



The Phota (the Greek word for lights)
is a publication of the Valparaiso University
Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils

The Phota

Fraternity and Sorority Newsletter
September 2013



Valparaiso
University

Sororities Celebrate 15 Years of National Affiliation

The 2013 Valparaiso University Homecoming marks a special anniversary for the Valparaiso sorority community. It was 15 years ago that the local sororities transitioned to national organizations. As we welcome alumnae old and new, we acknowledge the strong foundation laid for our community by the original local sororities and reflect on their contribution to campus traditions.

If you were to join Chi Sigma Xi (Chi Omega) or Phi Beta Chi (Kappa Kappa Gamma) in 1975, you would be in great company with new member classes of 48 and 38 women respectively! Barb Lieske, (Chi Sigma Xi) and Linda Roettger (Phi Beta Chi) still look forward to reconnecting with these lifelong sisters every year to reminisce about traditions such as the Homecoming Parade and Songfest. These alumnae and Tracy Fronk (Gamma Phi) encourage current sorority women to make the most of their undergraduate experience by getting involved in a leadership role in their chapter. Linda especially states that her time as a Residential Assistant for her sisters “did have its challenges, but helped in developing leadership skills and strength of character.”

Nicole Niemi, an alumna of Kappa Psi Omega, has maintained strong connections to Valpo because of her experience as a sorority woman, and in 2012 became a co-worker with her sorority sister when she accepted a position in IMC. Nicole’s sorority experience helped her develop a professional identity, and she advises undergraduates to take time to have fun and foster friendships through sorority activities. “Valpo students are known for leadership, volunteerism, studying



Local to National Sorority Transition

Chi Sigma Xi --> Chi Omega
Alpha Phi Delta --> Delta Delta Delta
Gamma Phi --> Gamma Phi Beta
Kappa Psi Omega --> Kappa Delta
Phi Beta Chi --> Kappa Kappa Gamma
Alpha Xi Epsilon --> Pi Beta Phi

abroad, participating in worship and excelling academically. Life becomes even more hectic and demanding after graduation, so bonding with your sisters now will help create lifelong support systems.”

Take time this Homecoming to thank our dedicated alumnae sisters, both national and local, swap stories, and make new memories. Finally, remember Barb Lieske’s words as you enjoy the festivities. “I truly think God had a hand in hooking me up with these ladies; they have been my stronghold for decades and we know our bond will never break.”

Chapter Spotlight: *Kappa Kappa Gamma*



Sarah Harkless (on the far left) and the other two summer interns for Kappa Kappa Gamma Headquarters.



Kappa Kappa Gamma members assisting with a Kappa Kappa Gamma colonization at Elmhurst College

Members of the Eta Delta chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma have recently had two excellent opportunities to exercise their leadership and professional skills.

Sarah Harkless, a senior Finance major and member of the Valparaiso University cheer team, spent her summer interning at Kappa Kappa Gamma headquarters in Columbus, Ohio. Sarah was one of three summer interns. "I was briefly exposed to some things I might see when applying for a job in the finance field. My greatest accomplishments were revising the Treasurer Leadership Guide, which is a resource for all Kappa chapter treasurers, and reviewing all of Kappa's chapters' budgets in preparation for the new fiscal year." Together, the summer experience and valuable KKG senior transitioning programs have prepared her to begin to face the reality of post-undergraduate life. "I have built up confidence to apply for competitive positions in my field and have made several relationships to help me acquire the position I desire in the future."

Just recently, members of the executive board were invited to help colonize a new chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma at Elmhurst College in Elmhurst, Illinois. These women worked with the women at Elmhurst, giving tips on recruitment and sharing what social and professional opportunities lifelong membership in a

Sigma Chi Derby Days

Sigma Chi - Iota Sigma Chapter has raised over \$2,500 during their annual philanthropic event Derby Days. Seven teams competed in the 2013 Derby Days events raising money for the Huntsman Cancer Institute, the national philanthropy of Sigma Chi Fraternity.



Calendar of Events

- Sept. 28: Fraternity and Sorority Update, 9-9:45 am
- Sept. 28: All Sorority Homecoming Brunch, 9:30-11 am
- Sept. 28: Phi Kappa Psi 60th Anniversary Celebration,
- Sept. 28: Crusader Street Fair Tailgate, 11 am - 1 pm
- Sept. 28: Phi Delta Theta "PhiZone" Tailgate, 11 am pm
- Oct. 4: Phi Mu Alpha Founder's Day Event, 6-8 pm
- Oct. 5: Sigma Pi Volleyball Tournament, 12-2:30 pm
- Oct. 5 - 6: Relay for Life, 9 pm - 9 am
- Oct. 6: Phi Mu Alpha Founder's Day
- Oct. 6: Kappa Kappa Gamma Boat Regatta, 1:30-3:30 pm
- Oct. 10-13: Fall Break

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

Contact Katelyn Stermer or Michael Micek, Panhellenic and IFC Vice Presidents of Public Relations
Panhellenic.PublicRelations@Valpo.edu or IFC.PublicRelations@Valpo.edu

