

THE PHOTA



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



Valparaiso University Sorority Housing Complex Officially Opens

The new Valparaiso University Sorority Housing Complex was officially blessed during the 2016 Homecoming Celebration in late September. The new homes, which officially opened in August 2016, welcomed all alumni and alumnae on campus for tours prior to the ceremony.

The Blessing Ceremony, led by President Mark Heckler and Pastor Charlene Cox, involved the presentation of ceremonial keys to each of the chapter presidents to honor the opening of the new facilities. Pastor Char offered blessings for each sorority housed in the new complex, and participants left with a small ceremonial key.

The Sorority Housing Complex is home to five sororities and 150 women. Each chapter has their own chapter room, kitchen, and library as well as shared programming space in the basement of the complex. The chapters have fully settled into their new homes with beautiful new furniture and accessories in the chapter rooms. Signage has also been installed that honors the 99 year history of the sorority community at Valparaiso University.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- November 1: *Sigma Phi Epsilon Founders Day*
- November 2: *Lambda Chi Alpha Founders Day*
- November 3: *Faculty and Staff Reception*
- November 11: *Gamma Phi Beta Founders Day*

Chapter Spotlight:

Pi Kappa Alpha



The men of the Pi Kappa Alpha Colony at Valparaiso University hosted their inaugural PIKE Fireman's Challenge in September. The event was held as a philanthropy event benefitting the Washington Township Fire Department.

The PIKE Fireman's Challenge took place on September 11, 2016. As part of the opening ceremony, the men hosted a tribute to first responders and their families.

The PIKE Fireman's Challenge included a set of fun activities in which each of the teams participated. Ladder runs, tug of war, water relay, and many more activities engaged the participants for a full afternoon. All of the events were similar to the training and development of firefighters, and the activities were supported by members of the Washington Township Fire Department.

The men of Pi Kappa Alpha raised \$650 through this inaugural event, and are hoping to continue this event every fall.



Valpo Fraternities and Sororities Give Back in October

October at Valparaiso University brought both Valpo Day of Caring and the annual Valparaiso University Relay for Life. Both events engage a large number of fraternity and sorority members in giving back to the community.

All fifteen chapters had teams participate in the annual Day of Caring for 2016. Chapters worked at the Boys and Girls Club, the Coffee Creek Conservatory and many other locations as part of the major University wide service initiative. In total, more than 200 fraternity and sorority members participated in this year's event.

In addition, fraternity and sorority members raised more than \$7,000 as part of the Valparaiso University Relay for Life event on October 15, 2016. The women of Pi Beta Phi were the top fundraising chapter with a total of \$1,314.00, and the men of Sigma Pi were the top fundraising fraternity with \$660.00.



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

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