



The Undergraduate brothers of the Lambda Iota Chapter are happy to bring to you, once again, another edition of *The Russell Street Review*.

◆ From the Cabinet

The Fall of 2022 is poised to be a great one. Both the Cabinet and the Chapter are excited to make the most of their first COVID restriction-free semester. Many brothers had internships and summer jobs, but still made time to plan ahead for an eventful Fall semester.



PC24 before the Penn State Football Game, Sep. 2022

In August, three Lambda Iota Brothers, Alex Hanna (2024), Will Crawford (2024), and Michael Fortner (2024), attended the 174th Ekklesia. This national convention was monumental with many large changes made to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Fraternity. Please read the “Updates from the 174th Ekklesia” section below for more information.

The Fall semester kicked off with a successful recruitment process which attracted a large number of very impressive rushees. The Class of 2026 has been completely assembled and the chapter is excited to have them on board. For more information about Fall rush, go to the “New Member Class of 2026” section.

Looking forward into the Fall, the chapter plans to have numerous events including Barn Dance (our annual country-themed event held at a local barn), Black Diamond Formal, and the first ever Phi Gam Jam - a music festival philanthropy event.

The chapter remains in good standing with Purdue and the Interfraternity Council while being an example of excellence for other fraternities. In Spring 2022, the Chapter finished 9th in GPA among the 42 Fraternities in the Purdue Interfraternity Council and 3rd among IFC chapters with over 100 members. This is the best ranking the chapter has had in over 14 semesters, and look forward to climbing the rankings further in the Fall.

◆ Chris Burke Distinguished Fiji Award Presentation

On September 24th, 2022, Dr. Christopher B. Burke was presented with the William A. Martin III Distinguished Fiji Award (DFA) at the Lambda Iota Chapter House. The Archons of Phi Gamma Delta recognized Brother Burke with this award due to his outstanding contributions to the engineering industry, his community, and Phi Gamma Delta. Mitch Daniels and numerous other graduate brothers were in attendance. The day was full of activities including a House Corporation meeting at 1:00pm, the DFA presentation at 3:30pm, and the Homecoming Football game against Florida Atlantic at 7:30pm.



Brother Burke with his Wife Susan, Apr. 2017

◆ **Updates from the 174th Ekklesia**

In August, 584 Phi Gamma Delta brothers and guests traveled to Washington, DC for the 174th Ekklesia. The Lambda Iota chapter had three voting delegates and Purple Legionnaire, Bill Miller, in attendance. The Lambda Iota delegates were well involved in committees and deliberations over the four day convention which was capped off with social events including a Washington Nationals game and the Closing Banquet.

Leading up to the 174th Ekklesia there was a lot of evidence that changes needed to be made in the pledge ship program from a national perspective. In the proceeding four years 15 chapters had been closed and our national insurance carrier had paid \$10.2 million in claims while collecting only \$4.5 million in premiums. Thus our insurance company demanded major changes be made to the new member education process to reduce risk. Fortunately Lambda Iota had already started down a path to reduce risk years ago. We will have to make further changes but not to the extent of some chapters.



Lambda Iota Delegates at the Ekklesia, Aug. 2022

To solve the problem that the Fraternity was faced with, delegates at Ekklesia, after much debate, adopted amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws of the Fraternity which (effective immediately) set the maximum duration of the pledge period to four (4) weeks and completely eliminate pledgeship (initiation within 4 days of acceptance of an invitation), effective July 1, 2024. This membership structure was inspired by changes made by numerous other National Fraternities who have been in similar situations over the past two decades and have had great success.

These radical changes were met with great skepticism by many undergraduate delegates, with the biggest issue being how chapters would be able to vet new members without a pledgeship period. Two solutions were determined to address this: 1) having a more rigorous rush process which stresses considering recommendations and rushing during the summer and 2) giving chapter officers the power upon a four-fifths vote to suspend or expel members. With these two solutions, the chapter should be able to find better candidates before inviting them to become a full-fledged member, and now have a more efficient way to disassociate members if necessary.

Since 1902, the Lambda Iota Chapter has evolved greatly while always keeping the same end goal in mind: to produce courageous leaders. Over the next few years, Brothers of the Lambda Iota chapter will be faced with a great challenge of evolving the chapter's great traditions with the time to continue to mold individuals into the best form of themselves.

◆ **Brother Spotlight**

The Fall 2022 issue of the Russell Street Review will be spotlighting Brother Matthew Kennelly Bigelow (2023) of Fishers, Indiana. Growing up, Brother Bigelow played lacrosse and golf and was involved in local CYO basketball for his grade school. In high school he was very involved and accoladed as a student. Matt was salutatorian of the class of 2019 at Cathedral High School, student council Vice President, and Spanish club President. Excellence is the best word to describe Matt Kennelly Bigelow; his ability and willingness to help others is unmatched.

Matt's journey to Purdue University was not always certain. Growing up he was always a big IU fan. His sister Maggie chose to attend Purdue his junior year of high school and that started to make Matt consider the possibility of becoming a Boilermaker. His senior year of high school he decided that he wanted to study some kind of engineering, but wanted a versatile discipline that would provide him broad career options. Matt is now an Industrial Engineering major, and is keeping his options open for after college. After Matt graduates he plans to start out as an industrial engineer and potentially go back to school to become a patent law attorney or medical malpractice lawyer.



Brother Bigelow presenting the Bigelow Foundation Donation of \$1 million with his family, Jul. 2022

Every summer in Fishers is one of Matt's favorite and most cherished moments of the year - the Bigelow Open, a golf outing he and his family have hosted every summer since 2009. Over the last 12 years Matt and the Bigelow Family have raised over \$1 million for pancreatic cancer research. Matt's willingness to raise money and host such a large event every year to benefit other people's suffering from pancreatic cancer is the stamp on how excellent Brother Bigelow is.

On campus, Matt is a member of the Gimlet Leadership Honorary, a Greek club centered around student involvement and leadership in Purdue athletics. Being a part of the Gimlet Leadership Honorary is a privilege, recognizing a student's exceptional leadership skills and abilities. When asked about the Gimlet Leadership Honorary, Matt never mentioned that it is to recognize members for their leadership skills. This is who Brother Bigelow is, he is a humble leader. His caring generosity to those around him as well as his unassuming leadership skills are the perfect depictions of Matt's character and excellence.

As a Brother at the fraternity Phi Gamma Delta, Matt has held several positions in the house including Co-Chairman of the Chapter's Philanthropy Committee. In the Spring of 2022, he led raising over \$4,000. Matt is someone who never thinks of himself first. Over the years, Brother Bigelow has given back to multiple charities, raised money for cancer research in his home community and is a leader on campus as well as in the Chapter.

◆ **New Member Class of 2026**

The Fall semester was kicked off with a successful rush led by recruitment chairs Zander Klekovkin (2023), Michael Uhrig (2024), and Makai Mitchell (2025). These brothers organized rush events including a summer grill out in the Indianapolis area, basketball in the parking lot, house tours, room talks, and a cookout. The New Member Class of 2026 consists of 27 total members (25 freshmen and 2 sophomores) from a variety of hometowns and majors, including 8 legacies and many rushees recommended by brothers. PC26 will be the first pledge class to experience the changes made by the 174th Ekklesia, and will be experiencing an evolved New Member Education process, which the cabinet and new member educators believe will still produce the courageous leaders that have been a product of Purdue Fiji since 1902.

◆ **Graduate Relations**

Are you or your class planning an upcoming trip to campus? The chapter loves hosting graduate brothers, giving them tours of the updated chapter facility, and hearing stories of their time at Purdue! In early September, the Class of 1967 had their 55th reunion back at Purdue. For their reunion, they joined the undergraduates for lunch, received tours of the house from the cabinet, and were updated on the state of the house through a presentation by the Chapter President. The Graduate Relations committee will accept any input regarding graduate focused communication or events including next year's Pig Dinner or any other trips to campus. Please contact Alex Hanna (2024) at hanna35@purdue.edu, with any questions or suggestions!

Questions about the chapter? Please contact the Fiji President at president@purduefiji.com or 203-940-3234.

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Phi Gamma Delta:
Not for College Days Alone