

# BABCOCK HOUSE

Alumni Newsletter | February 2016

## Meet the new steward

*Troy Valle, Babcock House steward*

Hello! My name is Troy Valle and I am serving as steward for the 2016 spring and fall semesters. I am a junior studying microbiology and entomology. I am an employee at the UW Meat Lab and a lab assistant in the Schoville lab, where we study population genomics using alpine ground beetles.

I spent my last summer on a split-internship between the UW Agricultural Research Stations and the Schoville research lab on campus. At the Arlington Ag Research Station, I helped maintain research plots, monitor insect pest traps, and learned to operate a variety of farm machinery. My summer work in the Schoville lab focused primarily on understanding the transmission of pesticide resistance between different populations of Colorado potato beetle, which will help to elongate the lifespan of current pesticides. Next summer, I am excited to be an intern for Doug Ney, a Babcock House alum, at Ney's Big Sky.

I was originally drawn to Babcock House's home-like atmosphere and the friendly House members that have similar academic interests. Babcock House has made adjusting to life away from home incredibly easy and I can't thank my fellow House members and alumni enough for the opportunity to be a part of such a great cooperative. Being steward allows me to do my part to help Babcock House offer other students the same opportunities and memories that it has offered me thus far.

## From your alumni president

*Warren Meyer, Babcock House alumni president, class of '70*

As the Babcock board president this 85th year, I am proud to assure alumni that the House is alive and thriving.

When I was on the board in the 80s, the treasurer's only tool was a checkbook and student financial aid was the Daniels and McCutchen loan fund. Today, the treasurer uses QuickBooks™ and we give out about \$5,000 in scholarships. Babcock House has no mortgage and some money in the bank for House improvements. This is due to diligent past board members and generous alumni.

With 85 years behind us, we are looking at a bright future. Thanks to Reg Destree and Melissa Destree of Destree Architecture & Design, we have learned more about options to wisely improve the House or renovate in the future. Potential projects for this summer include building a new deck, refinishing some floors, and putting a safety program in place. Financial gifts to accomplish the projects will be appreciated.

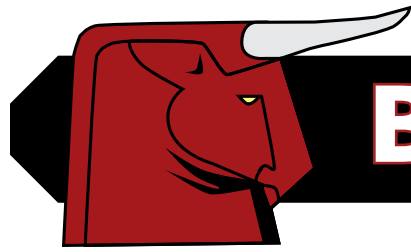
I hope to see you all at the 85th Anniversary Celebration on April 9. I would especially like to invite past board members and stewards so they can be recognized. Be there or be square!

## Thank you for your generosity!

*Aaron Wepner, Babcock House alumni treasurer, class of '08*

Babcock House continues to provide quality, affordable housing for UW students as well as a place to call home with friends from diverse backgrounds and interests. That would not be possible without the generous support of our alumni. A huge thank you goes to all of our alumni who donated to House improvements and our scholarship funds in 2015!

Allan Bringe, Carl and Shirley Daniels, Dave and Kimberly Daniels, Dayton Foundation Depository Inc., Reginald Destree, Jacob Gall, Kathleen Grant, Myron Grimme, Scott Hale, Robert Hanson, Glenn and Judy Helgeland, Ralph Hepp, Brian and Jill Huenink, John Deere Foundation, Patty Kendall and Bruce Thompson, Bradley and Jane Kennedy, Coleen Kennedy and Michael Juers, Lynn Kopitzke, Dennis and Marilyn Kuhaupt, Landscape Architecture, Russel and Joan Larson, Steven and Mary Millin, Organic Marketing, Mark Rasmussen, Russell Rindsig, Helen Rossmiller, John Rossmiller, Bryan Rowntree, Scott Rowntree, James Rutledge, David Schultz, James and Marilyn Shwarzhoff, Lee Swan, Douglas Traasted, Sally Turpin, Robert Van Liere, James Voss, Aaron and Camilia Wepner, Daniel and Ellen Wepner, Shane Williams, Keith and Laura York.



# BABCOCK HOUSE ALUMNI

## President's report

Max Shenkenberg, Babcock House president

Greetings Babcockers! I'm proud to say that, as a whole, we have hit the ground running in 2016. Our student body has made it our goal to finish the school year strong, just as we started it. This spring semester, we are set to host a number of tours for the new UW Admitted Students Day. This is a great recruiting opportunity and will help to get our name out to the incoming freshmen set to enroll in the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences.

Our extra-curricular activities this spring will include intramural volleyball, intramural softball and Wednesday night bowling at Badger Bowl. Last, but not least, we will renew our heated rivalry in a softball game against Alpha Gamma Rho. After last year's victory, we will look to repeat and send them packing back to Langdon Street. It is sure to be a fun-filled semester for Babcock House.

We are also excited to host the much anticipated 85th Anniversary Celebration of Babcock House. My fellow Babcockers and I are looking forward to meeting past members and sharing stories from the past 85 years. It will be a great experience for all and I hope to see many of you there! Best regards to all and a Happy 85th!



*Babcockers recently teamed up with the Association of Women in Agriculture to compete against other student organizations in the Badger Games.*

## In honor of Larry Skalitzky

We regret to inform you that Larry Skalitzky, class of '68, passed away in January as a result of a tractor-truck accident on Highway 151. He was a fun and involved Babcocker as well as a member of Alpha Zeta and other campus organizations. He farmed outside of Columbus, Wisconsin for many years and recently semi-retired. He is survived by his wife, Emily, two children and grandchildren.

Anyone that wishes to donate to the Babcock House Scholarship Fund in Larry's name can go to <http://supportuw.org/giveto/babcockhouse> to do so. Enter his name in the "Tribute Information" section.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Larry's wife and family as they mourn their loss.

## Congratulations to Babcock scholarship recipients

Babcock House alumni were proud to recognize eight students with scholarships at our annual meeting this past October. These students demonstrate outstanding academic performance, campus involvement and House leadership. Thank you to all alumni and friends who donate to the scholarship fund and make these awards possible.

- **William Ehlen** | Don Peterson Memorial Scholarship | \$1,000
- **Matthew O'Leary** | Katie Kennedy Memorial Scholarship | \$1,000
- **Amanda Rose** | Mark Sherry Memorial Scholarship | \$500
- **Max Shenkenberg** | Bob Van Liere Memorial Scholarship | \$500
- **Nicolas Engen** | Dave Grundahl Memorial Scholarship | \$500
- **Joshua McAfee, Charles Connolly and Connor Moore** Babcock House Alumni & Friends Scholarships | \$500

## Meet our new board member

Scott Rowntree, Babcock House alumni secretary, class of '10

Happy New Year! I am the newest member of the Babcock House alumni board. I lived at Babcock from '06 to '10 and enjoyed serving as House steward for one year. I majored in agronomy and soil science for my undergraduate studies, and continued in a master's program in agronomy, graduating in 2012. I then worked for DuPont Pioneer in a corn/soybean yield testing and research program for two years. In late 2013, I began working as a district sales manager for AgriGold Hybrids in southwest Wisconsin and enjoy selling seed corn to farmers every day. I met my wife, Jennifer (Holle), at Babcock in 2010. We were married this past August and currently live in Mt. Horeb, Wisconsin.



I am excited to serve on the board for the next few years, bring some new perspectives to the group, and help guide the success of the House into the future. The continuing generosity of alumni and active engagement of students make Babcock House one of the best places on campus for affordable housing and great camaraderie. On, Wisconsin!

# 85



## *Babcock House* 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

**Saturday, April 9**

**Best Western InnTowner | Madison, Wisconsin**  
5 p.m. reception | 6 p.m. dinner

**We might be 85,  
but we sure don't act our age!**

**Join us as we enjoy a good  
ol' Wisconsin fish fry, reconnect  
with old friends and celebrate this  
Babcock House milestone.**

**It's going to be a fun night -  
be sure to **RSVP by Thursday, March 31**  
to save your spot at the table!**

**Best Western InnTowner** | Located just down the street  
from Babcock House at **2424 University Ave, Madison, Wisconsin**.  
Parking is available at the hotel. A small block of rooms has been  
reserved for Babcock House. To book in this block:

- Go to [inntowner.com/reservations](http://inntowner.com/reservations).
- Set your arrival and departure date.
- Click the circle for "Group Booking Code" and enter **BABCOCK** as your code.
- Click "Check Availability to select your room type and start reserving your room.
- You may also call the InnTowner directly at a 608.233.8778 and mention "Babcock House" to reserve your room in this block.

**Two ways to RSVP:**

- Detach this form and mail it, along with a check for payment, to Babcock House (1936 University Ave. Madison, WI 53726)
- or email all of the information below to [babcocknews@hotmail.com](mailto:babcocknews@hotmail.com) and pay in person at the event.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Year(s) in House:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

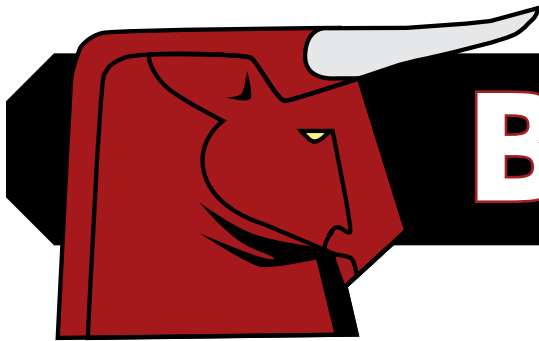
**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name(s) of spouse/guest(s) attending:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Meal cost (\$35 per person):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Yes! I would like to cover the cost of a student's meal for an additional \$35.**

**Total enclosed:** \_\_\_\_\_ *RSVP by March 31 to be part of the fun!*

Babcock House  
1936 University Ave.  
Madison, WI 53726



# BABCOCK HOUSE

**Let's celebrate a great 85 years!**

## **Babcock House 85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration**

**Saturday, April 9 | 5 p.m. reception & 6 p.m. dinner**

**Best Western InnTowner | Madison, Wisconsin**

We can't wait to celebrate the fun, memories and successes of the past 85 years while we look ahead to a bright future for Babcock House! Meet current and future Babcockers, share your opinions on House improvement projects, and recognize past alumni board members and stewards. Most importantly, catch up with old friends and share a few laughs about life as a Badger.

The event will take place just a few blocks down from Babcock House, which will be open all day for alumni tours.

**RSVP by March 31 - details inside!**

