

BABCOCK HOUSE

Alumni Newsletter | March 2023

From the alumni president

Jeff Liner, Babcock House alumni president, class of '95

This past year, things have really settled down at Babcock House. We moved beyond the Covid-19 pandemic and things finally seem to be back to normal. The board of directors meetings are back to in-person at the House and this seems to be making a positive difference for all of us. We typically all meet at the House just before the evening meal starts, we have dinner with the students and then our meeting follows. Carrie Mess is a spectacular cook and we are lucky to have her!

Student morale was somewhat lacking while as we worked our way through Covid-19. In hindsight, we should have expected that, but I am excited to report that spirits are now high and we can feel the positivity from the House members once again! I have to give credit to the students for hanging in there and my fellow board members for working to get things moving in a positive direction. I would especially like to thank Bailey Quam-Schultz for all her efforts and leadership this past year. Babcock House is a special place and it's because all of you, our students and alumni!

As the "senior" member of the House alumni board the past couple years, I would like to encourage alumni from the '80s and '90s to consider joining the board. It is a very rewarding experience and the workload is not that bad. It's been very positive and energizing to reconnect with the House after many years away. Those of you from my time period only knew Babcock House as an all-male house. Becoming co-ed was a big change for us, but I am happy to report that it is a positive one! House dynamics are slightly different, but all the traditions we so fondly remember are still in place.

Our years at Babcock House were some of the most memorable and fun times of our lives, so don't be afraid to reconnect! I look forward to seeing you at alumni events. On, Wisconsin!



Past and possibly future Babcockers

From the House president

Kirstin Novak, Babcock House president

Hello again! This spring has been off to a smooth and busy start. Highlights so far include our House members participating in AWA's Rally to Fight Hunger and we hosted our own clothes drive! Coming up this spring, we are working on planning a Wisconsin Dells trip and are still picking out a date for Spring Formal. We look forward to many afternoons on the porch and cornhole tournaments as the weather warms up. As I graduate this spring, I reminisce on the last four years of nights on the porch, movies in the living room and dinners with many of my closest friends all because of this House. Thank you to everyone that makes Babcock House live on year after year! On, Wisconsin!

From the House steward

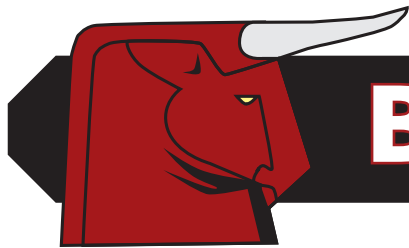
Stephen Zheng, Babcock House steward

Hello Babcock family and friends! It has been a great academic year for Babcock House. Many significant improvements and upgrades have occurred this past year. During winter break, a brand-new kitchen oven/range was installed, much to the delight of our House members and House cook. Additionally, the front concrete steps have been rebuilt and kitchen refrigerators have been upgraded. There are plans to have a new lighting system installed in the living room along with improvements to the House's dry wall and heating systems.

As I will be graduating next year, a new steward-elect is currently being selected and will be trained in next fall. I've had a successful tenure as steward and, of course, I could not have succeeded in this position all by myself. I would like to extend my gratitude to the current and past House members who have assisted me, especially during grocery days.

Finally, I would like to extend my sincerest appreciation on behalf of the entire House to all the alumni and organizations for their continued donations. The ability for the House to thrive and succeed in this capacity would not be possible without your continued passion for the House, and your continued support is greatly appreciated. Thank you!





BABCOCK HOUSE ALUMNI

Thank you for supporting our students!

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

In the October 2022 newsletter, we gave thanks to those who donated to our 85th Alumni celebration in the form of student dinner sponsorships, auction item donations, auction item purchases or cash donations. This spring, we recognize additional donors throughout 2022. This includes donations directly to Babcock House, which go to House savings and improvements or through our UW Foundation Babcock House Scholarship fund. Proceeds from the UW Foundation Babcock House Scholarship fund are awarded to Babcock students in the form of a UW scholarship each fall. Please note that the UW Foundation scholarship fund qualifies as a charitable gift fulfilling the Annual Minimum Distribution (AMD) requirements for retirement accounts. We thank you for your continued generosity!

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|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Brian Bayley | Coleen Kennedy & Michael Juers | Andrea & Craig Slattery |
| Brian Bradley | Bradley Kennedy & Jane Dolan | James Sutheimer |
| Carl Daniels | Bernard Knesting | David & Lynda Thomas |
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| Myron Grimme | John & JoAnne Lonergan | Douglas & Karen Trasstad |
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| Gregory Huber | William & Angela Radtke | Christina & Terry Wiedenhoft |
| Brian & Jill Huenink | Mark Rasumussen | Shane & Amanda Williams |
| The John Deere Foundation | Amanda Rose | Scott Zimmerman |
| Timm & Helen Johnson | John & Helen Rossmiller | |



We sincerely apologize if we have unintentionally missed any 2022 donors in this list. If your name is not listed and should be, please let us know by emailing babcockhousealumni@gmail.com so we can include your name in the next newsletter. Thank you for your contributions!

Introducing our 2022 Babcock House scholarship recipients

Maria Kraus received the **John and Helen Rossmiller Babcock House Scholarship**. Maria states, "I am a junior and was recently accepted into the bachelor's in social work program at UW-Madison. After living in the House for two years, I am so grateful for the friendships I have made here and the many opportunities the House has given me through scholarships and activities. After graduation, I plan to continue my studies in the social work field."

Seth Rocha received the **Bob Van Liere Memorial Scholarship**. Seth is in his final year as a nursing student. This semester, he has been working at the Veteran's Association hospital on an outpatient psychiatric unit for mental health. Additionally, he is an active member for the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Educational Achievement.

Stephen Zheng received the **Demeter Scholarship**. Stephen writes, "Hello, I am a third-year food science undergraduate here at UW-Madison, and the current steward for the House. After college, I have plans to work on food research development with an emphasis on continuous improvement. This summer, I will be working with Hormel/Jennie-O as a product development intern. I would like to thank the Demeter foundation for awarding me this scholarship!"

Noah Sydow received the **Dan Nusbaum Memorial Scholarship**. Noah is a second-year house resident originally from Eau Claire, Wisconsin. He is majoring in mechanical engineering and is planning to attend graduate school here at UW in the fall, pursuing biomedical engineering-design, innovation and entrepreneurship. He is very thankful for the continued support through the Babcock scholarships, and is looking forward to yet another year as a Babcock House member.

Kirstin Novak received the **Don Peterson Memorial Scholarship**. Kirstin is a senior studying agricultural business management with certificates in entrepreneurship and food systems. She is currently the president of the House and is a member of the Agricultural Business Management Club and National Agri-Marketing Association. She grew up on a grain and produce farm in southeast Wisconsin and has accepted a marketing position with Ebert Enterprises (and their family of businesses) in northeast Wisconsin after graduation. She would like to thank all of the alumni and everyone involved in making these scholarships possible for students year after year!

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Introducing our 2022 Babcock House scholarship recipients *continued from page 2*

Alyssa Seitz received the **Les and Ellen Huber Memorial Scholarship**. Alyssa writes, “My name is Alyssa Seitz, and I am a second-year master’s student studying dairy and meat science from Seymour, Wisconsin. Specifically, I research dairy/beef calf nutrition and meat quality. After my graduation this December, I hope to find a job in extension or as a technical college instructor. I am grateful to Babcock House for the friendships it has given me, and I would like to thank the sponsors of this scholarship for their support of my education!”

Adam Buetow received the **Babcock House Alumni and Friends Scholarship**. Adam was a civil engineering student at UW-Madison from the fall 2018 to the winter of 2022. Of that time, he spent his final four semesters at Babcock House. He has now graduated and currently has a full-time job in Minnesota, working as a civil engineer specializing in water resources. He is extremely thankful for the time he spent as a part of Babcock House, and plans on making trips back to the Madison area to show his support. His appreciation for the generous support from Babcock House and its many scholarship opportunities go without saying!

Ian Rocha is the recipient of the **Mark Sherry Memorial Scholarship**. Ian states, “I am a junior in the House and am almost done with my biochemistry degree, but I am looking to become a nurse. Despite this being my last year as a member of the Babcock House, it has undoubtedly affected my college career for the better, and I am glad I have been a part of it.”

Daniel Neerdaels is the recipient of the **Katie Kennedy Memorial Scholarship**. Daniel is a senior studying mechanical engineering and is currently the vice president of the House. He is from Wrightstown, Wisconsin. Upon graduation, he will be working as a process engineer with Ahlstrom in DePere and Kaukauna, Wisconsin. He would like to thank everyone who makes these scholarships possible.

Joe Nicholson is the recipient of the **Katie Kennedy Memorial Scholarship**. He is a senior nursing student and a senior resident of the House. In the future, he plans to work as an emergency room nurse. He is currently applying and interviewing for jobs across the country. As a student who has worked part-time throughout his college career, the Katie Kennedy Memorial Scholarship eased a lot of financial stress for Joseph. He is very thankful for the opportunity that this scholarship provided.

Q&A with our Babcock House cook

Who are you? I’m Carrie Mess, a Madison-native-turned-dairy-farmer. In addition to the farm and Babcock, I am on social media as Dairy Carrie and part of the Midwest Farm Report radio team.



What made you decide to cook for the House?

As we were coming out of the pandemic, I was burned out on social media and wanting to find a different outlet for my creative side. I love to cook and the flexibility here works perfectly for me.

What is your favorite meal to make for the House?

I’m not sure I have a single favorite meal, but I like to try out new recipes and ideas. The House members make excellent guinea pigs.

What is your favorite story about the House?

I really enjoy when I’ve had the opportunity to learn favorite recipes from the families of all the Babcockers. And, when we are getting ready for big meals like homecoming or Friendsgiving and everyone comes down and works together, it’s a fun environment.

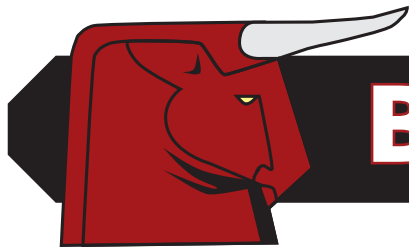
Meet our new board member

Troy Valle, class of ‘17

Hello, my name is Troy Valle and I assumed the role of secretary this year. I am excited to be involved in Babcock again. I grew up in Germantown, Wisconsin, and attended UW from 2013 to 2017, majoring in both microbiology and entomology. I lived in the House all four years I was at the university and was House steward from 2016 to 2017. After graduation, I worked at Genus Intelligen/ABS, but left after a few months for a role in the startup of a human health probiotic fermentation facility at UAS Laboratories. We’ve since been acquired by Chr. Hansen where I’m now a process manager and I’m looking forward to the proposed merger with Novozymes and the opportunities that presents. I’m currently pursuing my MBA at Marquette University (sorry) and I will be graduating in August 2023. I’ll be excited to have that time back to spend mountain biking and kayaking around Wisconsin, as well as being better rested for lifting weights in the mornings.

My time in Babcock introduced me to lifelong friends and opportunities that have had immeasurable positive impacts on my life and career. I look forward to giving back to the House and organization that has given so much to me.





BABCOCK HOUSE ALUMNI

From the alumni board treasurer

Bryan Rowntree, class of '13

Greetings Babcockers! The feelings of spring are approaching and very soon we will be graduating another successful class of students from the House! I believe Babcock offers a better opportunity than ever with respect to our affordability in this environment of rising costs. The cooperative attitude and the commitment of our board and students gives us an important tool as we work to manage higher expenses.

With the support of the 90th anniversary event proceeds, we took on several important House improvements this fall. The replacement of the kitchen stove/range was made over winter break to the delight of our students, and especially our cook, Carrie. The reliability of the old unit was decreasing and the costs of repair/service calls led us in the direction of a new replacement. Those of you who attended homecoming may have noticed a new concrete sidewalk, steps and landing outside the

front door. This replaced the sunken sidewalk, steps and the landing that was beginning to degrade. We look forward to adding some handrails this spring and are also targeting a living room lighting upgrade over the summer break.

I would like to put out the call for an opening in the alumni treasurer board position. 2024 will be the last year of my term on the board and we will be electing a new treasurer-elect at the Homecoming meeting this October. If you have interest in serving, I encourage you to reach out to me or another board member to learn more! The time commitment is very manageable and serving a five-year term on the Alumni board is a great way to give back and reconnect with the House.

Finally, on behalf of the board of directors, I would like to extend a very important thank you to the alumni who donated to the house in 2022. Your contributions are greatly appreciated!

Babcocker in the headlines!

Current Babcock House member Alyssa Seitz was recently interviewed on the *Midwest Farm Report* about her master's degree research. Visit <https://www.midwestfarmreport.com/2023/03/17/for-dairy-beef-calves-feed-research-grows/?fbclid=IwAR1xHeKICyi5LQ6o-rAiO5pew3oi6iJPGGr4PTMSzxOAoAdaJrQXRLmmts&mibextid=q5o4bk> to listen to the interview.

Alyssa Seitz grew up on a dairy farm near Seymour, Wisconsin. Her love of cows led her to UW-River Falls and then onto UW-Madison to start her master's program. She's been conducting research on feeding beef-and-dairy-cross calves to make animals that aren't just more profitable, but also healthier and tastier.

From genetics to the initial milk and grain diets of the calves, daily feed intake measurements all the way through harvest, the study is an interdisciplinary look at dairy beef from conception to consumption. The goal is to look at how diet can be tweaked to get the final beef quality of these dairy-cross calves as close to purebred Angus as possible. Although the project is only about 75% complete at this point, there are some trends emerging.

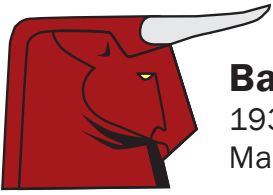
So far, calves fed one milk replacer have shown significant advantages in the group. Beyond the milk calf stage, so far the different finishing diets haven't produced a clear winner, but one of the four feeding options in the research has shown to not produce the desired outcome. During the beef evaluation the diets have been producing 15-inch ribeyes and carcass grades at high choice on average. Maybe the best news yet is that the

animals are reaching finishing weights at just over a year old and are not showing signs of health implications from a more intensive feeding program.

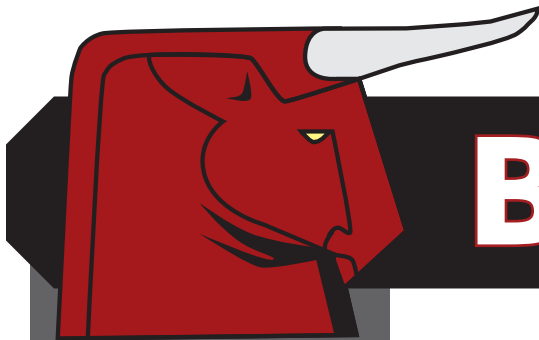
With the harvest portion of the research project wrapping up soon, the next stages include data crunching and some help from the public. In order to compare the final product of each diet, Alyssa will be conducting sensory testing. In that testing the public is welcomed to taste test beef from different animals as well as visually inspect the cuts to give their opinion. If you're interested in taking part in the sensory panel or following Alyssa's research, you can visit the Varsity Meats page on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VarsityMeats>.



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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!

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.

Thank you donors!

Thank you to everyone who contributed to Babcock House and its scholarship fund in 2022. We greatly appreciate your support of today's and future students. Meet the 2022 Babcock House scholarship recipients inside this newsletter.

