



# FALL 2014 PI IDEAS

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Pi Iota Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta

Est. 1891

## Phi Gamma Delta at WPI

The Brother's of the Pi Iota Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta are making an immense statement at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Seen to the right is Brother Steven Rubin receiving an Honorary Doctorate Degree during WPI's 146th commencement ceremony. Last Fall, the Campus Center was named after Brother Steve Rubin who served on the Board of Trustees from 1996-2013 and was chairman from 2010-2013; leading WPI through a period of expansion and recognition.



Brother Steve Rubin Receiving Honorary Doctorate at WPI 146th Commencement Ceremony

In addition, at the WPI 146th commencement ceremony, Brother Robert Foisie received an Honorary Doctorate after donating \$40 million to WPI, the highest single donation in WPI's history. The largest donation before was also by Brother Foisie for a sum of \$23 million. The WPI School of Business and new Innovation Center at Alumni Gym will be named in his recognition.

Currently Brother Henry Fitzgerald '75 and Brother George Oliver '82 are WPI Trustees. Brother Fitzgerald plays an active role in F.A. Morse, the housing board for the Chapter. Brother Oliver made a generous donation to Pi Iota so that various house renovation projects could be completed. See House Renovations Update on Page 3 for more details.

Last Spring, the Walter E. Knapp Memorial Light Sculpture, created

by his son Stephen Knapp, was installed on Gordon Library.

More pictures can be viewed on Page 8 in the Phi Gamma Delta at WPI cont... section.

MIGHTY PROUD  
TO BE A FIJI!

Omri Flaisher '15  
Corresponding Secretary



**PI IOTA  
CHAPTER  
CREST**

## Calling all Alumni! Humvee Push October 4th

Brothers of the Pi Iota Chapter of Phi Gamma Delta, we are calling on you to come push a Humvee around the Quad in a philanthropic effort to raise funds for the USO. This will be the third time we have run the event and we want to make this one even bigger.

To participate you must form a team of 10 to push the Humvee. It is a competition so the fastest times will receive prizes for their triumph over the others. It costs \$10 per person or \$5 dollars per person if you pre-register.

To pre-register email:  
[rcgontarek@wpi.edu](mailto:rcgontarek@wpi.edu)



or sign up on our website at:  
[www.wpifiji.wpi.edu](http://www.wpifiji.wpi.edu)  
search Humvee Push under Philanthropy.

We will also be selling FIJI Humvee Push T-shirts for \$15. All

proceeds will be donated to the USO.

Join us at the WPI Quad on October 4th from 10-2 and push a damn Humvee!

## Homecoming October 11th 2014

Homecoming weekend is October 10th to the 11th this year. The house will be open all weekend for Graduate Brothers to return, see the house, and have a good time with the Undergraduates. If you have any questions or comments please feel free to email the Corresponding Secretary at:

[oflaisher@wpi.edu](mailto:oflaisher@wpi.edu)

Save the date for October 11th and come visit

Pi Iota and the WPI community.



## House Renovations Update

The house has undergone a number of improvements over the last several months and there are many more to come. The biggest project that was recently completed is the new front stairs. The carpet was ripped up and the entire staircase was leveled. Finally it was given a hardwood finish to match the new hardwood in the foyer. Pictures can be seen to the right. The roof, which had started to leak into the attic and other parts of the house, was repaired. There have been no signs of leaks since. Also a new fire door was put in between the dining room and back stairs to bring us up to code for our house inspection on Sept. 18. As we look ahead to Christ-

mas break, the brothers are excited about the much anticipated second head renovation that will revamp the entire bathroom and make the Ole' 99 that much better. Also to be noted are the new dining room tables and benches that Brother Chakuroff's father is currently building for us. These will replace the current benches and tables, which have started to fall apart over the summer. With a work party recently completed, the brothers of Phi Gamma Delta continue to show

their unwavering devotion to the house, so that we may give back just a little, to something that has given us so much.

Mighty Proud!  
House Manager  
Pete Dimagio



## 2nd Annual Start of School Retreat

At the Start of School retreat the Brothers of Pi Iota discussed and set their goals for the semester. A big thanks to the Graduate Brothers who attended to share their insight. I think I can speak for the house in saying the meeting was very constructive and a great start to the year.

Mighty proud!



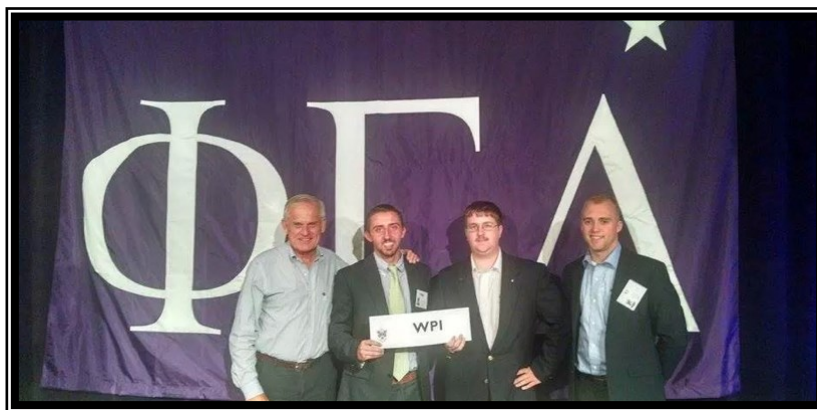
## Ekklesia 2014

Brothers Buchanan ('15), Landis ('15), and Cieslewicz ('15) attended the 116th Ekklesia in Indianapolis. There, a new by-law was passed focusing on further education of alcohol aware-

ness. Members are now asked to complete an online class to further educate themselves on drinking culture and safety. Brother Buchanan was asked to participate in the Nomination Committee in which he helped nominate the new Archonate. He spoke

before all of the Undergraduate chapters where he nominated the new Archon Treasurer. Downtown Indiana had a great night scene, equipped with great bars and beautiful southern women. Looking forward to the 167th Ekklesia in Boston!!! Seen above is Brother Tim Kilduff (Left) our current Section Chief accompa-

nied by the three Brothers of Pi Iota who attended standing in front of the Phi Gamma Delta Flag holding a WPI sign.



PHI GAMMA DELTA  
FRATERNITY

I OFFER  
JUSTICE

PI IOTA  
CHAPTER  
MOTTO

## FIJI Pi Iota Reunion at Bobo's

This past summer on August 16th Brother Bob Ferrari (Bobo) had his annual (sometimes semi-annual) Pi Iota Reunion at his home in Rhode Island. Graduate Brothers from the 60's to the 80's attended along with four members of the Undergraduate Brothers. The event was rewardingly brotherly; a great opportunity for Brothers to reunite or connect.

It was very inspiring as an Undergraduate to see the Brothers that had graduated twenty to forty years passed were still very close.

Many of the Graduate Brothers present were in a great era of the Brotherhood when we won the Cheney Cup in 1973. We were given insightful information on how to run and excel the house as to obtain National Recognition.

The reunion is an excellent way to keep the spirit of brotherhood aflame and to spread the wisdom and knowledge accumulated through the history of Pi Iota.

For more information on the next Pi Iota Reunion contact Brother Ferrari at:

[rferrari2@cox.net](mailto:rferrari2@cox.net)

## Graduate News: Not For College Days Alone

### Brian Mellea

Celebrated my 60th with a 79 mile bike ride and camped out that night on the California coast. I see Tom Mandle '76 ME who lives about a 1/2 mile from me from time to time. We're working on some alumni activities here in the San Francisco Bay Area.

### George Crosby ('57)

My big event this year was to reach the age of 80. I have 6 children, 17 grand-children and 8 great-children.

Keep up the good work on the old house!

### John Stzuka

In response to a Brother's travels to Hong Kong...

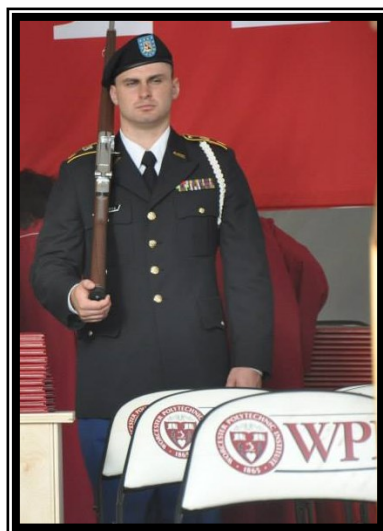
I recently semi-retired here on the Cape after a 40 year career in the chemical industry. I spend over 20 years in Asia living in various countries with my family and we found it to be a wonderful experience.

## Brother Hartzell Travels to South Korea for CTLT

This summer I had the opportunity to go to South Korea with Army ROTC. I spent four weeks with a Mechanized Infantry Company in Camp Casey, South Korea. This trip was part of Cadet Commands CTLT program. Baker Company constantly trains to improve its ability to fight with M2A3 Bradley Fighting Vehicles.

Preparing for live-fire exercises as well as fighting in a Bradley involves simulator qualification. It is an electronic "pop-up" range that has the proper controls of the turret for the actual Bradley. I was able to participate in this training environment multiple times, actually making significant progress with my gunner

while I was there. We also were able to execute a Platoon size simulation. For this training I



served as a Vehicle Commander, directing a driver and gunner, as well as reporting up the chain of command targets my vehicle identified and destroyed.

On top of this valuable simulator time, I spent many days working with the platoon during inventories, training classes, and weapons qualification.

I was able to travel off post and visit the DMZ (Demilitarized zone at the North Korean Border) and walk around the building where the Armistice was signed 60 years ago. We wanted to experience the cuisine and try a local delicacy of dog meat. My commander took control and insisted that we experience the food. Except for the moral conflict of eating man's best friend, it was a great experience.

Mighty Proud!  
Brother Zachary Hartzell  
Mechanical Engineering '15



Brother Mokotoff in Norway

## FIJI's Exploring the World

In completion of his Inquiry Seminar for the Humanities and Arts, Brother Andrew Mokotoff spent a term abroad in London. Born into a deaf family, he decided to research deaf culture in the United Kingdom which included: cultural differences, workers' rights, and the etymology of British Sign Language.



Seen above is Brother Mokotoff wearing the rusch shirt in front of the Mediterranean Sea in Greece.

After he finished his inquiry seminar he spent four weeks traveling to Scotland, Ireland, France, Norway, Germany, Italy, Greece, and Spain..

## Tuckerman's Ravine End of the Year Trip

In early May of this year, a few days before graduation, a group of Brothers trekked up to the White Mountains to tackle Tuckerman's Ravine on Mount Washington. With 35lbs of ski equipment, the guys hiked up the Tuckerman's Ravine Trail humming FIJI tunes along the way. It was a beautiful day, about 65-70 degrees out and the landscape was staggering. For those who have never trav-

eled to the area, I would highly recommend making the trip.

Below is a picture of the Brothers about to make the final ascent to the top of the peak after a 2 mile hike up. We plan to un-

dertake the journey again this year and turn this into a post-Islander, pre-graduation tradition!

Mighty Proud  
Omri Flaisher ME '15



FIJI

## Brother Foley at CULP in Burkina Faso, Africa

This summer I spent a month teaching English at a Military Academy in Burkina Faso, which is a small country in Western Africa. This was my first time every leaving the US and I was given this incredible opportunity through my involvement in the Army ROTC program. I was part of a summer program called CULP (Cultural Understanding and Learning Proficiency), which was put in place to ensure that young officers gain experience with other cultures to avoid the culture shock of going abroad for the first time when being deployed.

This was an eye opening experience that I will remember for the rest of my life, I got the chance to sit down with foreign Cadets

and get a snapshot of how they live. I was amazed at how humble the people I met were. They were all very proud of what little they had rather than concerned with what they didn't have like we do too often here in the US. Everyone was polite and enthused to meet you. They would always run out to the road jumping up and down waving as we would ride by in the backs of pickup trucks. One thing I will always remember is when I was preparing to leave I presented one of the friends I had made at the Academy with a New England Patriots key chain I brought along. When I gave him this he started to cry and tell me about how much the short time we had spent together meant to him. I was surprised because to me it was just a key chain I bought for \$4 at the airport, but to



him it symbolized America. It really showed me how much of a positive influence we have on a good portion of the rest of the world. Looking back this was an incredible experience where I learned so much and made great relationships.

Perge'

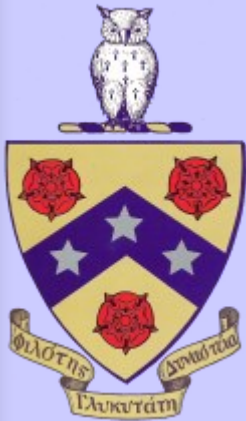
Kyle Foley ME '16

## 2014 FIJI Philanthropy Road Trip



At the start of the Summer several Brother's embarked on the first FIJI Philanthropy Road Trip. The first stop was to Brick, New Jersey, where we volunteered at the Jersey Shore Dream Center near a local Brother's home. Next was just down to do a beach clean up. On the way back a few Brother's paid a visit to the FIJI at the University of Connecticut.

Although the trip was relatively shorter than originally planned, the Brother's had a great time traveling together and helping the greater community. We plan to make the 2015 FIJI Philanthropy Road Trip an even greater success!



## Phi Gamma Delta at WPI cont...

Pictured to the right is the light sculpture on Gordon Library in memory of Walter Knapp completed by his son Stephen Knapp at the end of last school year.

Students pass this commemoration of Phi Gamma Delta history everyday.



Pictured to the left is the old Alumni Gym. This building will be transformed into the Robert Foisie Innovation Center.

To view more information about the plans for this building and program visit:

[wpi.alumnifund.me/funds/make-it-happen/](http://wpi.alumnifund.me/funds/make-it-happen/)

## 9/11 Remembrance

The Brothers at Pi Iota teamed up with the WPI Sorority Phi Sigma Sigma to raise money for the 9/11 Memorial Fund, raising almost \$300. Afterwards the Brothers and Phi Sig took pictures next to our beautifully painted rock, rendering the words "Always Remember".

Pictured below are the FIJI Brothers outside Ole' 99 next to the rock with the American Flag

and the Phi Gamma Delta Pi Iota Flag. Mighty Proud!





## Donate to the 1899 Fund

Brothers,  
The house has seen much needed renovations recently and it was only fully possible through the help of the Graduate Brother's of Pi Iota. Our house, which we all cherish in our hearts will require major structural renovation in the near future. In the last year, with the undergraduates paying their bills and the aid of donations, we have been able

to lay hardwood floor throughout the first floor and up the main stairs to the second floor, build a much sturdier middle-stairs, replace the worn-out front door, fix leaks in the roof, install fire doors where necessary, and are planning to have the second floor bathroom completely renovated over Christmas Break.

We want to continue this up-

ward march and ask for you to donate to the 1899 Fund.

Thank you to Brother David Potter for his donation of \$189.99!

For more information on how to donate please email :  
[fiji@wpi.edu](mailto:fiji@wpi.edu)

Donate on our website at :  
[www.wpifiji.com](http://www.wpifiji.com)

## Graduate Brother Contact List

To improve communication with Graduate Brothers we have been accumulating an extensive Graduate Brother Contact List. Please email the Corresponding Secretary at :

[oflaisher@wpi.edu](mailto:oflaisher@wpi.edu)

Please include your Name, Phone Number, Email Address, Mailing Address, and Year of Graduation.

This list will be available to all Brothers on the house website:

[www.wpifiji.com](http://www.wpifiji.com)

Your help in creating this extensive list will greatly contribute to wards Undergraduate and Graduate Brother relations.

## Purple Legionnaire Report

Pi Iota is preparing the dining room with furniture improvements in order to better receive dinner guests. The house has already received a response from incoming President Leshin that she is anxiously awaiting a date to attend dinner at 99 Salisbury Street. If any graduate brother would like to attend a dinner when a faculty member or other guest will be in attendance please let me know and I will keep you in-

formed. You are always welcome for lunch and dinner at the house.

I have created a Purple Legionnaire alias:

[Purplelegionnairepiiota@gmail.com](mailto:Purplelegionnairepiiota@gmail.com)

To send out updates on house operations, Feel free to email me if you wish to receive the news!

Mighty Proud to be a FIJI  
Wally Towner '83



Pictured Above is the first dinner of the 2014-2015 school year at Pi Iota.

## Note from the Editor

I am now entering my senior year at WPI as a Mechanical Engineer, doing a 5th year Masters in Material Science and Engineering. My experience at Pi Iota has been remarkable and has shaped my life indefinitely. The friendships I have formed are life-long and the opportuni-

ties available to me are vast. I constantly work to give back to the Brotherhood for all that it has given me. I am so proud to be able to call each and every one of you my Brother and will always remember that this is not for college days alone. The Brotherhood is in pursuit of the upward

march and is headed in the right direction. Great things have come from the Brothers at Pi Iota and I expect to see much more!

Mighty Proud to be a  
FIJI!

Corresponding Secretary  
Omri Flaisher ME '15

Find Us  
Online at:  
[Wpifiji.com](http://Wpifiji.com)

## Future Pi Ides

If you would like to include articles and stories in the next issue of the *Pi Ides* please send them to:

[oflaisher@wpi.edu](mailto:oflaisher@wpi.edu)

Suggestions to include are: Name, class, nickname, favorite Fiji memory, engagements, reunions, retirement, recent run-ins with other FIJI's etc...whatever you'd like, just write it down and send it in!



**PIG DINNER  
REMEMBER TO SAVE THE DATE AND  
RSVP FOR PIG DINNER**

**April 25th 2015**

**Email Corresponding Secretary:**

**[oflaisher@wpi.edu](mailto:oflaisher@wpi.edu)**



Pi Iota Chapter

## Phi Gamma Delta

Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
99 Salisbury Street, Worcester, MA 01609