



# TIGER FIJI

## Lambda Chapter ready to face the challenges ahead

With a pledge class of 28, a strong emphasis on academics, philanthropy, and social service, an active social life, and a commitment to the values of Phi Gamma Delta and the 150-year legacy of Lambda, the chapter is facing new challenges—and so are we as graduate brothers.

The Greek Fact-Finding Commission's (GFFC) report and subsequent GFFC activities magnify the issues—particularly housing and quality-of-living conditions; please read on.

Complacency is always a concern, but the word is not in the chapter's vocabulary. The chapter takes our 150-year history seriously. Undergraduates again wrote articles for *Tiger Fiji*. Look at their pictures, too. The brotherhood is strong and getting stronger. The chapter is developing a five- to seven-year strategic plan. Chapter members are providing valuable advice and perspectives on the GFFC activities, too. They seek and appreciate graduate involvement and support.

The rush results are phenomenal: 28 pledges, who the undergraduates insist are quality men. This is one of the largest pledge classes on campus. I met the pledges in March during a visit to Lambda.

When I told one pledge how pleased we are to have him, he explained why he is prouder to be a Fiji! This enthusiasm and excitement permeates the entire chapter. Comments by other Greek advisers on Fiji's recruitment and the chapter's focus on its priorities and values are especially gratifying.

The chapter again finished first among fraternities for academic excellence with a 3.38 GPA for the chapter. (Jeez, they had a 3.4 GPA last semester and planned to make the dean's list as a chapter this semester. What happened?) The congratulatory notes, particularly from sororities, are very complimentary. The chapter's schedule for flowerins says more than words can about the chapter's status on campus.

Please note the graduate support of Robert C. Kirk '71 for the chapter's Little 500 effort this year—our first since 2003, when Fiji did not win but got rave acceptance from the crowd. Can Fiji win this year?

Read the team's assessment. Our sincere thanks go out to Bob for his interest and generosity.

Also, read about the chapter's continuing commitment to philanthropy and social service. Many, if not all, of you would also be impressed with the chapter's discussion of environmental issues during my visit. No, this was not about *An Inconvenient Truth*. Mike Lutz '09 led an important discussion about recycling efforts at DePauw and the chapter.

Now for the challenges: Yep, we need money for improvements. No point in beating around the bush on this subject. With 62 brothers in the chapter and the university's inspection of all Greek housing, we need donations to buy furniture, make essential repairs (the CR is first on the list), and for new laundry facilities, lighting, drapes, and blinds—the list is long.

We have set priorities and authorized substantial expenditures to begin work, but this is far short of what we need. We are also working with the Phi Gamma Delta Educational Foundation on a scholarship fund that will be tax deductible. Housing issues remain at the forefront.

In November, DePauw inspected the Fiji house, both for infrastructure repairs and aesthetic appeal. We knew the issues before the inspection. We did reasonably well in solving water problems in the basement, drainage, ventilation, and other infrastruc-

ture and decorative issues, but much more work remains. The undergraduate brothers have been doing their part, too, with work projects and improvements.

The Greek system provides 42 percent of student housing. The university has a legitimate interest in fire, safety, and aesthetic issues. This is about DePauw remaining competitive with comparable colleges and universities. These are not solely Greek problems either. The university also has housing and quality-of-life issues to address.

Greek life subjects focus on: alcohol abuse; the affiliation process (rush/recruitment/pledge education); student conduct (individual and/or group responsibility); the judicial process; and the limited resources allocated to student services supporting Greek life. The trustees authorized the expansion of student services for Greek life in January. The university acknowledges that alcohol abuse, student conduct, and the judicial system are DePauw community issues, not just Greek issues.

At the request of President Bottoms, Greek advisers formed the Greek Life Advisory Council to consult with and advise the university on housing and Greek life issues. Lance DeNardin (SAE) chairs the housing committee of the council. Doug Mitchell '70 chairs the Greek life committee. Both committees hold regular meetings with the university and independently.

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The chapter welcomes the 28 pledges at the end of bid night with a Midnight Song!

## LAMBDA CHAPTER PHI GAMMA DELTA



### HOUSE CORPORATION

Joe Carney  
Russ LaMore  
Doug Mitchell  
Paul Qua  
John Axelberg  
Don Mighell  
Wade Nichols  
Phil Heyde  
George "Kit" Lortz  
David Schmitz  
Steve Jacobs  
Jay Moore  
Henry Hile  
Garth Anderson  
Ryan Barton

### BOARD OF CHAPTER ADVISORS

James J. Davin IV  
Will Brooks  
Logan Mayfield  
Peter Rimsans  
J. Scott Avery  
Christopher Doran  
Carl R. Sahlberg  
John F. Hirschman  
Peter M. Felleggy  
Peter Dinwiddie  
John Wallace  
Joe Atria  
Eric Wolfe  
Aaron Gotway  
Douglas Felleggy  
Daniel Kelley  
Andrew Turner

## Actives, pledges give back to community

Despite the biting wind and occasional snow flurry, the dedication of the Lambda Chapter to its value of service burns more brightly than ever.

During the first weekend of March, a group of 15 pledge brothers and 15 actives mobilized to assist the Hope Haven horse farm with its preparations for spring. Hope Haven, located just outside of Stilesville on Highway 40, serves as a host for many different community assistance programs, including horse therapy.

During warmer weather, they encourage at-risk children to work with their horses and prepare them for 4-H contests during the summer. Other weekends, you will find disabled children being taught riding skills and preparing for equestrian events in the Special Olympics. While they may not have the flashiest saddles for competitions or the newest equipment—the pickup hauling us around all day was without a working door—the directors, Tim and Christina Menke, run the farm with a lot of love and energy.

During our time on the farm, we completed a number of projects. Our braver members (aka those with thicker coats) built a shelter to hold a sawdust pile, repaired broken boards on the outdoor arena, and replaced old insulators on the electric fence.

(Luckily, they were nice enough to turn off the fence for us beforehand!)

Inside the main barn, our largest project was putting up plywood boards around the main enclosure. A clamor of hammers could be heard all afternoon, as brothers hit nails and the occasional thumb. The new boards were then given a double coat of paint to match the rest of the interior of the building.

Elsewhere in the stables, the last group of brothers worked to replace old boards in the hayloft, after throwing out a dozen or more bales of hay from the second story into the old pickup. As one who participated in that project, I can say that there is little in this world more satisfying than watching a bale of hay fly out an open window.

Between working on different projects, brothers huddled together to simply enjoy the fellowship of a cup of hot coffee on a cold winter day. That was the true success of our venture—the chance to unite in the selfless act of improving our community and strengthening the bonds of our brotherhood. We left that evening with not only a little mud on our shoes, but also an experience to share as friends and brothers.

Jesse Bright '08

## A look at a few other service projects

Lambda continues to be very active and visible in campus-wide philanthropy and service projects. This is in addition to the chapter's own projects, such as our Bark-B-Que with Theta, which benefits the Putnam County Humane Society, and chapter events that benefit the American Red Cross.

Fiji and Alpha Phi finished first in the Ring Sing with a James Bond *Goldfinger* performance. Mike Cowden '08 sang surrounded by—you guessed it—Alpha Phis.

We also participated in the Turtlepalooza

fundraiser event and are now gearing up for Relay for Life.

We hosted a dinner for international students during the fall semester and plan to hold a second one this spring. The fall semester dinner was a popular event, attended by over 100 students. Projesh Banerjea '08 was the "executive chef" for the first dinner and, by popular demand, will resume his duties during the second dinner.

Jesse Bright '08



*Fiji actives and pledges take time out of their day to work at Hope Haven Horse Farm.*

# Brothers restart Fiji tradition thanks to help from an alumnus

At this year's Little Five, DePauw is going to see something it has not seen since 2003: the Fiji team!

In November 2006, five active members—Jesse Bright '08; David Cheeseman '09; Ross Hallren '09; Clint Hasenour '07; and Mike Lutz '09—took on the challenge of restarting the Lambda Little Five tradition. So far, the men have been training for almost four months, putting in 70- to 90-minute workouts five to six days a week, using equipment made possible by a generous donation from Bob Kirk '71.

After each workout, the five go up to the kitchen and share a quick meal before returning to their studies. I had a chance to speak with them about their inauspicious beginning.

**Question:** What was it like for each of you back in November when you formed the team?

**Hallren:** Well, Jesse came to me and

asked me if I wanted to do Little Five. At that time, we did not have any equipment, except for two bikes made from spare parts. We had no money, and some of us had not ridden a bike since middle school.

**Lutz:** Yeah, we really did not have much at that time, but the prospect of showing DePauw and the graduates just how far we have come since 2000 was what really hooked me.

**Question:** You mentioned that you did not have any money or equipment. How did you go about solving that problem?

**Cheeseman:** During the 150th celebration, Ryan Barton, Jesse Bright, and I spoke with Brother Kirk about possibly reviving the Fiji Little Five team. Brother Kirk generously agreed to donate the funds necessary to purchase the racing bikes and training equipment.

**Bright:** Yes, Bob really helped us get the

ball rolling. There is no doubt in my mind that we could not have done any of this without his help.

**Lutz:** After we got the money, we still needed to find someone willing to guide us as far as purchasing the right kind of equipment.

**Bright:** Yeah, luckily I was taking the DePauw cycling coach's winter term cycling class. He really gave us a lot of good advice about where to buy equipment and what to buy. In fact, he even helped us get discounts on equipment, which was a big help.

**Question:** How do you feel about your chances in this year's race?

**Hasenour:** I do not see any reason why we cannot contend with the other teams for the title. After all, all it really takes is just a stronger will to win and a more rigorous

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## Rush nets 28 quality pledges

The chapter pledged 28 quality men in February. Chapter President Darein Burton '09 said, "You are going to love these guys!" The pledge class includes three legacies, too.

The chapter did exceptionally well, taking one of the largest pledge classes on campus in a year when approximately 200 men participated in rush—a figure down from prior years. Congratulations to Rush Chairman Jeremy Brok '07, who spearheaded the recruitment and rush efforts for the chapter. Jeremy and the entire chapter were "pumped up," according to Ryan Barton '08.

Darein also emphasized that the rush/recruitment experience this year created strong bonds of brotherhood in the chapter. This bond is evident in other chapter activities, especially philanthropy and social service. (See related stories, page two.)

During rush/recruitment, the chapter concentrated on the values of the fraternity and the goals of Lambda. Aaron Gotway '05, a former rush/recruitment chairman, made numerous trips to Greencastle to help the chapter organize and get motivated for rush. Aaron also gave the graduate brothers' speech during the final round, which included 47 pledge candidates. Thanks, too, to Steve Parker, PL, for advising the chapter during winter term, just before Steve became the proud father of a Fiji legacy!

Zach Wilson '09  
Recording Secretary



*Our Little Five—Clint Hasenour '07, Mike Lutz '09, David Cheeseman '09, and Ross Hallren '09. (Not pictured: Jesse Bright '08.)*

## Brothers enjoy successful Indiana State Day

The Lambda Chapter continues to be a shining star among the Indiana chapters of Fiji. At Indiana State Day, the chapter took first-place honors for the highest GPA (3.38) and for best graduate relations. Regretfully, we finished second for the coveted Beta Cup (designating the Most Outstanding Chapter in Indiana) just behind Purdue. Although we know Purdue and Indiana are stiff competition, we will strive for the Beta Cup next year, as complacency is not in our vocabulary.

Lambda often also wins the attendance award regularly by sending our

entire chapter, but this year—with the second round of rush conflicting with State Day—a delegation of only 10 Lambda brothers attended the event.

Eric Wolfe '04 led training sessions for undergraduates from all Indiana chapters on philanthropy and social service projects. The programs were well attended and gave chapters the opportunity to exchange ideas for chapter and campus social service and philanthropy projects.

Garth Anderson '09

# OUR ALUMNI SEND THEIR NEWS

**James R. Kelly '57** writes, "I plan to attend 50th anniversary in June 2007 with my wife, Betsy (also '57 and a KKG)." To find out more about Jim and his plans, write to him at 2 Pilgrim Rd., Darien, CT 06820; keppertup@aol.com.

**Bruce D. Allen '59** writes, "The 150th reunion was fantastic! Approximately 20 percent of 1,000 living Lambda brothers and wives attended. **Kurt Mahrtdt '56** was so very kind and picked me up for a wonderful trip around the DePauw campus traditional buildings, living facilities, and old haunts, and we shared many memories of our life with the fraternity and DePauw University. Kurt made the past come alive with his candor, respect for our fraternity, humor, and historical knowledge. Thank you, Kurt and Linda, also for the excellent buffet breakfast at the Kurt Mahrtdt Office Building. For me, the most significant item from the remarks of DePauw President Dr. Bottoms was his sincere acknowledgement that the Lambda Chapter has dropped Hell Week and hazing, has conformed to the university policy of alcohol use, and has earned the highest fraternity grade point average at DePauw and possibly in all of Indiana—while enjoying the brotherhood and grown typical at Lambda

Fiji. The Lambda guys have done a damn good job, and I am impressed with their maturity." To hear more about Bruce's reflections on the 150th celebration, write to him at 312 Carriage Hill Cir., Libertyville, IL 60048. Send him e-mail at ballen1937@sbcglobal.net.

"**Greg Keller '67** and I both got MD degrees at University of Illinois Chicago," writes **Jonathan G. Penn '67**. "During the 1970-'71 academic year, there were eight Lambda Fijis attending the four-year U of Ill med school Chicago campus." Write to to Jonathan at 1350 Dennison Rd., East Lansing, MI 48823.

**J. Patrick Grady '70** writes, "Retired in late 2005 after 31 years of city development in Tampa, College Park, Maryland, Columbus, and Phoenix. Finished career in Phoenix as director of economic development and director of downtown development office. Currently traveling, hiking, and doing some consulting work. Married to Leslie (a past Fiji Isle queen) for 36 years. One son, Kevin, working for UC Davis in California." E-mail him at jpatrickgrady@msn.com. Send him postal mail at P.O. Box 306, Cave Creek, AZ 85327.

**Joseph L. Beesley II '78** reports that he has a 9-year-old son and is a business development rep for Harmony Timberworks. Keep in touch with "Freeze" at 105 Bayberry Rd., Greer, SC 29650. E-mail him at joelbeesley@yahoo.com.

"While still working a 'day job' as a senior accountant for Peterson Tractor (the CAT dealer for northern California and southern Oregon)," writes **Eric J. Vale '81**, "I have also started my own tax and accounting business on the side. I became an enrolled agent in 2005. Still married to my wife, Ruth, and having fun with four growing kids. My oldest is a junior in high school and starting to look at colleges. Thanks for the quality newsletters. They are appreciated." Write to Eric at 3747 Chaparral Ct., Concord, CA 94519; ericvale\_ea@yahoo.com

## Lambda ready, cont.

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Based on reports in the DePauw student newspaper, the faculty is involved in the "affiliation process" discussion with encouragement from President Bottoms. DePauw's board of visitors is reviewing student conduct and the judicial system at the request of President Bottoms. Much has been accomplished, but the work continues at a fast pace.

Consult the DePauw website for additional information at [www.depauw.edu](http://www.depauw.edu). We can provide more detailed information about the Greek Life Advisory Council and its work. Just let us know! Any comments, suggestions, or recommendations you have are more than welcome. We value your input and strongly encourage your involvement.



Phil Heyde '72  
President  
Lambda Corporation

## Brothers revive Fiji tradition, cont.

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training schedule.

**Lutz:** Well that may be true. However, there are many good riders on campus right now with a lot of experience. There is a lot to be said for experience.

**Hallren:** I agree. I doubt that we will take the championship this year, but with the foundation we are setting now, I can foresee a time, in a year or two, when the Fiji team will be a major contender for the championship.

Outfitted with new bikes, the five have been dedicating every free moment to preparing for the big race. Though they admit that they make not take the championship this year, I know that it is going to be quite a showing.

So if you happen to be in Greencastle on Saturday, April 21, do not bother stopping by the Fiji house, as we'll all be at Blackstock Stadium, cheering on our brothers as they realize their dream of restarting a proud Lambda tradition. Perge!

Camron Parker '09

## A thank you from the Little Five

As members of the 2007 Fiji Little Five team, we would like to express our thanks and undying gratitude to Bob Kirk '71 for his generous donation.

Over the past four months, we have spent every hour of our free time working to restart the grand tradition of a Fiji Little Five team. We know that without the selfless support of our graduate brothers our efforts to restart Lambda traditions, such as the Little Five team, would not be possible and—more importantly—that our chapter would not exist. Once again, we would like to thank you for your generosity and support.

Sincerely, Jesse Bright '08, David Cheeseman '09, Ross Hallren '09, Clint Hasenour '07, and Mike Lutz '09