



# Babcock Bulletin



The Official Newsletter of Babcock House April 2008

## President's Message

*By Timm Johnson, Class of '72  
Alumni Board President*

Greetings Fellow Babcockers!

It is now springtime and that means several things to Babcock House residents! Does anyone remember Spring Formals? Or how about various spring activities such as picnics, 'lakings' at Mendota and Monona, or cramming for finals and doing an all nighter? Many of us forget about the stress at the end of the semester with finals. But as we get older, we tend to remember the social activities more than the other components of life at the UW. Our current house residents still enjoy Spring Formal and many of the same traditions that we enjoyed during our time at Babcock.

This past year has been a very good year at Babcock. The Board has enjoyed and greatly appreciated the House Officers to work with and the leadership they have displayed. Craig Kohn has done an extremely good job as House Steward for the past two years and has helped to re-establish Babcock as a great place to live on campus. We would like to say thanks to Craig for his dedication and service. Katie Kennedy has stepped in as our first female House Steward and will do fine. The residents have also performed very well academically with the GPA over 3.35 for all residents.

The Board would also like to say thanks to all who have contributed in the past to House improvements. We as the Board are concerned about continuing to reinvest for improving the quality of life for our residents. Your continued support is key to the success of Babcock House.

Once again - thanks fellow Babcockers!

## Exciting News At Babcock!

*By John Rozum, Class of '95  
Alumni Board Member*

I am very happy to announce that the Babcock Alumni Board is in the final stages of planning for a complete kitchen remodel this summer. I am even more pleased to announce our intention to name the kitchen in honor of Babcock's two long-standing leading ladies - Margaret Pfeiffer and Cookie Paine.

Cookie was Babcock's original cook, cleaner and house Mom and served the house through the 30s and 40s. Margaret served the same role from the 50s into the 70s. The suggestion of naming the kitchen came from several alums who were greatly influenced by these wonderful women.

It is a long overdue project as much of the equipment has been in disrepair for some time. Right now, only two of six burners work on the range and the fridge is louder than Camp Randall on a September Saturday. Few can remember the last time the floor drain actually drained anything!

The plan includes new appliances, lighting, hardware, cabinets, tile floors and refinished walls. It will also be made more functional with less of an industrial look. The goal is to have the whole project completed this summer.

In order to accomplish this goal, we are looking to our alumni to show their support of the project. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 by the end of summer so that we can avoid taking out a loan for the project.

I am confident that we can do it. Please send your donation today to: Babcock House Kitchen Fund, Attn: House Steward, 1936 University Ave, Madison, WI 53726. Every little bit counts!

## **Meet the New Board Member!**

*By Jim Natzke, Class of '91  
Alumni Treasurer-Elect*

I would like to introduce myself as the newly elected Board member. I am General Manager of Roth Käse USA in Monroe, Wisconsin, a specialty cheese manufacturer and distributor. I reluctantly moved out of Babcock in 1991, after getting my BS in Food Science (with what they called a "Business Option" back then), and have worked in Michigan and Wisconsin in the dairy processing industry. I went on to get my MBA from Edgewood College, taking night and weekend classes, in 2003, while working at Roth.

I was raised on a small dairy farm in Bonduel and followed a couple of my brothers to Babcock House. Dave and Mark were here in the late 70s and early 80s and my brother Ted made a brief stop in there somewhere. Dave and Mark are still involved in the dairy industry in Wisconsin.

I was part of a very large freshman class and still count several Babcock house mates as my good friends. It has been very hard to find anyone other than Babcock alumni to play sheepshead since I left. Registration Week (which no longer exists thanks to the internet, poor kids) and Hell Week are some of the best memories from my time there. The upperclassmen were instrumental in helping me transition from a small farm community to University and urban life in Madison.

So far, I have been to three meetings and I really enjoy being around the House and the students. All alumni should be very proud to support such a great group of students. My impression is that the Board has successfully navigated some very tough times over the last few years, but today we have strong leadership and a solid financial footing. We need to aggressively work to keep upgrading the house facilities to stay competitive, though, because for many years no major remodeling was possible.

I currently live in Belleville, Wisconsin with my wife Kathie (formerly Kiesau, a frequent Babcock visitor back in the day and another reason I owe the House some gratitude), daughter Paige (11) and son Paul (6). Kathie is currently working on updating the Babcock website (babcockhouse.org) – go visit the site often to stay in touch with the House. I look forward to hearing from you at jimnatzke@verizon.net or at the next House function.

## **Recruiter's Report**

*By Andrea Bloom, Babcock Recruiter*

2007-2008 has been a very successful year for Babcock House. With active campus involvement, an impressive House GPA and a boatload of traditional activities, members have enjoyed themselves and are proud of their accomplishments. That success certainly shines through in the recruiting efforts.

With two members currently studying abroad, Babcock House welcomed a new resident. Jaeyoung Do, a Computer Science graduate student, joined the house in the spring semester. Jae is originally from South Korea and enjoys learning more about "American culture" through the eyes of a Babcocker.

Many current members will be returning to Babcock House next year, leaving just six spots to fill. The Board of Directors has already accepted three applications. If you know of any Badgers interested in Babcock House, be sure they get their applications in as soon as possible so that they can take one of the three spots still open!

If you know of a new or future UW student who would like more information about the House or a tour, please contact:

Andrea M. Bloom  
Babcock House Recruiter  
(608) 238-7384–Babcock House  
(715) 937-2068–Cell Phone  
bloom2@wisc.edu

## **Steward's Update**

*By Katie Kennedy, 2007-2008 Steward*

As 2008 steadily marches on, Babcock House is in good shape. Everything is in good repair, and everyone is doing their share to make sure it stays that way. It seems everyone has classes they enjoy and a few they dislike, but spirits are high as a general trend.

We've had some fun social events with more on the way. Right now, it seems that first and foremost on all our minds is surviving the round of midterms that signal the halfway mark in semester and the advent of a week long break. We all keep remembering that spring is on it's way and we are working with the end of semester as our rapidly approaching goal.

So with sun and studying on my mind, the Steward wishes you all a happy spring, and hopes that soon the shovels will be put back in sheds and garages.

## **Babcockers Study Abroad**

*By Andrea Bloom, Babcock Recruiter*

Mike Stranz, a second-year house member, is a senior majoring in Agricultural Economics and Agricultural Journalism. This past January, he left to study abroad in Trinidad and Tobago. Stranz is attending the University of the West Indies in St. Augustine for the semester. He still keeps in contact with his fellow Babcockers and says he does miss them. He also reminds them that he's working on a great tan.

Andrew Bernstein (or Bernie, as he's known to the house) is also studying abroad this semester. This college senior is majoring in Mechanical Engineering and is a first-year member of Babcock House. He is currently "studying" in Budapest, Hungary. Bernie's class schedule is composed of a solid mix of engineering and Hungarian culture courses. Bernie is enjoying his access to many swimming pools and says that the local cuisine is pretty great.

Although the rest of the house members are slightly jealous of their friends' fun abroad, they do wish Stranz and Bernie a good time and safe travels.

## **House President's Report**

*By Aaron Wepner, Babcock President*

Madison sure has had a lot of snow these past few months, but activity at the house continues no matter how high the piles of snow get. Thanks to our hard-working outdoors crew, Scott "Chops" Rowntree and Kody Habeck, for keeping the sidewalks and driveway free of snow in these months of heavy snowfall.

We have recently entertained a few guests with what is quickly becoming a favorite house event—Black Tie Night. This is a night when Babcockers try to put on their classy sides by dressing up, tasting some wines, and eating strange cheeses all while listening to sophisticated music. There are usually a few requests that strawberry marshmallows be served at the next house event.

Despite all the social events, academics continue to be a strong suit in the house. Evidence of this would be in our house average GPA of better than 3.4 for the fall semester (2007). Babcock has been a great resource to not only find out about classes and professors, but also to study together and help each other with school work. Upon returning from spring break, the freshmen were treated to a supper in honor of Babcock's newest members.

In the past few weeks, Babcock has been competing in the men's recreational basketball league and in a co-ed, recreational volleyball league. While we don't always come back home with a win, we do have a good time. I am happy to report that in the game last week the basketball team won by a score of 42 to 22.

I would like to take this chance to say thank you to the alumni, the board, and my fellow house members. This will be my last semester in house and I am very grateful for having such an affordable and fun place to spend my undergraduate years. I am continuing my education here at UW-Madison by working for a master's degree in Agricultural Engineering. My studies will include biomass harvesting, storage, and transport dealing specifically with corn cobs and stover.

## 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.

Timm Johnson, '72, President - 715-248-3277  
Chris Sawyer, '00, Treasurer - 608-245-9490  
Mike Marr, '74, Secretary - 608-987-3096  
Jim Natzke, '91, Director - 608-424-6560  
John Rozum, '95, Director - 608-831-5055  
Kevin Shinnars, '73, Faculty Advisor - 608-263-0756  
Katie Kennedy, House Steward - 608-238-7395  
Aaron Wepner, House President - 608-238-7384

## Alumni Directories Still Available

If you haven't yet purchased your copy of the 75th Anniversary Babcock Alumni Directory, you can still do so today. To get your copy, mail your check for \$10 to John Rozum at 3310 Latham Drive, Madison, WI 53713. Checks should be made out to Babcock House.

## Thanks To Our Recent Donors!

**\$500**

Donald Kropf

**\$300**

James & Marilyn Schwarzhoff

**\$150**

Jeff Moldenhauer

**\$100**

Robert Hanson, Larry Meinholz, Ron Wiederholdt

**\$20-50**

Carl Daniels, David Grundahl  
Bob & Kathy Oleson, Douglass Traastad

**If you'd like to join the Babcock honor roll of donors or contribute to our Capital Improvement Fund to support upcoming projects such as new windows, please make your check out to Babcock House and mail it to:**

**Babcock House, Attn: Steward, 1936 University Ave, Madison, WI 53726**



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Madison, WI 53726