

THE PHOTA



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

**2020 Valparaiso University
Dance Marathon**

#ForTheKids

Valpo's Virtual Dance Marathon a Huge Success #ForTheKids!

Valparaiso University Dance Marathon is one of the most beloved campus events of the year, and is the official philanthropy event of the fraternity and sorority community. Dance Marathon benefits the children at the Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago, and students are eager to fundraise and dance for the kids! On April 4 2020, the eighth annual Valparaiso University Dance Marathon was celebrated in a different format due to the COVID-19 crisis. The event was transformed into a virtual experience via social media. Needless to say, the event remained an immense success.

The 2020 Valparaiso University Dance Marathon raised \$56,731.08! Overall director Chris Rekitzke (Sigma Chi) recounted the events leading up to such a triumph. "Having a virtual event was certainly a challenge, but as soon as our team knew we wouldn't be able to physically gather anymore we switched gears and started working on getting a virtual event together. Our team really had to pave their own way to create our content and to create a vision for what our virtual event would look like." He also explains how the challenge made the executive team even stronger and produced some of its best work of the year. Chris shared that he could not be more proud of the team for the great things they accomplished!

Valparaiso University
fraternities and sororities raised

\$44,664.61

for the kids at Lurie Children's Hospital as
part of the 2020 Valpo Dance Marathon!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- May 30: *Alpha Gamma Delta Founders Day*
- June 2: *Fraternity and Sorority Life Photo Shoot*
- June 28: *Sigma Chi Founders Day*
- July 6 - 10: *FOCUS Sessions 1-3*
- July 13 - 17: *FOCUS Sessions 4-6*
- August 10: *FSL Leadership Retreat*
- August 12: *Freshman Move-In*
- August 15: *Fraternity and Sorority Meet and Greet*
- August 17: *First Day of Class*

Concerning the 2021 Valparaiso University Dance Marathon, new overall director Lillia Pogue (Pi Beta Phi) is ecstatic with the recent appointment of the new leadership team. She says, "as we look forward to 2021, we are so excited to have expanded our leadership team to include 64 people from across the Executive Board, Morale Team, Miracle Makers, and four committees." She's eager to build upon the achievements of past Dance Marathons and strengthen what has become a central component of fraternity and sorority life at Valpo! #ValpoDM #ForTheKids

Chapter Spotlight:

The annual Valparaiso University Fraternity and Sorority Awards were held on April 28, 2020 as a virtual event with the awards being presented using the fraternity and sorority life social media accounts. Congratulations to all of the hardworking chapters and members for these outstanding accomplishments. Here is a list of awards for 2019-2020:

Fraternity and Sorority of the Year: Sigma Phi Epsilon and Gamma Phi Beta

Pillars of Excellence: Chi Omega, Gamma Phi Beta, Pi Beta Phi, Sigma Chi and Sigma Phi Epsilon

Most Improved Chapter: Sigma Chi

Values in Action Award: Kappa Kappa Gamma

Alan Harre, Ph.D. Civic Engagement Award: Gamma Phi Beta for Girls on the Run

GUARDS Guardian Award: Phi Delta Theta

Excellence in Academic Programming: Sigma Phi Epsilon and Gamma Phi Beta

Excellence in Alumni/ae Development: Phi Delta Theta and Kappa Delta

Excellence in Campus Involvement: Sigma Chi and Gamma Phi Beta

Excellence in Chapter Management: Sigma Chi and Chi Omega

Excellence in Community Service: Phi Kappa Psi and Pi Beta Phi

Excellence in Member Development: Sigma Phi Epsilon and Kappa Kappa Gamma

Excellence in New Member Education: Sigma Phi Epsilon and Chi Omega

Excellence in Philanthropic Programming: Sigma Chi and Pi Beta Phi

Excellence in Public Relations: Pi Kappa Alpha and Kappa Delta

Excellence in Recruitment: Lambda Chi Alpha and Alpha Gamma Delta

Excellence in Risk Management: Pi Kappa Alpha and Gamma Phi Beta

Academic Performance for Overall and New Member GPA: Sigma Phi Epsilon and Gamma Phi Beta

Academic Performance for Most Improved GPA: Phi Sigma Kappa and Sigma Lambda Gamma

Fraternity Man of the Year: Christopher Rekitzke of Sigma Chi

Sorority Woman of the Year: Nikki Zoumis of Kappa Delta

Outstanding Fraternity Chapter President: Connor Russell of Sigma Phi Epsilon

Outstanding Sorority Chapter President: Ashley Winiewicz of Pi Beta Phi

Living Your Values Award: Doug Haugh of Pi Kappa Alpha and Annika Brown of Kappa Kappa Gamma

Emerging Leaders: Anthony Luciano of Phi Kappa Psi and Michaela DiCristofano of Gamma Phi Beta

Outstanding Chapter Advisor: Caroline Rosales of Sigma Lambda Gamma

Outstanding Faculty Advisor: Nick Rosasco of Lambda Chi Alpha

Intramural Players of the Year: Matt Wolf of Phi Kappa Psi and Maddie Johnson of Pi Beta Phi

Individual Pillars of Excellence:

Danny Dalenberg of Pi Kappa Alpha (Leadership); Joshua DeJarlais of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia (Arts); Sydney Dennis of Chi Omega (Faith); Derek Eidson of Phi Kappa Psi (Athletics); Olivia Janke of Gamma Phi Beta (Athletics); Kallie Lyon of Kappa Delta (Academics); Sam Markovich of Phi Sigma Kappa (Service); Jordan Pagel of Kappa Delta (Arts); Dawson Penshorn of Sigma Phi Epsilon (Faith); Nell Riordan of Gamma Phi Beta (Leadership); Liz Sandmire of Alpha Gamma Delta (Service); and Max Shiller of Lambda Chi Alpha (Academics)

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

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