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The RED DOOR

The Official Newsletter of
Sigma Phi Epsilon – Indiana Zeta



Fall Memories

2026 Fall Edition!

This past fall and summer has been one of great fun and joy! The brothers of Indiana Zeta have been up to a lot of great things recently. From SigEp Splash, to our annual retreat, house renovations, studying abroad, internships, and attending Ruck Leadership Academy. We can't wait for everyone to read about what we are up to.

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SigEp Splash!

Cody Rusboldt: Junior Mechanical Engineering Major

On September 20, the brothers of Sigma Phi Epsilon hosted our annual philanthropy event, SigEp Splash, to support Hilltop Neighborhood House. A total of 6 teams created by fraternities and sororities on Valpo's campus competed for the title of this year's Splash champions. The event consisted of various water related activities including a sponge dodgeball, dizzy waiter, water balloon toss, rubber duck toss, and superman. Leading up to the event, we sold t-shirts designed by Cody Rusboldt and collectively fundraised by reaching out to friends, family, relatives, and alumni for support. A huge shoutout to brother Roger Blaney for raising $450, the most of any brother.



Brothers were designated as captains for each of the competing teams to cheer them on and direct them to each activity. Teams were very appreciative of their captains and the motivation they provided. Some brothers even received the ceremonial "Gatorade shower" from their team after winning one of the activities. After a day of great weather and fun, the women of Kappa Kappa Gamma were crowned as the winners. The event raised nearly $3000 which will be used to purchase Christmas gifts and supplies for the children at Hilltop. We would like to thank all event participants and supporters for their contributions! We look forward to next year's event! You can learn more about Hilltop at https://hilltophouse.org.

Annual Chapter Retreat

Luke Nieman, Junior Biology Major



Early this September, I was fortunate enough to join my brothers on our yearly retreat to Camp Raybird in South Bend, Indiana. It was an overnight retreat that began when we arrived around 5 pm and ended the next day around 3 pm. For that whole first night, we had breakout discussions and heartfelt talks about the current status of our chapter and where we want to take it in the near future. It was a great time filled with honesty, vulnerability, and brotherly love. We capped off the retreat with our yearly tradition of visiting the campus of Notre Dame, where we were able to get a taste of college life outside of Valparaiso. This was my second time going on this retreat, and it remains one of my fondest memories every year. Being able to close out the world with my best friends for an entire day not only refreshes my mission as a SigEp, but helps me grow into the kind of man that I hope makes my brothers, my family, and myself proud.

Ruck Reflection

Owen Galicia: Senior Statistics Major



Attending the Ruck Leadership Institute was a life changing experience for me. I was challenged in ways that I have never before such as being physically and psychologically challenged when I faced my fears on the ropes course, and when I was mentally challenged through our various group discussions and having to pitch a Member Development idea in front of the entire group. I have made 20 friendships that I am sure that will be lifelong. I am enjoying bringing back everything I learned to make Indiana Zeta the best chapter that it can be.

A Noble Internship

Jack Magee, Senior Digital Media Arts Major

This Summer I was fortunate enough to have a summer internship at Noble of Indiana a Non-Profit Organization that works with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities. I mainly worked as a communications and public relations intern, but worked in many other areas as needed such as fundraising. My favorite project I worked on was an internal training video about the importance of the deinstitutionalization of care for people with Intellectual and developmental disabilities. For this video I was able to interview the CEO of Noble, Wade Wingler which was a very cool experience. I was glad to have many opportunities to interact with Noble's consumers, from morning coffee chats, to random dance parties, karaoke, and playing basketball. I felt that I was able to make a strong connection with every person I interacted with and i'm glad I was given the opportunity to make those connections!



Study Abroad

Connor Minix, Senior Psychology Major

This past spring semester, I had the opportunity to study abroad in Cambridge, England. I lived in and studied at Westfield House, a small study center just outside of central Cambridge. I was there alongside three other Valpo students as well as a small group of other American students from all across the country. My time in Cambridge was one of the most memorable and valuable experiences of my life. Not only did I find the classes themselves enriching, but I made connections with others that I hope to have for life. I was also fortunate enough to explore many other European countries and made memories in the process that I will never forget. This experience has impacted me greatly as a person and I am so thankful to have had the opportunity.



House Work Weekend

Jack Unger: Senior Mechanical Engineering Major

Last semester, while walking around the house and discussing housing renovations with the Phase II Housing Task Force, I realized that there were many projects and cleaning that weren't going to get done in the remaining weeks of the semester. After discussing with the larger AVC and doing some planning with AVC Member Jack Colwell '25, the 2026 Summer Work Weekend was planned for July 17-19th.

The weekend was a great success! We had 8 undergrads, 1 AVC member, 2 recent alumni, and 4 family members show up to volunteer for almost the entire day on Saturday. With the help of these volunteers and 7 trips to Menards, we were able to accomplish many items that went beyond the scope of a regular House Cleanup and also assisted in bringing down costs for the Phase II Renovations. This included:

- Fence teardown in preparation for the sitting wall
- Shed repairs and reorganization
- Weeding and mulching perimeter of the House, including the front bush
- Ceiling tiles replaced in SLC
- SLC furniture moved to Corner Pocket while new furniture was getting ordered
- Cleaned up Corner Pocket including
- Rehung shelves in Wall Street





House Work Weekend (pt 2)

Jack Unger: Senior Mechanical Engineering Major

Following the work weekend and renovations bleeding into the school year, I was able to install new ceiling tiles and lighting in the Corner Pocket with my parents in addition to installing new ceiling tiles in the kitchen with VP of Programming Cody Rusboldt '28. The house is looking better than ever, and the current undergrads have loved being able to use the updated spaces to host recruitment hangouts, brotherhood bonding, Balanced Man Scholarship events, supper clubs, and a SigEp Mom Dinner! I can't thank the volunteers that helped out that weekend enough and I hope that this can become a tradition for the chapter to do every summer.



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

Hello, newsletter readers. I hope you have enjoyed all that the undergraduates of the Indiana Zeta Chapter has been up to lately. We sure have been working hard to be the strongest brotherhood we can be! Thank you to our wonderful Alumni Volunteer Corporation for all their hard work to make 705 mound a much better place to live in.
As always, if you have any suggestions on topics or items you desire to see within these newsletters, please contact me at
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Thank you for reading!

Jack Magee -
VP of Communications

SigEp

IN ZETA SLC

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 email. SigEp makes every effort to minimize the number of emails you receive. To update your contact and/or communication, preferences email us at sigep.communications@valpo.edu.

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