



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 2021 semester at Purdue was characterized as (what seemed to be) the wake of the pandemic. The tight restrictions and heavy regulations of the previous year were eased which allowed for all lectures to be in-person and events such as Boilermaker Football and Basketball. As the campus opens up, the Lambda Iota chapter continues to demonstrate success in every facet of life at Purdue.



PC 23 with PL Bill Miller before a Fall Football Game

The chapter remains in good standing with Purdue and the Interfraternity Council while being an example of excellence for other fraternities. We have a total of 116 active brothers and 31 of those are new members; 50 brothers currently live in the house. The chapter has once again begun to operate more “normally” with the decrease in COVID restrictions, allowing for many traditions to be brought back such as weekly family-style dinners. Family-style dinners have promoted brotherhood and a stronger bond between the pledge classes living in the house. In addition, the chapter was also able to host our annual Black Diamond Formal at the

beautiful Fowler Mansion in downtown Lafayette during early December.

The cabinet and chapter appreciates the continued support from Purple Legionnaire Bill Miller, the House Corporation including President Chris Burke, and graduate brothers Tim Sarhage, Aj DiCarlo, and Sam DiCarlo among others. The support and knowledge of these graduate brothers allows for the continuation of traditions and other events at a high level.

The weekend before the Spring 2022 semester began, cabinet attended the Fiji Academy in St. Louis. At this three day event, we learned how to be a courageous leader and the great things that many other chapters are doing across the country. Liam Bettez (2021) was awarded the Wilkinson award and spoke about how the cabinet must go beyond just “checking the boxes” of our positions. The new cabinet looks forward to the Spring 2022 semester and to follow Liam’s advice with the goal of winning a national award for 2022.

◆ **Philanthropy**

This past fall semester, the brothers of the Lambda Iota chapter demonstrated remarkable initiative towards improving the community; collectively raising over \$7,300. Pulling inspiration from one of the five core values of Phi Gamma Delta, brothers took it upon themselves to serve the Purdue and West Lafayette communities. On October 29th, the brothers hosted Lambda Iota's first ever 'Trunk or Treat' philanthropy event in the chapter parking lot. Brothers sold tickets to the event to fellow Purdue students who were able to 'Trunk or Treat' for candy and other treats out of the trunks of brothers' cars lined in the lot all while showing off their best Halloween costumes. Even though COVID regulations posed an obstacle, the brothers of the Lambda Iota chapter still were able to raise \$685, all of which was donated to the Lyn Treece Boys and Girls Club of Tippecanoe County. In October, Brothers also entered Phi Mu's Miracle Mania and performed a choreographed dance with sisters of Zeta Tau Alpha to raise money for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals. In November, Will Crawford (2024) led Fiji's fundraising efforts in the Purdue Dance Marathon and raised over \$3,000 for Riley Hospital for Children. Michael Uhrig (2024) has raised over \$3,600 for breast cancer awareness and research as a part of Zeta Tau Alpha's year-long Big Man on Campus competition.

Looking forward to the spring semester, philanthropy co-chairs Lindy Parr (2023) and Matt Bigelow (2023) have begun planning the annual "FIJI Putt-Putt" event, where brothers turn their rooms into mini-golf holes and tickets are sold to play holes throughout the house. Ticket revenue will be donated to a local charity which is to be determined.

◆ **Brothers at work**

Here is a list of some of the companies and locations our brothers are headed! We pride ourselves in preparing brothers to achieve excellence in the work-place with strong leadership and interpersonal skills. In addition, we have many undergraduate brothers who are motivated to find internships and learn industry-specific skills.

- ◆ **Andrew Bettner** (2022) - Endeavor Airlines, Full-time First officer
- ◆ **Luke Mann** (2022) - PNC - Milwaukee, Full-time Treasury Management
- ◆ **Ryan Gray** (2022) - JEDunn Construction - Nashville, Full-time Project Engineer
- ◆ **Davis Gellert** (2022) - Clune Construction- Chicago, Full-time Project Superintendent
- ◆ **Luke Baker** (2022) - Calhoun Construction - Louisville, Full-time Project Engineer
- ◆ **Hayden Elsbury** (2023) - Cardinal Health, Supply Chain Internship
- ◆ **Jack DeWolf** (2023) - Koch Industries - Lisle, Engineering Internship
- ◆ **Noah Scanlon** (2023) - Honeywell - Kansas City, Student Engineer Internship
- ◆ **Griffin Liner** (2023) - Power Design - St.Petersburg, Project Engineer Internship
- ◆ **Logan Benson** (2023) - Northwestern Mutual - Carmel, Financial Rep. Internship
- ◆ **Alex Paskill** (2023) - Alaska Airlines- Seattle, Financial Analyst Internship
- ◆ **Caden Runhow** (2023) - Allegion, Global Supply Management Internship
- ◆ **Yash Singh** (2023) - Exelon Nuclear - Chicago, Reactor Engineer Internship
- ◆ **Jakob Crabtree** (2024) - Kimberly-Clarke - Rowell, Project Engineer Internship
- ◆ **Evan Wojcicki** (2024) - ARCO/Murray - Chicago, Project Manager Internship
- ◆ **Carter Hamlin** (2024) - ARCO/Murray - Chicago, Project Manager Internship
- ◆ **Brian Barker-Morrill** (2024) - Munters - Amesbury, Quality Assurance Internship
- ◆ **Michael Uhrig** (2024) - Calhoun Construction- Louisville, College Laborer Internship
- ◆ **Alex Hanna** (2024) - Honeywell - Tempe, Aerospace Engineer Internship

◆ **Brother Spotlight**

Andrew Christopher Bettner (2022) of Carmel, IN, is a true gentleman of quality as a brother of Phi Gamma Delta, as a scholar and professional, and as a person.

Throughout Andrew's years at Purdue, he has dedicated a great portion of time towards serving the fraternity. He has held multiple leadership positions including President, Graduate Relations Chair, and Pledge Class Secretary. He served as President during the beginning of the COVID pandemic and was truly tested as a leader with the restrictions due to COVID. He made difficult decisions under unfortunate circumstances to ensure the safety and wellbeing of the fraternity while garnering the most enjoyable experience possible.

Andrew chose to attend Purdue due to his desire to become an airplane pilot. He is majoring in Professional Flight and is planning on taking courses that will allow him to understand the business side of the aviation industry as well. Currently he is a flight instructor, assisting people who are striving to learn how to fly. In addition, Andrew is an aviation ambassador, giving tours to prospective aviation students. Both of these roles further accentuate Andrew's outgoing personality and willingness to help others.

Yet, when asking Andrew what he is most proud of, he doesn't list any of these extraordinary accomplishments. Instead, he points to his hobby of music. When he lived in the Fiji house his Junior year, the first things one might notice in his room were his keyboard and acoustic and electric guitars mounted above it. Andrew says that music has been a major part of his life, starting with piano lessons in 4th grade. After moving to Carmel in 9th grade, he picked up acoustic guitar. He is most proud of music because he loves "being able to play and entertain people." Just like everything else in his life, he does it for the people around him.

As someone who analyzes every aspect of his life in order to seek improvement, Andrew will not admit how excellent he truly is. He appreciates awards that he has earned but looks to "focus on people rather than achievements and accolades" – a perfect way to summarize Andrew's constant desire to connect with, care for, and entertain the people around him. Andrew is truly a gentleman of quality, and someone who many brothers look up to as a role model.



Bettner receiving his Multi-Engine Pilot Rating, 2020

◆ **2021 Chapter Awards**

- o **Distinguished Fiji Award:** Christopher B. Burke (1977)
- o **Wilkinson Award:** Liam Bettez (2021)
- o **Coon Plaque Honorable Mention**
- o **Certificate of Superior Academic Achievement**
- o **John Templeton McCarty Chapter Proficiency Award**

◆ **Wilkinson Award Winner - Liam Bettez**

We would like to congratulate Liam Bettez (2021) as the 2020 Wilkinson award winner. The Wilkinson Award is presented to Phi Gamma Delta's most outstanding senior nationally.

Some of our chapter's past Wilkinson award winners are:

1963-64 - Charles "Chuck" Armstrong (1964)

1979-80 - Todd Keleher (1980)

2008-09 - Benjamin Deschner (2009)

Liam received his award at the annual Fiji Leadership conference in St. Louis, MO. At the conference, he spoke about how to be a courageous leader and challenged each attending leader to go above and beyond in their duties. Liam told attendees that over the course of the weekend, they learned a lot about the boxes that they need to "check off" in their role. He went on to encourage all attendees to not just check those boxes, but to do more than what is expected of them. This stellar mindset is surely a great reason behind Liam's success. He currently is a Project Manager at ARCO/Murray in Chicago. Once again, congratulations Liam!



Bettez receiving the Wilkinson Award

◆ **Graduate Relations**

Are you or your class planning an upcoming trip to campus? The chapter loves hosting graduate brothers, touring them through the updated chapter facility, and hearing stories of their time at Purdue! 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 Graduate Relations Chair Luis Garnica (2024) at lgarnica@purdue.edu, with any questions or suggestions!

During the fall 2021 semester, we had the pleasure to host the class of 1962 to celebrate their 59th reunion and the class of 1981 to celebrate their 40th reunion. Both classes hung out with the current brothers, told priceless stories of their time at 640 N Russell Street, and saw the improvements made to the chapter house.

Our annual Pig Dinner was on February 26th and featured Dr. David Crabb as our guest speaker, we once again were able to host this dinner in-person and added the online zoom component as well to allow for more interaction with the chapter.

◆ Campus Involvements

The brothers of Lambda Iota are involved all over campus! The chapter is not only thriving internally, but across Purdue's campus as well. Below are just a few of the many organizations our brothers dedicate time to outside the fraternity.

- o **American Institute of Chemical Engineers:** Luke Garrison
- o **Association of IT Professionals:** Will Crawford
- o **Aviation Ambassadors:** Andrew Bettner
- o **Aviation Technology Student Council:** Alex Paskill (Council Member)
- o **Purdue Baseball:** Evan Wojcicki (Field Manager)
- o **Black Cultural Center:** Gideon Lawson
- o **Financial Management Association:** Ryan Trusler (Vice President of Professional Development), Logan Benson, Caden Wisdorf (Professional Events)
- o **Green Greeks:** Yash Singh, Kevin Sarhage
- o **Institution for Healthcare Improvement:** Lindy Parr
- o **Men's Club Lacrosse Team:** Logan Benson
- o **Men's Club Water Polo Team:** Alex Hanna
- o **Purdue Accounting Association:** Mike Crawford
- o **Purdue Football:** Andrew Sowinski (Wide Receiver, Kick Returner)
- o **Purdue Orbital:** Alex Hanna (Rocket Optimization Team), Luis Garnica (Commercial Rocket Team)
- o **Purdue Professional Practice Ambassadors:** Yash Singh
- o **Rising Professionals:** Jack DeWolf (Publicity Co-Chair)
- o **Sigma Gamma Tau:** Alex Hanna (Fundraising Chair)
- o **Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers:** Luis Garnica

◆ New Pledge Class

The school year was kicked off in August with a great rush program led by recruitment chairs John Kay (2022) and Zander Klekovkin (2023). Rush included pick-up basketball in the 640 parking lot, catered food, and burgers and hot dogs on the grill. The new pledge class of 31 includes 12 legacies and members from coast to coast. The new pledge class has participated in numerous community service events alongside the junior and sophomore pledge classes. In October, the freshmen had a local park clean-up with the junior pledge class. In November, the freshmen participated in the Winterization community service event with the sophomore pledge class. The new pledge class has been bonding well amongst themselves and the rest of the chapter. The future looks bright for the Lambda Iota chapter, and we look forward to what these excellent individuals are able to accomplish!

◆ Fiji Racing

For the first time in nearly two decades, the Lambda Iota chapter of Phi Gamma Delta has officially registered to race in the 65th annual Purdue Grand Prix!

Ethan Wertz (2024) is the chairman of the team as well as crew chief. Ethan loves to work on his 1982 Chevy C10 and is dedicated to leading the challenge of building a team from scratch. In addition, Grant Brekke, a freshman in



Fiji Racing, 1996

the house will serve as a track worker and our teams relief driver. Grant, like all of us, is an avid racing fan and is fully committed to the success of this team. Additionally, freshman Luke Linden, Reece Renie, and Blake Fox make up the rest of our track team. These individuals are very bright and have already shown great promise as newly initiated members of our chapter. I am very confident in their dedication and am more than proud to have them on our team. Last but certainly not least, Caden Taylor (2025) will be sitting behind the wheel. Caden is a veteran kart racer who brings seven years of racing experience to the team. As a member of CWT Racing, his career resume boasts twenty-nine wins, forty-one pole positions, and seventy-five podium finishes.

As a group who has not raced in nearly two decades, we are facing many monetary and logistical difficulties in regard to funding this team. Graciously, a graduate brother and former Grand Prix competitor, Bennett Taylor has been involved on the 1996 Fiji Racing team has generously donated some equipment while providing insight on tools and additional equipment needed. All-in-all, the estimated total cost of funding a team is \$20,000. All of the proceeds we receive will go toward funding, purchasing, and maintaining a competitive racing team that will bring notoriety and publicity to our already prestigious fraternity. Donations of any amount can be made one of three ways: preferably cash or check (made out to Phi Gamma Delta with a memo of “Grand Prix 2022” sent to C/o Reed & Company, P.C. PO box 1128 Lafayette, IN 47902), or alternatively, GoFundMe (<https://gofund.me/a9e4e9ec>), as GoFundMe will take a percentage of our total donations when we withdraw our funds.

For more information about Fiji’s Grand Prix team, contact Ethan Wertz (ewertz@purdue.edu or 317-690-6455). We look forward to this great opportunity and to make memories and relationships that are not for college days alone!

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