

BAKER **BC** COLLEGE

CORPORATE SERVICES

NEWS YOU CAN USE

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Baker College Student Wins Highest Company Award

| | |
|---|---|
| A Message from the Director | 2 |
| Opportunity - Your Success is Our Success | 2 |
| Applying for a scholarship | 3 |
| Defense Acquisition University | 3 |
| Almost Done With Your Program? | 3 |
| Message from the Dean-MBA Program | 4 |
| New Faces at Corporate Services | 4 |
| I HOLA! Spanish 101 | 5 |
| A Song of Freedom | 5 |
| UNICARE | 6 |
| Reference Section | 6 |

Throughout the years, Baker College Corporate Services has established a trend of graduating students who, in turn, excel in their respective professions. On August 27th one of Baker's own was honored with the highest award given by her employer. Carla Ervin, a twenty-year employee of Blue Cross-Blue Shield in Southfield, was awarded ***"The Best of The Blues"*** award for her continued dedication and her willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty.

Carla serves as a "Pricer" for the GM/Delphi Claims' Processing Unit. She earned a Medical Insurance Specialist certificate from the Baker College Corporate Services Campus and is currently working toward an associate degree in applied science. But, one award isn't enough for Ms. Ervin! She was also a recipient of the "Spirit Award" at this year's commencement service – an acknowledgement by faculty and staff of students who reflect academic and professional Baker College spirit throughout their educational career. Carla has always demonstrated exceptional dedication to her program studies, she has helped recruit co-workers to become Baker College students, and she has assisted and coached them along the road to academic accomplishment....On behalf of Baker College Corporate Services, we want to "salute" Carla Ervin for her exemplary work at Blue Cross-Blue Shield and for serving as a role model to all around her!



Congratulations to Carla Ervin!



**Submitted by
Randall Swift
College Coordinator**

A MESSAGE from the DIRECTOR...



Fall is always an invigorating time of year and this fall is no exception! This is the year of a national election... change is in the air for our places of work and our economy. But, one thing remains constant, and that is that fall is *always* the time when we think about renewal in our lives and for many of us, that means starting or going back to college.

By now, all of you have received the first edition of our year-long class schedule, and many of you have already registered for a year's worth of classes. Now, THAT is being proactive! No more worry for you about whether or not a class will be available at the time that it is convenient for you.

As you complete your class selections with your Site Coordinator, please feel free to call our new office staff who are here to assist you. **Vikki Gordon** and **Diane Olechowski** are the most recent additions to Corporate Services. Vikki transitioned to us from the Clinton Township Campus faculty office and Diane was referred by the Clinton Township Career Services department. Thank you, Clinton Township!!

As always, I want to leave you with a quote. This one is from Caterina Rando: *"The more we overcome our reluctance and take action, the more we realize just how often things can go well for us."* I encourage you to make this your year to "take action." Embrace your studies, reach out to your fellow students in meaningful discussion, and set your goals high. I want to see many of you walking across the stage at graduation in June.

Sandra Kay Krug, Ph.D.
Director, Baker College Corporate Services

OPPORTUNITYYour success is our success!

As you are nearing the "finish line" toward your bachelor degree, I encourage you to plan for the future and the beginning of an MBA program. Building academic credentials can open up a world of opportunities that might not otherwise be available to you. Whether you are seeking a promotional opportunity, career change, higher paying job, or starting your own business, the Baker College -- **on-site** -- **MBA** program can address many of your needs.

Before making a decision, ask yourself -- or your site coordinator -- the following questions:

- Will the MBA program allow me to gain skills that I can use on my job right now?
- Will an MBA improve my opportunity for a promotion or salary increase?
- Will an MBA degree prepare me for a new career field? Will I have a competitive edge in emerging occupations?
- Will the MBA program be compatible with my full-time work schedule?
Can I take classes at my work site?

It is ***never*** too late to pursue a graduate degree. I am a Baker College graduate and I pursued a master's degree along with being a "mom" and full-time employee with Baker College Corporate Services. Give me a call (313-350-9002); I would be pleased to share my story and help you make your MBA plans!



by Felicia Fawaz,
Baker College Coordinator

Are you thinking about applying for a SCHOLARSHIP?

Are you eligible for a Baker College Corporate Services scholarship for Fall 2008?

You can obtain a form from your site coordinator or call the **Business Office** at 248-276-8260. Scholarship eligibility only applies to undergraduate students. To qualify, you must have spent a minimum of \$3,800 -- or the full amount of your employer sponsored tuition plan -- whichever is less. If you meet the requirements you may receive a scholarship totaling 50% of your fall tuition; however, you must pay your **50%** share of the tuition before the scholarship is applied. The Corporate Services scholarship program is limited and may end at any time. So, I encourage you to take a look at your year-long program plans and apply "early" if you think you are eligible for this award. **All scholarship applications are due in the Business Office by December 1, 2008.**

Louise Borucki, Business Manager



Baker College and Defense Acquisition University

Corporate Services continues to extend its reach to an array of educational partners. On September 25th, we signed an agreement with the Defense Acquisition University (DAU), indicating our mutual interest in working collaboratively to provide educational opportunities for the currently enrolled and potential students of each of our institutions. To date, our focus has been on the Associate of Business Degree with a concentration in management and the Bachelor of Business Leadership Degree. We look forward to tailoring and expanding our programming with DAU audiences in mind!



Pictured from left to right: Dr. Sandra Krug, Campus Director, Roger S. Hosn, Director of Operations, and Dean Travis Stewart, Defense Acquisition University.

Almost Done With Your Program?

Here are some frequently asked questions about graduation, and their respective answers:

Q: Why must I apply to graduate?

A: Your application alerts the Office of the Registrar that you are nearing the end of your program, that you wish verification that you have met all of the requirements for graduation, and that you wish to have your degree awarded.

Q: Isn't this automatic?

A: No, sorry. You must apply to graduate in order to have your degree or certification conferred on your transcript. You apply upon completing your certificate program, your associate program, your bachelor program, or your graduate program. Please apply at each level of degree.

Q: Suppose I do not wish to "graduate" -- I only want my diploma.

A: Even if you do not participate in the annual **commencement** ceremony in the spring, you DO want to have your **degree transcribed** and your **diploma awarded**. **Graduation** is what you have worked so hard to achieve! There are students who have completed all of their coursework and program requirements who have not graduated because they never applied.

Q: How do I apply to graduate?

A: From the Baker College website, you can complete your application in ten minutes or less. Go to **www.baker.edu/graduation** and complete the fields. Alternately, ask your site coordinator for a graduation application form.



Hello Corporate Services Graduate Students

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and share some information about the Center for Graduate Studies MBA program. I became the MBA dean in June of this year. As I have settled in, I have been very impressed with the quality of the curriculum, faculty, and students across the MBA programs. Then, again, I'm not surprised -- I have been with Baker College for 11 years as an adjunct faculty, core faculty, and department chair. Baker College's commitment to supporting students while providing a high quality education has always been strong.

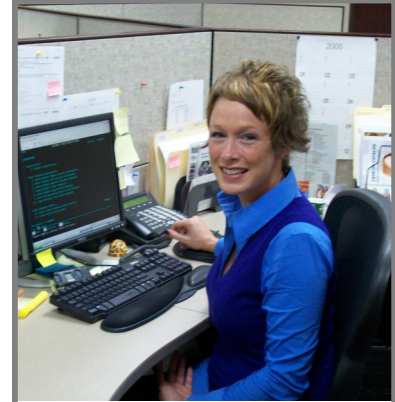
Just this week I saw an example of how well our programs prepare students to be industry leaders. The August meeting of the American Accounting Association provided several workshops on using IFRS, a new international standard of reporting accounting information. There is a serious concern that accounting educators will not be ready to teach students the new IFRS guidelines. Baker College, on the other hand, has already been teaching the IFRS standard for *more than a year*, and our faculty are well-versed with the guidelines! I am proud to know that we are truly preparing students for a successful future.

I am planning on visiting classes at all of our sites over the next year. Please know that my door is *always* open, so please contact me with any issues or concerns that you have with your graduate program. Talking with students is definitely the best part of my job!

I wish you the best of luck as you work towards your MBA. Your degree is well worth the effort!

Sincerely,

Jill Langen, Ph.D
Dean – MBA Program
Baker College – Center for Graduate Studies



Hello! I would like to introduce myself. My name is **Vikki Gordon** and I am the new Administrative Assistant for the Academic Department at Baker College Corporate Services. I joined Corporate Services after two years of experience working at Baker College of Clinton Township. In addition, I am a Baker graduate, having earned both my BBA and MBA from this fine institution. This combination of professional experience and education gives me the ability to assist you from the perspective of both a student and an employee!

Feel free to contact me with questions regarding waiver testing, requesting a copy of your transcript, applying for graduation, navigating the online application process (this can be frustrating for some of us the first time around), and any other academic questions you may have. If I don't know the answer, I will put you in touch with someone who does! Please call me at **248-276-6629** or by email: victoria.gordon@baker.edu.

I look forward to assisting you.

The first person you see...

when you come in the door of the Corporate Services offices is me!

My name is **Diane Olechowski** and I am one of the newest members of the team here at Baker College Corporate Services. I received my associate degree from Baker College of Clinton Township a few years ago and look forward to continuing my education at Baker in the near future. But, right now I am learning all of the facets of serving **YOU** as an administrative assistant! I work closely with our business manager, Louise Borucki, so I am your first point of contact regarding all matters pertaining to tuition accounts. Please give me a call at **248-276-8260** with any questions or issues you might have regarding your college program. I look forward to working with – and meeting – all of you!

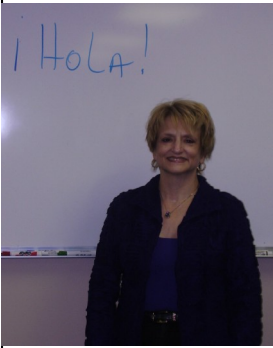


¿Habla usted español?

In other words, do YOU speak Spanish?!

Did you know that you can use SPN 101, **Spanish I** as a global cultural elective if you need one? This course introduces students to the basics of Spanish grammar, syntax, and communications. It focuses on written and oral comprehension, spoken communication, and cultural understanding. Students are encouraged to communicate through a variety of practices, with frequently used structures in everyday situations. Baker College Corporate Services is happy to offer this class for the first time ever at

Chrysler Technology Center in Auburn Hills, Michigan.



*Corrine Smereka,
Spanish Instructor*

The course started in Fall 2008 and has been a big success. Instructor, Corrine Smereka, says "it is great to see that Baker College is offering this course and it provides opportunities to expose students to a language that is popular around the world." Spanish is actually the third

most spoken language in the world at this time, and Chrysler does business with many Spanish speaking countries including Mexico, Spain, and Puerto Rico.

Student, Jeff Guernsey, feels that the need for some understanding of a second language is "driven by today's business." In fact, Spanish is the language that is spoken by 34 million people in the United States. Even high schools are encouraging their students to take language instruction; Mike Garbarino mentioned that he practices his Spanish lessons with his high-school age daughter who is also taking the course at her school.

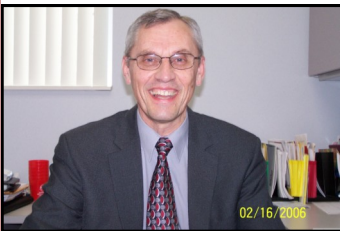
Besides being practical, Spanish I has a fun side as well, i.e., *¡La clase de español es interesante y muy divertida!* Rick Lesnek says that he would definitely recommend this course to a coworker. Rick says "This class is great because you get to interact with your classmates much more than you do in other classes". So the next time that you are thinking about taking a global/cultural elective, consider Spanish...it could open up a new world of learning for you.



*by Tanya Urcavich, PhD
Baker College Coordinator*

A SONG OF FREEDOM

by Jim Kullman, Corporate Services Academic Dean



In this day and age of constant change within our political infrastructures, within our economic climate, and within the impacted family structures, there seems to be a new song of freedom circulating this global structure that we call the world. This new song has nothing to do with the political environment but with the heart and soul within each of us. In these perilous times, when it has become habit for the stock market to crash all around us and to rise from the ashes within the same day, we need to exercise our own freedom with discipline; we need to look beyond the present to see what skills and knowledge will benefit our families and our lives. That is the new song of freedom--we have the freedom to change and the discipline to make it happen.

This new song will happen only when the appropriate skills are learned and acquired and practiced. Those skills must be adaptable to our global economy and sociology now in constant flux. It has been promoted as a relatively well-known fact that K-12 teachers are preparing young minds for jobs and positions that do not yet exist at this point in our world. Yet continuous education and training is the answer regardless of age, gender, social status, or job description.

In this age of discovery, we need to add new skills and knowledge to our repertoire. No matter where we reside on the age continuum, we can learn a lesson or two from our own social, political, and economic environment. As long as we are alive, there is always another hill to climb and another challenge to conquer. Hopefully, sooner rather than later, we will sing our songs of freedom in glorious harmony.

UNICARE joins the Baker College Corporate Services Family

by Matt Seluk

Baker College Corporate Services is very excited to introduce one of our newer locations, UNICARE, that recently joined our family. UNICARE, a division of WellPoint, Inc. (the largest health benefits company in the nation), administers health-related benefits for Ford Motor Company. As part of its ongoing commitment to education, we have partnered with them to provide on-site degree courses at the associate level. We are excited as this fall term represents our third quarter of class offerings.



Matt Seluk
Enrollment Specialist

According to Human Resource Manager Dean Niforos, the UNICARE location in Dearborn currently staffs around 130 people and administers disability, life, and COBRA benefits for Ford/UAW employees. This relationship with Ford originally dates back to the 1940's when they were owned by John Hancock, and then later acquired by WellPoint in 1997.

We look forward to continuing to provide on-site degree courses, and are eager for the day where we see our first graduates walk down the stage with their diploma!

Reference Section

Whom Do I Call About:

- Program Selection
- Registration
- Scheduling
- Payments and Tuition
- Miscellaneous

Program Coordinators:

Felicia Fawaz
felicia.fawaz@baker.edu
313-350-9002

Matthew Seluk
matthew.seluk@baker.edu
248-343-1724

Randall Swift
randall.swift@baker.edu
810-625-6570

Tanya Urcavich, Ph.D.
tanya.urcavich@baker.edu
810-343-0725

Whom Do I Call About:

- Payments and Tuition
- Accounts Receivable
- Past Due / Collections
- Reimbursement Letters

The Business Office:

Louise Borucki
Business Manager
louise.borucki@baker.edu
248-276-6627

Diane Olechowski
Administrative Assistant
diane.olechowski@baker.edu
248-276-8260

Whom Do I Call About:

- Step Plan Inquiries
- Program Questions
- Transfer Credit
- Pre-requisites
- Grade Appeals
- Waiver Testing
- Applying for Graduation
- Academic Questions

The Academic Department

Faye Burdzinski, *Registrar*
faye@baker.edu
248-276-8262

Vikki Gordon
Academic Administrative Assistant
victoria.gordon@baker.edu
248-276-6629

Jim Kullman, *Academic Dean*
jim.kullman@baker.edu
248-276-6628

