

THE PHOTA



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

Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils Receive National Excellence Recognition

The fraternity and sorority community has once again proven itself to be exemplary not only to our community, but in the nation. At the recent Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values Conference, the Interfraternity Council received the Jellison Award for Overall Council Excellence for the second year in a row, and the Panhellenic Council received the Sutherland Award for Overall Council Excellence for the fifth consecutive year!

Both the Jellison Award and the Sutherland Award are awarded to a single school in each institutional size category based on their documented programs and activities that align with national best practices. Both Valparaiso University councils were recognized for excellence in all eight possible categories, which is why it is an incredible honor for both the IFC and the Panhellenic Councils to bring these awards back home to Valpo.

Participating in the AFLV Central Leadership Conference is an incredible experience that shows the importance of fraternity and sorority life as delegations from across the country were in attendance. IFC and Panhellenic Executive Board officers attended educational workshops and sessions on a wide variety of topics, and also had the opportunity to hear former Vice President Joe Biden deliver a powerful speech on the harsh realities of sexual assault on college campuses. The weekend also included opportunities to learn more about culturally based fraternities and sororities as the community prepares to welcome Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc. to campus.

The men of the Interfraternity Council and the women of the Panhellenic Council gathered an incredible amount of information throughout the weekend that will be used to ensure that Valparaiso University maintains its incredible standing in our own community, nationally, and to those who will be part of our community in the future.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 22: *#OneValpo Discussion Series 1*
- February 24: *Lambda Chi Alpha Smash Hunger*
- February 26: *Sigma Pi Founders Day*
- February 26: *ValpoDM #MiracleMonday*
- March 1: *Pi Kappa Alpha Founders Day*
- March 3-11: *F&S Spring Service Trip*

Chapter Spotlight:

Sigma Lambda Gamma

Penny Wars is an annual event that Sigma Lambda Gamma hosts to raise money for their philanthropy event, Battle of the Bands, which will be held in October of the upcoming fall semester. All proceeds will be donated to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. This foundation is very important to Sigma Lambda Gamma because the chapter shares a strong value for women empowerment and being a support for any woman that needs it.

In hosting the chapters third annual Penny Wars, the chapter raised a record-breaking amount of \$1,017. This is the largest amount the women of Sigma Lambda Gamma have raised in all three years of putting on this event.



The 2018 Penny War winner is the men of Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity, in which they received a travelling paddle that includes their name being added alongside the winners of previous years. While there was only one winner, the women would like to thank all the fraternities and sororities that participated. It was amazing to see such wonderful involvement of the community and the proud participation of the fraternities and sororities.

Valpo Fraternities and Sororities Excel Academically in Fall 2017

The Fall 2017 Fraternity and Sorority Academic Report indicates that the All-Sorority and All-Fraternity Grade Point Averages are once again higher than the All-Female and All-Male averages at Valparaiso University. The sorority women recorded a 3.367 average semester GPA, and the fraternity men recorded a 3.182 average semester GPA. In addition, 13 out of 15 chapters performed above a 3.0 chapter GPA and more than 42% of sorority women and fraternity men achieved above a 3.5 semester GPA for the spring semester.

The Fall 2017 academic rankings are as follows:

Chi Omega: 3.539
Pi Beta Phi: 3.383
Kappa Delta: 3.367
Gamma Phi Beta: 3.343
Kappa Kappa Gamma: 3.260
Sigma Lambda Gamma: 3.015



Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia: 3.451
Phi Delta Theta: 3.371
Sigma Chi: 3.367
Sigma Phi Epsilon: 3.280
Lambda Chi Alpha: 3.235
Phi Kappa Psi: 3.148
Pi Kappa Alpha: 3.112
Phi Sigma Kappa: 2.998
Sigma Pi: 2.706

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

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