

THE PHOTA



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

Right: Jeannette Paige (middle right) bowling with her UIFI group.

Bottom: Will Prusinski (third in back row) and members of his UIFI group.



Four Valpo Students Experience the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute

Annually, hundreds of fraternity and sorority leaders from around North-America travel to Bloomington, Indiana for the Undergraduate Interfraternity Institute® (UIFI®), a program of the North-American Interfraternity Conference. This year, four Valpo students were able to participate due to scholarships from inter/national organizations and foundations.

(UIFI®) is a five day institute that brings together fraternity men and sorority women to create opportunities to explore, define, and enhance their leadership skills, personal awareness, commitment to their fraternity or sorority, and grow to expect values based action from themselves and those they lead. At UIFI®, participants are given the skills to improve their own leadership abilities and positively affect their chapter, council, and community.



Jeannette Paige, Panhellenic President, Will Prusinski of Lambda Chi Alpha, Austin Davis, the IFC Vice President of Operations and Ryan Acosta of Phi Kappa Psi all attended sessions of UIFI® this summer. Will Prusinski shared about his experience, “I felt a renewed commitment to my own organization and to fraternity and sorority life as a whole here at Valpo.”

“Going into UIFI® I was anxious to see how a leadership program could influence over 80 fraternity and sorority members affiliated with many different organizations. UIFI will quickly shatter any myths or embellishments you have about fraternity and sorority life and give you the real, hard facts. UIFI hardwires into every participant a willingness to change for the better of his or her chapter, affiliation, and the community all together” stated Austin Davis.

Jeannette Paige shared “UIFI is a once in a lifetime opportunity that I would definitely recommend to anyone who hopes to maximize their experience as a fraternity or sorority member.” If you are interested in learning more about UIFI®, visit the NIC website at <http://www.nicindy.org/undergraduate-interfraternity-institute.html>.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 1: *Chapter Monthly Reports Due*

August 22: *Mid-Year Chapter President and Council Officer Training Workshop*

August 22: *Freshman Move-In Volunteer Training at 8pm*

August 23-31: *Welcome Week 2014*

August 24: *Recruitment Counselor Retreat at 1pm*

August 27: *Meet the Greeks at 7pm*

August 30: *Dunes Day at 2pm*

Chapter Spotlight:

Gamma Phi Beta

Gamma Phi Beta had their biennial Convention in Seattle, Washington where active members and alumnae come together to celebrate sisterhood and also grow the sorority. At Convention, the members attend business meetings where they vote on new bylaws to begin incorporating in the chapters. The sisters also have meetings on leadership skills and team building activities.

One of the highlights of the Gamma Phi Beta Convention is the awards ceremony. Every chapter has the opportunity to send in applications for recognition earlier in the year and the Convention Board decides which chapters are worthy of the awards. This year, the Zeta Iota chapter of Gamma Phi Beta at Valpo walked away with some of these very remarkable awards.

Zeta Iota was honorable mention for the awards of Administration/Faculty Relations Excellence and also for Financial Excellence Award. Zeta Iota received the Scholastic Excellence Awards for having an accumulative GPA over the international average and also Public Relations Excellence award for the entire international sorority. It is clear that Zeta Iota has been working very hard in the last two years and has been recognized by the International Council and the International Sorority.

Sharing the Good News

At the annual Valparaiso University Fraternity and Sorority Awards Ceremony in May, the Valparaiso University Sexual Assault Awareness and Facilitative Education (SAAFE) Office recognized all 13 fraternity and sorority chapters with the SAAFE and Empowering Organization designation for 2013-2014.



Annually, fraternity and sorority members have the opportunity to participate in a number of educational programs and activities in an effort to educate the community about issues related to sexual assault, sexual assault prevention, bystander intervention, and personal wellness. In 2013-2014, more than 86% of the total members in fraternity and sorority life participated in SAAFE Office sponsored programs.

The culminating event is the annual “Valpo U Owns the Night” walk in April. Fraternities and sororities are eligible for the SAAFE and Empowering Organization designation by participating in a specific number of programs and educating their members on an annual basis.



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

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