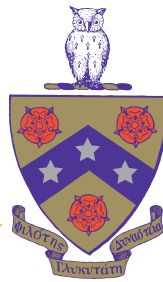


# TIGER FIJI



## GRADUATES WE NEED YOU NOW!

### PLEASE HELP RESTORE LAMBDA

★ ★ **MAJOR ALL-MEMBERS MEETING ON ZOOM, JUNE 7 AT 11:00 AM ET** ★ ★  
**SEE THE ZOOM LINK IN MAY AT [DEPAUWFIJI.COM](http://DEPAUWFIJI.COM)**

With stronger support from graduate brothers, Lambda Chapter will continue to strengthen. Your support is critical, especially to help our undergraduate brothers seek career direction, to improve academically, and for us to recruit more new members and restore the chapter's financial position.

Graduate brothers are a vital part of Lambda's recovery. Unfortunately, a lack of graduate support has inhibited recruitment and the ability for the chapter to share vital information about Lambda's traditions and expectations of its brothers. Imagine an undergrad's life at Fiji without graduates who care about them, to explain how Fiji has remained as a leading fraternity for decades because the chapter expects to be among the best. It may seem unlikely, but what if Fiji didn't set that example for you during your time there? Would you have performed as well without that guidance?

**Lambda has had a recent surge in graduate brothers' participation, but we need more.** Our new House Director, "JJ" Johnson, has also bolstered the chapter's self-governance. More specific needs are listed below. Financial challenges continue, but momentum is rising. **We need you now!**

New support from graduate brothers boosted the undergrads' morale and enthusiasm for building relationships with their new recruits.

Daniel Grad's recruiting team used the methods brought in by Phired Up to begin building friendships with freshmen as soon as they arrived on campus.

- They created a database of contacts and comments about them that greatly improved the team's ability to identify and track progress about each prospective new member (PNM) across the chapter's members. The chapter added nine members so far and continues to recruit. Several more are anticipated to join, and a plan is in place to reach sophomores who reconsider after their dorm friends affiliate.

Phi Gamma Delta's New Model initiates immediately, providing post-initiation education (PIE) and Lambda's lore and traditions, which enables them to see the values and heritage of the fraternity and removes the potential incentive for hazing during pledgeship. Lambda was a New Model "pilot" chapter with IHQ three years ago.

**Graduate brothers have stepped up to counsel undergrads about careers, job searching and Cabinet functions, but we need more guys!**

- Please give me a call, text, or e-mail if you're able to be a contact on specific careers; the undergraduates are hungry to learn and to gain understanding about your work.
- Please seriously consider a financial contribution. \$5,000 is not

too much to ask for, and the benefits greatly exceed the cost to your retirement fund. 2024's more-than-20% gains make it so! *Lambda still needs at least \$100,000 to operate in 2026. Twenty graduates need to step up!*

- Please see the instructions below for charitable IRA contributions that are not taxable.

**Graduate brother weekend is in Greencastle; we have a house!** Brother Eric Wolfe, Lambda '04, the leading realtor in Putnam County, is offering the use of an apartment for groups of Fiji graduate brothers to spend selected weekends together at a nominal cost. It's a great opportunity to reconnect with each other while we assist the chapter's members.

**Here are more specific ways that graduate brothers, including you, are needed** to bring Lambda back to its full mission, developing young guys into leaders and preparing them for life after DePauw:

- **Expand Lambda's recruitment strategy.**
  - Join Lambda's Recruitment Committee with Phired Up. Begin to coach with them.
  - Summer Rush activities: Plan Lambda's August kickoff with undergraduates. (Lists of new students are not made available until then.)
- **BCA development: Mark Thurow is our new Purple Legionnaire. He needs our help.**
  - Get with Cabinet to define their needs, including chapter treasurer functions, etc.
  - Discuss the chapter's needs among graduate brothers and seek volunteers.
  - Follow up to get them to plan some weekend events to schedule with the chapter.
  - Provide IHQ materials to new BCA members.
  - Plan career and post-graduation sessions.
  - Build a list of careers and career stories with names of Lambda graduates.
  - Build a program of weekend sessions to build mutual interest in the topic.
  - Build a schedule into the chapter calendar and schedule graduate brother attendees.
  - Graduate brothers and a large segment of the undergrads meet for career-related discussions on Saturday afternoon, on sales, computer science, HR, business management, entrepreneurship, etc.
- **Gather e-mail addresses from graduate brothers to expand Tiger Fiji and e-letter circulation.**
  - You can help support more frequent, timely communications with Lambda brothers — important!

*(continued on next page)*



## SPRING RECRUITMENT 2025

BY GAGE SMITLEY '21 | RECRUITMENT CHAIR

The Lambda undergraduate chapter had a successful formal spring recruitment, and we would like to express our gratitude to the graduate brothers who assisted us throughout the week.

First and foremost, our gratitude goes out to the members of Lambda Housing Corporation, headed by Doug Mitchell '70, for hiring an adviser from Phired Up and providing us meals in the week leading up to recruitment. This is, of course, in addition to everything they already do for the house.

Second, we would like to express our gratitude to the brothers who helped during the recruitment planning session on the Sunday

before recruitment. Your insights were very helpful as we concluded our preparations. Next, we would like to give a big thank you to the brothers present during the third day of recruitment: **John Axelberg '83, Peter Fellegly '05, Daniel Kelly '05, Eric Wolfe '04, Joe Wallace '05, and keynote speaker Nick Dimos '05.** Finally, brother Aaron Gotway '05 was present every day of recruitment, and we cannot express our gratitude enough for him. His expertise in recruiting and support both this year, and in previous years, is invaluable. Thank you again to everyone involved in making this recruitment season a successful one!

## MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS!

We are excited to introduce our graduate brothers to the newest Lambda Fijis

### FINN LAWLESS

I am from Winnetka, Illinois. I plan to major in history. In my free time I enjoy doing mixed martial arts and woodworking. I joined Fiji because of how great the brotherhood is and how welcomed I felt.

### VINCENT RUSSELL

I am from Jeffersonville, Indiana. I plan to major in environmental biology with a minor in either German studies or geology. I really love doing TTRPGs and hiking. I joined Fiji because of how caring and considerate the brothers were and how it made me feel at home and safe.

### DONNIE LARK

I'm from Terre Haute, Indiana. I plan to major

in computer science and study ethical hacking on the side. I love playing games with friends and messing with electronics. I joined Fiji because from the minute I walked in the door I had a deep feeling of connection and felt truly at home, something I haven't felt anywhere else on campus.

### ELIJAH BURTON

I am from Williamsport, Indiana. I plan to major in biology and possibly go to graduate school to get more into biotechnology. I enjoy playing video games, listening to music, and hanging out with friends. I joined Fiji because once I got there, they were easy to connect with, and they have welcomed me more than anyone else on campus.

*(continued on page 4)*



**PHI GAMMA DELTA**  
BUILDING COURAGEOUS LEADERS

## HELP RESTORE LAMBDA

*(continued from previous page)*

**Please seriously consider contributing to Restore Lambda:**

There are many ways to donate:

### IRA QUALIFIED CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS:

Alumni older than 70½ can transfer up to \$108,000 per year from your traditional IRAs to charity, (Lambda Chapter Educational Fund) which can count as your required minimum distribution (RMD) but is not taxable if you follow the rules for a qualified charitable distribution (QCD).

Have your IRA custodian or broker mail the check to:

Phi Gamma Delta Educational Foundation  
1201 Red Mile Road, P.O. Box 4599  
Lexington, KY 40544-4599

This doesn't apply to a Roth IRA, which has tax-free withdrawals and no required distributions. Consult your tax adviser.

**For gifts amounting to less than \$1,000,** send a check to Lambda Fiji's donation processing center:

Phi Gamma Delta, DePauw University  
Alumni Relations Office  
P.O. Box 876  
Ithaca, NY 14851-0876

**TO DONATE ONLINE, SCAN THE QR CODE!**



These contributions are not deductible as charitable donations for federal income tax purposes.

**For tax-deductible gifts in excess of \$1,000,** please make checks payable to the **Phi Gamma Delta Educational Foundation** and be sure to designate your donation for the Lambda Chapter House Educational Fund. Mail to:

Phi Gamma Delta Educational Foundation  
1201 Red Mile Road, P.O. Box 4599  
Lexington, KY 40544-4599

**To donate appreciated stock, required minimum distribution, charitable gifts funds, or estate gifts,** please contact Will Shier, Chief Financial Officer of the Foundation, at 859-255-1848.

Pergé!

**Douglas Mitchell '70**

Lambda House Corporation President  
724-316-7511



# PIG DINNER 2025 IN PHOTOS

On Saturday, April 5, Lambda Fijis young and old gathered for our annual Pig Dinner at the chapter house. With 56 members in attendance, including over 20 graduate brothers, we enjoyed an afternoon of tradition and brotherhood, while attending to serious matters related to the undergraduate chapter.

An afternoon meeting of all attendees announced a major chapter meeting, slated for June 7 at 11:00 am during Alumni Weekend.

Dinner was preceded by a cocktail hour at the Fluttering Duck, where graduate brothers had an opportunity to connect before heading to the chapter house.

To view the Pig Dinner 2025 photos below and more online, please visit [depauwfiji.com/gallery](https://depauwfiji.com/gallery).



*"Bringing in the pig!" said freshman members in the traditional chant, while they did just that. Following the chant, Kit Lortz kissed the snout.*



*Fritz Gordner (Indiana '62) surprises our Pig Dinner 2025 attendees with a historic pin from a founding member.*

Unbeknownst to us, Fritz Gordner (Indiana '62) gave a surprise presentation at the end of our dinner. Fritz told us that, by chance, he had received a Fiji pin from 1858, which was owned by a founding member of the chapter, John C. Ridpath. Fritz presented the pin to the International Headquarters archives and presented the chapter with two books written by Ridpath in the 1800s.



*The last shot after the dinner shows various graduate brothers from '81-'82 who came to support their classmate Paul Qua '82 (L-R): Jay Carney '84, Paul Qua '82, Peter Dinwiddie '81, Bob Farris '81, Wes Royce '82, Norman Bell '81, Michael Lueder '84, Joe Atria '81, and John Axelberg '83.*



*Keynote speaker Jonathan Allen explains the vital role that graduate brothers will play as the chapter looks to the future.*

Johnathon Allen, VP of alumni engagement for Phi Gamma Delta IHQ, was one of our keynote speakers. Johnathon spoke about why graduate brothers are needed to strengthen the chapter. He explained that graduate brothers can be helpful as the chapter navigates its way through uncertainties, especially when we're all trying to grow the chapter back to sustainability.



*Paul Qua '82 uses his background in sales to provide effective strategies for building the undergraduate chapter back up.*

Our second keynote speaker, **Paul Qua '82**, described his fault-filled undergraduate life, and how he was helped to get through DePauw, affirmed by Fiji's values. He talked about how he sold cars, and how his network of friends helped him achieve success. "Always be closing" is his approach to sales, and that was worthwhile advice during Fiji's recent recruitment effort. Paul then talked about how we revived the chapter in 1999-2004, went through six years of trusteeship, and how "persistence" carried us. His advice will be vital as we work to keep our undergraduate chapter alive today.

Afterward, the five-values awards were chosen by the chapter to represent the five values of Fiji.



## MEET OUR NEW MEMBERS

(continued from page 2)

### JOSEPH HILTSCHER

I'm from Brookfield, Illinois. I am majoring in biochemistry and plan to pursue a pre-med track. I really enjoy music, singing, chess, and video games. I joined Fiji because once I met them, they were kind and welcoming, and I could see myself being part of their community.

### HARMAN HIGH

I'm from Fort Wayne, Indiana. I plan to double major in the vocal track of the Bachelor of Musical Arts, as well as global French studies. I enjoy a wide variety of hobbies, including music, many art forms including ceramics, drawing, painting, and textiles, I enjoy film and media, and I enjoy caring for my cat Mango. I joined Fiji because I immediately found myself at home and they care deeply about me.

### WILL CULLEN

I am from Lexington, Kentucky. I intend on majoring in biochemistry or biology with the goal of following a premed pathway. Additionally, I will be minoring in (with the potential to pursue a double major should I so choose) Italian studies. My hobbies include playing the electric guitar, fashion, weightlifting, and video games. While there are multiple reasons I joined Fiji,

the primary reason is that they went above and beyond in making me feel welcomed and wanted, particularly during my final 15 minutes with them on the third day of rush.

### LIAM SNYDER-WELBES

I am from Southfield, Michigan. I am planning on majoring in history or archaeology. I am also an Eagle Scout. Some of my favorite hobbies are video games, camping, watching the Detroit Lions, Red Wings and Tigers, wrestling, theater, traveling, listening to music, and rock climbing. I knew wanted to join Fiji since the start; everyone at the house was always so welcoming. From all the adventures I had with people at Fiji I could never imagine being in a different fraternity. Before I even joined Fiji, I just knew there was something special with their fraternity and the house.

### SHUBHAM BARAL

I am known as Shub and am from Kathmandu, Nepal. I plan on majoring in computer science and mathematics. I am an avid cricket player, and I like listening to music. Fiji gave me a sense of belonging since the beginning. I appreciate everybody in Fiji and I'm glad to be a part of it.



*Daniel Grad '25 was recognized with loud applause at the 2025 pig dinner for his efforts leading this year's recruitment.*



*The winners of the five-values awards (Friendship, Morality, Knowledge, Service, and Excellence) (L-R): Cole Stephen, Ty Wemhoff, Daniel Grad, Will Cullen, Oore Fasaw.*



## IN MEMORIAM

### BROTHERS GONE BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

It is with heavy hearts that we inform you of the passing of these fine Phi Gamma Delta DePauw gentlemen in the years 2020–2025. Please join us in honoring their memories and in expressing our sincere condolences to their surviving families. Though these men have now passed into Lambda Chapter Eternal, they live on in the memories of the brothers who knew them well.

Rawson H. Murdock Jr. '44  
Donald Jones '49  
Richard H. Showalter '49  
Robert Cox '49  
Thomas H. Carline '50  
William R. Nesbit '52  
Jerry A. Freeman '53  
John C. Lowe '53  
Verne F. Knickerbocker '53  
Charles K. Hall Jr. '53  
John P. Tagett '55  
Bruce W. Parker '56  
Richard E. Knapp '56  
William C. Frey '57  
Donald F. Vance '57

Thomas S. Winks '58  
David W. Sowersby '59  
John T. Phipps '59  
Richard C. Murphy '59  
Tom H. West '59  
Charles G. Huizenga '59  
Don Joyner '61  
David L. Stevenson '62  
Dr. James N. Ross Jr. '62  
Ivan D. Floyd '62  
William W. Graham '62  
Bert R. Hybels '62  
Robert K. McCleaster '62  
Lawrence A. Ratcliffe '63  
Robert R. Scaife Jr. '64

James Watters '64  
George K. Blanchard '65  
L. Terry Chappell '65  
Jeffrey E. Lortz '65  
David C. Hinshaw '67  
Luke J. Ruane '72  
Tim Hreha '73  
Edwin F. Heyde '79  
Michael D. Milatovich '80  
Gary Martin '88  
Mark B. Wilmert '89  
John W. Fulkerson '92  
Steven Linville '06  
Adam Hilkert '08

# TIGER FIJI

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