

Lee Miller

Re-building a Chapter

When Lee Miller walks into the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house, he is greeted with an air of appreciation and respect.

Miller is not just another fraternity brother, he is a man committed to creating an environment for the Greek system that is respected and openly acknowledged as an asset to the College and the community.

In 1987, Miller returned for his class's 25th year reunion, and reunited with his buddies from college. Several friends from his original SAE pledge class returned as well, and he was able to rekindle old friendships.

"We had a blast — until we walked into the frat house," remembered Miller. "It was like *Animal House* or worse."

After that weekend, persistent calls from another concerned alumnus, Charlie Kohli '71, prompted the former brothers to form a committee to see what could be done.



Miller and his wife Linda are both involved with SAE. Linda, a substance abuse counselor, has held alcohol awareness seminars for the fraternity in the past.

"We started with collecting architectural bids," said Miller. "Then we applied for a loan from the National Fraternity." With a \$110,000 loan in 1988, the groundwork was laid for an improvement plan which has been on-going ever since.

"My construction background gave me the ability to oversee the improvements — which turned into a full-time commitment that has never ended," said Miller. "There is a lot of satisfaction when you can look back and see your progress."

Along with the progress of the home improvements began a mutual friendship and respect between Miller and the brothers of SAE. "I began attending chapter meetings and encouraged an atmosphere of respect," said Miller. "I tried not to be a parent but to earn their respect as a person, so that they



would also want to make things better."

"There are many things he could not do without us and we could not do without

him," said former SAE president Neil Gough. He and other active members of SAE, have worked hard and learned to appreciate their house and, thanks to Miller, make it home. They also appreciate the fact that Miller hates to eat alone, so he often treats them to a meal during his twice a week visits.

And the men use their best etiquette during meals — another lesson they learned from Miller. "After graduation, when you make it past your first interview, you may have a meal in a social setting," said Miller. "This could impact your career."

So, each year Miller has his wife set a formal dinner table and invites all graduat-

ing seniors from SAE to dinner. The attendees are given a card with etiquette do's and don'ts.

"I impressed somebody's Mom at dinner," house resident Jason Brown said, "so Lee Miller helped me."

Miller's responsibilities as president of Andrews Records Management, added with his involvement and time commitment to the College, would test anyone's time management program.

Andrews Records was founded in 1983 as a subsidiary of Andrews Moving and Storage. Miller has served as its president and part owner since 1984.

"We store some 800,000 boxes of paper and 750,000 computer back-up tapes serving 600 plus customers in the Cleveland and Columbus markets." On a daily basis his company "rotates" (picks up and delivers) about 20,000 back-up computer tapes.

With the demand for record storage growing at



I'm proud to be the Ohio Sigma Chapter Advisor and I'm proud of our accomplishments individually and as a chapter. We have come a long way and still have a way to go.

— Lee Miller



Since Miller began helping with the renovations of the SAE house, nearly every room has been renovated. Above, Brian Oglie and Eric Kollai work on the T.V. room, the fraternity's current project.

more than 20 percent per year, there is a high demand for employees. "Our ability to employ Mount grads is good and we employ a lot of them," said Miller. Of his 38 full-time employees, 12 are alumni of the College—not to mention the other 8 Mount students he employs part-time.

In the future, Miller will continue working to raise the standard for the brothers of SAE and running the largest records management company in northeast Ohio—earning the respect he deserves along the way. ■

Miller and several students attended the SAE 62nd leadership school in Evanston, Il. this summer. Chapters from around the country meet once a year.

Front: Ryan Alton, Brian Sell, Rob Laskey, Matt Wodkowski. Back: Miller and Duane Farnsworth.



The Men of Σ AE True Gentlemen

Founding: University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa, March 9, 1856

Sigma Chapter: Mount Union College, April 4, 1885

Symbol: Lion • **Philanthropy:** United Way • **Flower:** Violet

Colors: Royal Purple & Old Gold

What are some of the activities you hold during the year?

- "Fireside Chats were started by Damon Taylor '94," said Neil Gough, a senior and past president of SAE. It was an idea to get professors and students to our house to show them around and let them see what we are like."
- "It is also a good way to promote non-alcohol based programming," said Chuck Buhecker, senior chronicler of SAE. This semester the topic is tackling race relations.
- Each year the fraternity holds their famous Volleyball Marathon for their philanthropy, the United Way. This event gets the most alumni turn-out all year and raises about \$1,000 for the charity.
- Anointed Fountain Church also benefits from SAE. The men participate in several activities including soup kitchens and tutoring for young children.
- Twice a year, families from the community are invited to the SAE house for visits from Santa and the Easter Bunny. The Easter Bunny usually draws more than 100 people, from all neighborhoods in the community. Plastic eggs filled with candy and toys are hidden throughout the house for everyone to find.



What do you believe makes your chapter special?

- "The individuals within the Fraternity make it special," said Rob Laskey, senior and current president of SAE. "You know people that you wouldn't normally meet otherwise. It is like a support group, a family away from home."
- "Our creed, True Gentleman, is the underlying principle that brings us all here," said Buhecker. "It gathers people from all walks of life. This is a very diverse house with a common thread."

What is your biggest accomplishment as a chapter?

- "When you see the seniors graduate with the ideals we believe in and you see the freshman class as the future, you know the tradition will be carried on," said Laskey.
- "Our biggest accomplishment would have to be our brotherhood," said Gough. "College is a transition and you need something outside of the classroom experience to come out with your head on your shoulders."

How do you see the view of the Greek system changing?

- "Stereotypes still exist," said Laskey, who believes many have stemmed from the *Animal House* mentality. The men of SAE try hard to break this stereotype. They work hard to help people see the worth and life-long benefit they receive from it.

How do you feel your chapter has evolved?

- "People feel we are more upstanding," said Buhecker. "We aren't as selfish or looked on as a party house."
- "There is always room for improvement," said Laskey. "We need to keep heading in the right direction."

First in a series of Greek Organization features.