

# BENCHMARKS

A Baker Company Newsletter

Spring 2008

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## The Baker Company Named Maine Exporter of the Year for 2008



The Maine International Trade Center (MITC) recently named The Baker Company as the Maine Exporter of the Year for 2008 during their International Trade Day. From left to right: Janine Basaillon-Cary, President and State Director of the MITC; Cliff Colby, International Sales Manager for The Baker Company; the Honorable John Baldacci, Governor of Maine; and David Eagleson, President of The Baker Company.

*"It is a great honor to represent The Baker Company internationally. Baker's workforce of hard working Maine craftsmen gives me a strong foundation to stand on. Baker's builds the highest quality bio-safety cabinets and it is always a proud moment when I see Baker cabinets protecting researchers in countries all over the world."* — Cliff Colby, International Sales Manager, The Baker Company.

## EAGLESON INSTITUTE 2008 SEMINAR SCHEDULE



## The Eagleson Institute

### September

8-12 Advanced Certification  
22-25 Testing HEPA Filtered Systems and Cleanrooms

### November

10-11 Safety Cabinet Technology  
12 ASHRAE Testing  
12 Intro to Certification  
13-14 HVAC Systems & Laboratory Design

[www.eagleson.org](http://www.eagleson.org)

## Advanced Certifier Training

**Advanced Certification is a very popular class. It's so popular that the Institute often has a waiting list. If you are interested in this class, we encourage you to sign up early. Don't be locked out.**



### A few Minutes with Mary Ann Sondrini Director of the Eagleson Institute

*I had the pleasure to sit down with Mary Ann Sondrini, director of the Eagleson Institute, on a lovely spring day and talk with her about The Institute, its' programs, and her role in it.*

CC: Mary Ann, how long have you been involved with The Eagleson Institute and what is your official position?

MAS: I have been with The Institute since its' inception in 1989. I am the Executive Director. We are a non-profit foundation.

CC: What brought you here?

MAS: I moved to Maine in 1988 and I was looking for work that combined my interests in science and education when I saw an advertisement for this position in the newspaper.

CC: So, are you originally from Maine?

MAS: No, but nearby in Massachusetts.

CC: Can you explain to our readers the relationship between The Eagleson Institute and The Baker Company?

MAS: The Institute was founded by Dennis and Jon Eagleson in memory of their father, Jack Eagleson, who passed away in 1988. Jack was the President of The Baker Company and always enjoyed challenging people to think. So, the Eagleson family decided to establish an educational organization in his memory.

CC: Who teaches at The Eagleson Institute?

MAS: We hire a variety of industry experts who perform these types of services every day. They are the best in the business world. This also includes many employees of The Baker Company as our instructors and lab leaders.

CC: Tell us about the relationship that The Institute has with the American Biological Safety Association (ABSA).

MAS: We sponsor a keynote address at ABSA's annual conference, and have worked in partnership with ABSA on many different programs. This past year ABSA and The Institute partnered together with CDC to offer the 10<sup>th</sup> International Biosafety Symposium.

CC: Do you have similar relationships with other safety groups or organizations?

MAS: We have worked in partnership with many different organizations such the National Lab Training Network, Centers for Disease Control, and dozens of universities all over the world.

CC: You have a background in education. How does that translate into preparations for educational programs at The Institute?

MAS: I have a graduate degree in curriculum development, and many of our programs are developed based on adult learning principles, communication styles, setting objectives, and employing a variety of instructional strategies.

CC: The Eagleson Institute has performed educational programs all over the world. Can you give us a few highlights?

MAS: We've been to Siberia [Russia] in January and Cairo [Egypt] in July...One of our most significant programs took place over three years in Peru, where we assisted the government in developing a country-wide certification program for biological safety cabinets.

CC: Classroom work, lectures, and scientific theory can be abstract, boring, and real drudgery for some students. Is this something you work against?

MAS: Our classes are so much fun! No one knows how much fun it can be to study BSCs and biosafety until they attend one of our programs. We strongly believe that in order for learning to have an impact there needs to be an emotional connection to the learning, so we employ a variety of strategies to meet this objective.

CC: Are there any new programs that The Eagleson institute is working on now?

MAS: Yes, we are working on many new items from interactive DVDs and videos to brand new scientific programs. However, I'm not ready to talk about them just yet.

CC: I'll save this space for you so when you are ready you can let our readers know.

MAS: Thank you. We'll have a lot to say very soon.

## Labs from Around the World



**Above—Mr. Torin Weisbrod (left) embraces Baker’s local consultative representative, Drew Kevorkian. At right Drew, off camera, conducts an on-site product review of the Class III bio-safety cabinet. Baker’s representatives make sure that you fully understand the operation of all our equipment — both standard and custom offerings.**

**New York, NY:** Torin Weisbrod, Laboratory Manager, at Albert Einstein College of Medicine is slated to open a new State of the Art Facility conducting research on Tuberculosis. Mr. Weisbrod’s lab includes Baker’s **SterilGARD III** Class II bio-safety cabinets, Baker’s **IsoGARD** Class III Bio-safety cabinets, and for his cell sorting equipment, Baker’s **BioPROtect II** walk-in reach-in Class II bio-safety cabinet.

## The Greening of Baker

**Sanford, ME** — The Baker Company has a continuing effort toward reduced energy consumption. Recently, we installed new light fixtures throughout our factory. Using reflector technology, the new lights have fewer bulbs and they consume less electricity. Additionally, Baker decided to light only the areas of the factory where work is being done. The new lights are brighter in the critical areas so we can maintain our high quality standards. This new lighting will save many Kilowatts of electricity year after year. *“Today’s rising energy costs are forcing all companies to look at conservation and alternative technologies. Our new lighting creates a better work environment for our employees while reducing energy consumption and cost. Everyone wins!”*

— **Scott Semle, Vice President of Operations**

The Baker Company continues to do our part to reduce our energy consumption. It has always been a tradition of The Baker Company to utilize resources sparingly without compromise to our product’s safety. Our cabinets have traditionally had very long life spans and feature very long lasting HEPA filters and other components. Baker will have much more to say regarding energy and resource savings with new high efficiency products. We look forward to sharing that with you soon.

Visit Our Web Site  
at:  
[www.bakerco.com](http://www.bakerco.com)

**You'll be able to:**

- See our Tradeshow and Event schedule
- Request a quote
- Download product specifications
- Learn about the different types of biological safety cabinets
- Find your local Baker representative
- Read Technical Bulletins
- Request technical assistance
- Read industry specific white papers
- Register your warranty
- Download .pdf files of all current product brochures
- Find a certifier
- Review our FAQs
- Read Acumen research papers
- Learn about Biosafety
- Link to the Eagleson Institute
- Request a Catalog
- Read Benchmarks Newsletters

## Community Corner Bachelor #1

Sometimes it is just plain fun to help out. Baker's very eligible bachelor and mighty golfer, John Caron, put himself up on the trading block recently to raise money for the Maine Children's Cancer Program. The event, held at the local Sanford Elks Lodge, featured eligible bachelors exhibiting their talents. There were Elvis impersonators, break dancers, and flirtatious banter. Overall the event raised \$4,023 for the Maine Children's Cancer Program and the event organizers had to close the doors because attendance exceeded all expectations. Baker's John Caron, according to The Sanford News, "set the bar high for bids when he belted out a version of Garth Brooks' "Friends in low places" while wearing a gallon-sized cowboy hat, an open vest, cowboy boots, and the kind of star spangled Speedos you might see at the beach."

Hats off to John Caron—we salute you, Bachelor #1

## Baker Gets Fit A Walk Into Summer

The Baker Company, in an effort to improve the overall health of our employees, developed a new program for fitness. "Walk Into Summer" is the name Baker's Wellness Committee gave this program. Baker employees and their spouses are encouraged to walk 50 miles in 50 days and then 100 miles in 100 days. Participation is outstanding with most employees participating. Other activities other than walking count and we have conversion tables to get walking equivalents. Spreadsheets are located in the lunchrooms that track everyone's performance. Many Baker employees are walking at lunchtime and during breaks— Including management.

*"The response was overwhelming. We thought that getting 30 people would be good and we have nearly 70 participants many of which have far exceeded the initial goals. We're very pleased with the results."*

— Gina Sharpe of Baker's wellness committee.