

## VOLUNTEERS

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**Vice Chairman**

George "Kit" Lortz '62

**House Director**

Orlando Ramirez '13

**Treasurer**

Russ LaMore '88

**Secretary**

Timothy Zaletel '15

**At Large**

Jay Moore '74

John Axelberg '83

Peter Fellegly '05

Steve Jacobs '71

Wade Nichols '72

Paul Qua '82

### Board of Chapter Advisors

**President**

Andrew Porter '10

**Scholarship Advisor &  
Vice President**

Leif Anderson '15

**Advisors to the Secretaries  
& Historian**

Willie Brooks '13

Timothy Brooks '14

### Spring 2022 Undergraduate Officers

**President**

Soloman Alhakeem '23

**Treasurer**

Siddhanta Phuyal '23

**Recording Secretary**

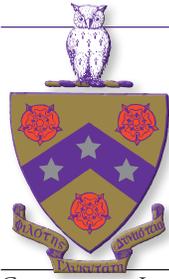
Gavin Wise '24

**Corresponding Secretary**

Luke Blackley '24

**Historian**

Yassine El Maazouzi '24



# TIGER FIJI

LAMBDA CHAPTER • DEPAUW UNIVERSITY

GREENCASTLE, INDIANA

SPRING 2022

## PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE CHAPTER

### A Letter from the Chapter President

As COVID-19 continues to pose a threat to the health of many, our thoughts and prayers go out to all of our graduate brothers and their families. With more restrictions back in place due to how the COVID-19 situation has been evolving on campus, it has been difficult to effectively run and manage the chapter during these times. However, as we are now more experienced with navigating COVID-19, we are happy and excited that traditions like Little 5 & Pig Dinner are being revived this semester. Compared to how Lambda's GPA was in previous years, we are in good shape at 3.192 right above the All Men's Average. It has proven that since we have started emphasizing mental health at our chapter, our average GPA increased a lot in the past few years. We continue as a chapter to work on nurturing a healthy culture, and addressing the importance of honesty. When having conversations about the various issues we struggle with as a chapter, I'm not the type of leader that seeks peace because I am witness to how maintaining peace results in injustice. I strive for liberation from our problems by honestly addressing them together and taking proactive measures to eradicate them. One of the new ways we are being proactive regarding our Mental Health as a chapter is through implementing some of the "Behind Happy Faces" Mental Health Workshops provided by our IHQ. This resource comes at free cost to our chapter, and if there is a word I love, it most definitely is "free". I am hopeful that taking more mental health initiatives such as this one will boost our undergraduate brothers' overall morale and continue to improve our retention rate. The 2022 Formal Recruitment posed many challenges to our chapter this year due to last minute changes by IFC and uncertainty in dates and times. However, we are truly grateful that despite all of the challenges we faced we are welcoming 10 new members into Lambda Fiji. This would not have been possible without the help of our Purple Legionnaire, Craig Wallace who took out of his time to speak for our second round of Formal Recruitment and was able to accommodate the last minute round time changes from IFC. Finally, I would really like to give a shout out and a huge thank you to our Board of Chapter Advisors, Housing Corporation, House Director, and brothers Daylon Weddle and Tom Grooms. The help and advice these brothers have given in helping our cabinet navigate the challenges we have faced so far is truly meaningful and is true to our motto: "Not for College Days Alone."

Perge!

**Solomon Alhakeem**

Class of '23

Chapter President

*Tom and Luke sat down via zoom for an interview and just to connect. They both wrote short bio pics about the other based on their conversation*

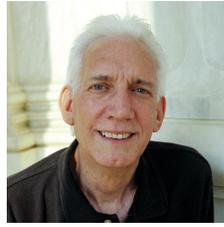
### Meet Tom Grooms '66

By Luke Blackley '24

Anyone who talks to **Tom Grooms** can see his passion, a passion for art, architecture, philanthropy, and even dogs (especially Welsh Terriers, of which he has had three). From his design and art contributions to his generous financial support and poignant remarks at our 2017 Pig Dinner, it's clear he's also passionate about FIJI.

I strongly recommend reading DePauw's recent article about Tom at <https://www.depauw.edu/stories/details/a-passion-for-art/>

When I was being recruited to the house, I had the opportunity to speak with Tom via zoom, and his commitment to the house became instantly apparent. After getting elected Corresponding Secretary, I've spoken with him even more. Tom's deep feeling for FIJI, as I learned after interviewing him, comes from a place of gratitude for the supportive and encouraging environment of



**Tom Grooms '66**

brotherhood that enabled him to succeed.

Tom is from Blue Island, IL, a small town just south of Chicago. Somewhat ironically, he wanted to attend Tulane, but after his parents insisted he come to DePauw, he fell in love with the school and never considered leaving.

Tom studied Political Science and English, then went to law school at Georgetown University. Eventually, he changed careers and studied architecture and design at Parsons School of Design. One of my questions for Tom was what he did when he was bored, to which he responded, "I was rarely bored, except taking French. Studies and FIJI activities filled my life."

When I started asking Tom about his student days, I could feel that connection that comes with shared experience. He told me how the guys at FIJI challenged and encouraged him to come out of his shell,

which I completely related to. There were more similarities, like our shared admiration for the upper-class brothers who influenced us and our love of the immersive experience of being with people from different backgrounds. But Tom's deep passion really showed when he opened up to me about why he gives back to the house—"if just one other person can be impacted the way I was, it's more than worth it."

Several paintings on the first floor of the house by DePauw art students were made possible by Tom, as well as all the furnishings for the new ground-floor library and study lounge and the expanded foyer, which he donated in memory of his class brother Terry Etter. Tom shared with me that without FIJI he "wouldn't have developed the confidence to believe in himself and constantly leap into the unknown to achieve a fulfilling and meaningful life." His generosity inspires gratitude in myself and all of my brothers, and his passion makes all the difference in the world.

### Meet Luke Blackley '24 - Corresponding Secretary

By Tom Grooms '66

"Creativity" is a word sophomore **Luke Blackley** uses a lot. It's a driving force in his life and something he brings to Lambda, along with many other positive attributes. He's smart, gregarious, attentive, and caring.

Luke is passionate about being a Lambda Fiji. He lights up when he talks about the chapter and his undergraduate brothers. "We have a truly diverse group of guys who have created a really supportive brotherhood. The guys here reach out and root for you. There is no hazing. No one is trying to break you down. It's a gem."

I met Luke in a Zoom session in January 2021 when I served on the alumni recruitment panel. And in October, I talked with him in person when I visited DePauw. Shortly after that, he was elected corresponding secretary, which has put me in regular communication with him. In early February, I interviewed him for this profile.

Luke is from Ashland, Ohio, a small town in the north central part of the state. He's an

anthropology major with a focus on the American counterculture movement, specifically how the policies from that time have affected marginalized communities. As a mentor in the First-Year Experience Program, Luke supports freshmen in their transition to DePauw, serving as a role model for both academic and community standards. In his leisure time, he plays the drums in a jazz band and is an accomplished tennis player.

Luke joined Lambda because he felt "it was a safe place to be yourself, to grow and to be creative." He believes the diversity of the chapter and the opportunity to live with and develop bonds of brotherhood with so many different types of people will be the biggest benefit of his being a Lambda Fiji. He enjoys walking down the hall and having a conversation with any one of his brothers. "The brothers always have an interesting backstory from which I learn something useful." He thinks connecting with graduate



**Luke Blackley '24**

brothers will also serve him well and looks forward to greater alumni engagement.

In return, he's contributing his problem-solving skills as a member of the cabinet, as well as demonstrating a dedicated commitment to philanthropy.

He served as philanthropy chair.

A recent event he organized was the Bark-B-Q. Fiji partnered with Theta and hosted a barbecue to raise money for the Greencastle Humane Society. He noted that it was "an incredibly rewarding experience." He's currently planning a "creative" Pig Dinner Zoom event for April 9. *Alert: he'll be contacting graduate brothers for their support. Please do whatever you can to help make this event a success.*

In closing, I asked Luke what he thinks could improve the chapter. He said the brothers need to do a better job of "planning ahead and following through" on their responsibilities, and, most importantly, "standing for and living our core Fiji values."

## PHILANTHROPY UPDATE

Fiji Lambda partnered with their neighbors, Kappa Alpha Theta, for the annual Bark-B-Que philanthropy fundraiser. Even in the rain the event was a success. There was live music from area musicians, yard games, grilling, and of course dogs! In total, the two houses from the event and online contributions raised \$3,204 for the Greencastle Humane Society. Additionally, extra food was donated to Beyond Homeless.



## SCHOLARSHIP & AWARDS

*Sam Johnson, Scholarship Chair*

### Lambda Scholarship Accomplishments at Start of 2022 Spring Semester:

As in many other areas, the Lambda Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta has shown promise and improvement in its focus on academic excellence and engagement.

As of this semester, the house has 3+ Posse Scholars and Bonner Scholars, two of the most competitive scholarships on campus as well as hardworking student fellows from the media fellows, manager fellows, and honors student associations on campus. In addition to this, the house GPA has increased being higher than the campus-wide men's average of 3.1. Lambda chapter has not only shown promise in its current accomplishments but also in its plans for further accomplishment in the future.

This semester our chapter will be beginning a team-style study strategy to help brothers encourage each other to study through friendly competition. Brothers will be partnered together based on their majors assigned multiple times throughout the semester to meet in study tables for questions and note sharing. With every completed study table, assignment, meeting with a professor, and other positive academic achievements, a range of 1 - 5 points will be awarded to the team. The team with the highest points gets a prize and dinner at the end of the year! The hope is that working together brothers won't feel as alone when the semester gets hard, but empowered to know other brothers are going through similar challenges.



*Sam Johnson, far right in the gray hoodie along with, from the right, brothers Yassine El Maazouzi, Wail Chagar, and Hamza Cherqaoui) at the International Bazar*

## SPRING NEW MEMBERS & BIOGRAPHIES



### Welcome New Members

#### Josue Raygoza

Hometown: Chicago, IL  
Economics

I'm excited to bond with my pledge class as well as the brothers of the house, and immerse myself in a house full of vibrant cultures

#### Daniel Grad

Hometown: St. Louis, MO  
Majors: Neuroscience and German

What I'm excited for: Joining a community committed to developing together

*(continued on next page)*

## SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Hi brothers of Lambda Fiji! This is **Brandon Jordan**, class of '22 - I'm a theater and economics double major from Columbus Ohio. My time in FIJI and at DePauw has been nothing short of amazing - I was IFC President, House Treasurer, and I've always had support from my brothers when I do my plays (come see Steve Outta Here on April 15, 16, 17!). Leaving is bittersweet - I get to embark on the next steps of my life, but the one constant I had throughout the pandemic will be staying here on campus. I cannot wait to see where the house goes after my class is gone and all the growing my brothers will do.

## SPRING NEW MEMBERS & BIOGRAPHIES

### Welcome New Members *(continued from page 3)*

#### Jake Wood

Hometown: Chicago, IL  
Major: Peace and Conflict Studies

I'm really excited to be a part of a community of guys that is supportive and friendly. It will be nice to be surrounded by individuals that are accepting and care about your growth. I'm also excited for everything else that Fiji has to offer, it seems like a great house!

#### Huy Bao (Kai) Nguyen Dam

Hometown: Vietnam  
Major: Economics and Computer Science

I'm excited to meet and make friends with all brothers, so that I can learn more from them. I'm also excited to have all the fond memories with them.

#### Jacob Baker

Hometown: Terre Haute, Indiana  
English Writing

I'm excited for the brotherhood and the relationships I'll build in the coming years.

#### Cole Stephen

Hometown: Greensburg, IN  
Undeclared

I am excited for the friendships I will make, and the connections Fiji will help me form to prepare me for entry into the work force

#### Minh Hoang Tran

Hometown: Hanoi, Vietnam  
Computer Science and Economics

I am excited to be a part of the greatest group of guys I know on campus and ready to make life-long connections.

#### Nate Burk

Hometown: Indianapolis, Indiana  
Communications Major

I am excited to grow as a person and a leader in the house, I'm also looking forward to creating lifelong friendships with the other members of Fiji.

#### Larry Nguyen

Hometown: Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam  
Major: Economics and Actuarial Science

I met a lot of nice guys from many countries who are in many different majors

#### Kazuki Maehira

Hometown: Yokohama, Japan  
Anticipated Film Studies Major

I joined FIJI simply because I wanted to be like brothers in FIJI. They are so caring and respecting each other that I've never encountered, except my family. Also, I like the current diversity in the house as not only in terms of ethnicity but in terms of personality. They are enjoying their differences as they contribute to the fraternity in unique ways. I'm excited to get along more with these wonderful brothers and find my own ways to contribute to FIJI!

*Brothers Tsian DeFour (left) and Yassine El Maazouzi also served as Rho Gammas for this year's rush.*



## CHAPTER ETERNAL



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of **Steven Linville '06** into Chapter Eternal. We want to extend our deepest sympathies to his family, friends, and loved ones. View his obituary below.

*Source Courtesy of Flinn & Maguire Funeral Home*

Steven R. Linville of Plainfield, IN passed peacefully at IU Methodist hospital on Tuesday, October 19, 2021, at the age of 38 years old. Steven was born in Franklin Indiana and is survived by his parents Paul and Shari (Bay) Linville, brother Chris, and sister Courtney, and his lovable pitbull, Bandit. Steven graduated cum laude from DePauw University with a Bachelor of Music in Vocal Performance in 2006 and received his Master of Music in Vocal Performance from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music in 2012.

Head to the link <https://tinyurl.com/2v6vacxa> to read the rest of Steven's obituary.