

THE PHOTA



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



Valparaiso University Fraternity and Sorority Membership Growth

The Valparaiso University fraternity and sorority community is excited to welcome more than 200 new members during the formal recruitment period in January 2016. The Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils both had a great year in recruitment and are thrilled to watch Valparaiso University's fraternity and sorority community continue to grow.

The results of this year's formal recruitment period for both the fraternities and sororities are as follows:



Chi Omega: 20
 Gamma Phi Beta: 22
 Kappa Delta: 20
 Kappa Kappa Gamma: 24
 Pi Beta Phi: 20
 Sigma Lambda Gamma: Intake not yet complete

Lambda Chi Alpha: 12
 Phi Delta Theta: 8
 Phi Kappa Psi: 11
 Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia: 4
 Phi Sigma Kappa: 11
 Pi Kappa Alpha: 10
 Sigma Chi: 12
 Sigma Phi Epsilon: 21
 Sigma Pi: 10

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 8: *Sorority New Member Grand Chapter*
- February 9: *GUARDS Coffee and Conversation*
- February 16: *Fraternity New Member Grand Chapter*
- February 19: *Phi Kappa Psi Founders Day*
- February 19: *Lambda Chi Alpha Smash Cancer*
- February 20: *Phi Kappa Psi Chili Cook-Off*
- February 26: *Sigma Pi Founders Day*



Spotlight:

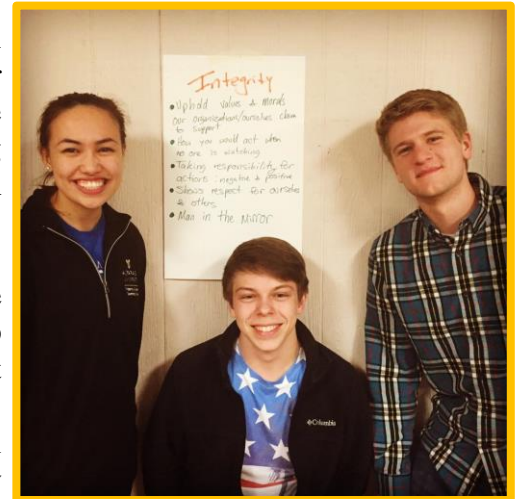
IFC and Panhellenic

In January, the Valparaiso University Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council executive board officers, along with all fraternity and sorority Chapter Presidents, attended an overnight leadership retreat. During this time, these fraternity and sorority leaders were able to work together on developing common community goals while developing a better understanding of each other's organizational values and mission.

Doug Opicka from Plaid, a professional service firm to develop and elevate people and organizations, attended and shared his advice and leadership skills. Each participant completed the Birkman assessment and learned about his or her leadership style and how to apply it in their organization.



In addition, the retreat provided an opportunity for the leaders to identify eight strategic areas of growth for the community: Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Brotherhood & Sisterhood, Integrity, Cultural Understanding, Personal Growth, and Lifelong Commitment. The *Valparaiso University Fraternity and Sorority Strategic Initiatives for 2016* document will be presented at the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council meetings in February for review and approval. The document will then guide the work of the Valpo fraternity and sorority community in the year ahead.

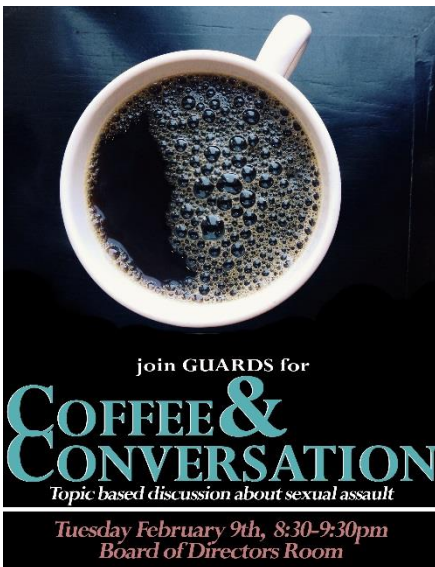


The 2016 Fraternity and Sorority Leadership Retreat was made possible because of the generous support of fraternity and sorority alumni and friends through donations to the Valparaiso University Fraternity and Sorority Leadership Fund.

GUARDS Coffee and Conversation on February 9

2015 was the inaugural year of GUARDS, an organization consisting of fraternity men and sorority women working together for awareness of sexual assault. GUARDS was an initiative started by Eric Smith (Sigma Phi Epsilon) and Lindsey Dever (Delta Delta Delta '15) with the purpose of creating a safe space for conversation about very real topics affecting our generation. GUARDS plans to be an educative, yet approachable organization that students can use as a resource.

GUARDS is excited to host an event on February 9, 2016 at 8:30 p.m. in the Board of Directors room called "Coffee and Conversation." This is a great opportunity for small group conversations on an issue that is impacting college campuses around the nation.



join GUARDS for

COFFEE & CONVERSATION

Topic based discussion about sexual assault

Tuesday February 9th, 8:30-9:30pm
Board of Directors Room

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

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