

THE RED DOOR

The Official Newsletter of Sigma Phi
Epsilon's Indiana Zeta Chapter

8 MEN CLOSER

Indiana Zeta's Spring Bid Turn In

By Reed Hubbert

To go along with the theme of the past twelve months, our bid turn-in process was rather atypical. To combat this unusual scenario we are in, our Vice President of Member Development, Matthew Morateck, made the wise decision to divide the events of bid turn-in night into two evenings. The night after our quarantine ended, we invited our eight new members to 705 Mound Street for introductions, pizza, and hanging out as a brotherhood. We were unable to see our new brothers on the university's designated bid turn-in night, so we were ecstatic to finally be united with them, as the bonds of fraternal love are binding and holy.

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A PROUD MOMENT FOR THE COMMS DEPARTMENT: THE FRAYSER AWARD

Indiana Zeta received the Benjamin Hobson Frayser Award for Connection through Communication this past month.

Over the last year, the men of Indiana Zeta have worked to improve the ways in which we engage with alumni, parents of the chapter, potential new members and their families, and more. Our vision is an increased dialogue about the value of the SigEp experience and how it will benefit young men and their communities into the future. In addition to The Red Door being released monthly, we have hosted virtual house tours for alumni and potential new members, sent holiday cards and gift baskets, worked with nationals to restructure our website, and more. Due to the nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, the importance of a robust communications team and system has become more important than ever. Younger members within the chapter have stepped into vital roles and delivered in this new effort, serving their chapter admirably. As a result, the national fraternity awarded Indiana Zeta the Benjamin Hobson Frayser Award for Connection through Communication.

This award recognizes chapters and/or Alumni Volunteer Corporation's that foster a strong connection with their members, alumni base, parents and the university community through effective communication. We are deeply honored to receive this award and under the leadership of Vice President of Communications Tanner Grashorn, External Relations Chair Evan Stock, Social Media Chair Aaron Spaletto, we look forward to continue our journey on a pursuit towards excellence in communications.

In Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love,

Dawson Penshorn

IN Zeta SLC '22

FSL Unity: Snowmen with AlphaGam

By Daniel Asselstine, Social Chair

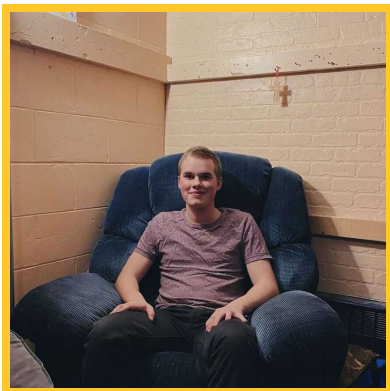
Amidst a nationwide pandemic, many college students have struggled to find events deemed, “COVID safe,” and as cases rise and people begin to quarantine, it is even more essential to life spirits by interacting with our fellow organizations. While the options are limited for such interactions, we were able to have a fun unity event with Alpha Gamma Delta this past weekend, involving several intense snowball fights and some fun snowman-building competitions. In total there were 20 people in attendance (the university limit), and everyone had a fantastic time engaging in the unusually large amount of snowfall. The snow was perfect for building small forts, and as time progressed and the sun started to melt the top layer, it became ideal for large-scale snowmen. Both Lijana (AlphaGam Unity) and I were very pleased with the general turnout and look forward to future events together!



VP of Comms Tanner Grashorn stares down the camera, ready to hurl a snowball at the next bad picture.

Below, SigEps and AlphaGams pose for a group photo.





Chapter Spotlight:

New Members

Our Spring Formal Recruitment oversaw the joining of 8 new members. While it may be difficult to meet them in person, here are some brief introductions.



Andrew Messerschmidt is a Digital Media Arts freshman from Barrington, Illinois. Andrew is for the kids, and really enjoys helping with Dance Marathon at Valpo.



Noah Godsell is a Digital Media Arts freshman from Pewaukee, Wisconsin. Noah enjoys sports broadcasting, particularly with brother **James Sroge**.

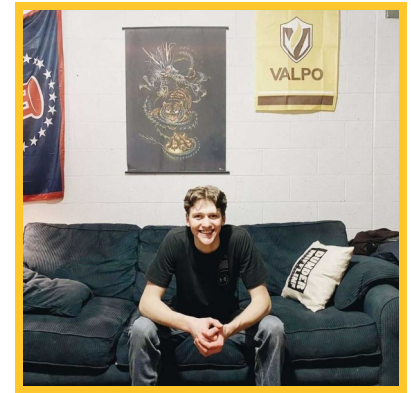


Jack Larson is a Mechanical Engineering freshman from Chicago, Illinois. Jack is intensely focused on Super Smash Bros, and occasionally even enjoys it.

C. J. Cobb is a Mechanical Engineering freshman from Griffith, Indiana. C.J. is a big gamer and enjoys hanging out with his brothers—at least the ones in Valparaiso.

Left. From top to bottom: Andrew, Noah, Jack, C.J.

Ethan Brannon is a Mechanical Engineering freshman from Sycamore, Illinois. When left to his own devices, Ethan picks up lamps after a little peer pressure. Ask us if we can prove it.



Ethan Decatur is a Criminology freshman from Shrewsbury, Massachusetts. In his spare time, Ethan mountain bikes, skis, and plays the cello. He's actually pretty cool.

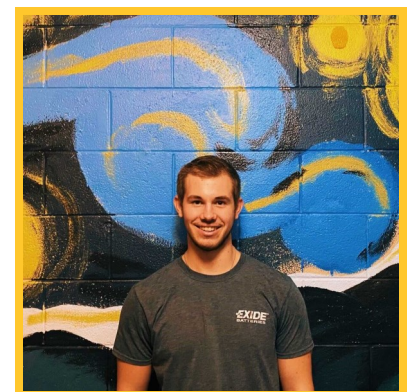


Caleb Engelmann is a Mechanical Engineering freshman from Deer Park, Illinois. Caleb likes to read, play video games, and hang out with friends. He's not bad on the guitar.



Aidan Goodreau is a Health Science/PA freshman from Sussex, Wisconsin. For fun, Aidan climbs rocks and skis down hills—he really likes to be outside.

All jokes aside, we are extremely proud of our new members and honored that they chose to be a part of the tradition at Indiana Zeta.



Right. From top to bottom: Ethan, Ethan, Caleb, Aidan

CHAPTER EVENTS:

FEBRUARY

Despite being the shortest month of the year, February was a productive month for Indiana Zeta.

- 1 Recruitment Event:**
Alumni Panel
- 3 Service Event:**
Card Making
- 4 Sound Body:**
Sore in the Mornin'
- 6 Epsilon**
Rite of Passage
- 6 Bid Night**
- 12 Bid Day (Makeup)**
Events
- 20 Unity Event:**
Snowmen with
AlphaGam
- 26 Brotherhood Event:**
Movie Night
- 27 Brother Mentor Rite**
of Passage

My Experience as a New Member

By Ethan Decatur

If I was asked to name the most impactful decision I have made since arriving at Valpo, that experience would be choosing to join the Indiana Zeta chapter of Sigma Phi Epsilon. I would like to note that I did not initially have much interest in joining this group of young men. When I was going through recruitment, SigEp was always in the back of my mind, though I found myself gravitating towards fraternities with lower GPA requirements, a non-dry house, and a more non-academic focus on campus. I thought that it would be more fun to be around men who did not give as much thought to campus involvement and academic success and instead focused purely on building relationships purely with their fraternity brothers, rather than also being dedicated to extracurriculars, academics, and philanthropies.

It was not until I received my bid (via email) from SigEp that my perspective on what a fraternity should be diverted from what I initially thought. Along with my electronic bid was a note from an older brother. This note highlighted all the qualities he saw in me that he thought made me a good fit for SigEp. This was not a generic letter, but a piece of writing that spoke directly to me, naming specific experiences that this brother had with me that prompted him to see these values in my personality.

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It was then that I realized that SigEps are a step above other fraternities, as they choose to focus on improving their professional lives, having their priorities straight on campus, leading them to become involved in academic success, as well as campus involvement, making sure every man in the fraternity is held to standards to be proud of.

Since joining, I have felt as though I can connect with any brother at any time. The sense of community I have felt has been beyond wonderful, already making friendships with some of these men that I believe will last throughout my time at Valparaiso University.



Because a picture of Ethan can be found on the previous page, we decided to include a sample from another one of his hobbies-photography.

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The second evening of the bid turn-in process consisted of initiation, breakfast for dinner, and brotherhood. The new members went through the Sigma Rite of Passage in the chapter house, as we were able to find a way to make the ritual Covid-friendly. All brothers were then served a full breakfast of pancakes, eggs, sausage, and bacon that was prepared by a handful of the Executive Board members and myself. After this meal was eaten, brothers moved to their personal rooms on the second and third floors to play various games such as Cards Against Humanity, Euchre, and Super Smash Bros. These two evenings were a tremendous effort in relieving the stress that was caused by our beginning-of-the-semester quarantine. We look forward to the rest of the semester as we will continue to build upon our brotherhood!

FOLLOW INDIANA ZETA ON SOCIAL MEDIA

If you're not following us on the internet already, it is encouraged to follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter to see everything happening here in Valparaiso. You can find us here at:

@valposigep — on all three social media platforms

Final Thoughts: Words from the Editor

We've already won the Award for Communications, so we can afford a little more flexibility with this newsletter—we're still in college, after all. In all seriousness, I am honored to be a part in the effort Indiana Zeta Communications department has put in over the past year, and it is incredible feeling to see our hard work paying off. Nevertheless, we will not slow down, and we will continue to provide the quality content you've come to expect. I wanted to thank you, our readers, that despite a wild year, you're still with us.

Fraternally,

Evan Stock

SigEp

IN ZETA SLC

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You can unsubscribe to some or all communications by the Sigma Phi Epsilon Indiana Zeta chapter. However, SigEp needs to communicate with you periodically about our chapter or events that may happen in your area, so we encourage you to allow general Fraternity communication through e-mail. SigEp makes every effort to minimize the number of e-mails you receive. To update your contact and/or communication, preferences email us at sigep.externalrelations@valpo.edu.

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