



# Babcock Bulletin

The Official Newsletter of Babcock House March 2009



## President's Message

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

Greetings Fellow Babcockers!

In January, the Babcock Board of Directors held an election of officers for the coming year and John Rozum is the newly elected President. This will be my last column as Board President and I would like to share some general observations and comments.

It has been a real pleasure to not only serve on the Board but also as President. The House presently has a core nucleus of really good students and more importantly, really fine young individuals. Their academic achievement is very impressive and their desire to maintain the tradition and heritage of Babcock House is greatly appreciated. The addition of females to the House several years ago has been a tremendous success and helps the House function in a more family like-fashion. Dr. Babcock would be proud of maintaining the original purpose of the House and how it is currently operating.

The basement and kitchen remodeling project completed this past summer was very successful and long overdue. The Board has really appreciated the support from Alumni in donations and their interest in how the House is functioning. I would like to thank John Rozum for his dedication to the House, the remodeling project and for the job he does with the newsletter. I would also like to thank all of the different individuals who have served as board members.

Finally, there are some real challenges for Babcock House ahead. We are dealing with a population that naturally turns over in a short period of time. It is a reality that we need to keep the House full of capable residents, so if you know of a young student who will be attending UW in agriculture, be sure to mention Babcock and help recruit new residents. We will also have challenges economically as the rest of our country currently does - both in terms of operations and impact on young people to attend institutions of higher learning like the UW. If you are in the financial position to make donations to help Babcock, we always need your support and it may be in many different ways.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve on the Babcock Board.

## Steward's Message

*By Scott Rowntree  
'09-'10 House Steward*

I hope 2009 is off to a great start for everybody! We students are back into the swing of things as the first round of spring semester midterm exams have just finished and spring break is just a few weeks away. The Babcockers are eagerly anticipating some well-deserved time off from studying and for some, a break from the cold Madison weather.

Besides school, Babcockers have been keeping busy with intramural basketball and volleyball teams, and various other social events. Although our sports teams aren't always victorious, we have a great time having fun and competing together as a House.

If you haven't already RSVP'd for the house banquet in April, I strongly encourage you to attend if you have the night free! It's always good to see alumni and friends meet up for an evening of food and fun in Waukegan. I would again like to thank those who have donated to the kitchen remodeling project so far and hope to see all of you at the banquet in April!

# Babcock House 2009 Alumni-Student Banquet

April 4, 2009, Rex's Innkeeper  
Waunakee, WI

Please join us as we celebrate 77 years of 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 7:30 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, a keynote message from a former Babcocker, a live band and plenty of time to catch up with old friends.

The cost of the banquet is \$20.00 per person. Please complete the RSVP form below and return it to the address listed by March 21, 2009.

We can't wait to see you there!

## Babcock House Alumni Banquet RSVP

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to sponsor a students' meal? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_

(Please enclose an additional \$20.00 for your sponsorship.)

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ (\$20.00 per person)

Please return the bottom portion of this page along with payment by March 21, 2009 to:

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

Make checks payable to Babcock House Corporation.

## State of Recruiting

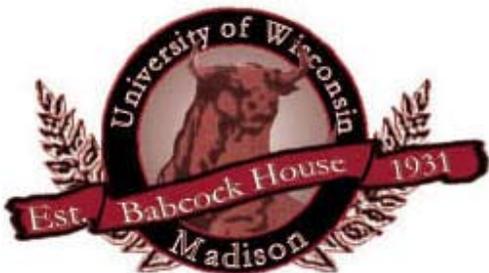
*By Andie Bloom, '09 Recruiter*

Thanks to everyone who has helped in recruitment efforts for Babcock House in any way. Although we have 16 current members graduating or leaving the House this spring, it looks like we should meet our goal of filling the house for 2009-2010 with an outstanding group of recruits.

We are very fortunate to have a solid group of leaders to help welcome the new students to the House in Fall.

It's never too early to start thinking about next year. If you know any high school juniors or seniors who would make a good Babcocker, please share my information with them. I am more than happy to answer questions and give house tours!

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



## House to Pay Property Taxes?

*By Jim Natzke, Class of '91  
Alumni Board Treasurer*

It is the old "Good News and Bad News – which one do you want to hear first" for Babcock finances. The good news is that we have enough funds in reserve to pay off the last \$23,000 that we borrowed from the Bank of Delavan (special thanks to Scott Zimmerman for again assisting with the arrangements) and the kitchen project will be paid off this spring. This was a large project for the House and the alumni really came through with donations to cover the renovation. While I would not call the kitchen "luxurious", it is very clean looking and functional – something that helps in recruiting and keeping the House full.

The bad news is that our city of Madison property tax exemption is in serious jeopardy. We received a letter that there is a new court ruling that does not allow tax exemption unless 100% of lease payments go for leasehold improvements. Since we have a cook and food expenses, the House would not qualify. We have been trying to learn all we can about the ruling and any possible avenues we can pursue to keep our exemption, including changing the way that we run the finances of the House. My informal legal advice (free advice from friends) indicates this is a legislative battle. Evidently there was a part of the last state budget to keep some exemptions for organizations such as ours, but it was vetoed out. I think the potential pool of money is too big for the State to ignore.

I would appreciate any help or advice on this issue. If any alumni have experience or specific knowledge of these rules, please contact me. We are fighting the change of status on one hand, but preparing for the worst on the other hand. Based on our most recent assessment and the Madison mill rate, I estimate we will need to come up with an additional \$12,000 - \$15,000 to pay 2009 property taxes. Based on 24 students, this will result in a rent increase of \$50-75 per student, per month. We had already set the rent for 2009-2010, so we need to fill this financial void for the first year. We have been very diligent in not raising rent to keep the House affordable, but we will need a combination of alumni support and rent increases for future years.

The House has always counted on the support of its alumni and right now I feel as if we are at a critical moment in the history of the House. Once we are on the tax rolls, we will be on them forever. As a Board, we appreciate any advice and support - it may be helpful to contact your state governmental representative, we may need financial support to fill the gap, or you may have specific experience with this issue. Contact me at jimnatzke@verizon.net or see me or any Board member at the banquet in April.

## **Get Linked-In!**

Many of you are already using the social networking tool LinkedIn, so why not show your Babcock pride and join the new online alumni group?

LinkedIn is like Facebook for professionals and stresses shared network connections to help people find and stay in touch with friends and business associates. Being an online group member may help you reconnect with other House alums and see what they are up to now.

There is no cost to join LinkedIn or the Babcock House Alumni group. Just go online to LinkedIn.com and sign up, then search "groups" for Babcock.

# **Babcock House 2009 Alumni-Student Banquet**

**April 4, 2009, Rex's Innkeeper  
Waunakee, WI**

**RSVPs Due March 21!**

**Reservation Form Enclosed**

**See You There!**



**Babcock House**  
1936 University Ave  
Madison, WI 53726