



STAR & CRESCENT

THE NEWSLETTER OF MIAMI'S ALPHA DELTA PHI

Here's a headline that's not hyperbole:

Miami Chapter is Alpha Delta Phi's best

At its fall convention, Alpha Delta Phi International honored Miami with its **E.O. Blackman Award for Chapter Excellence**, granted each year to the fraternity's top chapter.

The celebration begins on page 2...

Fall 2020



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Miami named best chapter in Alpha Delta Phi

Chapter also nominated for alumni excellence and undergraduate recruiting



THE BLACKMAN AWARD

E.O. Blackman IL '28 served as Alpha Delta Phi International president in 1972. Each year, the Blackman Award is presented to the top-scoring chapter based on an evaluation of chapter operations covering recruiting success, new member education, literary and philanthropy programming, risk management practices, chapter finances, and campus and alumni relations.

UNDERGRADS SET SIGHTS ON A REPEAT

"Being recognized as the 2020 Chapter of the Year by the International shows how many improvements we have made in the past year and our great growth as a chapter. It's reassuring to be recognized for doing things the right way. Now we just need to keep it up and go for back-to-back years!"

*Drew Kearns MI '22
Undergrad President*

"AND THE AWARD GOES TO..."

Because this year's International Convention was held virtually, you can go online to witness the exciting moment Miami won the award. Visit our website for the video link...

"We're always proud of our undergrads," said Alumni Council president **Stefan Davis' 72**. "We have known they are leaders on Miami's campus. Now we can congratulate them for leading their Alpha Delta Phi peers as well."

Alpha Delta Phi International made it official by tapping Miami as its best chapter at this fall's International Convention.

In making the award, the International cited our undergrads' strong relationship with the chapter Alumni Council and the great impact made by our new food service program and new live-in house director. The latter developments were made possible through our ongoing "**Make This House a Home**" fundraising campaign, which is helping to fund the \$250,000 chapter house renovation begun in 2019.

According to International executive director **Steve Ehrfurth MN '06**, "The Miami Chapter was selected because of its strong recruitment classes filled with high-quality men, improved collaboration with alumni and university leaders, and its overall ability to establish meaningful membership experience. The chapter has added a new food service program along with a live-in alumni advisor that has allowed the chapter to expand their value-based programming. This year, brothers focused on working hard to dramatically improve their overall chapter GPA. This drive and academic success helped solidify the chapter's status as a leader on campus."

"I think a large chunk of this award came because the substantial improvement in the physical plant," said **Ross Wason '73**, House Director. "The guys have taken more pride in the upgraded facility and kept it cleaner. We also earned points because the International representative visited during

new member recruitment and was impressed by the guys' organized and thorough process."

Confirming Wason's suspicion, the International observed that "...the Miami Chapter initiated an outstanding group of 36 brothers in the spring semester..." because of "...a firm understanding of their chapter values and how to communicate them..."

"Ross is way too modest," said Davis. "As our live-in house director, he has had a huge influence on the chapter. He has continually nudged the undergrads toward not only making better decisions but also being more effective in implementing them. No way we win this award without Ross."

The Chapter was also nominated for awards in Alumni Excellence and Undergraduate Recruiting.

"Today, every Miami Chapter alumnus has a special reason to be proud," said Davis. "This is a great moment in our chapter's long history."



What a long strange trip—continued

Ross Wason '73 reflects on campus life amid COVID-19

In his first year, Alpha Delta Phi's live-in house director faced a learning curve.

Then came the curveball no one saw coming:

the coronavirus.

Excerpts from the house director's blog

"October 15, 2020 ...we are halfway through this very strange semester.

"In August, the University delayed opening the residence halls but then released students from dorm contracts and allowed them to move uptown. This led to a 20-30% increase in students living off-campus — just in time for the State of Ohio to order all bars and restaurants to stop serving at 10 pm.

"The squeeze on students got worse when the University Fraternity office determined that all fraternity members living in off-campus housing should 'shelter in place,' without leaving their houses for 10 days. Next, the City of Oxford began fining people for not wearing masks or gathering in groups of over 10.

"All these events set up a pretty challenging situation. The coronavirus is concerning, especially when 20-somethings are not likely to be disciplined in their mask wearing or social distancing. If we were truly trying to protect everyone, campus would be totally empty. But I am also not a fan of living in fear...so life goes on!

"Course instruction has moved to a hybrid of in-person and online classes, and the dorms are now filled at 60% capacity. The university is requiring masks on campus, increasing testing levels and providing isolation areas for those infected. We are under state, city and university rules that limit the bars, punish "dangerous" behaviors, and make everyone nervous about gathering, much less partying. Despite those measures, it's a safe bet that the numbers of students infected will go up as well as the number of incidents where students will be cited and punished for violating city and university rules.



"So our guys are spending more time in the House. Our fantastic cook, Jackie, continues to take great care of us. The newly renovated basement has become a workout room (including boxing!) and the air hockey table donated by brother **Jeff Crawford '78** has gotten a workout. Any time, any day, you'll find guys in the library, front rooms and dining room fully engaged in online classes. And their constant presence in the House is showing up in increased orders for disposable paper supplies...

"We've done well hunkering down together — we've had both in-house and out-of-house brothers test positive for the virus, but they have followed our isolation rules and we have had no hospitalizations. I'm proud of the way our brothers are maintaining their good efforts at following the rules and honoring the House.

"Meanwhile, I'm trying to keep a normal schedule — but these days that word hardly seems to apply! Stay tuned!"

READY FOR VICARIOUS THRILLS? (OR CHILLS)

Ever wonder what life might be like as a 68-year-old frat boy? Neither have we! But alumni looking for a vicarious thrill should check out Ross Wason's house director blog on our website. With introspection and wit, his semi-monthly "literaries" offer insight into our changing times, on campus and beyond.