



Babcock Bulletin



The Official Newsletter of Babcock House November 2007

President's Message

*By Timm Johnson,
Alumni Board President*

Thanks to Chris Sawyer for his leadership and to the Board members for their service this past year. Babcock House is in a very stable position with full residency, excellent financial condition, and had a wonderful event celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Babcock House this past spring. Over 200 attended and it was great to get reacquainted with many alumni friends of different eras and together, celebrate the unique experience each of us had while residing at Babcock House.

As I take over the Presidency of the Babcock Board of Directors for the upcoming year, I feel very confident that the success of Babcock House will continue as we move forward. The purpose of the House remains true to Dr. Babcock's original vision - that is to create a unique living experience at an affordable cost for undergrads at UW-Madison. Although Babcock House is no longer strictly male and predominately of farm youth, it is still a unique community that offers affordable room and board in a safe, secure, and friendly atmosphere. The residents still do house jobs, belong to a co-operative decision-making unit, and have a House Steward who is one of the undergrads.

As we create a vision for Babcock House in the future, please remember that just like any home that we live in, continued improvements need to be made on a routine basis. The Board will need to consider and make investments in energy savings, improvements in general living areas, and the basement/kitchen area as well. If you would be so kind, please consider making donations directly to Babcock House and we will make sure that your gift will continue the Babcock tradition for future generations to come!

Past-President's Message

*By Chris Sawyer,
Alumni Board Past-President*

Greetings again fellow Babcockers!

Year 76 for Babcock House is upon us, and it promises to be another great one. We approach the holidays with a full house once again. The recruiting for the house has been spectacular in recent years, ensuring that we continue to keep the house full and financially sound, and ensuring that the Babcock House tradition will continue for years to come.

The ongoing support of our alumni continues to afford us the opportunity to maintain the house and make it an attractive place for students to live. This summer, we were able to purchase a new front-loading washing machine for residents to come back to this semester. This is a great improvement over the old one in terms of functionality and water and energy efficiency. We were also able to have the stove hood repaired in time for the fall. It is now fully operational for the first time in at least 15 years! Your assistance and support is much-appreciated by the students and the board alike.

It has been an exciting year to be a part of Babcock House. I look forward to seeing all of you again soon.

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 \$20 to John Rozum at 3310 Latham Drive, Madison, WI 53713. Checks should be made out to Babcock House.

Get yours today!

Outgoing Steward's Report

Craig Kohn, 2006-2007 Steward

Well, after only six short years, it looks like the beginning of the end of my time at Babcock and UW-Madison. Living at Babcock House has been, by far, the most influential college decision I have ever made. From the majors I've had (3 or 4, depending on your math skills), to the organizations I've joined, to the successes I've had, much would be different without my involvement in this organization. From the very beginning I had strong support – I knew a great group of people had my back, and that was exactly the confidence I needed to help me do some unexpected things throughout my undergrad career.

I believe that our strongest asset as an organization is this very atmosphere and I hope that the current encouragement for it continues to be prevalent from the student members and from the alumni. This sense of community is by far one of the greatest things that the house can provide and has a greater impact than any factor included in our modest rent. The more it can exist for our members among the alumni and board, the more likely it is that our organization will continue to be successful.

One last time, I'd like to thank everyone who helped to make the current state of the house possible. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve the organization that has given so much to me, and I am glad to say that I was a proud and active member of Babcock House. My only goal for Babcock House is to ensure that others in the future can say the same. To Katie, who will fully take over my position in January, and to all the new officers yet to be elected, I wish the best of luck in sustaining a great tradition. I have every reason to believe you will do an excellent job.

Steward's Update

Katie Kennedy, 2007-2008 Steward

I want to say thank you to everyone who showed up for Homecoming! It is always wonderful to see alumni and get a chance to hear about their experiences in the house. I also want to extend a huge and heartfelt thank you to the members of the house. Even in the midst of keeping grades high and other social obligations, they got everything ready here at the house, as well as participated in the Homecoming events hosted by campus.

Things are going well here at the house. Everything is in working order, and no major repairs have been made so far this school year, and none are anticipated. I've been working with Craig and the Board on taking over responsibility in the house, and preparing for January. I'm enjoying all of the duties that I have done so far, and am looking forward to taking on even more.

The Season For Giving

By John Rozum, Alumni Board Member

It seems that as winter approaches, solicitation phone calls increase, too. One of the most "energetic" groups that call me is the UW Foundation. I'm sure you get the same calls - they start with the "warm up" and make it seem like a survey about your experience at the UW, then slowly drift into the part about how your donation could help keep the UW going. Sound familiar?

If you are a regular donor through the UW, did you know that you can designate those funds to Babcock House? It isn't quite like a gift directly to the House, as the money becomes property of the UW and Babcock will only ever have access to the interest, but it is still better than having it sit in the UW General Fund.

Better still, tell them you prefer to give directly and then make out a check to the House instead. Designate the funds to the House Capital Improvement Fund and help us stay one step ahead of the next project!

Meet the New Babcockers

Mike Stranz, Public Relations Co-Director

This fall, Babcock House welcomes ten new residents. By all accounts, the newcomers bring enthusiasm and can-do attitudes.

Four House freshmen call Third Big their home:

Nick Palkowski

Nick is a sophomore from Fountain City, majoring in Wildlife Ecology. Nick is currently serving as the parliamentarian on the Wisconsin FFA State Officer team.

Billy Dumke

Billy is a sophomore, majoring in Business. He hails from Bowler, just down the road from the casino. Bill is a self-described sports addict and looks strikingly similar to standout Brewers third baseman Ryan Braun.

Miles Schumacher

Miles is also a sophomore and is majoring in mechanical engineering. He calls Mukwonago home. This is his first year at Madison – he is a new transfer student from UW-Milwaukee.

Kenton Yeates

Kenton is a freshman, majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He has the shortest trip home of any house member, as he grew up on the West Side of Madison. An avid percussionist, Kenton once built a marimba with his bare hands.

First Freezer is the humble home of two of the newest Babcockers:

Reuben Hoffman

Reuben is the newly-elected house chaplain. He is from Reedsburg and is a junior after spending time at UW-Baraboo. Reuben (or “J.C.,” as he is lovingly known around the house) is a brown belt in Karate and frequently arrives home late at night after kendo covered in bruises.

Jeff Ladwig

Jeff is a sophomore majoring in mechanical engineering. His hometown is Fond du Lac. When time allows, Jeff enjoys rock climbing. As a senior in high school, he was the MVP of the Laconia varsity wrestling team.

Two upstanding engineers-in-the-making share the cozy quarters of Third Freezer:

Andrew “Bernie” Bernstein

Bernie is hardly new to Babcock House. He was a social member last year and now graces the house with his presence in a more permanent manner. He is a Mechanical Engineering major. Bernie is active with the Tractor Team and also serves as a social chair this semester. Bernie interns with Sub-Zero Freezer Company.

Shane Williams

Shane is a senior from Barneveld and is majoring in Biological Systems Engineering. Shane serves as the house representative to the CALS Student Council. He enjoys driving tractors of all shapes and sizes. He, too, is a member of the tractor team.

Two young women are also new members of the Babcock this semester:

Laura Gunn

Laura has the oft-envied privilege of living in Second Freezer this semester. She grew up on a pig farm near Janesville and is majoring in Animal Science. A ten-time letterwinner in high school, she serves as the house athletic director.

Sally Turpin

Sally, hailing from Coulee Country, is a sophomore and a graduate of Hillsboro High School. Sally is majoring in Agricultural Education and also serves as the secretary of the Collegiate FFA. She lives in First Big with Steward-Elect Katie Kennedy.

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

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

Thanks To Our "75 for 75" Donors!

\$500

Edward Jones

\$100

Glenn Meyer

\$25

Dr Ted Tibbitts

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

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
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