



Babcock Bulletin

The Official Newsletter of Babcock House June 2008



President's Message

By Timm Johnson, Class of '72
Alumni Board President

Greetings Fellow Babcockers!

Summer vacation is here, and while activity on campus has slowed, there is much news at Babcock.

The remodeling of the kitchen and basement is underway. The response from Babcock Alumni making contributions to the project so far has been great. We have received over \$8,000 in donations and pledges so far and we want to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed.

If you have not yet done so and plan on making either a donation or pledge in the future, we will certainly need your help. Donations can be sent to the House - Babcock House, Attn: Steward, 1936 University Ave, Madison, WI 53726.

Scott Rowntree will be the next House Steward. His father is Dave Rowntree, class of '69, and Scott will do fine and we look forward to working with him. The House will be full of residents for the first semester 08-09 with an excellent crop of new freshman entering next fall.

Finally, I want to mention the passing of Keith Marohl, a classmate from 1972. Keith passed in late March of leukemia in Green Bay, and services were held in rural Bonduel. A fund has been started in memory of Keith with all proceeds going to the Babcock basement/kitchen remodeling project. Whether it is in memory of Keith or other House members who have passed away, let's remember all of our alumni who have gone on before us. And, let's place an added emphasis on enjoying our family and friends while we can.

Got Email?

With the recent (and continual) increases in postage rates, these newsletters are getting more expensive to produce.

If you wouldn't mind getting your newsletter via email, please let us know by sending an email to John at jrozum@wdexpo.com. We promise to take good care of your information and not let it get in the wrong hands.

We will even up the offer by promising more photos and color shots to those that are willing to get the newsletter electronically.

If email is good enough for you, send one to jrozum@wdexpo.com and ask John to get you on the email list.

Website News

By Jim Natzke, Class of '91
Alumni Board Treasurer & Web Guy

The Babcock House website has been recently updated to keep current with House events.

I started by asking my wife, Kathie, to revise a few pages and before I knew it she was teaching me so that she wouldn't have to keep doing it. I started by updating the officer and member names and cleaning up some font and color issues. Now, we are keeping a photo log of the basement renovations on our website. Go to www.babcockhouse.org and take a look. Comments and suggestions are welcome, but keep in mind I really have very little idea of what I am doing. If there is an expert out there that is willing to volunteer, we could probably use a total face lift of the site.

We hope to use the website to keep alumni involved and informed about the House. Set it up in your web browser "favorites" and check back often to see the kitchen remodel progress!

Kitchen Project - 2008

Work began on May 19th to renovate the kitchen. It began with removal of the old appliances and, well, everything else. We will be able to reuse the stainless sinks, sanitizer, range hood and fire suppression system. We are quite fortunate that the contractors could find a range that would work with our hood - that saved us about \$18,000 for new range hood!

Many of the items in the kitchen were no longer up to code for food prep areas. Rusty table legs, exposed wire racks for food and dish storage and lack of proper lighting were all issues that needed to be addressed.

The stove, fridge, and some of the wire shelving was donated to a group that refurbishes old equipment for donation to churches. If they can't fix it, they at least recycle the parts. We were able to sell some of the materials ourselves.



Once it was empty, it was time for a thorough scrub down and degreasing. Check out that nasty grease cake on the wall and floor where the stove stood!



The kitchen as it looked before the project.

The carpenters then started their work of fixing all the holes, repairing damaged walls in the kitchen and dining area. Broken doors were replaced, water damage behind walls was fixed and all new trim was installed.

The electricians roughed in new lighting, and then it was time for the painters to start doing their thing. Everything had to be degreased, resurfaced and primed to get ready for the final coat of paint.



Once cleaned and primed, the walls and ceiling began to cool pretty good!

This project did allow us to make a few improvements to the original layout at little or no additional cost. One such improvement was increasing the functionality of the pass-through. The counter was raised by a few inches and a new, much wider top was installed. This will allow more surface area and will also act as a shelf from the kitchen side because it will sit about 4 inches over counter height.



The original as it looked before the project.



The new framing to bring it up to the correct height.



The finished counter from the dining room side.



Here's a look back at how the pass-through looked in the 60s - a shot that includes Margaret Pfeiffer making one of her famous pies.

As this edition is going to print, the painters are doing their thing. Next up will be the tile work and flooring. The kitchen will be leveled and correctly sloped towards the drain, and new floor trim will be installed in the dining room. Once the floor is done, the plumbers will reconnect the sinks and install the new fixtures and the electricians will put in the new lighting. Then it is time for the installation of the new appliances and final detail work. If all goes well, the project will be complete by mid-June.

This project has been in the works for a very long time. For years we have known that the kitchen was the ugliest and most neglected part of the House. We are now setting that straight and allowing the students to start over with a kitchen that they can be proud to show to prospective House residents.

In our last newsletter, we rolled out this project and asked for your help in making it a reality. So far, the response from Alumni has been fantastic! A look at the back page of this newsletter will show you who had already contributed to the Kitchen Fund.

If you would like to contribute to this project, please send your check to Babcock House, Attn: Steward 1936 University Ave, Madison, WI 53726. You can also make a pledge to commit by emailing John Rozum at jrozum@wdexpo.com and letting him know to count you in for the project.

Remember that your contributions are tax deductible, as Babcock House is a charitable non-profit organization.

The Downside of Success

By Chris Sawyer, Class of '00
Alumni Board Treasurer

For many years it has been a Babcock House tradition to hold our Annual Meeting on the day of the Badger football Homecoming game. One of the perks of being a member of the Babcock House organization has been access to tickets for the game. For the past few years, it has been my pleasure to be the contact for Homecoming tickets. But as that person, it now falls upon me to deliver some unhappy news: as of this year we will no longer have access to a block of tickets for the Homecoming game. We are not the only group to feel the fallout from the increased success and changing culture of Wisconsin athletics; we were informed that many of the campus-affiliated organizations are being given the same notice.

Obviously, this news has us very frustrated. When this was brought to our attention at our most recent board meeting, we felt that it was important that we notify you of this as early as possible so that you could make your own arrangements to attend the game. We will continue to look further into this situation to see if there are other ticket outlets for this year and in the future. However, at this point, the outlook is less than favorable. If you or anyone you know may be able to help us in this matter, please contact me or any of the board members.

In the meantime, we are proceeding under the assumption that there will not be a block of tickets allocated to Babcock House. But that doesn't mean the Annual Meeting and the tradition and fun of our get-together are over and done with. In the immortal words of "Bluto" Blutarisky in the movie Animal House, "Was it over when the Germans bombed Pearl Harbor? Hell no! And it ain't over now."

We have tried to come up with some other options to continue to make this a gathering worth attending year after year. The Board would like to have your input on how we might make our Annual Meeting and Homecoming at Babcock House an exciting and meaningful event. The Board has come up with three options to consider for the Annual Meeting this year. Please email me at sawyer@uwalumni.com with your preference or other thoughts and ideas. Thank you for your understanding and support.

Proposed Options:

1. Keep the annual meeting on the day of the Homecoming game. (October 25th) People will need to make their own ticket arrangements, but we would keep with the Homecoming tradition. We will try to show the game at the House, but with the possibility of it being carried by the Big Ten Network still out there, that may not be an option either.

2. Hold the Annual Meeting in conjunction with another football game. There is no more likely a chance of getting tickets for a different game, but a different game might be held at a more favorable time for scheduling and travel. Our current thought would be to schedule the day of a night game, so we could hold the meeting later in the day (versus Homecoming, which is an 11:00a.m. game). The full football schedule can be viewed at uwbadgers.com.

3. Schedule the Annual Meeting independent of UW functions and make it more of a banquet affair. We have done banquets in the past with much success. Without tying the Annual Meeting to another university event we would have more time and be able to focus on the social gathering. However, this is a great departure from our tradition and it would require more planning and cost input.

This is your House, and your feedback is critical to how we proceed. If you have opinions on this one, please let us know by emailing Chris at sawyer@uwalumni.com or by dropping me a note: Chris Sawyer, 4302 Bellgrove Lane, Madison, WI 53704.



Keith Marohl 1950-2008 **Babcock House 1968-1972**

By Merle Richter, Class of '72

Babcock House has lost a great man in Keith Marohl. Keith passed away on March 29 in Green Bay of a battle with Leukemia. He was farming at the time with his father and brother in the rural Bonduel area. Keith's funeral was held on April 5th at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Cecil.

Some of you may not know Keith. Many others who were at the House in the 60s and 70s will remember a blond haired young man who was a true leader. When it came to any sport, football, basketball, softball or even an occasional game of ping pong in the basement of the house, you could find Keith in the heart of it and succeeding. I will never forget sitting at a Badger game and listening to Keith talk about how he really wished he would have tried out for the Badgers. I believe he could have and would have been a success. He was a dairy science major who loved his profession and could rattle off a pedigree to anyone. Keith did not go home much in college on weekends as he spent most of his time working at the milking parlor on campus.

One of the craziest stories about Keith was when he came home from delivering the "Daily Cardinal" newspaper on a Saturday morning and was so upset that he had gotten picked up for running a stop sign on campus with his bike at 5 AM and received a \$19 fine. That was about a week's wages for delivering the paper. We will miss Keith and know that our thoughts and prayers are with him and his family.

Timm Johnson, Allan Kohn and myself have organized a memorial in Keith's name to be used for the remodeling project at the House. If any one is interested in donating to the house in Keith's name should see the information in this newsletter. Our hope is to keep the memory of our friend alive in the place he loved so much - Babcock House. Thanks to all of you who have donated.

Notes From Alums

Many of you are including personal notes or stories with your donations to the kitchen project. Here are excerpts from a few of those letters -

In the early 70s, I replaced the kitchen tile. I assume it wore out many years ago. Margaret Pfeiffer was the cook at the time and surrogate mom. She was thrilled to have a new kitchen floor... she loved all of us like her own children.

Gary Miller, Class of '72

I was lucky enough to be a new freshman house resident in the fall semester of 1960. This was a time, of course, when Babcock was located at 1021 Clymer Place. My assigned room was the so-called "dungeon."

Sometime during the semester, our cook (Cookie Paine) had to leave, and Steward Howie Richards had to find a new cook. That effort turned out to be a great positive in following years because that new cook was Margaret Pfeiffer. Margaret and I developed a quick bond in that the path to the "dungeon" was through the kitchen. We had many a conversation and she was the "Mom" away from home for all of us.

It is well that the new kitchen is to commemorate in part to her memory.

Richard "RE" Townsend, Class of '63

I'm enclosing a check for your capital improvement fund in memory of Prof Donald Peterson who was my brother-in-law and also Cookie Paine who was cook (and a great one) when I was at Babcock in 1945-1946. I never lived in the House (I lived in the Stock Pavilion those years), but I ate at Babcock and knew all those guys from 1945-1950.

Marlowe Nelson, Class of '50

Keep sending in those stories and we'll keep printing them!

BONUS KITCHEN PICTURES! As promised, those of you that receive the newsletter via email will be able to get a little more, little cooler content than those that receive the paper copy.

Here are the latest photos, taken yesterday, June 3rd, just as the workers had finished up for the day. You can really see that things are coming together now.



This is the new tile in the kitchen. You can see that it is half-set with the half of the room still has the spacers between the tiles.



And the very coolest - Bucky is back home up on the newly painted wall!.

Overall, we are very pleased with the way the project is working out. There were several surprises along the way, like finding out the one kitchen window had been almost completely rotted away. And that there were a number of can lights with exposed electrical buried under the drywall in the dining room.

Thanks again for your support in helping to keep Babcock more than just a house!

Thanks To Our Recent Donors!

\$1000

Dennis Campion * Dan Wepner

\$500

Carl Huber

Phil O'Leary (In Memory of Keith Marohl)

Gary Onan (In Memory of Keith Marohl)

Cedric Veum * James Voss

\$250

William Becker

Ted Johnson (In Memory of Keith Marohl)

Gregory Rindsig (In Memory of Keith Marohl)

George Travis (In Memory of Keith Marohl)

\$100-249

Brian Bayley (for Matthew Bayley)

Robert Elderbrook * Sherm Geib

Robert Hahn (In Memory of Keith Marohl)

Scott Hale * Bob Held

Michael Held * Edward Jones

Dennis Kuhaupt (In Memory of Keith Marohl)

Warren Meyer * Harold Mezera

Gary Miller * Dan Moehn

Marlowe Nelson * Russell Rindsig

Harry Roberts * Gene Rohrbeck

Dan Sandwick (In Memory of Keith Marohl)

Norb Schachtner

Ruben Schafer (In Memory of Keith Marohl)

Paul Schoff (In Memory of Keith Marohl)

Paul Schultz * Ted Tibbitts

\$50-99

James Doornik

Myron Grimme (In Memory of Keith Marohl)

Patrick Hamilton * Leroy Hanson

Wilbert Hutchens

Jerry Huth (In Memory of Keith Marohl)

Ron Meyer * Regis Miller

Richard Townsend

If you'd like to join the Babcock honor roll of donors to support our Kitchen Project, please make your check out to Babcock House and mail it to: Babcock House, Attn: Steward, 1936 University Ave, Madison, WI 53726