

## Retirement Profile

## The end of the Baker era

By Kelly Kearnan  
Staff writer

Business and Organizational Professor, Drew Baker is retiring from Brevard College after 10 years.

Baker was born and raised in Long Island, NY. His father was a commercial banker on Wall Street and his mother was a homemaker. They were married for over 50 years.

Baker graduated from Dartmouth College, a liberal arts school in New Hampshire, with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. "The closest thing to a business degree was Economics and the Economics classes accounted for about one third of all the courses I took," Baker said.

After earning his undergraduate degree, Baker moved to Chicago and began working at Harris Bank while also taking night classes to graduate with his MBA (emphasis in finance) at the University of Chicago. With 20 years of experience at Harris Bank, Baker enjoyed doing something different every four or five years. "Everything I taught at Brevard College I did at Harris Bank including management information systems, finance, and more," Baker said.

While working at Harris Bank, Baker met his wife of 34 years and had two daughters. His eldest daughter Anne, 31, is currently working in Tacoma, Washington as an architect. Claire, 28, worked for Epic, implementing systems at hospitals, but is now pursuing a career as a doula, helping mothers through pregnancy and birth.

After his time at Harris Bank, Baker switched jobs to a business-to-business marketing services firm, MarketSense, where he worked for 10 years. He was the general manager of the Lead Management and Sales Support businesses.

"I enjoyed being a Chicago sports fan," Baker said. He was in Chicago for the '85 Bears, Blackhawk wins, the Michael Jordan era with the Bulls.

After 31 years in Chicago, Baker was seeking a change in scenery and jobs. "I literally sat down with a blank sheet of paper," Baker said. He and his wife moved to Brevard after his younger daughter, Claire, went off to college. Brevard College's BORG program had offered a teaching position and was the first school out of a list to get serious and fly him down for an interview.

Upon arriving, Baker expressed that he received tons of help from BORG professors Dr. Boerner, Cameron Austin, and Joe Ippolito. "I feel indebted to them," Baker said. "I'm very impressed with the faculty here at Brevard; they

are such a fun and talented group to be around."

Baker has taught numerous business courses throughout his 10 years as a professor. "I get a particular kick out of the Finance Dance Experience," Baker said. He plays a music video in the beginning of every finance class and asks music trivia questions about the artist or music for extra credit points.

Baker really enjoyed the BORG Banquets and Hooding Ceremonies each year. "The banquet and ceremony wraps up the experience for the year for each of the students and faculty," Baker said.

During retirement, Baker wants to take a few months to relax on his farm with his wife and roughly 45 different animals. He then wants to do some more consulting to share his knowledge and expertise.

In addition to hiking locally and playing tennis, Baker plans to travel to the National Parks out west and hopes to visit Italy and Greece abroad.

Baker will continue doing his review emails for the Wall Street Journal's Management Information Systems section and hopes to do an opinion piece for the journal in the future.

"I've appreciated the time I've gotten to spend with everyone; it's been a fun ride," Baker said. His parting words to majors: "Read the Wall Street Journals, and be nice to the new BORG professors!"



Photo from Brevard College

Professor Drew Baker



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