



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

◆ Letter From the Cabinet

Thus far, 2024 has been a lively and fruitful year for the Lambda Iota Chapter. Since the last edition, the brothers continued the Spring 24 semester enjoying one another's company all over the country! In late February, we hosted the annual Purple Garter in Nashville. Over Spring Break, groups of brothers went to Cancun, Vail, Fort Lauderdale, St. Pete, and Marco Island. We wrapped it up in West Lafayette with Mom's Day; a joyful, fun-filled weekend featuring an auction and musical chairs. Special thanks to the Mary McCarty Mom's Club volunteers for all their efforts.

During the Spring 24 semester, the brothers also performed well in the classroom with a house-wide average GPA of 3.25 (our highest since Spring of 2020). This placed Lambda Iota 9th overall among all fraternities and 4th among houses with over 100 members. The Chapter also received a certificate of Superior Academic Achievement from Phi Gamma Delta International Headquarters for exceeding the all-men's GPA average for the past 24 consecutive years!

Over the summer, the Chapter hosted 2 rush events. One virtual zoom meeting with an accompanying presentation and an in-person event in Carmel, Indiana (special thanks to Brother Sam Stewart (2027) and his family for hosting). This new, early recruitment is a trend the Chapter plans to continue, especially due to the new expectations regarding the new member process.

In early August, brothers Mitchell Weckman (2026), Carter Koob (2026), James Klekovkin (2026), Sam Hood (2026), and Bill Miller traveled to Chicago for the 176th Ekklesia. Here, the main objective was to clean up and finalize the bylaws language after the implementation of the New Model at the last Ekklesia. Small changes were made to Initiation and the Invitation Ceremony (which takes the place of the Pledging Ceremony), all with the importance of tradition at the forefront of our minds.

Now having returned to campus for the Fall, Lambda Iota is off to a hot start. Brother Bill Gettings organized a graduate-undergrad golf outing at the Ackerman-Allen Purdue course which gathered many Graduate Brothers. As Halloween approaches, the brothers are excited to kick off our first two big events of the year. First, we're hosting a halloween costume dance on-board Madam Carroll, the largest registered boat in Indiana, at Lake Freeman. Second, the chapter is bringing back the "FIJI Fright Night" philanthropy haunted house. All proceeds go to Lafayette Urban Ministry.

To end out the semester, the Chapter looks forward to Dad's Day and bringing back a historic event - Run the Football. This year, the undergrads have coordinated with the Zeta Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta at Indiana University to run the football from one campus to the other prior to the Old Oaken Bucket game. Lambda Iota and Zeta hope to draw wide attention to this event, as all proceeds are going to charity. See more details on the website: runtheball.net.

As the 2024 Cabinet's term comes to a close, we hope to set the next Cabinet up for success to continue our Chapter's legacy.



Carter Koob, Sam Hood, Bill Miller, Mitchell Weckman, and James Klekovkin (left to right) at Ekklesia (Aug 2024)

◆ Brother Spotlight - Kyle Johnson (2025)

Kyle Ronald Johnson is a senior from Boston, MA studying Construction Engineering. As a first generation college student, Kyle entered Purdue with limited knowledge of what to expect from his college experience. Despite this, he has excelled in all aspects of his life, from leadership and academics to building relationships and deepening his faith.

During his time at 640 N Russell, Kyle has held several leadership positions including Rush Co-chair (2024), Brotherhood Chair (Sp 2024), Treasurer (2023), New Member Educator (2022), and Scholarship Chair (2022). As Rush Chair, Kyle takes pride in shaping the future of the house by organizing recruitment events and carefully selecting the members of PC28. While serving as Treasurer, his primary responsibilities included managing the chapter's budget but his most significant contribution was in the leadership and insight he brought to the cabinet. As New Member Educator, he guided the new pledge class into the house and life as a college student, preaching the importance of brotherhood and self-discipline.

Kyle's focus on academic and professional achievement is equally impressive. He made the significant leap from Massachusetts to Purdue to pursue a degree in engineering as a first-generation student, and though the transition was challenging, his determination has led to success in his studies. This past summer, he pushed himself further by studying abroad in Prague, embracing the opportunity to grow in a new environment. In addition to majoring in Construction Engineering, Kyle will graduate with minors in Business Economics and Management, which will support his goals in project management and position him for leadership roles in business. Over the last two summers, he interned with Arco Murray in Chicago as a Project Management Intern (thanks in part to Graduate Brother Liam Bettez (2020), who helped connect Kyle and other brothers with internships at Arco). Next summer, Kyle will join the company as a full-time employee. His drive to take on greater responsibilities, whether in the classroom or the industry, is evident in all he does.

What truly sets Kyle apart are his personal commitments, many of which go unnoticed by most. Kyle wakes up at 5am everyday to workout and makes it a priority to maintain close relationships, regularly calling his parents, sister, grandparents and hometown friends. Kyle places deep value on his friendships with those closest to him. In addition, Kyle is heavily involved in Fiji Faith (undergraduate weekly bible study). He mentioned that his personal faith story has helped him overcome tough times and given him a roadmap to life. He deeply values the role his faith plays in his decision making and his confidence. It has allowed him to bet on himself and demand self excellence because he knows he will always be able to rely on God. Faith has changed Kyle's perspective on life, allowing him to be more easy-going, present, and positive, and less micromanaging and stressed.

Kyle's commitment to excellence is clear in every facet of his life, but it is most evident in the impact he has on those around him. When asked what he is most passionate about, he said, "helping bring up the success of my brothers and anyone around me." His influence is felt throughout 640 N. Russell Street and will undoubtedly continue to shape the lives of those he meets, both personally and professionally, long after graduation.



Kyle Johnson (2025)



Kyle (4th from left) with his pledge brothers in Nashville

◆ Fiji Racing 2025

Fiji Racing is back again for the 68th Running of the Purdue Grand Prix (April 2025)! Earlier this year at 67th running (April 2024), the team introduced a brand-new chassis looking for race winning speed. Caden Taylor (2025) qualified 12th before driving up to the 4th position just 40 laps into the 160-lap race. Just before bringing the #64 to pit road for a mid-race pit stop, the kart suffered a mechanical failure in the front end that forced an early retirement from the race while running inside the top 5 out of 33 karts. Although this was not the result the team was looking for, the speed was very promising and ironing out issues is part of improving as a team.



Caden Taylor Racing in the Halloween 100 (Oct. 2024)

Additionally, for the first time in history Purdue allowed a second race in the fall to occur at the Purdue Grand Prix track, known as the Halloween Hundred, and this 100-lap race showed the true pace attainable by the team. On October 12, Caden Taylor qualified 3rd and proceeded to run near the front for the opening stint of the race. Near lap 30 while navigating lapped traffic, Caden's shoulder seat belts became loose, and he struggled to stay in the kart while driving around the tight Purdue circuit. Between the heat and physical effort required to stay safely in the kart, he made the decision to come into the pits, where members of the team promptly gave Caden a chance to rest and fix the belts. After going a few laps down, Caden got back into the kart and

drove the remaining 60 laps. During this period, he was the fastest kart on track and passed the eventual winner of the race. In the end, the team recovered to 11th and finished the race. A bittersweet result with the pace the kart had, but great momentum for the 68th Purdue Grand Prix in April and a great example of the determination by the team and Caden Taylor to get back out on track.

For the first time since the team's reinstatement, Fiji Racing had a full team led by Adam Cox (2026) and containing members from the 2025, 2026, and 2027 pledge classes. Without the help of Lucas Gary (2026), Leo Strong (2027), Luke Linden (2025), Hayden Gunckel (2027), Conner Hamilton (2027), and Charlie Assalley (2027) this would not have been attainable. Additionally, a special thanks must be given to Bennett Taylor (1996) for his continued assistance of Fiji Racing. Each member and supporter of this team deserves recognition for their help and support.

Fiji Racing wants to give a special thanks to all our sponsors and graduate brothers that make competing possible. As many are aware, racing is incredibly expensive and winning in a race as competitive as the Purdue Grand Prix requires not only a great driver and team, but the best equipment available. Without the support of Stickle Steam, The Hill Group, CG CPAs, Roberts Glass & Service, and Wings Etc. this effort would not be possible. Fiji Racing wants to give a special thanks to the Class of 1974 for being our Title Sponsor this year, and a congratulations on their 50th Anniversary!

Fiji Racing has plans to continue to expand and become even greater in 2025. If you are interested in supporting Fiji Racing or have questions, please reach out to Adam Cox at (317)-628-3381 or adam@teamabacusracing.com. We look forward to getting Fiji on the top step of the podium in 2025!



Fiji Racing 2024 in front of the chapter house

◆ **Diamond Owl Recognition**

Congratulations to Brother Allen Gerard (1953) for receiving his Diamond Owl Certificate! Owls are given each year by Phi Gamma Delta Headquarters to recognize years of membership. Bronze = 10 years, Silver = 25 years, Gold = 50 years, and Diamond = 75 years.



◆ **Graduate Relations**

The chapter is looking forward to the upcoming football season and graduate brother visits. Please feel free to visit the house and meet active brothers. On all home games, the chapter parking lot is cleared for graduate parking which is first come, first serve. **The Fall House Corporation Meeting will take place on Saturday, November 2nd before the home football game, all graduate brothers are welcome to attend.** The 2025 Frank Norris Pig Dinner in Honor of William R. Miller will be on February 22nd, 2025 at the Buchanan Room (Ross-Ade Pavilion). Please lookout for an official Pig Dinner invitation and RSVP form in the coming weeks.

◆ **Contact Information**

Questions about the chapter? Feel free to reach out to the contacts listed below.

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Pig Dinner Chair	James Klekovkin (2026)	jklekovk@purdue.edu	(317) 657 4923
Grand Prix Crew Chief	Adam Cox (2026)	adam@teamabacusracing.com	(317) 628 3381

For more frequent undergraduate updates, follow us on instagram @purdue.fiji



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Not for College Days Alone**