

2/7/2020

A WEEK IN THE LIFE

I'm not sure there is any such thing as "typical" here, but with the start of the second semester, I have started to establish a pattern for events on a given week... here's the snapshot!

Every weekday starts one of 2 ways... either I'm up and out early to substitute teach or I check in with Jackie to make sure the dining room is in good shape. The guys have gotten better about keeping it cleaner. Part of this is that we set up a recycling container for cardboard, cans and bottles that then gets transferred to the outdoor bin for Monday-Wednesday-Friday pickup. Between kitchen deliveries and general clean up it's always full! The other part is our new pledge class... more on that later.

Substitute Teaching is a bit like a Busman's Holiday! I wrote in another entry about the comparison of middle school kids and college students. Most days are fun and easy... occasionally I'll have a rough group and I make a note to myself to avoid that school and grade in the future... one of those this week!

However, a new interest has attracted my attention... Pickle Ball! I'm playing 2 or 3 mornings a week at the campus Recreation Center (God Bless Silver Sneakers!). The best description is ping pong where you are standing on the table. You use a wooden paddle and a baseball size wiffle ball while playing doubles over a net about a foot lower than tennis. I've gotten pretty good at hitting the ball into that net! The good people are very understanding about my lack of skill and the exercise is more than you would expect. After that workout it's a dip in the whirlpool, a shower and back to the house for lunch!

Monday was warm enough to sneak out for 9 holes of golf at Hueston Woods, but most afternoons are spent reading, writing, or "puttering" around the house. I've discussed my late onset OCD.... and there's always something to pick up! In addition, I'll help recycle, make sure supplies are up to snuff, contact vendors for work we need... whatever it takes to keep putting success in the way of the house! Lately we have pledges (officially new members) and I'll find them ways to help out.

Another common afternoon activity is helping guys with their resumes and preparing for Internship interviews. The all time favorite of my many jobs was as a resume writer / career counselor... of course I never made any money at it so I had to go over to the dark side and become a recruiter... after all, we had 4 kids to put through college. But one of the attractions of this job was the chance to coach young men through the challenges of entering the work world... so far so good!

Evenings are always a bit different. I tend to hang out in the dining room at dinner to catch as many of the guys as I can... great chance to address any issues, hear about their challenges and just catch up. Some nights I'll just stay in and watch a movie, but there are a lot of other things to do. Tuesdays and Thursdays are Trivia... and "CLE Ross and the Oxfordians" actually won this week! This Thursday is my Writer's group at Oxford Community Arts Center (the old Ox College for you Miamians) where I'm becoming something of a "regular". This Friday will be Contra Dance night and next Wednesday is the organizational meeting for our new "Storyteller's Group" where I will be the moderator! Stay tuned for more on that!

Of course, there are also a variety of House and / or community activities to fill up nights and weekends! This week the House held a Euchre tournament and my partner and I were doing great... until the 2nd round! When the guys have a party, I'll retire to Circle Bar or B-Dubs and make an appearance in the

middle of the event before retiring to my (relatively) quiet apartment... thank goodness for 2 fire doors and a reasonable distance from the madding crowd. Next week I'm going to a comedy show in Darrtown featuring a new Oxford friend... and there is always weekend music around town.

This weekend I have a couple choices. Friday night will be the aforementioned Contra Dancing and on Saturday afternoon we are expecting some alumni to drop by for a "mini-reunion" Then I have to make a choice between a benefit Trivia Tournament and going to Cincinnati for their Storytelling Festival. I have not ventured into Cincy much, but this event may be my chance. I do want to visit Over the Rhine and I hear good things about the Moerlein and Rhinegeist breweries... might even make it to a Reds game at some point. So my Saturdays are generally busy.

Now that football season is over, Sunday's are less structured and more relaxing. We generally have a clean up session and in the early evening we have a Chapter Meeting. For all my fellow House Alumni, imagine our Chapters, and then add a laptop for recording the proceedings and perhaps a little more raucous behavior. But generally, they are similar to ours with good and engaged attendance, some interesting "social" additions, and at least a nod to our "rituals". Some things never change...

We are finishing week 2 of 14 in the 2nd semester... lots to do, and lots to look forward to... stay tuned!