

THE PHOTA



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



Second Annual Fraternity and Sorority Spring Service Trip in Washington DC

During the first week of spring break, 24 fraternity and sorority members spent their time volunteering in Washington DC. Two days were spent working in D.C. Central Kitchen and two days working at Capital Area Food Bank. Students were given free time to explore the nation's capital while learning about local and distant problems the world faces with hunger.

D.C. Central Kitchen is a national organization that is committed to reducing poverty. The organization accomplishes this by producing approximately 5,000 meals daily. These meals save local shelters 3.6 million dollars in food costs annually! Fraternity and sorority members had various jobs during their two days - chopping vegetables, baking fish, and cooking pasta is just a snippet of everything the members helped with during their time at D.C. Central Kitchen.



Two additional days were spent working at Capital Area Food Bank packing boxes and bags of food for specific recipients. Capital Area Food Bank is a local organization that aids 540,000 people annually with their food donations. The volunteer group packed 1000 boxes and 1200 weekend bags during their two days of work! The members perfected their work in an assembly line and beat all previous records of other volunteer groups.

Between the different volunteer projects, fraternity and sorority members spent a day in Richmond, VA . The members were able to visit three universities and take a tour of Sigma Phi Epsilon headquarters. Students were able to visit Howard University and learn about the history of historically African-American fraternities and sororities, the University of Richmond's and visit their new sorority chapter facilities, as well as learn about the fraternity and sorority life at Virginia Commonwealth University.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 2: *Chi Omega Swishes for Wishes*

April 3: *Pi Beta Phi Arrow Spike Tournament*

April 5: *Chi Omega Founders Day*

April 9: *Sigma Lambda Gamma Founders Day*

April 9: *Dance Marathon*

April 18 - 24: *Greek Week*

April 28: *Fraternity and Sorority Awards*

Chapter Spotlight:

Kappa Delta and Lambda Chi Alpha

In February, Kappa Delta hosted a week long confidence inspired event titled “Trash Your Insecurities.” This was the first year Kappa Delta hosted this event and it was such a hit, they plan to host it every semester. Ashley Nowak explained, “With the help of my amazing sisters, we painted a metal garbage can that reads “Trash Your Insecurities” and you simply write down on a piece of paper something you are insecure about, crumble it up and throw it away.” After a busy week in Chapel View Lounge they had a $\frac{3}{4}$ full trash can from active participants.



For the fourth year in a row Lambda Chi Alpha hosted Smash Cancer, a Super Smash Brothers Tournament. The idea for this event began when the chapter wanted to support a brother diagnosed with testicular cancer and it has grown from there ever since. With 35 participants this year, Lambda Chi Alpha was excited about the turnout and plans to continue hosting the event and improving it every year.

Inaugural TEDxValparaisoUniversity Led By Seven Valpo Fraternity Men

TEDxValparaisoUniversity is a forward-thinking, student-led event. Aiming to challenge convention with a constructive attitude, the leadership team hoped to inspire change and innovation that spreads beyond the Northwest Indiana campus. The inaugural event took place on March 29, 2016 in the Deussen Recital Hall.

The theme for this year's event was “The Power of &” bringing together a diversity of people, cultures, and concepts to create real-world change. The student committee was comprised of seven fraternity men from Lambda Chi Alpha, Phi Sigma Kappa and Sigma Phi Epsilon. These men have definitely left their mark on the University through this amazing event.



The TEDxValparaisoUniversity Leadership Team is Caleb Liptak, Sigma Phi Epsilon, John Penshorn, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Alec Chase, Phi Sigma Kappa, E.J. Dubinsky, Sigma Phi Epsilon, Leandro Jaime, Lambda Chi Alpha, Eric Kurbyun, Lambda Chia Alpha, and Logan Mulvhill, Lambda Chi Alpha

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

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