

# 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 Awards 2019

The 2018-2019 Fraternity and Sorority Awards Ceremony was an evening to celebrate the many accomplishments of the chapters and individual fraternity and sorority members. This year's award recipients include:

**President's Award for Excellence in Fraternity and Sorority Life**  
Sigma Phi Epsilon and Pi Beta Phi

**Kyle James Carson Fraternity Man of the Year**  
Matthew D'Alessandro, Phi Kappa Psi

**Dean Dolores Ruosch Sorority Woman of the Year**  
Lydia Spone, Pi Beta Phi

**Outstanding Fraternity and Sorority Chapter President**  
Aaron Pevitz, Phi Delta Theta  
Jade Curless, Pi Beta Phi

**Pillars of Excellence**  
Chi Omega, Lambda Chi Alpha, Pi Beta Phi,  
Pi Kappa Alpha, and Sigma Phi Epsilon

**Samantha Salvador Living Your Values Award**  
Jacob Landgraf, Lambda Chi Alpha  
Lesley Barajas, Sigma Lambda Gamma

**Outstanding Fraternity and Sorority Emerging Leader**  
Charlie Presar, Sigma Phi Epsilon  
Taylor Nesselroad, Pi Beta Phi

**George T. Kilavos Outstanding Chapter Advisor**  
Mike Targonski, Sigma Chi

**Mark R. Schwehn, Ph.D. Outstanding Faculty Advisor**  
Richard Severe, advisor to Kappa Alpha Psi

**Most Improved Chapter**  
Pi Kappa Alpha



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June: *FOCUS Orientation Sessions*  
June 28: *Sigma Chi Founders Day*

# Chapter Spotlight:

## Gamma Phi Beta

The women of Gamma Phi Beta were recognized at the annual Fraternity and Sorority Awards with the *Values in Action* award honoring their establishment of the “Empowered Women Empower Women” award. This recognition is given by the women of Gamma Phi Beta to a member of the Valpo community who “has helped our sisters achieve the highest type of womanhood, and know that we as sorority women are #unstoppable!”



The first recipient of this new recognition was Dr. Ashleigh Elser. One member of Gamma Phi Beta stated, “she is not only an educator, she is a leader, a motivator, an inspiration, and most importantly, a catalyst for change.” Gamma Phi Beta then chose to honor women’s soccer team member Riana Gesell with the “Empowering Women Empower Women” Award for helping the women of Gamma Phi Beta achieve the highest type of womanhood.



The women of Gamma Phi Beta stated “thank you for helping the women of Gamma Phi Beta know we can do anything we set our minds to and for being a role model in our community.”

---

## Alpha Xi Epsilon Local Sorority Celebrates 100 Years of Sisterhood

In April, more than 100 alumnae members of Alpha Xi Epsilon local sorority traveled back to campus to celebrate the centennial of the establishment of the sorority in the spring of 1919. Alpha Xi Epsilon has a long and wonderful history at Valparaiso University. The local sorority transitioned to our current Pi Beta Phi chapter in 1998. The women spent the weekend touring campus and spending time with one another celebrating decades of friendships and sisterhood.



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

Contact:

**Ally Rekitzke or Terry Wade**

*Panhellenic and IFC Vice Presidents of Public Relations*

panhellenic.publicrelations@valpo.edu; ifc.publicrelations@valpo.edu

