



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

The Phota

Fraternity and Sorority Newsletter
February 2014



Valparaiso
University

Valparaiso University's 2nd Annual Dance Marathon Raises More Than \$24,000

The Valparaiso University fraternity and sorority community hosted the second annual Dance Marathon benefitting Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. Dance Marathon is the official philanthropy for the fraternity and sorority community, however the event is open to all students and organizations on campus. More than 400 students from 19 on-campus organizations danced for eight hours on Saturday, February 1, 2014 in support of the kids receiving treatment at the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

The Dance Marathon "Miracle Kids," who are children that have been patients at CMN Hospitals, shared some touching personal experiences that were impactful for all participants. Over the course of the fundraising period, participants raised \$24,286.59, far exceeding last year's total of \$10,417.07. The 2014 "Miracle Cup" was given to the organization that collectively raised the most funds, and this year the cup went to Chi Omega for raising \$5,040.00!!

The Dance Marathon Executive Board is so thankful for the participation and support of the Valpo fraternity and sorority community! #ForTheKids

 Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children's Hospital of Chicago™



Calendar of Events

- Feb. 25: SAAFE Program on Wellness and Healthy Choices, 8 pm
- Feb. 25: Order of Omega Meeting, 9:15 pm
- Feb. 26: Sigma Pi Founders Day
- Feb. 28: Applications for the following are due at 5 pm
 - 2014-2015 Sorority Recruitment Counselor, Order of Omega, and the 2015 Dance Marathon Executive Board
- Mar. 1-16: Valparaiso University Spring Break
- Mar. 3: National Panhellenic Conference International Badge Day
- Mar. 3-8: National Ritual Celebration Week
- March 15: Phi Sigma Kappa Founders Day

Chapter Spotlight: Sigma Pi Fraternity



Sigma Pi members shaved their heads in support of the St. Baldrick's Foundation (above) and spent time with alumni members at Homecoming (below).



The men of the Beta Tau chapter of Sigma Pi Fraternity are having an excellent 2013-2014 school year. The men of Sigma Pi have been actively involved in a number of community service and philanthropy events. Specifically, Sigma Pi finished in 2nd place in the Valparaiso University Student Senate sponsored food drive this fall and also had a great turnout at the 2014 Dance Marathon.

The men of Sigma Pi are also in the process of preparing a Music Fest for the start of the 2014 school year in support of the Amazing Day Foundation. The chapter hopes to make this a 5-Star event that will bring the campus community together with the City of Valparaiso, and also bring together people from all over the state.

Members of the Sigma Pi Executive Board recently traveled to St. Louis for Sigma Pi's 13th Annual Mid-Year Leadership Conference. The conference offered breakout sessions for members as well as three keynote speakers. The speakers trained members about ways to improve risk management as well as motivating members of the brotherhood. The conference also included a presentation from Phired Up Productions about dynamic and values based recruitment.

Sharing the Good News

The Valparaiso University Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils were recognized for excellence at the 2014 Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values conference in February. The Panhellenic Council received the Sutherland Award for Overall Excellence and the Interfraternity Council received the Jellison Award for Overall Excellence recognizing the hard work of the Valparaiso University fraternity and sorority community in 2013.

Both councils were also recognized for excellence in individual programming areas, which include: Academic Achievement, Community Service and Philanthropy (Panhellenic Only), Council Management, Leadership & Educational Development, Membership Recruitment, Public Relations, Risk Management and Reduction, Self-Governance and Judicial Affairs.



Members of the 2014 Valparaiso University Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council Executive Boards following the AFLV Awards Banquet

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

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