

May 2019

ANNOUNCEMENT: WASON HIRED AS HOUSE DIRECTOR

Distributed by the Alumni Council to the alumni membership:

ADPhi Miami Chapter Hires Ross Wason '73 As New Live-In House Director

A transformed future for Miami's Alpha Delta Phi starts this weekend.

Alpha Delt alumni attending Miami's June 8 Alumni Weekend will get a sneak peek at the chapter's new future: they'll get to meet Ross Wason '73, who will be on hand to welcome visitors and describe his vision for his new live-in House Director position.

A recent email to all alumni described our search for a House Director who would help the Alumni Council (former Realty Board) enhance the chapter's educational environment. Ross read the notice, responded with enthusiasm, and was hired over other candidates.

Ross will move from Cleveland to Oxford in August to take up residence in a new House Director Suite to be built in the former Barn Room space. Four and a half decades after his own stint as undergraduate president, he's looking forward to the challenge and not concerned about the learning curve. "That '73' behind my name means I left Miami quite a while ago. I know campus environments have changed a lot, but I don't think the needs of young men are all that different."

Stefan Davis '72 said most Miami fraternities are hiring young grad students as house directors. "I think Ross sealed his hire when he pointed out that, old or young, the person in this position needs to know how to build a program. That's Ross, and we're so fortunate to have him be the first to fill this role." The undergrads agree: chapter president Logan Harrelson '20 said, "We helped interview Ross and recommended him over a number of younger grads. We're looking forward to working with him."

Judging from his resume, Ross can not only build a program but also evaluate and help guide leaders. His career featured staffing and helping to manage several growing IT companies. Earlier in his career, the former sociology major supervised a residential cottage of 14 emotionally challenged youngsters. Since retirement in 2017, he has been student teaching and filling other roles.

The new program Ross will build will include daily, on-site counsel with chapter leaders. His work to build an even stronger culture of brotherhood will be helped by the addition of a restored chapter meal plan (via a caterer) starting in August. "There's been no food service at the house in more than a decade," said Ross. "Alumni like me who remember how daily meals cemented our sense of togetherness will know what a great effect this will have on the chapter."

Alumni Council member Doug Diefenbach '80 said that the House Director Suite build-out, Ross' compensation, and kitchen renovations are all new expenses for the chapter. "We're confident that alumni will share our excitement over all these moves, and will respond with the generous contributions that have been so important to us through the years."