



Babcock Bulletin



The Official Newsletter of Babcock House December 2005

President's Message

By John Rozum, Alumni Board President

As we enter the Holiday season, it is a great time to reflect on the past year and give thanks for what we have. We've got food on the table, a roof over our heads, and friends and families gathering to celebrate.

It's also a great time to look to the year ahead. 2006 will be a big year for Babcock House. This year will mark the 75th Anniversary of Babcock. That's a huge milestone for any organization, but even more so when you consider that Babcock House is the oldest continuously operating men's living unit on campus. That's a lot of history.

During those 75 years, the House has faced some incredible challenges - fire, financial problems, a changing ag campus - but Babcock House has survived and thrived because of the people that called it home.

Now, we need your help. The Board of Directors and students in the House have set the goal of publishing a history of Babcock House's first 75 years, including a directory of all house alumni and a collection of favorite House memories provided by alumni. Once completed, the book will be made available to Alumni. The goal is to have copies available by Homecoming of 2006.

The biggest challenge is to get complete information from our alumni. Please take a few minutes to complete the form in this newsletter and send it back via mail or fax. If you'd rather do it online, send me an email and I will send you a form.

We are also asking that you take a few minutes to review our list of "Missing Alums" in this newsletter. These are former House members that we have lost touch with over the years. If you know how we can contact any of these people, please let me know!

You will notice on the form that we are also asking if you'd rather receive this newsletter via email. If you prefer to continue receive the newsletter in the mail, no problem.

If you've got questions or comments about the directory, please contact me at 608-224-6455, ext. 104 or at jrozum@wdexpo.com.

A Final Note With Words Of Wisdom

By Jake Gall, 2001-2005 Steward

As my college career comes to a close, so to does my four year term as the Steward of Babcock House. As a freshman I was the only one to apply for the Steward position. I was told by an upperclassman that Babcock was a "sinking ship." Four years later, the house is financially stable, with solid plans for the future.

The largest change to Babcock has been an improvement in marketability. To be most financially successful, Babcock must be full. Thanks to an outstanding Board and student recruiter, Babcock House has been full the last two years. Awareness of the house on campus has grown and recruitment for the 2006 - 2007 school year is expected to be high.

With a full house and tremendous alumni support, Babcock House is far from the "sinking ship" it once was. To continue our recent success, it is extremely important that the students and Board continue to communicate effectively. It is also important that the house continue to set goals for improvements in the house and other important areas such as the alumni listings, alumni awareness, and the house website. There is always work to be done.

In closing, I would like to thank the students and board for allowing me the opportunity to be the house Steward for the last four years. All throughout my college career Babcock has been the place I called home. I wouldn't have it any other way.

'Tis The Season For Giving!

If you've been considering making a donation to Babcock's "75 for 75" fund, now is a great time to write that check! Your donation will be tax deductible for the 2005 tax year, and will still count for 2005 towards the House goal of raising \$75,000 by our 75th Anniversary Party at Homecoming 2006.

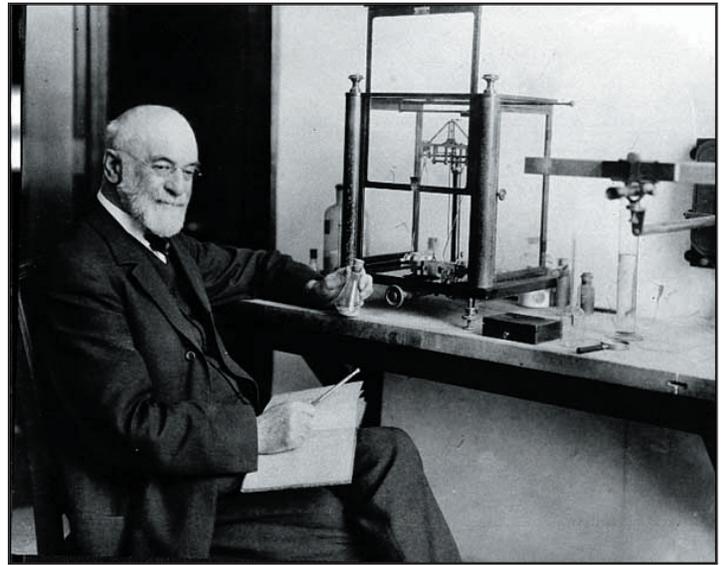
Send your check made out to "Babcock House 75 for 75" today! Attn: House Steward, Babcock House, 1936 University Ave, Madison, WI 53726

This is the House that Babcock Built - Part 2: Exemplifying the Wisconsin Idea

Author's Note: This is the second 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 Steward

Dr. Babcock arrived at the University of Wisconsin in 1887 at the strong request of President Chamberlin, where he began experimenting with what would become his most famous work, measuring the butterfat content of milk. According to *A Fortune Left Behind*, prior to the invention of Babcock's Butterfat Test, there was no way to test the true quality of milk. Therefore it could be adulterated or altered by the farmer, by the plant, or by the store, and often was. This lack of standardization prevented the uniformity needed for the modernization of the dairy industry.



William Henry, Dean of the College of Agriculture, approached Dr. Babcock and asked him to develop an effective and inexpensive way to measure milk quality. Dr. Babcock worked dutifully on this, eventually developing a perfect test. It was so perfect that it rarely, if ever, failed to accomplish its goal of standard measurement. It was so simple to use that any farmer or cheese plant manager could use it, and no significant detail about it has been changed to this day, while the modern dairy industry it created certainly has leaped forward.

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60 years later, UW President E. A. Birge would remark in the *Wisconsin Agriculturalist and Farmer* that the attention and revenue generated by Babcock's test sparked a trend of breakthrough scientific research at UW-Madison, a trend that has continued to this day. Said Birge, "few inventions of a single man have had so great an effect, economic, moral, and social."

On October 11th, 1894, controversy briefly arose when Geo. W. Burchard, editor of Hoard's Dairyman, mistakenly gave credit for the Babcock Test to Hoard himself. As can be imagined, this briefly caused an uproar within Wisconsin, for the test that was supposed to "make farmers honest" was possibly plagiarized by the very supposed inventor! Dean Henry later wrote Dr. Babcock, saying that he had talked, "about the foolish Burchard claim" and requested permission to pressure both Hoard and Burchard to revoke this statement, lest it confuse a "dairy student" in the future. While Babcock, true to his form, found the whole matter trivial, he consented, and the matter was laid to rest. Babcock finally and fully received credit where credit was due.

However, the most remarkable aspect of this story is not the perfect test, the impact it created, nor any detail about the Babcock Test itself, but rather Dr. Babcock's unfathomable generosity in what could have undeniably been his most profitable venture. John Brisben Walker, who covered the 1904 World's Fair, wrote, "Attention was called by the Chief of the Department to the Babcock Milk Tester," continuing, "then I learned that this valuable test, ingenious, scientific, and perfect, was the work of an American scientist... Dr. S. M. Babcock, and that he had given the world the results of his study and ingenuity without patent and without reward. His name certainly deserves to rank among the most notable in the annals of invention." And today it still does.

Next – Part 3: Wisconsin's Pride

Babcock House 75th Anniversary Directory Information Update Form

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email Address: _____

Would you prefer to receive the Newsletter via email? _____ YES _____ NO

Employer: _____

Occupation: _____

Married? _____ Spouse Name: _____

Graduation Year: _____ Major(s): _____

Original Hometown: _____

What years did you live in the House? _____

Nickname in the House? _____

Favorite House Story (add paper if needed) : _____

Please return ASAP to:

Fax to 608-224-6455

Mail to John Rozum
3310 Latham Drive
Madison, WI, 53713

Email for Form: jrozum@wdexpo.com

Thanks for taking a few minutes to complete this form. Your information will help ensure that our 75th Anniversary Directory is complete! The information you provide will only be used by the House for the purposes of this printed directory and not sold to any third party in any other form.

Babcock Welcomes Honorary Alumni Board Members

Craig Kohn, 2006 Steward

In order to recognize those individuals outside of the general membership who have made significant contributions to our organization, Babcock House decided to select three Honorary Members for the Board of Directors. This non-voting position brings with it no responsibility or obligation, but rather is a recognition of the individual's service.

The 3 Honorary Members were selected solely by the student members of Babcock House from a pool of nominees they chose, and were subsequently approved by the Board of Directors and then by the Membership at Large at the annual Babcock Meeting held on homecoming. At this time, the candidates began their term as Honorary Members of the Board of Directors for three years.

The members of Babcock voted to select Dean Richard Barrows of CALS Academic Student Affairs, Dr. Gary Lake of Agriscience Education, and Prof. Phil O'Leary of Engineering Professional Development as the nominees for the Honorary Board Membership. All three have been actively supported Babcock House in the recent past and have demonstrated a commitment to the ideals of the organization in various ways. We believe that not only will these positions help strengthen ties between the University and Babcock, but also serve as a method for recognizing true dedication from individuals most likely outside our membership.

Dean Barrows, administrative dean of CALS ASA, has actively supported Babcock House for quite a while now, and in the recent past has advised the house with on-campus issues and recruitment, among other details. Dr. Lake, Chair of the Agriscience Education Program, serves as the Collegiate FFA Advisor, in which three officers are Babcockers, and is well known within the house. He also opened up his home in Florida (located 2 blocks from Daytona Beach) last spring for several Babcockers on their break in exchange for some upkeep, allowing a spring break for those who otherwise would not have one. Prof. O'Leary, chair of EPD, offers much assistance for recruitment efforts, assisting in printing needs for flyers and other promotional material, and provides the outlet for contact info for potential new members.

All of these individuals have demonstrated generous service to the current members, and as such are certainly deserving of this recognition.

New CALS Dean Announced

*Provided by Kevin Shinnors,
Babcock Faculty Advisor*

Dr. Molly Jahn, a Cornell University expert in plant breeding, gene discovery and genetic mapping of agricultural plants, has been named the new dean of the University of Wisconsin-Madison College of Agricultural and Life Sciences. Dr. Jahn will take over the deanship on Aug. 1, 2006,

Jahn, a professor of plant breeding and genetics and plant biology at Cornell, says she looks forward to the opportunity to assume leadership of the college. "This is an incredible opportunity to lead a world-class agricultural college in a state in which agriculture and life sciences are so central to the economy and to the future," Jahn says.

"Against the backdrop of a globalizing world economy, land grant colleges must define and articulate a compelling vision for their survival in partnership with the public, the private sector and government," says Jahn, who has been on the faculty at Cornell since 1991. Jahn, adds that her leadership style emphasizes team-based systems and principles that encourage innovation.

Jahn has focused her research on breeding new vegetable varieties for use around the world and on gene discovery in crop plants - notably peppers and the cucumber family - with a focus on economically important plant traits. Additionally, Jahn directs the Public Seed Initiative and the Organic Seed Partnership, an outreach activity based on an alliance of public-sector researchers, seed companies and non-profit groups interested in improving the use of public plant varieties and crop genetic diversity.

Jahn earned her bachelor's degree in 1980 at Swarthmore College, her master's in 1983 in biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and her doctorate in 1988 in plant breeding from Cornell.

Jahn will succeed Dean Elton D. Aberle, who retired Sept. 1, capping a 38-year academic career that included stints at Purdue University, the University of Nebraska and the Madison campus.

Alumni News & Notes

Honored

Ken Runlee, class of '55, was honored at Homecoming with the renaming of the House living room as the "Ken Runlee Entertainment Room." Ken was recognized for his incredible generosity to Babcock House. Most recently, Ken's commitment of \$10,000 has helped push us closer to our "75 for 75" goal.

Honored

Dennis "Mouse" Kendall, class of '70, was honored this year at Homecoming with the dedication of the Babcock House basement in his memory. The basement has officially be named the "Mouse House." This honor was made possible by the generous donations made in his name by his friends, classmates and family. May his memory live on forever at Babcock House.

Honored

Dave Thomas, class of '71, received the Bouffault International Animal Agriculture Award from the American Society of Animal Science for his scientific contributions to animal agriculture in developing areas of the world

Promoted

Steven "Sid" Drissel, '99, was recently promoted to Dealer Development Manager for John Deere. Steve was recently married, as well. He and Angela now live in Reno, Nevada.

Got News?

We'd like to continue highlighting the achievements of Babcock Alums in future issues. New jobs, new family, new award or new degree - if it is important to you, it is important to us! Let us know at babcocknews@hotmail.com.

Missing Alumni

We've lost touch with the following alums. If you know where any of these people are or can give us an update, please contact John Rozum at 608-224-6455 x104 or by email at jrozum@wdexpo.com.

Anderson, Lloyd	Lang, Julian
Bailey, Ralson	Latshaw, Walter
Bailey, Raymond	Laufenberg, Todd A., 1986
Bauer, Clifford A.	Martinson, Gary
Bavry, Raymond	Maul, David
Bishop, Herman	Melvin, Jerome
Brey, Paul, 1979	Miller, Roger
Burg, Angus	Momsen, Keith
Burton, R.	Mowery, James
Buseman, Allen	Onan, Peter, 1996
Cairns, Frank	Pesek, Jerome
Carsten, John	Polifka, Stuart
Check, Leonard	Preslik, Edward J., 1937
Christianson, C	Price, Howard R., 1941
Christianson, Harry	Rademan, Tom, 1971
Comstock, Richard	Rehrauer, Harold
Conlin, Phillip, 1972	Scheffel, Karl
Conlin, Robert	Schellenberger, ?
Connors Paul, 1979	Schemning, Richard
Cress, Sam	Schuth, D.
Farratt, Edward	Smith, Ed
Feeney, Harlan	Sorhweide, Jeff, 1979
Finvold, Roger	Soukup, David
Fischer, James	Stearns, Maynard
Gates, Jerry, 1979	Stevenson, Ed
Gray, Rev. Willard	Stevenson, Martin
Hamilton, Patrick "Buck", 1985	Strack, Jon
Hartzell, Russell, 1967	Strasburg, Roy, 1975
Hendrickson, Robert, 1956	Urchin, Tony
Hoveland, Nieman	Van Dyke, Arthur
Jacobsen, Mike	Vanderploeg, Fred, 1974
Jones, Glen, 1977	Webber, Jeff, 1979
Kannel, Jerome	Wassink, Gilbert
Kapelske, James	Wendoroff, Roland
Kathe, Richard	West, Irving
Koehler, Richard	Whiting, Ralph
Kolstean, William	Williams, Austin
Kretch, Hunts, 1979	Williams, John
Landon, Alfred	Wulff, Vernon, 1953

If you know of other alumni that aren't receiving the newsletter, they probably aren't on our list at all. Please let me know who they are and we'll be sure that they get included in the list!

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.

John Rozum, '95, President - 608-831-5055
Ron Curran, '87, Past President - 608-233-9779
Dan Wepner, '79, Treasurer - 920-922-4376
Chris Sawyer, '00, Treasurer-Elect - 608-245-9490
Kevin Shinnars, '73, Faculty Advisor - 608-263-0756
Timm Johnson, '72, Secretary - 715-248-3277
Craig Kohn, House Steward, - 608-238-7395
Michael Boettcher, 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 Our "75 for 75" Donors!

\$3,500

Ken Runlee

\$1000

Harvey Mauth

\$833

Matt Gall

Brian Huenink

\$500

Stewart Johnson

Dan Schaefer

\$250

Paul Eastwood (*in memory of Dennis Kendall*)

Jeff Liner

Scott Munes

Jeff Rozum

James Voss (*in memory of Dennis Kendall*)

\$167

Joshua Schmidt

Chris Blaken

\$150

Bernie Knesting

\$100

Judi Ascher (*in memory of Dennis Kendall*)

\$75

Richard Ahrens

Robert Hanson