



The Phota (the Greek word for lights)
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Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils

The Phota

Fraternity and Sorority Newsletter
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Valparaiso
University



2013: A Year of Record Breaking Recruitment

Every January students return to campus refreshed from the holidays, anxious and excited to begin a new semester at Valparaiso University. For some it is a 'life as it was' before the break, but for others a return to campus marks the beginning of a life long journey as a sorority woman or a fraternity man.

This cycle of recruitment was a landmark year for both fraternities and sororities. The six National Panhellenic Conference chapters welcomed over **90 new women** - the **largest new member class in over a decade**. These incoming women hold high standards and have been challenged to continue to grow through their new affiliations; the average overall GPA for the Sorority new members was **3.369**.

However, January was not just a month to be celebrated amongst the women as our Fraternity men welcomed over **90 new members** to the fraternity community as well, effectively tying our women in membership for the semester. It is the plan for both the entire fraternity and sorority community to increase their numbers during formal recruitment as the incoming freshmen class continues to increase in size.

As value-based organizations we are proud of the work we have done this year and celebrate with one another our success!

Chapter Spotlight: Chi Omega Fraternity



Upcoming Events

- Feb. 16, Phi Kappa Psi Chili Cook Off, 2-4 pm
- Feb. 16, Sorority & Fraternity Social, 9 pm-12 am
- Feb. 19, Phi Kappa Psi Founders Day
- Feb. 22, Lambda Chi Alpha Super Smash Tournament, 6-9 pm
- Feb. 21, International Exposition, 6 pm
- Feb. 21, Sorority Study Break, 7-9 pm
- Feb. 24, Sorority Initiation Deadline
- Feb. 26, Sigma Pi Founders Day
- Feb. 28, "Turning Away from Hate" 7-8:30 pm



The national Chi Omega vision statement says: ***"Sisters inspired by our values who serve the world while keeping Chi Omega ever at heart."*** This is a message the members of the Alpha Lambda chapter of Chi Omega take to heart. It is important to us not only to maintain a certain understanding of our values, but to also put them to work in our daily lives. As Chi Omegas we are committed to our founding purposes of friendship, personal integrity, service to others, academic excellence, community and campus involvement, and personal development. Valparaiso Chi Omegas show these fraternal values through a vast array of other organizations and events on campus. Being a part of a sorority includes that we strive to the best of our abilities to be well-rounded women who can leave a positive impact not only on our fellow members but on the community as a whole.

Recently, Chi Omega President, Jeannette Paige, and Panhellenic Delegate, Erin Harrington, were invited to attend a national conference entitled "Chi Omega and Panhellenic: A shared Commitment." These women had the opportunity to meet the incoming Panhellenic Chairman Jean Mrasek, a Chi Omega, who shared her excitement and the importance of Panhellenic relations on every campus. The delegates attended an array of conference sessions to learn strategies for improvement and relationship building amongst other fraternities and sororities on Valparaiso's campus. Chi Omega is excited to begin implementing this knowledge and partnering with many campus organizations!

*By Erin Harrington, Public Relations Officer for Chi Omega
 Edited by Katelyn Stermer, Panhellenic Council VP of Public Relations*



Have a story to share in the next issue of *The Phota*?

Contact Katelyn Stermer, Panhellenic Vice President of Public Relations
panhellenic.publicrelations@valpo.edu

