

June 2019

GREAT EXPECTATIONS (AND OTHER ONES TOO)

I'm a little less than 2 months from moving in. This series of entries will be random thoughts, expectations, concerns, and ideas that I generate between now and then. Interested to see how realistic and implemented they might be by next June! Kind of flight of conscious data points... as I always say, if you don't like an idea I offer, just wait a couple minutes because there's another one coming!

Wit & Wisdom Wednesdays – The addition of the food service and the likelihood that the Brothers will be eating together allows us the opportunity to create a speaker's series. First guest for Dinner... Me! But I would like to invite people like Miami U. President Crawford and his wife. The issues with Miami, which has been known as the Mother of Fraternities (Alpha Delta Phi was the first on campus btw), make the potential for bringing him into the house an interesting prospect. I would also like to have the aforementioned Dr. Ward and other professors and researchers speak... now I just have to sell the idea to the Brothers... or more precisely, get Logan and the Executive Committee to sell it to the Brothers. The only "rule" would be for guys to remain in the discussion for 20 minutes... at that point we would move to the library for Q&A for any that might be interested.

Alpha Delta Phasing – Just as we no longer call it "rush" or them "pledges" (new member recruitment), we want to be a house that takes a strong stand against "hazing". In addition, the university requires us to present a plan for how we will bring new members on board. I've spoken briefly to Stefan and Logan about handing out cards during recruitment (start of 2nd semester) that detail the requirements and steps. I want to call it "Alpha Delta Phasing". (OK, it's the "ad man" in me!) In my view there should be several requirements. Start with interviewing 5 Brothers... real conversations, not just getting a signature. Then let's have some competitions... Brothers pick 3, new guys pick 3, and I'll pick one. Finally, I'd like to see the new class do a project to benefit the house... paint, clean, improve, whatever they choose but it's a giant mental step towards "belonging" and starting to think of the house as theirs. I'm sure there will be other ideas, but I'm interested in what it's going to look like.

One of the things I'll be fighting from now through the first semester is my own pre-conceived expectations... I can dream up all kinds of situations and new ideas are always springing from my head. I am (and will be) constantly cautioning myself to look, listen and understand before I leap ahead.

But one of the things I can think about is how I hope to be viewed by the Brothers... this is my working "script"...

I am not your Mother. I am not your Father. I am not a policeman, a university administrator, or a janitor. I would like you to think of me as your older and not as good-looking Brother. My ONAGLB was Moose... he passed away earlier this year and I miss him every day. Here's what he did for me... He always encouraged me. He was "in my corner" and helped me any way he could. And I helped him. He told me when he thought I was making a mistake... he was always honest with me. And when I needed it, Moose kicked my butt... figuratively of course but he set me straight.

I will make you one promise... I will do my absolute best to always be in your best interest. If I tell you something, it will be what I believe is the right thing for you and your future. And if I see you doing something that will hurt you, someone else, or the House... I will call you out. The phrase may be "Don't be stupid!" Hurting yourself, the House or someone else is a pretty good definition for "stupid".

And by the way... you can call me anything you want except "Mom" which would be factually and physiologically incorrect... or "Blue" who was the old guy who died in "Old School". I can handle just about anything else! And trust me... I have heard every joke about being old ever told!