free rail passes."



Eden Schiffmann (C '08)

Overall, Keano believes the experience was a valuable one. "I had a chance to exercise my abilities to prioritize and to manage deadlines, as well as work within the expectations of project managers in order to provide a reasonable and high quality product. This will undoubtedly be valuable in any of my future pursuits," Keano said. Eden chose to continue his work at Amtrak into the fall semester, primarily in support of the Great American Stations Project. Eden said, "Without a doubt Amtrak helped me decide to focus on consulting for next year, and my work there gave me something complex and interesting to talk about and know inside and out." Eden said the internship factored greatly into a likely acceptance of an offer to practice consulting in the Federal sector next year.

### Community Service Update

The Baker Scholars are volunteering this year with the Washington DC SEED School through weekly mentoring sessions. The SEED School is the first ever public charter boarding school and is located in Washington, DC. In addition to tutoring, the Baker Consulting Group is building on this relationship through a project to help the school better coordinate its volunteer resources. These volunteer opportunities allow the scholars to keep in mind the Baker mission of business paired with social responsibility, as well as serve as mentors to the SEED students.

# Bakers Take on the Windy City

By: Keano Pavlosky (C '08)

On October 17<sup>th</sup>, the Baker Scholars headed out to the “Windy City” for two exciting and informative, days of visits with Chicago-based businesses and people of interest. The agenda consisted of 14 visits.

We started off the day with a visit to the Chicago Mercantile Exchange/Chicago Board of Trade with host Mr. Steve Cortez (C'94), founder of Vera Cruz LLC. Next, the scholars were off to Digitas Chicago, a new-media advertising firm, followed by Morningstar, Inc., an investment ratings firm with a focus on mutual funds analysis. Afterwards, the group met for lunch with former Baker Henry Howe (C '00) at the strategy consulting firm Bain & Company. Scholars then saw Chicago Tribune/Tribune Company with Mr. Dennis FitzSimons, Chairman, President and CEO, as well as members of the Editorial Board including the editor and Senior Vice President Anne Marie Lipinski.



Yamiche Alcindor (C '09), Caitlin McDevitt (C '08), Kayte Nelson (C'08), Katie Kaplun (C '08), and Keano Pavlosky (C '08) enjoy the trolley tour around Millennium Park.



The Bakers on Wrigley Field with Chicago Cubs President John McDonough.

The group then made their way over to Wrigley Field to meet with the Chicago Cubs MLB Franchise with Mr. John McDonough, President, who gave us the chance to sit in the dugout and walk on the historic field. Later that evening, entrepreneur Mr. Mike Keiser discussed his career as the as owner of Bandon Dunes Golf Resort and Recycled Paper Greetings. The next morning, Mr. Angel Ysaguirre of Global Corporate Citizenship Specialist spoke to the group on behalf of the Boeing Company. Next, the Bakers met with Lisa Wiersma, of Chicago Public Schools followed by Jim O'Connor (C '89, L '94) Corporate Vice President, Technology Acceleration at Motorola. Next, the group headed over to JP Morgan Chase and Company. The day concluded with a visit with Ms. Susan Manske, Chief Investment Officer of the MacArthur Foundation.

The Chicago Trip Planning Committee would like to extend the warmest thanks to Mr. John Patek, Baker Trustee (C'76 ), Mr. Tim Hanlon, Baker Trustee (C '88), Mr. Henry Howe (C '00), Ms. Christina Besozzi (C '05), Ms. Lizzy Whitehorn (C '01), Mr. Matt Reilein (F '07), and to the College Deans' Office especially Nikki Elston and Dean Bernie Cook for all the effort in securing visits and in advising on logistics – without your help, this trip would have been extremely difficult to pull off! Special thanks to the Pateks, John and Nancy, for hosting a wonderful reception for current Scholars and Baker Alumni at their home, as well as for organizing the nighttime trolley tour of Millennium Park.

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