



Babcock Bulletin



The Official Newsletter of Babcock House December 2006

Ex-President's Message

By John Rozum, Alumni Board

Past - President

What a great time to be a Badger fan! Top 10 in the nation in football and basketball (as well as high rankings in several other sports that get less attention). The funny thing about college sports - especially here at the UW is that every game help serves as a reminder of the time we spent in school. Really, what do we love, the games, or the fact that it gives us a chance to flash back to the "good old days" we spent at the Field House, Camp Randall, or for the younger crowd - the Kohl Center?

We've got another great excuse to reminisce the old days coming up soon - the Babcock 75th Anniversary Banquet. The big event will be April 14th at Rex's Innkeeper in Waunakee.

I encourage all alumni to make an effort to be a part of this historic event. Wouldn't it be great to have alumni from every one of Babcock's 75 years of existence attend this banquet? Wouldn't it be great if your entire class could get together again and plan a reunion around the banquet?

Make it a day by joining us for a Babcock golf tournament at Meadows of Sixmile Creek before the banquet. Or make it a full weekend by getting a room at the nearby Country Inn & Suites or Holiday Inn in De Forest.

We've included information about the banquet and a reservation form in the center of this newsletter. Get your space reserved and start making plans today! If you are interested in the Golf Tournament idea, please let me know at jrozum@wdexpo.com and I'll get the ball rolling.

I am looking forward to seeing you all of you in Waunakee on April 14th for an event 75 years in the making!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Parting Thoughts

By Dan Wepner, Retiring Board Treasurer

Why would anyone agree to serve on the board for Babcock House? On the surface, it's a reasonable question. For myself, I was at a noisy annual meeting, probably the first one I had attended since my graduation in 1979. The board Chairman was looking for someone to run for an open board seat. "Is there anyone?" he said. I asked when the meetings were and what a board member does. After a couple of unclear statements there was a nomination for someone who wasn't even present and myself to be made new board members. I didn't say no.

So here at the end of my term, I can reflect and better answer my opening question. Attending board meetings and spending time around the House often reminds me of the perspective I had during my days at UW-Madison. I didn't care if there was any savings in the bank or even if the roof leaked. But there were people who did care and they were the board members.

Each board, I believe, builds off the work of the one that came before it. One of the things this board was able to do was transition from "putting out fires" to making Babcock House stronger financially. The next board will be able to build off that strength to tackle future challenges. This sense of stewardship that as students cycle through, Babcock House remains standing is a good reason for being on the board.

I am grateful for how this board has worked together in coming up with ideas and moving forward. Also, the Babcock alumni can't be thanked enough for their unselfish giving. You have made a great difference and I hope you feel a special connection with the House. So, thank you to the person who nominated me to the board, my fellow board members and to all who have supported Babcock House over the years.

Editor's Note: Dan's Board term is officially up, but he has graciously agreed to stay on - unofficially - to help in the transition. Thanks for your hard work and dedication, Dan!

This is the House that Babcock Built

Part 5: “An Established House, An Exciting Home”

Author's Note: This is the fifth part of a multi-part series about the life of Dr. Stephen Babcock and the history of his namesake's organization, Babcock House. References courtesy of the UW Archives and the Wisconsin State Historical Society.

By Craig A. Kohn, 2006-2007 Steward

“Students Cut Costs to New Low Levels” reported the 1934 UW Alumni Magazine, following with, “Room and board and all living expenses at the Babcock House, a cooperative agricultural student home, have averaged slightly less than \$100 per semester for the last two years.” Thus, Babcock House’s first mention in print verified what the deans of the College of Agriculture suspected all along – that expenses could be reduced through a cooperative house and that the students could make this experiment succeed.

In the fall of 1931, 24 boys, selected on the basis of “high school records, their work in FFA and 4-H, and their financial need” moved into the newly furnished residence on Lake Street. It seems that this idea was a success from the very beginning, with most of the credit owing to the students themselves. “You may wonder just what Dr. Babcock would be thinking now if he could see the enthusiastic spirit of these young men,” stated a campus newspaper, continuing, “It is this cooperative understanding that has made Babcock House somewhat outstanding, and that has made it possible for them to successfully operate as a cooperative.”

The description of the operation of the house then would be pretty applicable today. “The cooperative work system that is still in effect in the house was initiated then (in 1931),” stated an October, 1949 Wisconsin Country Magazine, continuing, “The boys do all the work except the cooking. Each member is assigned to a specific job which he has to perform for the whole semester. And he is expected not to shirk his duty.”

In a personal letter in 2005, Stewart Johnson, one of the members of the original class of Babcockers, gave an interesting description of the day-to-day activities and lives of the 1931 class. Mr. Johnson came to UW-

Madison from Oconto Falls at the “so green” age of 16 and was recognized as the top freshmen scholar by the end of his first year. Mr. Johnson worked at the College of Ag Library six nights per week, and had the opportunity to work with such UW legends as Harry Steenbock and E. B. Fred. Jobs were definitely a necessity, and sixteen of the members worked part-time jobs at Sears on State Street, working 10 pm on Saturday to 10 am Sunday stocking shelves.



They made ice cream in their own hand-made equipment and ate lots of sauerkraut. Because the House had only one bathtub and no shower at the time, they routinely showered in the Red Gym. Despite the hard times, House member trips to Chicago and California were made possible. When asked what they did while at Madison, he replied, “We ran the city and [the] UW.”

Babcock Story, Continued

Furthermore, academics were clearly thriving at the residence. The executive committee that helped form Babcock House, led by Ira Baldwin, sent an August 30th, 1932 open letter to the faculty stating, "The year scholastic record of the 21 boys who lived in the Babcock House the second semester averaged 1.6 grade points per credit. The 1.6 grade point average is above the University or College average. During the first semester the fraternity with this grade point average was fourth high in scholarship of 45 fraternities. Evidently, the Babcock House conditions were favorable for study."

In fact, the House was such a success that space became too short within 10 years of opening for business. "With this same understanding, the executive committee has recognized that Babcock House was really too small, and that this opportunity ought to be extended to more students. This year, they rented a separate house to accommodate an increase in membership to 39," reported a campus newspaper.

However, the House was and has always been much more about student activities, both praiseworthy, and, well...let's just call the other category "interesting" activities. The same Wisconsin Country Magazine article about Babcock House gave some insight into what the House became over the course of two decades – "From reports heard around campus, Babcock parties are dandies. Burt Olson, social chairman from Westby, usually sees to it that there are plenty of the fair sex around to liven things up." The article continues, "One extracurricular activity at the house.. got the boys considerable publicity. Chazz Ruelke...glanced out the window and saw, of all things, a monkey perched on the fire escape. Chazz rubbed his eyes, checked his liquid consumption...and yelled for the rest of the boys. For a couple of days, the monkey stuck around the neighborhood...when night came he jumped through an open window and spent the night with the boys." The fact that the monkey chose to stay at Babcock House every night clearly indicates the level of intelligence that exists in some primates at UW. The psychology department, however, was less than thrilled once they received news of the newest Babcocker and decided that the monkey hadn't applied properly to the house. "It was a dirty trick," glumly said one of the boys.

Next – Conclusion: Yesterday, Today, and Tomorrow

State Of The House

Laura B. Bahn, House PR Director

We have officially accepted the 1st new student for next fall. His name is Reuben Hoffmann, an incoming junior from Reedsburg. His connection with the house is that his grandfather is James Scott Barnett - Babcock class of '42.

Also, this spring one of our members, Terry Weidenhoeft, will be graduating with a Plant Pathology major. Coming in to replace him will be Patrick Solverson, currently a student at UW-Platteville and brother of Babcocker Pete Solverson. As far as recruiting, we just completed big mailing to all incoming freshmen for next fall in CALS to let them know about Babcock. We have had a lot of interest in the House, from various references including alumni, current members, and through the University's Off-Campus housing office. Things are looking great!

New 2007 Alumni Board Members

Jake Gall, '05

For those of you who don't remember me from my four-year term as Steward of the Babcock House, here we go again. My name is Jake Gall and I am one of the two new board members elected at Homecoming. Currently I reside in Saukville, WI on our family's dairy farm where I was born and raised. I am employed as a Junior Ag Loan Officer at the State Bank of Newburg, which I have to say, may come in handy for the farm someday. I spend a lot of my free time working on our farm and a neighbor's farm. When I'm not working I like to play guitar or go for a ride on my vintage (some might say crappy) 1978 Kawasaki motorcycle. As a board member I hope to continue to help Babcock plan for the future, because an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure (-Ben Franklin). If you have any questions or need to get a hold of me, feel free to drop an email to jjcobbie3@yahoo.com.

Mike Marr, '74

Mike is a '74 graduate with a Meat and Animal Science major. He operates the family beef farm near Mineral Point. It is a commercial Angus cow-calf operation that sells yearling feeder cattle. They also feed out and direct market about 20 head per year.

His wife Joyce teaches in the Dodgeville Elementary School. They have five adult children. Steve lives and works in Richland Center. Kimberly is married and lives in Texas. Terri lives and works in Denver, and Christopher is a student at the Univ. of Minnesota at Mankato.

75th Anniversary Banquet

Babcock House 75th Anniversary Spring Banquet

April 14, 2007

Rex's Innkeeper
Waunakee, WI

6:00 p.m. - Cocktails
7:00 p.m. - Meal

Please join us as we celebrate 75 great years of the Babcock House at our Spring Banquet.

This year's banquet will be held at Rex's Innkeeper on Highway 113 in Waunakee.

A reception and cocktails will be hosted at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner at 7:00 p.m. The meal will include roast beef, baked chicken, mashed potatoes and gravy, corn, pasta salad, fruit salad, rolls, cheesecake, and coffee, tea or milk.

The event will also include reflections from past and present house members and lots of fun and reminiscing!

The cost of the banquet is \$20.00 per person. Please complete the RSVP form below and return it to the address listed by April 1, 2007.

We can't wait to see you there!

Babcock House 75th Anniversary Banquet RSVP

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Number Attending: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____ (\$20.00 per person)

Please return the bottom portion of this page along with payment by **April 1, 2007** to:

Andrea Bloom
Babcock House
1936 University Ave.
Madison, WI 53726

Make checks payable to Babcock House Corporation.

“75 for 75” Campaign Nears Target Date

When we rolled out the “75 for 75” fundraising campaign, we set a goal of raising \$75,000 by the Babcock House 75th Anniversary. The money raised, you’ll recall, was to cover the expense of renovating the bathrooms and upgrading the House electrical system. When the 2007 Spring Semester ends, so does the 75th Anniversary. As of today, we are still short of our goal. If we want to reach that \$75,000 mark by the April 14th banquet, we need to raise another \$20,000. We thought that we were closer to our goal, but the untimely passing of Ken Runlee was an even greater loss for Babcock, as he passed away before he could complete his promised contribution of \$5000 in 2006.

Our hope is that Ken’s long-term commitment to the House will be an inspiration to other alums who can help keep us on track to our goal! If you can contribute, please send your check to Babcock House 75 for 75 Fund, 1936 University Ave, Madison, WI 53726. Remember, your gift is tax deductible!

The following is a list of individuals and groups that have contributed to the Babcock House “75 for 75” campaign. We thank them for their support!

\$5,000 + Mark & Kathleen Sherry, Middleton - Ken Runlee, Madison

\$4,000 Patricia Kendall, Cambridge

\$1,000-\$2,000 Steve Costello, Plainfield, IL - Harvey Mauth, Idaho Falls, ID - Steve Millin, Fond du Lac - James Schmoock, Jefferson City, MO - Dan Weiss, Spring Green - Dan Wepner, Eldorado

\$500-999 Matt Gall, Saukville - Brain Huenink, Hudson, IA - Allen Kohn, Krakow - Fred Kuhn, West Bend - Jeff Rozum, Cato - James Schwarzhoff, Manitowoc - Dr. Ted Tibbits, Madison

\$250-\$500 Edward Atwood, Waunakee - Raymond Bula, Cross Plains - Gary Butzlaff, Oregon - Dennis Campion, Champaign, IL - Robert Cattelino, Fort Atkinson - Darryl Craig, Burlington - Reg Destree, La Crosse - Steve Drissel, Yakima, WA - Joshua Duesterbeck, Glen Ellyn, IL - Paul Eastwood, Madison, WI - Ron Erdman, Polo, IL - Barb & Marshall Ernst, Windsor, CO - Stewart Johnson, Storrs, CT - Edward Jones, Wild Rose - Cheryl Kendall, Stamford, CT - Christopher Kerkman, Madison - David Klumb, River Falls - Lynn Kopitzke, Kaukauna - Dan Liner, Van Dyne - Jeff Liner, Van Dyne - John Lonergan, Clive, CA - Larry Martell, Ancona, IL - Jeff Moldenhauer, Hartford - Scott Munes, Kimberly - Doug Ney, Hartland - Ronald Niedfeldt, Lake Mills - Dan Nusbaum, De Pere - Dave Nusbaum, DePere - Robert Nusbaum, Potosi - John & Marlene Oleson, Glen Oaks, IL - David Palzkill, Tucson, AZ - Tim Probst, Watertown - Gene Rohrbeck, Casper, WY - Mike Sabel, Auburndale - Dan Schaefer, Madison - Roland Schaefer, Shell Lake - Jeffrey Schultz, Cottage Grove - David Topel, Ames, IA - Phil Tichenor, Minneapolis, MN - Dr Cedric Veum, Westby - Trygve Veum, Columbia, MO - James Voss, Madison - Karl W. Young, Colfax - Robert Young, Modesto, CA - Scott Zimmerman, Clinton

\$100-\$249 Judi Ascher, Mineral Point - Dan Breene, Adams - David Briel, Valparaiso, IN - Chris Blaken, Melrose - Brandon Boettcher, Fairchild - Dr. Robert Bumsted, Burr Ridge, IL - Thomas Cox, Arden, NC - Dave Daniels, Union Grove - Robert Elderbrook, De Forest - Scott Hale, Clearwater, FL - Robert Held, Cumberland - Ralph Hepp, Okemos, MI - George House, Ada, MI - Fred and Ann Kendall, Mineral Point - Neva Kendall, Mineral Point - Larry and Marcia Kendall, Mineral Point - Bernie Knesting, Monona - Pete Knigge, Omro - Charles Linssen, Algoma - Glenn Meyer, Dousman - Warren Meyer, Milwaukee - Harold Mezera, Junction City - Gary Miller, Juneau, AK - Regis Miller, Madison - John Powell, Cashton - Russell Rindsig, Sarona - Dario Rossini, Sun City, AZ - Tom Rowntree, Waterford - Jim Rutledge, Stillwater, OK - Josh Schmidt, Athens - W. Jeffrey Smoller, Madison - Roger Schomberg, Bangor - Jeff Simon, Bonduel - John Simon, Oconomowoc - John Suttie, Madison - Bruce Thompson, Windsor - Doug Traastead, Westby - Dr Paul Veum, Westby - Ron Wiederholt, Carrington, ND - Carl Wiersma, Ste. Genevieve, MO - Duane Wolf, Olivia, MN

\$20-\$75 Richard Ahrens, Berwyn Heights, MD - Wayne E. Batterman, Evans, GA - Brian Bayley, Waterford - Daniel Bladow, Walkerton, IN - Fred Brancel, Monona - Bill Breene, Waunakee - Nona Chappell, Mineral Point - Jenny Daniels - Charles Drewry, Crivitz - Dave Ellingson - Robert Ellington - Jerry Endres - Jack Gaynor - Sherman Geib, Madison - Wallace Gluth, Lodi - Patrick Hamilton, Westfield - Robert Hanson, Quincy, IL - Bernie Heinemann - Michael Held, Huron, SD - Frederic Hoppert, Sheboygan - Carl Huber, Allentown, PA - Ellen Huber, Watertown - M.H. Jarchow, La Crosse - Mark Kienert, Wisconsin Rapids - Dennis Kuhaupt, Slinger - Charles Leonard, Lake Bluff, IL - Maynard Marshall - Gary Mayer, Lakewood - Ron Meyer, Madison - Bill Miller - Daniel Moehn, Monroe - Charlie Pulvermacher - Gregory Rindsig, Birchwood - Russell D. Robinson, Milwaukee - Peter Roe - Richard Rutledge, Santa Clara, CA - Daniel Sandwick, Waunakee - Norbert Schachtner, Sturgeon Bay - Paul Schulz, Janesville - Herman Schwarz, Sheboygan - Loris (Bud) Shultz, Madison - Union Cab, Madison - James F. Wickert, Madison - L. Keith Wise, Cedarville, IL - James H. Yanke, Burlington

Grant Assistance Sought

Does your employer have a charitable foundation? Do they make grants available to worthwhile educational endeavors? If so, we’d like to find out more! The goal of Babcock House is to provide students a low-cost living option while at UW Madison - particularly those students studying agriculture. We know that there are foundations that offer grants to promote ag education and help give kids from farm backgrounds a chance. We just need to find the ones that are the right fit. If you know of such a foundation or would be willing to help us make a connection, please contact House Steward Craig Kohn at 608-238-7395

Who is the Babcock Alumni Board?

If you've got questions about the House, suggestions or would like to volunteer to serve on the Board, committee or special projects, please contact any Board Member.

Chris Sawyer, '00, President - 608-245-9490
John Rozum, '95, Past President - 608-831-5055
Timm Johnson, '72, Secretary - 715-248-3277
Jake Gall, '05, Treasurer - 262-483-4353
Mike Marr, '74, Director - 608-987-3096
Kevin Shinnars, '81, Faculty Advisor - 608-263-0756
Craig Kohn, House Steward - 608-238-7395
Aaron Wepner, House President - 608-238-7384

Feel free to contact the Alumni Board with any House questions you might have or to get more involved.

Your Donations Are Tax Deductible!

Remember that Babcock House is a not-for-profit organization and that your donations to the House are tax deductible. Please contact your tax advisor for full details!



Babcock House
1936 University Ave
Madison, WI 53726

Thanks To The Following People for Contributing to Our "75 for 75" Since The Last Newsletter!

\$1000

Steve Costello
Steve Millin

\$250

Dan Liner
Jeff Rozum

\$150

Ron Wiederholt

\$100

Scott Hale - Charles Linssen
John Powell - Dr Paul Veum

\$75

Charles Drewry - Dennis Kuhaupt
Dr. Ted Tibbits - Ron Meyer