



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**

The Fall 2023 semester was another successful one for the Lambda Iota chapter. The brothers continued to form lifelong bonds while remaining leaders on campus and representing ourselves as a premier chapter.

During the Fall semester, the chapter had 111 active members (after the initiation of PC27) with 49 living at the chapter house on 640 N. Russell St. The chapter achieved an average cumulative GPA of 3.10 with 32 brothers achieving Dean's List and/or Semester Honors.

The semester began with recruitment during the first two weeks. The chapter hosted 6 events, including one summer event in Indianapolis and attracted a large number of rushees. The summer event was successful, with 51 rushees attending this event. With a new rush process imminent, the chapter intends to continue summer events in the future. PC 27 has spent much time at the house getting to know the brothers, and we are excited to welcome them into our brotherhood. See more in "Introduction to PC 27".



Greek Basketball Association Champions (Nov. 2023)

The Fall semester also marked the inaugural season of Purdue's Greek Basketball Association (GBA) organized by Brother Sam Hanlin (PC 25). This season, 21 Purdue fraternities participated in weekly games. After an undefeated season, the Fiji GBA team made a great playoff run to take home the championship trophy. As Purdue champion, the team traveled to Bloomington and played the IU GBA runner-up, Fiji (the champion team was unavailable), at Assembly Hall.

In early December, the chapter traveled to Chicago for the annual Black Diamond formal. This was the first time this event had been hosted outside of Lafayette in recent memory and is largely thanks to Erik Ryden's (PC26) efforts.

Over winter break, Mitchell Weckman (PC26), James Klekovkin (PC26), Sam Hood (PC26), and Purple Legionnaire Bill Miller, attended the annual FIJI Academy in St. Louis at the Union Station Hotel. At the academy, these brothers primarily learned about the Fraternity's New Model and strategies to implement it into the chapter.

As the 2024 Cabinet takes over the reins, we are looking forward to continuing the legacy of our great chapter! We are optimistic that the next semester will be a great one, packed with events such as the Purple Garter Formal in Nashville, a thrift store inspired philanthropy event, and FIJI Racing's third year running in Grand Prix.

Sincerely,

2024 Cabinet

◆ **Brother Spotlight - Alex Hanna (2024)**

Alexander William Hanna is a member of PC24 and hails from Greenwich, CT. Alex goes above and beyond in all aspects of life, specifically in scholarship, leadership, and friendship.



Alex with Brothers Evan Wojcicki (PC24) and Jakob Crabtree (PC24), left to right (Oct. 2023)

This past December, Alex graduated a semester early with a Bachelor's of Science degree in Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering, with minors in Computer Science, Economics, and Mathematics. This spring he is still on campus at Purdue, now as a graduate student pursuing his Master's Degree in Aeronautics and Astronautics and doubly concentrating on Autonomy/Controls and Structures/Materials.

Alex's dedication to scholarship extends to helping others with their pursuit of knowledge. As an undergraduate student, Alex worked as an undergraduate teaching assistant for AAE364: Control Systems Analysis. In this role, he held office hours every week and helped create homework and exam solutions. As a graduate student, Alex is now a TA for AAE36401: Control Systems Analysis Lab and AAE418: Zero Gravity Flight Experiments. As a TA for AAE418,

Alex is the team lead for Purdue Dragonfly. For this project, his team is designing a vehicle for NASA to deliver a payload from high altitude balloons at 120,000ft to a ground target location. In August 2023, he traveled to Ft. Sumner, NM with the first prototype of the Dragonfly to be dropped, however FAA denied the four student teams from dropping just days before the scheduled balloon launch. To avoid the FAA, NASA invited these teams to launch a second prototype in Antarctica in January, 2025 (for more information visit <https://purdue-dragonfly.netlify.app>).

In addition, Alex excels in athletics, playing on the Purdue Club Water Polo team and participating in most IM sports with his brothers. As a member of the Club Water Polo team, Alex led the team to a 3rd place finish at the Big Ten Tournament, the team's best finish in 8 years. Alex led the team in goals and was voted team MVP. He was named to the First-Team All Big Ten team in 2022.

These involvements do not stop Alex from being involved in the house. As a brother, he has held numerous roles including house manager, graduate relations chair, and other executive roles. He lived at the chapter house on 640 N. Russell St for his Sophomore and Junior year, and now lives at "the Porches" apartments with the rest of the Fiji senior class. He values the bonds formed through Fiji and spends his free time hanging out with brothers, usually playing pickup basketball, chess, guitar hero, or euchre.

Alex Hanna is certainly a prime example of a Fiji, truly embodying the five values of friendship, knowledge, service, morality, and excellence. From his academic success to his extracurricular involvement, he always puts his best foot forward and betters himself in everything that he does. Alex never shies away from a challenge and achieves what others consider unachievable.

◆ **Introduction to PC27**

PC 27 is 31 brothers strong including 6 legacies. We are excited to welcome them to the brotherhood at 640. They are a well-rounded class that ranges many majors from engineering to business to construction management. We feel the new pledge class has already formed a very strong brotherhood and are carrying on the tradition that Phi Gamma Delta is “Not for College Days Alone!” PC 27 will also be the last pledge class to have a pledgeship as well with the new model coming into effect next year. Next year, PC 28 will have a four day pledgeship with most of their education coming after they are initiated.



PC27 on initiation day (Nov. 2023)

◆ **Fiji Racing 2024**

Returning for their third attempt since the team was restarted in 2022, Fiji Racing will compete in the Purdue Grand Prix again in 2024. Two years of racing has taught the team a lot, and new changes bring hope for the elusive first win for Fiji Racing.

A multi-kart accident on the first lap of the race last year put the team on the back foot to start, but Caden Taylor drove 27th to 8th before the kart suffered mechanical issues (caused by the first lap crash) near the halfway point of the race. Although it wasn't the finish we wanted, the team was fast and moving in the right direction during their sophomore year of competition.

The biggest change that Fiji Racing has made for the 2024 Purdue Grand Prix is switching from using a race kart chassis to a purpose-built chassis. The distinguishing factor between the karts that race at the Grand Prix and the karts that you see at other racetracks is the roll cage. The roll cage protects the driver in case of rollover or dangerous accident, but it adds weight and makes the kart handle differently. In the past, Fiji Racing has hired a fabricator to build a cage and attach it to a race kart chassis. However, this year we have hired an experienced fabricator named Jeremy Warren, who built the winning kart last year. Warren is building a chassis and cage that work together in making the kart handle better and lighter. With Caden Taylor behind the wheel and this new kart package, Fiji Racing will be competing for the win.

Caden Taylor (2025) will return as the driver of #64 entry for this year's race. Caden has been racing since he was 14 and has an incredible amount of talent behind the wheel of a go kart. Experience also plays a factor in success at the Purdue Grand Prix, and Taylor has raced as #64 the past two years and won the 2022 Rookie of the Year award. Adam Cox (2026) will be the new Crew Chief and Committee Chair for Fiji Racing. Adam represented the 2023 team as the sole freshman and was incredibly dedicated to the team. He put in many hours of work outside of the required commitment to the team, and worked with Bennet and Caden Taylor over the summer helping them during Caden's go kart races outside of Grand Prix. Adam is taking over for Blake Fox (2025) who is now working on the Purdue Grand Prix Foundation Board.

As many of you know, success at the Purdue Grand Prix is not only about the driver and team. Fundraising is critical to building the best package for your driver to work with, and with support from graduate brothers and sponsors Fiji Racing can be more than just competitors, but winners. If you are interested in sponsorship opportunities or have any questions about the 2024 Purdue Grand Prix, please contact Adam Cox at (317) 628-3381 or adam@teamabacusracing.com.

◆ **Pig Dinner 2024**

The 2024 Frank Norris Pig Dinner in Honor of William R. Miller will be on Saturday, February 24th, 2024 at the Buchanan Room (Ross-Ade Pavilion). The 2024 Pig Dinner speaker will be Matt Bilkey, Lieutenant Colonel of the Indiana State police and member of the Lambda Iota class of 1995. 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. Please RSVP before February 16th, 2024.



<http://tinyurl.com/PigDinner2024>

◆ **Contact Information**

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

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Grand Prix	Adam Cox (2026)	adam@teamabacusracing.com	(317) 628-3381

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



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Phi Gamma Delta:
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