

THE PHOTA



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

Valparaiso University Women's Empowerment Week 2018

During the last week of March, Valparaiso University celebrated Women's Empowerment Week that featured various events each night hosted by different women's organizations on campus. The week included events such as a Women's Voices Concert, a "Walk in Our Shoes" relay race, a Girl Scout STEM event, and a panel discussion of women who hold different leadership positions at the University.

The week was started by two members of Kappa Delta, Kate Weber and Katie Lahey. "We were talking about influential women on social media that provide posts and advice on how to uplift yourself and the people around you. Then, after chapter, Katie and I were talking about women's empowerment. That is when we started talking about how our campus seemed to lack a prominent stance on empowering women, and we wanted to provide something for that." The two women began to come up with different ideas they thought would be cool to see on campus and then they contacted Carrie Whittier to put their plans into action.

When asked why Kate and Katie thought it was important to host a Women's Empowerment Week at Valpo, they both said they believed it would help the sororities get involved with other women's groups on campus. This week would allow the groups to work together to help better our community and to encourage women to build each other up rather than tear each other down.

All of the groups involved hope to see the week continue and grow in the years to come as a way to continue celebrating women's empowerment and to remind ourselves that "without people supporting us and making us more confident, we wouldn't be the people we are today." We want to thank all of the groups involved, including all six sororities, the Panhellenic Council, the Society of Women Engineers, the Women's Soccer Team, the Athena Society, Accabellas, Sisters In Spirit, and the Women's Ultimate Frisbee Team.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- April 20: *Sigma Chi Derby Days Concert*
- April 21: *Chi Omega Swishes for Wishes*
- April 22 - 29: *Greek Week 2018*
- April 24: *Greek Week Blood Drive*
- April 28: *Pi Beta Phi Founders Day*
- April 29: *SongFest 2018*
- April 29: *Fraternity & Sorority Cook-out*
- May 1: *Fraternity & Sorority Awards*
- May 8: *Last Day of Class*

Chapter Spotlight:

Sigma Phi Epsilon

In February 2018, the Indiana Zeta RLC chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon won the Excelsior Cup in Finance at the Sigma Phi Epsilon Carlson Leadership Academy.

The SigEp Carlson Leadership Academy is held every February in Chicago, Illinois for chapters in the Midwest. Carlson is a regional training academy for Sigma Phi Epsilon executive board officers, scholarship chairman, and rising leaders. Besides officer training, Carlson Academies will often feature presentations on new national legislation within the fraternity (like the substance free housing policy), and awards ceremonies that recognize chapters within that region for their achievements.



The Sigma Phi Epsilon Excelsior Cup is given to recognize outstanding improvement in an area of chapter management. For the Valpo SigEp chapter, the recognition was in the area of finance as a recognition of the chapters work on their chapter budget, re-allocation of funds from the chapter's formal to member education and recruitment, and the chapters substantial increase in collections to a near-perfect collections ratio.

Sigma Chi Member Receives the 8th Founder Award from National Fraternity



Sigma Chi brother, Alex Brewer, was recently awarded the Sigma Chi 8th Founder Award which is described to be a “recognition for the brother who does not seek recognition.” It is an award given to a hard working brother that does not look to be praised.

As a chapter, the men of Sigma Chi were tasked with nominating someone from the chapter and sending their nomination to the national fraternity where they decided a winner for the state of Indiana. Immediately, Alex Brewer was nominated. “Alex Brewer was the perfect candidate because he is always willing to help with anything Sigma Chi related and he attends almost all of our chapter service events.” Alex has also been a participant on the last two fraternity and sorority spring service trips.

The chapter could not make it to Sigma Chi State Day this last year due to bad weather, so for the last two months, the chapter was completely unaware that Alex Brewer had been selected to receive this honor. Alex then received a call from Don Hester, the Fraternity's Grand Praetor (a regional chapter advisor), congratulating him for his win. Alex never told anyone in the chapter that he had received the award until last week. He truly is a humble guy!

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

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