Dear Parents,

My name is Patrick Burke, and I am the President of Sigma Alpha Epsilon at Miami University. I am from Darien, Connecticut and study economics and strategic communication.

Your son has recently made a once in a lifetime decision; to join the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. This decision, while made in a relatively short amount of time, will have a lasting impact during his lifetime membership as a brother of SAE. With this exciting new opportunity, I feel as though the time is right to elaborate on what it means to be a member of our Fraternity.

Your son has just joined the Ohio Tau chapter of SAE. However, the reach of SAE is much greater than our local group of men. He is now a member of one of 212 chapters nationwide, encompassing more than 330,000 men. In doing so he has joined a support network he can look to for guidance and support throughout college and beyond. Our organization was founded in 1856 at the University of Alabama. The Fraternity's mission is advancing the highest standards of friendship, scholarship, leadership, and service for our members throughout life.

SAE dedicates itself to the benefit of its members and prohibits counterintuitive activities such as hazing, believing them to be contrary to our belief in Brotherhood. Your son’s obligation to the Fraternity is to remain in good standing within the chapter and to live up to our creed, The *True Gentleman.* I have the utmost confidence in the short time that I got to meet your son that he was chosen because of the potential our chapter saw in his character.

Our fraternity and Miami University have a *strict* zero-tolerance policy on hazing new members. Simply put, hazing can be described as any incident or activity that may or may not cause mental or physical harm to a student looking to join an organization. Informal and unofficial acts of initiation are strictly prohibited. Hazing is not about "earning your way in" or "building loyalty and teamwork." It is about exerting control over another human being. While there is an important history to our fraternity that new members will be required to study and learn, having has no place in fraternity life. If for whatever reason you or your son feel he is being hazed, please reach out so I can be informed of the situation and take immediate action in removing any members who are representing our fraternity poorly.

The end goal for any college student is to graduate and move on to become a productive member of society. We strongly feel that joining this fraternity is an invaluable asset to your son’s college experience as we help him to develop his full potential as both a leader and scholar. We encourage your support of his decision and we look forward to meeting you at one of our upcoming functions, to which you are always welcome.

If there are ever any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me at [burkepe3@miamioh.edu](mailto:burkepe3@miamioh.edu).

Sincerely,

Patrick Burke, President