Dear Kappa Alpha Order Parents & Guardians,

My name is Mathew Kernaghan, the new member educator in our chapter. I have been working diligently towards crafting a uniquely memorable education process for your sons as they embark on their journey towards initiation in the midst of a Covid 19 semester. It is my pleasure to welcome you, your sons, and your families into ours. On behalf of the active and alumni brothers of the Miami University’s Epsilon Lambda Chapter of Kappa Alpha Order, we would like to congratulate you on the fine young man you have raised and thank you for allowing him to join our brotherhood. We are very impressed by the quality of his new member class and look forward to spending the next few years and beyond as brothers of your son.

Although Kappa Alpha Order, or “KA” as we commonly refer to it, was founded in 1865 at Washington and Lee College in Lexington, Virginia. KA roots at Miami University only date back to its founding on January 1, 1981. Since then, the active chapter has grown to 110 distinguished young men with a bond unlike any other. Your sons make up the largest pledge class ever received at Miami, consisting of (Insert number) young gentlemen, which we are extremely proud of.

Since our founding, KA has prided itself on strong brotherhood, gentlemanly conduct, academic excellence, and exceptional campus and community involvement. Our chapter at Miami University has won five “*top national chapter*” awards in the last 10 years with one of the largest philanthropies on campus, raising $10,000+ annually to give towards the Muscular Dystrophy Association. For the past decade, we have achieved sustained academic excellence, constantly ranked in the top ten fraternities for cumulative GPA, most recently ranked number eight with a 3.12 chapter-wide GPA..

In the past few years, the Greek Community at Miami University has suffered reputational damage due to the irresponsible actions by some of its chapters. At KA, we take situations like these very seriously, and are committed to carrying out a non-hazing new member process. Along with the strong leadership skills you have instilled in your sons, and their experiences over the upcoming weeks, we have full confidence that we will continue to be exemplary men of character that will lead Greek Life in the right direction at Miami. KA nationally prides itself on the statement “A Moral Compass for the Modern Gentleman” and our chapter here at Miami exemplifies this across the board.

Regarding finances, each new member will be expected to make a payment of $500 to the chapter for the spring semester of 2020. $365 dollars goes to our national organization, with the remaining amount allotted towards various brotherhood events and chapter expenses. Looking ahead to next year, your sons (assuming they have been initiated into the Order and meet Miami University requirements) will have the privilege of living in the KA house:

* Housing fees are $2,400/semester
* Chapter & National dues are $800/semester

If you have any questions regarding The Order or anything at all, please do not hesitate to contact one of the gentlemen below. Again, we are thrilled to have your son and family join ours, and look forward to the relationships your son and his pledge brothers will foster over the course of this semester and years to come. Although I have only been here for two and a half years, I can say without hesitation this has been the most rewarding and fulfilling experience of my life. I, along with the entire chapter, will ensure, to the best of our ability, that every young man who walks through our front door feels the same way

Sincerely,

Mathew Kernaghan

Contacts:

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Miami University Hazing Policy: Code of Student Conduct—2.1.I Hazing Coercing another, including the victim, to do any act of initiation into, or as a condition of participation in, a student organization, fraternity or sorority, or activity that causes or creates a substantial risk of causing physical or mental harm to any person is prohibited. Examples of prohibited behavior include forced drinking of alcohol or water, paddling, creation of fatigue, physical shocks, degrading or humiliating games, physical harassment, branding, public stunts, and forced tattoos.

Kappa Alpha Order Hazing Policy Kappa Alpha Order Risk Management Policy: No chapter, student or alumnus shall conduct nor condone hazing activities. Permission or approval by a person being hazed is not a defense. Hazing activities are defined as: "Any action taken or situation created, intentionally, whether on or off fraternity premises, to produce mental or physical discomfort, embarrassment, harassment or ridicule. Such activities may include, but are not limited to, the following: use of alcohol; paddling in any form; creation of excessive fatigue; calisthenics, physical and psychological shocks; use of pledge books or signature books, quests, treasure hunts, scavenger hunts, road trips or any other such activities carried on outside or inside the confines of the chapter house; wearing of public apparel which is conspicuous and not normally in good taste; engaging in public stunts and buffoonery; morally degrading or humiliating games and activities; and any other activities which are not consistent with fraternal law, ritual or policy or the regulations and policies of the educational institution."