

THE PHOTA



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

Spring 2020 Recruitment Results for Fraternity and Sorority Life



In January of 2020, Valparaiso University was so excited to welcome more than 200 new members to the fraternity and sorority community through our spring recruitment process. As soon as members came back from winter break, primary sorority recruitment began and lasted through the week until bid day on January 12, where all of the potential new members found their homes in their new sorority. Starting on January 8, fraternity recruitment began and lasted through January 24, when the official fraternity bid signing took place. We are so excited to welcome these new members into our FSL family.



On the sorority side, 2020 was the university's first primary recruitment with the addition of Alpha Gamma Delta! Sorority's went through the traditional primary recruitment, beginning with philanthropy night, then sisterhood night, and finally preference night. Bid Day was held on Sunday in celebration of welcoming all of the new members. After the addition of a few women following the primary recruitment process, the sorority community welcomed a total of 139 new members for the sorority community.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- February 29 – March 7: *FSL Spring Service Trip*
- March 1: *Pi Kappa Alpha Founders Day*
- March 15: *Phi Delta Theta Founders Day (celebrated)*
- March 15: *Phi Sigma Kappa Founders Day*
- March 16 & 17: *Get Informed About Formal*
- March 16 – 27: *ΑΓΔ and ΛΧΑ Food Drive*
- March 19: *Kappa Kappa Gamma Philanthropy Event*
- March 21: *Lambda Chi Alpha Smash Hunger*
- March 23 - 27: *Women's Empowerment Week*
- March 23 - 27: *Kappa Alpha Psi Kappa Week*
- March 25 – 28: *Lutheran Basketball Tournament*
- March 28: *Alpha Gamma Delta Philanthropy Event*

As for the fraternities, the men continued with their formal recruitment process with guidelines surrounding activities. Each fraternity had a few recruitment events spread through the month highlighting each of their philanthropies and other brotherhood events that they hold each year. Many fraternities ended the process with a preference dinner, highlighting what their brotherhood means to them. By the end of the recruitment process, fraternities welcomed a total of 77 new members.

Overall, the community is excited to welcome our new members and cannot wait to see what they will do with their futures in fraternity and sorority life. Welcome home!

Chapter Spotlight:

Sigma Lambda Gamma

Sigma Lambda Gamma recently hosted their annual Penny Wars! Penny Wars is SLG's philanthropy event in which they raise money for Breast Cancer Awareness. The money donated goes to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Research Foundation, the world's largest nonprofit organization leading the fight against breast cancer. These donations not only go towards cancer research, but also public policy and global outreach.

This event is a competition between other organizations to raise the most money. Each penny in a team's bucket counts as one point. But, teams can put silver coins and dollars in other team's buckets to subtract from their positive total! Sigma Lambda Gamma member Lucy Tovar noted, "It was cool to see us raise over 1,000 dollars with the majority of that money being pennies."



The men of Lambda Chi Alpha proved victorious for the third year in a row and took home the Penny Wars Champion paddle made by the sisters of ΣΛΓ. Sister Jessica Villegas said about the event, "It was great to see the Valpo FSL community come out and compete for a paddle made by one of our sisters." Sigma Lambda Gamma's Penny Wars continues to be a favorite week on campus while raising money for a great cause!

Valpo Panhellenic and Interfraternity Councils Receive National Recognition



The Valparaiso University Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council Executive Board officers recently attended the Association of Fraternal Leadership and Values Central Conference in Indianapolis. During the conference, the councils were recognized several times for excellence in the development of the fraternity and sorority community.

First, the Valparaiso University Fraternity and Sorority Community was recognized for excellence in Academic Achievement by Gamma Sigma Alpha Academic Honorary. The Valpo fraternity and sorority community had the highest community GPA for the Fall 2019 semester of all campuses in the mid-west region.

The Panhellenic Council was recognized for outstanding achievement in accountability for the 2019 calendar year. The Interfraternity Council was also recognized for outstanding achievement in accountability as well as achievement with distinction in collaboration for the efforts with the Fraternity and Sorority Life Athletics Unity initiative.

Overall, the leadership of the Panhellenic and Interfraternity Council continue to be recognized among the best of the best in the nation!

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

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