

August 4, 2020

“MAY YOU LIVE IN INTERESTING TIMES”

I just passed my first year of living at 22 S. Campus... and as we look forward to welcoming the 35 guys who will be here for fall semester, I figure it's time to start House Director Journal, Season 2!

The old Chinese curse applies... “May you live in interesting times!” Interesting may be an understatement! We will max out with 35 guys living in 13 doubles, 3 singles and 2 triples. The good news is that we have continued to make improvements to add usable space and amenities. By the time school starts, we'll have a “Nature Stone” basement floor, new locks on all doors, a picnic table on the patio, new carpet in upstairs halls, and new blinds and chairs for the dining room. We also got a new and improved cleaning contractor, so the physical plant is in good shape.

We are working to assure we have adequate internet connectivity and will (hopefully) have an internet capable TV in the library to stream classes so guys can work together. Hoping to keep the Library as a study area this year... even re-organized all the shelves to arrange books by subject area, hoping that the guys will check to see if we have books before they buy them!

The decision by the University to not open dorms and provide only virtual classes until the middle of September added 4 guys to our in-house roster. For the first time anyone can remember, Miami released all sophomores from their dorm contracts, including women. This brought a flood of calls to uptown landlords and probably increased the off-campus numbers by 25-30%. When you couple this with under 50% restaurant capacity and the requirement to close bars by 11 pm you can understand that they have really changed campus dynamic.

We think this all means that the guys will have a lot more time at the House both studying and socially. The Rec is open (yay... Pickleball lives!) but “competitive” basketball is not allowed and no drinking fountains or showers. King Library will be open and with dorms closed that should be a good study option. Still a much different model of a school year.

As far as the House is concerned, we have done everything we can think of to make it clean and safe. New anti-bacterial soap and paper towel dispensers in all bathrooms, hand sanitizer throughout, disinfectant sprays available and thermometers for checking at the front door and the dining room. We will do everything we can to make sure we are as safe as possible.

House President Drew, Alumni Mike McGrath and I are all attending the Alpha Delta Phi International Convention... online of course! Now I don't want to brag about the Miami Chapter... OK, I do! We were nominated for Best Recruiting and Best Alumni Chapter... but when the dust settled, we won the Big One! Congratulations to the Officers, Undergraduate Brothers and Alumni Council for being named the Chapter of the Year. I'm thinking two in a row!

And a final thought... My friend Dale “Doc” Lefferts posed an interesting thought. He is another Cleveland Transplant who just bought a condo in Mason to be near kids and grandkid. He mentioned that his new digs were close to an assisted living facility, so his next move would be easier. I, of course, live in an assisted living facility... but I'm doing the assisting!

Next up... move in... a little bit like "Hell Week" for me with all the moving pieces, but I can guarantee I won't be bored! Stay tuned!