



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 (Retiring) Cabinet

The Fall 2022 Semester featured the resurgence of old traditions and creation of new ones. Being the first pledgship following the change of international fraternity bylaws and the first fall semester since the lift of COVID restrictions, this semester was poised to be an influential one.

Pledgship was shortened to just six weeks, with plans to be 4 weeks in 2023 and completely eliminated in 2024. With less time during pledgship to learn about the fraternity's values, history, and important graduates, the chapter has adopted a new member education program which continues past initiation and incorporates Lambda Iota traditions with the Fiji headquarters recommended plan called "The Foundations of Courage".

Some new traditions introduced include more brotherhood events to further strengthen our brotherly bond at the house. This began with starting to have fire pit nights in the sand volleyball court where brothers could relax and enjoy each other's company under the night sky. Similar to past semesters, we also had a 3-on-3 basketball tournament in the chapter parking lot accompanied with burgers and dogs on the grill. In addition to brotherhood nights at the house, the chapter sponsored a brotherhood trip to Indianapolis for the Colts vs. Commanders game at the end of October. The past cabinet is currently working on putting together a trip to a Pacers game this spring.



*Members of the Class of 2024 before "Barn Dance", Oct. 2022*

The newly formed sustainability committee joined the Waste to Watts initiative in West Lafayette, a program that picks up food scraps and uses them to generate energy used on campus. This is just another example of brothers being conscientious of their impact on the community and environment and trying to make positive changes.

The chapter achieved a 3.11 semester GPA and pushed its cumulative GPA up to 3.28 - the highest it has been since 2013. This scholarship increase comes largely due to frequent scholarship checks, an increased emphasis on study tables, and closer attention paid to rushee's high school transcript.

The newly elected cabinet consists of five fine gentlemen who complement each other well. The chapter is looking forward to Spring 2023 under new leadership and hopes to build on the positive legacy of past cabinets.

Perge!

◆ **Brother Spotlight - Andrew Sowinski (Lambda Iota 2024)**

Andrew “Ski” Sowinski is a Junior studying Marketing from Indianapolis, IN. Ski hails from Bishop Chatard High School and is one of five siblings, including older brothers Ben (Lambda Iota 2019), Patrick (Lambda Iota 2020) and Nico (Lambda Iota Class of 2022). Not only does Ski excel in school and stay involved with the chapter, but he is a member of the Purdue Football team. One brother described him as one of “the grittiest guys I have met” due to his excellence in school, involvement in the Fraternity, and contributions to the Purdue Football Team.

A standard day for Andrew starts with classes and homework followed by team meetings and practice. After a long day, he usually stops by the house to spend time with brothers. While many Purdue athletes are discouraged from joining Greek Life so they can focus on their sport, Andrew claims it is the best thing he has ever done at Purdue.

Unlike some other athletes, Ski chose not to take a lighter course load. He knew that at Krannert he could receive a world-class education and the best way to take advantage of this is with difficult classes. Even with tough classes and a busy schedule, Ski was named an All-Academic Big Ten athlete in 2021. Andrew fully plans on getting his degree in Marketing, but his future is still unclear. He plans on playing football for as long as he can and seeing how far that path will take him, with sports marketing as a backup plan.



*Sowinski Catching a Pass Against Nebraska, Oct. 2022*



*Sowinski hugging Brother Luke Rush (Lambda Iota 2024) after Purdue Beat Indiana to win the Big Ten West, Nov. 2022*

As a member of the football team, he walked on to the team and then redshirted his freshman year (2020). Sowinski first received playing time in Fall 2021 mostly on special teams. From there he worked his way up the depth chart and earned his stripes in the 2022 season with substantial minutes and important second half receptions. At the Citrus Bowl, Sowinski returned LSU’s first punt for 14 yards and was targeted for the first Purdue pass attempt. Surely Ski’s tenacious attitude will help him continue to grow under a new head coach next year.

Former Purdue Football Coach Jeff Brohm called Ski “a guy we can trust.” He’s someone that the team and his brothers can count on. He’s a dependable friend and a fine Phi Gam.

◆ **Fiji Racing**

After our fourth place finish in last year's Grand Prix, there has been a massive spike in interest in the team not only in the house, but with rushees. There were many freshmen and sophomores rushing this year who referenced the Fiji Racing Team's success as a factor that brought them to the house. This being the first off-season with a kart, the team plans to make the most out of it with races for additional practice. On August 27th, driver Caden Taylor (2025) finished fastest in the Fall Collegiate racing series first event at Whiteland Raceway park. This is one of the many events the team will be taking the kart to for testing and practice leading up to the big race this spring. The team has had a blast spending time together, learning more about the kart, tuning things up, and with a whole year of track time under their belt before the Purdue Grand Prix season, are feeling more confident than ever. The Fiji Racing team isn't your average Purdue karting team if that's not already apparent. Many teams pull their karts out of storage and dust them off a few weeks before the Grand Prix while Phi Gam Brothers are putting in time year round. That being said, it comes at a price. The racing world knows at all levels that money is what drives fast and gasoline is only second. Crew Chief and Committee Chair, Blake Fox (2025), has big plans for the team this year and beyond, and part of those big plans include fundraising/networking opportunities. The team is working on fundraising events such as tailgates and cornhole tournaments to connect brothers in the house with graduate brothers that share similar passions, whether that is cars, racing, or just watching FIJI's succeed. Looking forward to getting connected, sharing more success, and representing the purple FIJI on the podium. Please reach out to Blake Fox at [Fox229@purdue.edu](mailto:Fox229@purdue.edu) or 765-469-5935 to get involved, for fundraising/ sponsorship inquiries, or any questions.



*Fiji Racing Team after a First Place Finish, Aug. 2022*

◆ **Newly Initiated Class of 2026**

The Lambda Iota Class of 2026 was initiated on November 20, 2022. This is the first class to have completed the much shortened pledgship since the recent international Fraternity bylaw amendments (see Ekklesia Updates in Fall 2022 RSR for more information). The pledge class includes 26 Undergraduate Brothers and 1 Graduate Brother, William Bindley (Purdue, 1962).



*Newly Initiated Pledge Class of 2026, Nov. 2022*

## ◆ Pig Dinner & Graduate Relations

The 2023 Frank Norris Pig Dinner in Honor of William R. Miller will be on March 4th, 2023 at the Buchanan Room (Ross-Ade Pavilion). The 2023 Pig Dinner speaker will be Bobby “Buckets” Riddell, color commentator for Purdue Basketball and member of the Lambda Iota class of 2009. In addition to the in-person dinner, we plan on offering a virtual zoom call for brothers who cannot make the trip to West Lafayette! You can RSVP for the in-person or virtual Pig Dinner by scanning the QR code to the right and completing the google form.



*Pig Dinner RSVP Form*  
<https://tinyurl.com/PigDinner2023>



*Lambda Iota Class of 1975 with Graduate Brother Mitch Daniels at Pickett Park, Oct. 2022*

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! The Graduate Relations committee will accept any input regarding graduate focused communication or events including next year’s Pig Dinner. Please contact Graduate Relations Chairman Alex Hanna (2024) at [hanna35@purdue.edu](mailto:hanna35@purdue.edu), with any questions or suggestions!

Questions about the chapter? Please contact the Fiji President at [president@purduefiji.com](mailto:president@purduefiji.com) or 317-439-3013.

***Follow us on Instagram @purdue.fiji for regular chapter updates!***



THE FRATERNITY OF

**PHI GAMMA DELTA**

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**Phi Gamma Delta:  
Not for College Days Alone**