

BABCOCK HOUSE

Alumni Newsletter | April 2024

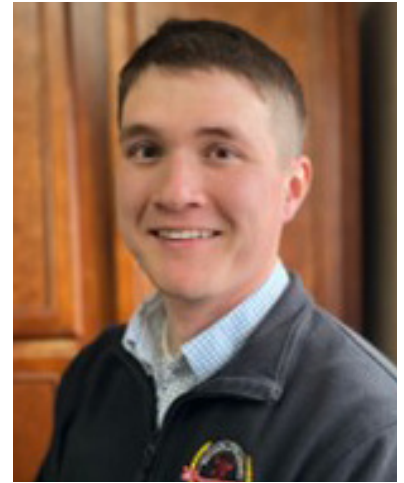
From the alumni president

Max Shenkenberg, Babcock House alumni president, class of '17

Greeting Babcocks! Serving on the board of directors has been an extremely rewarding experience as we guide this new class of House members through their academic journeys. As the landscape of the UW-Madison campus is ever-changing, one constant has remained for the past 93 years and that is the cooperative that is Babcock House. As we navigate through the challenges of House upkeep and recruitment, we as an organization find strength in one another as alumni and students uphold the Babcock House motto: A House, A Home, A Tradition.

This year's House members were faced with a tall order that many classes from previous years are familiar with: recruiting new students to fill the vacant spots that will be left after a large turnover, mostly due to graduation. I believe that this can be viewed as a huge positive, as many students have chosen to spend several years (if not all of their time in college) at Babcock House and are finally reaching the finish line. However, this does not change the fact that filling Babcock with the right students is our most important task. As we all know, some of the best Babcocks come from past Babcocks. Looking at our current board of directors, I think we are living proof! If you know of a bright, young student looking to attend UW-Madison, especially studying agriculture, be sure to send them our way!

As a board, we'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to all alumni and their families for the constant support we receive through generous donations and for the creation of scholarships that provide new opportunities for our students to ease the financial burden of attending a world-class university. I'd also like to thank Jeff Liner for his time and service on the Babcock House Alumni Board of Directors. His great leadership during his term has been a shining example of what serving on the board should be, and I am grateful to have been able to follow his lead. As a somewhat recent graduate, and a former four-year Babcock House member, I have a deep appreciation and understanding that none of this is possible without all of us Babcocks working together! On, Wisconsin!



From the House steward

Ian Clark, Babcock House steward

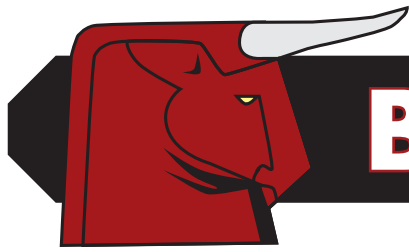
Hello extended Babcock Family! My name is Ian Clark and for those of you reading who haven't seen my face before, I am the new Babcock House steward! I would like to start off by saying what a year it has been for me at the House. From training under the previous steward in the fall to fully taking over the position in the spring, it has already been an exhilarating ride.

In my short time as steward-elect and steward, I have assisted in wireless internet repairs, the installation of the brand new boiler and water heater, kitchen plumbing repairs, and even a full overhaul of the lightbulb situation in the House. We have never been brighter! These improvements have provided necessary updates to the House and have greatly increased the quality of life, or so I am told by the members. Looking forward to upcoming House improvements, we plan to overhaul of the house blinds and do some landscaping work on the front lawn during the summer.

I am excited and honored to be the House steward going into the next semester and, with my graduation on the encroaching horizon, I will be looking for a steward-elect during the fall semester. While my time as steward will be brief, it has already been an incredible opportunity that I am honored to have.

Wrapping up, I would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the Babcock Alumni on behalf of the House for their continued support and love of this home. Your continued donations and support for the House are what help keep the house thriving and we are forever grateful for all that you do! Thank you again and On, Wisconsin!





BABCOCK HOUSE ALUMNI

From the House president

Noah Sydow, Babcock House president

With finals quickly approaching, House activities are in full swing. With 11 house members graduating this year, our public relations director has had a large task in filling the House for next year. She has done a great job, and we are looking at an awesome group of new Babcockers. I will be graduating in May, but am happy to say that the House is being left in the good hands of our president-elect, Bryn Johnson.

We have multiple outreach events coming up. With CALS week very soon, we are taking part in the Ag Olympics and a couple other student events. This year in the House had its ups with downs with changes in residents and a smaller number of students here in the spring due to early graduations. However, I'm sure the next year will be great, with a new set of students ready to make memories and connections that will last them a lifetime. I will look back fondly at my time at Babcock House, and I look forward to seeing you all at alumni events in the future.

Help recruit the next class!

Do you know of any students who would be a good fit for Babcock House? If so, contact Bryn Johnson, Babcock House public relations director, at brjohnson23@wisc.edu, and the PR-elect, Hope Connolly, at hconnolly2@wisc.edu for more details.

Check out the House website (www.babcockhouse.org) and share it with prospective students you may know! Visit Babcock House on Facebook ([@babcockhouse](https://www.facebook.com/babcockhouse)) or Instagram ([@babcock_house](https://www.instagram.com/babcock_house)) where prospective students (and alumni!) can follow what service, social, and sporting events Babcock House is participating in!



Thank you for supporting our students!

Bryan Rowntree, Babcock House alumni treasurer, class of '13

Happy spring to all students and Babcock Alumni! It's hard to believe we are rapidly approaching graduation season. It doesn't seem like that long ago we were cheering on the Badgers at the Homecoming annual meeting in October. If you were there, I hope you saw some of the recent House improvements, including new hand railings on the front steps and the addition of recessed ceiling lights in the living room. Some of you may even have attended the football game with fellow alumni. We look forward to reserving another block of tickets for the homecoming game again this year (see the last page/back panel of this newsletter for information).

Not long after our homecoming meeting, the 13-year-old boiler for the House heating system failed. Due to the nature of the failure, we went with a complete replacement as quickly as we could. We appreciate the students for managing through a week of chilly temperatures; the only blessing was that this occurred in the first week of November and not the dead of winter. The cost of the boiler was more than 1.5 times the cost it was to install in 2011, but this included autofill and shut-off features to protect the investment.

As always, I want to thank the donors to the House since the publishing of our last newsletter and this includes both donors to the House and to the Babcock House Scholarship fund managed by the UW Foundation. We appreciate your generosity and the efforts to keep Babcock House a great and affordable place to live and to support our ever-increasing scholarship awards. A special thanks this year goes out to anyone who donated in memory of Leo Zehren after his passing in August 2023. Leo was a Babcock House Alumni (B.S. 1946) with a storied career in the Wisconsin cheesemaking industry and he generously requested memorials be made to Babcock House. After a few inquiries from non-Babcock Alumni, the board realized people not familiar with the house had trouble finding how to donate to us. Since then, we have added a tab with instructions at the top of our webpage at www.babcockhouse.org.

Turn to page 3 for a list of our generous 2023 donors. On, Wisconsin!



NEWSLETTER | APRIL 2024

Thank you to our 2023 Babcock House donors

We sincerely apologize if we have unintentionally missed any 2023 donors in this list. If your name is not listed and should be, please contact me at browntree66@gmail.com so we can include your name in the next newsletter. Thank you for your contributions!

Eileen Aalderks	Kathleen Grant	Phil and Carol O'Leary	Daniel and Ellen Wepner
Carrie and Willam Bohrer	HB Grinde	Kathy Paquet	Kathleen Wetzel
Janet and Richard Bonkowski	Susan Henley	Lisa Rabas	Christina and Terry
Jeffrey Byczek	Gregory Huber	Angela and William Radtke	Wiedenhoeft
Susan Collins	Michelle Jacques	Mark Rasmussen	George Wiesner
Bernard Conlin	Timm and Helen Johnson	Jill Reilly	Mary Wilde
Shannon Daniels	Gerard Kane	Amanda Rose	Kristin and Daniel Wochenske
Steven Drissel	Kim Kane-Gomilla	Peter and Dina Scott	Janet Zehren
Elizabeth and Robert Duckett	Coleen Kennedy and Michael	Craig and Andrea Slattery	Philip and Doreen Zehren
Joshua Duesterbeck	Juers	Hillary Sweere	Scott Zimmerman
Brian Dwyer	Craig Kohn & Michael	Margaret Thomas	Dean Distributing Inc.
James Dwyer	Baumgartner	Douglas and Karen Traastad	The John Deere Foundation
Kevin Dwyer	Maureen Kucaj	Michele Utrie	
Kim Dwyer	A Lawrie and Mary Kull	Brenda Vanhimbergen	
Maureen Norton and Bob	John and JoAnne Lonergan	Gerard and Lorraine Vanvliet	
Emrey	Joshua McAfee	Clare and Benjamin Villarruel	
Colleen Fitzgerald	Warren and Heather Meyer	James Voss	
Candace Florence	Steven and Mary Millin	Aaron and Camilia Wepner	



Meet our new board members

Alex Held, class of '23

Hello fellow Babcockers! My name is Alex Held and I was elected to the board in January 2024 to be the treasurer-elect and will start my role as treasurer in 2025. I grew up in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and I am currently living in Edgerton, Wisconsin. I gained most of my agricultural experience from working on my family's sheep farm. I graduated from UW-Madison in May 2023 with a degree in agricultural business management. I used my degree to get a start in ag finance where I currently work as an ag and commercial loan officer in Milton, Wisconsin.

During my free time, I like to stay active. You'll often find me on the golf course during the fall and summer months and playing hockey during the winter.

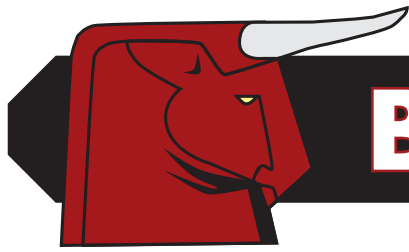
I lived at Babcock for two years, making many friends and memories. It was a great experience, and I'm excited to give back by being a member of the board. On, Wisconsin!

Matt O'Leary, class of '16

Hello Babcockers! I am Matt O'Leary and I was elected to the board starting in January 2024. I am currently serving as the secretary. I grew up on a small farm outside of Brandon, Wisconsin, and I am currently living in Rosendale. I attended UW-Madison from 2012 to 2016, graduating with a degree in agronomy and dairy science. I am currently a crop specialist for Insight FS based in Waupun. I have been married to my wife, Ashley, since 2018 and have one daughter, Millie, who was born in 2022. I am an avid Wisco sports fan, especially Packers and Brewers, and enjoy golfing and bowling in my free time.

Babcock House was my only home during college, living there all four years. During my time, I served two terms as steward in 2014 and 2015. This taught me a lot about budgets and general House upkeep. I am so grateful for all Babcock House taught me and the lifelong friendships I made during my time and I am very excited to give back to the House.





BABCOCK HOUSE ALUMNI

Alumni in the news

Jim Rutledge, class of '69, was recently appointed chair of the Life Member Committee of the National Association of Extension 4-H Youth Development Professionals (NAE4-HYDP). He will serve a two-year term on the national board with responsibility for keeping more than 1,000 life members engaged and informed about association activities.

Introducing our 2023 Babcock House scholarship recipients

Kody Habeck, Babcock House faculty advisor, classes of '08 and '11

This past fall at our annual homecoming meeting, Babcock House alumni were proud to award \$11,900 in scholarships to 12 Babcock House members. These students demonstrate outstanding academic performance, campus involvement and House leadership. A special thank you to Babcock House alumni and their spouses, family, and friends who have donated to the scholarship fund and make these awards possible.

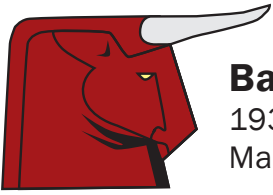


- **Don Peterson Memorial Scholarship** (\$1,500): **Stephen Zheng**, food science with certificate in Chinese professional communications
- **Katie Kennedy Memorial Scholarship** (\$1,500): **Noah Sydow**, mechanical engineering
- **Katie Kennedy Memorial Scholarship** (\$1,500): **Maria Kraus**, social work
- **Mark Sherry Memorial Scholarship** (\$900): **Ella DeRosier**, landscape and urban studies
- **Bob Van Liere Memorial Scholarship** (\$800): **Bryn Johnson**, animal science
- **Dan Nusbaum Memorial Scholarship** (\$800): **Anna Schoenike**, animal science
- **John and Helen Rossmiller Babcock House Scholarship** (\$1,200): **Ember Foreman**, genetics and genomics
- **Les and Ellen Huber Memorial Scholarship** (\$1,200): **Halei Heinzel**, life sciences communication
- **Babcock House Alumni and Friends Scholarship** (\$500): **Megan Thiry**, conservation biology
- **Babcock House Alumni and Friends Scholarship** (\$500): **Leo Strand**, environmental studies and political science
- **Babcock House Alumni and Friends Scholarship** (\$500): **Collin Krachey**, mechanical engineering
- **Demeter Scholarship** (\$1,000): **Alyssa Seitz**

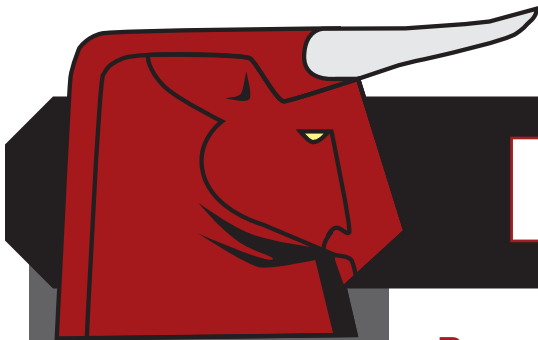
Babcock House has been fortunate to be able to include a Demeter Scholarship to students for the past two years. For those not familiar, Demeter is a nonprofit organization with a primary mission of providing student support for undergraduate students in CALS. In fiscal year 22-23, the Demeter organization provided more than \$45,000 in student support to CALS students. More information about Demeter can be found on its website (demeterwi.org).

This past August, Leo Zehren, a Babcock House alum from the 1950s, passed away peacefully at the age of 88. Leo's wife, Janet, and their children along with many friends started a new Babcock House scholarship, the Leo A. and Janet Zehren Memorial Scholarship, which will be included in the 2024-25 Babcock House Scholarship awards. The Babcock House Alumni Board would like to thank the Zehren family for establishing this scholarship.

The Babcock House Alumni Board and House residents are very appreciative of the donations to the scholarship funds. Tax-deductible donations can be made to the UW Foundation (Babcock House Scholarship and Award Fund, Account No. 132040860) online at www.supportuw.org/give. Please check the "Dedicate my give in honor or memory of a person" if you would like to donate to a specific named scholarship.



Babcock House
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Madison, WI 53726



BABCOCK HOUSE

Email us

Need to get in touch
with your Babcock
alumni friends?

Our email address is
babcockhousealumni@gmail.com.

Please email us to
receive your Babcock
House newsletter
electronically. You
can save us a few
bucks if you do!

Reserve your tickets for the Homecoming football game

Attend the UW Homecoming football game with Babcock alumni on October 26, 2024, as Wisconsin takes on Penn State! The board of directors will reserve a block of tickets again for 2024. To reserve yours today, please email Bryan at browntree66@gmail.com by June 10, 2024. After this date, the remaining tickets will be sold on a first-come-first-served basis.



Photo source: uwbadgers.com

Let's congratulate Babcock alumni

Babcock House alumni have made great contributions to and achievements in the agriculture industry and their professional careers, They've also volunteered countless hours on behalf of the industry and in their local communities.

If you know an alum receiving an award or reaching a milestone, please email us (babcockhousealumni@gmail.com) as we would like to share the information with all alumni.