The purpose of Pi Alpha Xi, The National Honor Society for Horticulture, is to
Recognize high scholarship,
Foster good relationships among its members,
Promote or to facilitate the exchange of ideas among members of the professions, and
Establish cordial relations among students, educators and industry members.
Letter from the President

Happy autumn everyone! In an odd twist, we still have not had a hard freeze up here in Wyoming yet! The weather has been warmer than normal but night temperatures are dropping down to the high 30s, signaling the end of the growing season. The last of the tomatoes are ripening and the carrots are still in the ground. The latter are a little sweeter if they go through a few chilly nights, but they’ll most likely be dug up sooner rather than later. What’s up doc?!

Pi Alpha Xi has been busy as well. I made the trek to the University of Maine in Orono to install their new PAX chapter, Alpha Tau, on September 21. I always try to see some local sights when I travel and this trip was no exception. Finding a map of the University was easy (thank you internet) and I quickly familiarized myself with the campus. Most universities are fairly logical and self-explanatory! Of course I found the greenhouses and the building where horticulture is housed, Deering Hall. Being a hockey fanatic, the next must-see was the ice arena. UM has a tremendous NCAA Division I hockey team and of course I had to see where they play. It is a beautiful arena, befitting their national championship a few years back.

I also wandered over to Acadia National Park and drove the loop road a couple of times. It is a gorgeous park, but quite different from the large wilderness areas abundant in our western national parks, like Rocky Mountain, Yellowstone, Teton, Sequoia, Yosemite, Volcanoes, and Glacier to name a few. Having said that, Acadia is a must-see with the rocky Atlantic shore and many years of fascinating history.

The new Alpha Tau chapter, advised by our own Dr. Stephanie Burnett (Pi Alpha Xi National Vice President), was very happily installed Monday afternoon, September 21, in a ceremony led by me and attended by about 20 U Maine horticulture faculty and students. Stephanie then inducted her new Alpha Tau chapter members. We all extend sincere congratulations to our newest chapter and its members!

The next installation ceremony will be here at the University of Wyoming on October 13, and Dr. Burnett will do the honors this time and I will happily show her the amazing area around Laramie.

Best wishes for a terrific fall semester!

Karen Panter  
Pi Alpha Xi National President  
Chi 66
Alpha Tau Chapter at University of Maine

On September 21st, the 42nd Pi Alpha Xi Chapter, Alpha Tau, was inducted at the University of Maine. President Karen Panter presided over the installation ceremony and presented the new Chapter with their Charter. There are sixteen initiates in the inaugural Pi Alpha Xi Chapter. The students who are now members of Pi Alpha Xi are honored to join an organization with a strong mission of promoting excellence in horticulture. They will benefit from joining a larger group of horticulturists since Pi Alpha Xi has broad connections throughout the United States.

In early October, Pi Alpha Xi Vice-President, Stephanie Burnett will travel to the University of Wyoming to install the 41st Chapter, the Alpha Sigma Chapter at the University of Wyoming. With the installation of these two new chapters, Pi Alpha Xi will have over 14,000 members in thirty-four states.
Paul A. Thomas graduated with an AS from William Rainey Harper College (Illinois). He attended Southern Illinois University, earning a BA and an MS, where he became a member of Pi Alpha Xi. He later attended Pennsylvania State University earning his PhD. He worked for the USDA-ARS in Peoria, Illinois before joining the faculty at The University of Georgia in 1990.

In recognition of his contributions to students and industry, he has received numerous awards including seven times the Outstanding Extension Publication/Educational Material/Newsletter Award from the American Society for Horticultural Science and the Kenneth Post Award for Graduate Research in Floriculture chosen by the Floriculture Working Group of ASHS. He was named one of the Top Twenty Most Influential Faculty in the U.S. Floriculture Industry by Greenhouse Grower Magazine. He has received numerous other awards from the Southern Region ASHS, the South East Greenhouse Conference Board of Directors, and the Georgia Society of Association Executives. Closer to home he has received numerous teaching awards from the University of Georgia including the Agricultural Alumni Association Outstanding Faculty Award for Research, Teaching and Extension; the Career Services Center Positive Career Impact Certificate (three times); and the College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences D.W. Brooks Award for Excellence in Diversity.

Paul has always enjoyed working with students. Over the years, he has taught Greenhouse Management, Interiorscaping and Tropical Plant Identification, Introduction to Horticulture, Greenhouse Management for Teachers, and Floral Design Principles. Students always rate his courses as excellent and appreciate Paul’s ability to relate theory to practice. He has also mentored undergraduate students conducting research and applying to national scholarships and internship programs, and served as major professor and on many committees for Master and doctoral students.

Paul is dedicated to the goals and ideals of Pi Alpha Xi and has supported and served the organization in many different capacities: as advisor of the UGA Tau Chapter of PAX since 2005, on numerous PAX National committees, and National Secretary (2009-2010).

PAX Fellow is presented to Paul A. Thomas in recognition of his dedicated service and distinguished leadership to horticulture, students, colleagues in the academy, and the public.

Congratulations to the Photo Contest Winners!

**Perfect Partners**
These images represent what the photographer believes to be outstanding plant combinations. These can be container, bed or floral design compositions. The images should show clearly how the two plant partners are being used, i.e. landscape setting, etc.

*First Place* - Richelle Staffne
Til Death Do Us Part - Resurrection Fern and Live Oak

*Second Place* - Robert Lyons
Sarracenia and Sheffield Pink Mums

*Third Place* - Kimberly Moore
Water View

**Horticulture in the Kitchen**
Images should show the end result of horticultural products we use for food. The horticultural product must be recognizable to the viewer, example: Apple pie cut-away. Fruits, Roots, Tubers, Leafy Greens, Vegetables, Herbs and Spices are all fair game.

*First Place* - Richelle Staffne
I Ain’t Got Nuthin But the Blues - Blueberry Muffins
Serendipity
This image must represent a rare or unexpected or ‘right place, right time’ moment that the photographer did not, could not, control or stage during the taking of the image. Examples: Coconut palms at sunset, frost on strawberries, *Erythrina* in full bloom in a fog, fall color on *Heuchera*, or a hail decimated garden would qualify.

*First Place* - Robert Lyons
Lonely Yellow Flower

Second Place - Richard Criley
*Hylocereus undulatus* - Night Blooming Cereus

*Third Place* - Lindsay Davies
Nymphs on a Leaf

Garden Visitors
Humans are not the only entity that engages gardens. Images are to show other life forms visiting/interacting with gardens, landscapes and indoor plants. In this category, staging of animals/insects etc., is permitted. However, the image must be balanced in regards to the impact of the visitor and the horticultural item. A cat sleeping inside a carved pumpkin, a hummingbird visiting a flower, or a deer munching on pansies would all qualify.

*First Place and Best in Show* - Robert Lyons
Monarch on Verbena
Second Place - Alice Le Duc

Collecting Pollinia

Third Place - Michael Geiger

Busy Bee

Many Thanks to Paul Thomas, the chair of the Photography Contest Committee, for his great work on the 2015 contest. We greatly appreciate your time and dedication to Pi Alpha Xi. Thank you to the judges of the 2015 contest, Steve Newman, Debi Aker, John Dole, and Terry Ferris.
Establishing a Chapter

From http://pax.ashs.org/index.php/membership/establishing-a-chapter

New Chapter Guidelines Review Committee: Immediate Past President Mary Albrecht (University of Tennessee), chair; Doug Needham (Longwood Gardens; past president and chapter advisor), Dennis Ray (University of Arizona, no established chapter), Ryan Contreras (Oregon State University, chapter established in 2011), Stephanie Burnett (University of Maine, chapter approved in 2015), and Tina Cade (Texas State University, chapter established in 2005). The committee represented land-grant and non-land-grant universities, and non-university members. The charge to the committee was to review the procedure posted on our website for clarity for the way horticulture programs are structured today and to facilitate electronic submission.

This was presented at the annual business meeting held August 4, 2015. Suggestions were made to provide clarity for 1) horticulture programs are the targeted audience not general plant sciences, 2) faculty includes tenure and non-tenure track, and 3) include horticulture staff to recognize different hiring practices and position classifications.

Proposed language
According to the Constitution and By-Laws of Pi Alpha Xi, "any four-year university or college offering baccalaureate instruction in horticulture is eligible to establish a chapter."

Procedures for Establishing a Chapter

The faculty member desiring to establish a chapter of Pi Alpha Xi at his/her university submits the following information electronically (PDF format preferred) to the National Secretary-Treasurer.

• a petition stating "We, the undersigned, petition that a chapter of Pi Alpha Xi-The Honor Society for Horticulture be established at ______________ (university's name)." The petition should have at least ten signatures from faculty (tenure and non-tenure track), staff, and students affiliated with the horticulture program.

• a letter from the nominating horticulture faculty (tenure and non-tenure track) and staff member(s) supporting this petition (co-signers of PAX members is appropriate)

• a letter from the department head/Chair or school director supporting this petition and outlining goals of the department/school, including a description of the teaching, outreach, and research programs in the department/school.

• a letter from the Office of the Dean supporting this petition.

• catalog copy for the horticulture major or academic major(s) under which horticulture is included. For online catalogs, please create an electronic file (PDF format preferred) of the catalog copy and highlight the portions of the curriculum that directly relate to horticulture.

• a history about the department/school, including any reorganizations that combined different disciplines into a plant sciences department/school. If the department/school has recently undergone a USDA or institutional review, much of this information should be found in that review documentation.
• a listing of faculty (tenure and non-tenure track), staff, their positions, and specializations should be included. If this is found on a website, please provide the URL in the nominating letter and provide a pdf file of the faculty list with positions and specializations. Indicate which faculty (tenure and non-tenure track) and staff are already PAX members.

• the five most recent years of enrollment and graduation data for graduate and undergraduate programs.

Upon receipt of the petition for a new chapter, the National Secretary-Treasurer will distribute the petition to the Board of Directors, composed of the three current national officers (President, Vice President, and National Secretary-Treasurer) along with the immediate past two presidents. Upon receipt of a majority affirmative vote from the Board of Directors the petition is submitted to the active chapters (those that are current on their chapter dues by January 31 in any given academic year). Upon affirmative vote by two-thirds of the active Pi Alpha Xi chapters, the President notifies the new chapter of its acceptance.

• Should the institution not receive a majority vote by the Board of Directors or active chapters, the institution will receive feedback as to the reason for the negative vote and the option to resubmit a petition.

Upon approval to establish a new chapter, the President of Pi Alpha Xi National will proclaim a new chapter at the university. One of the current officers will work with the institution to confirm an installation date. As stated in the Constitution and By-Laws of Pi Alpha Xi, "Such petitioning group covers the expense of the National President or other officer to attend the chapter installation and, at the time of installation, deposits with the Executive Secretary the regular initiation fee for each of the members. The chapter is exempt from further payment of dues for the remainder of the academic year, except for members initiated after the installation of the chapter." It is also customary that one of the national officers attends and performs the Pi Alpha Xi Installation Ceremony.

New chapters are named using the Greek alphabet. Naming convention dictates the chapters be named Alpha through Omega with a single letter designation. Beginning with the 25th chapter, double letter designations are used starting with Alpha Beta and running through the remaining letters in the Greek alphabet. After Alpha Omega is used, the next chapter would be designated Beta Alpha, Beta Gamma (skipping Beta Beta), and continuing in a similar manner.

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2015 Meeting Minutes

Pi Alpha Xi National, Annual Business Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, August 5, 2015
Noon to 2 pm, Gallery Ballroom, Sheraton Hotel New Orleans

Chapters present:

Gamma – Pennsylvania State University
Epsilon – Ohio State University
Zeta – Rutgers University
Eta – Washington State University
Iota – North Carolina State University
Kappa – Virginia Polytechnic & State University
Lambda – University of Minnesota
Mu – University of Florida
Omicron – Purdue University
Tau – University of Georgia
Upsilon – California Polytechnic State University
Phi – South Dakota State University
Chi – Colorado State University
Psi – Texas A&M University
Omega – Kansas State University
Alpha Beta – University of Tennessee
Alpha Gamma – University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Alpha Delta – Oklahoma State University
Alpha Zeta – University of Wisconsin – River Falls
Alpha Theta – Iowa State University
Alpha Kappa – Mississippi State University
Alpha Xi – Texas State University
Alpha Sigma – University of Wyoming
Alpha Tau – University of Maine

1. Welcome and introductions of officers – Karen Panter
   Officers were introduced including Karen Panter (president), Stephanie Burnett (Vice President) and Tina Marie (Waliczek) Cade, (Secretary-Treasurer).

   Thirty-two members including officers were in attendance.

2. Lunch
   Lunch was served.

3. Business meeting
   a. Roll call of chapters – Tina Cade
      i. Twenty-four of 42 chapters were represented.

   b. Approval of agenda – Karen Panter
      ii. The agenda was approved
c. Approval of minutes from July 2014 meeting in Orlando, Florida – can be found at http://ashsmmedia.org/pax/download/PDFs/autumn2014.pdf on pages 7-10 - Tina Cade
   i. The minutes were approved.

d. Financial report – Tina Cade
   i. An overview of the financial report was reported.

e. Committee reports
   i. Membership Services – Stephanie Burnett
      1. Two new chapters were initiated and approved during the 2014-2015 school year.
   
   ii. Rules – Richard Harkess
      1. No changes were made to the rules.
   
   iii. Student Activities – Brian Trader or John Peterson
      1. It was reported that PLANET partnered with Collegiate Career Days and that Pi Alpha Xi has an opportunity to sponsor events or have their own competition.
   
   iv. Photography Contest – Paul Thomas
      1. The photography contest was a success with 8 contributors and 20 images. The judges were photographers and were easy to work with. Thomas announced the winners on a rotating powerpoint presentation in the poster session. A discussion ensued about the cost of maintaining the website versus how much money is generated from the contest which is intended to be a fundraiser rather than to just “break even.” Members mentioned looking for sponsors to offer a more appealing prize. The current prize money is not thought to be a big incentive to enter. The development of an Ad Hoc Photo Contest Committee was mentioned, but no immediate volunteers were generated. John Peterson made a motion to revamp the photo contest and fees and the motion was seconded and approved.
   
   v. Nominations – Paul Thomas

   vi. Web Site (ad hoc) – Karen Panter
      1. Tim Rhodus handles the website and is efficient at the job. Questions were asked on if Pi Alpha Xi could have a link on the front page of ASHS.org from the “affiliation” tab. Pi Alpha Xi has a Facebook page.

   vii. Fellows – Mary Albrecht
      1. Paul Thomas was awarded Fellows status. Thomas is advisor the University of Georgia Tau chapter and “lives and breathes” the spirit of Pi Alpha Xi.
a. Old business
   i. New chapters
      1. University of Maine – Alpha Tau – Stephanie Burnett
         a. Burnett mentioned that on September 21, Maine’s new chapter will be installed.
      2. University of Wyoming – Alpha Sigma – Karen Panter
         a. Panter reported that Wyoming’s chapter will be installed in October.
         b. North Dakota State University will hopefully be submitting a packet for a new chapter during the 2015-2016 school year.
         c. Terry Ferriss recommended submitting packets to Cornell for archiving.
   ii. Luncheon
      1. Lunch and meeting next year or just meeting – Karen Panter
         a. Alternatives to a lunch meeting were discussed for 2016. The initial idea was to offer a less expensive option for students to potentially attend. However, membership decided instead to include a line on the registration form which would allow for a faculty member to sponsor an undergraduate/graduate student to the lunch.
   b. New business
      i. Ad hoc committee on revision of guidelines for new chapters – Mary Albrecht
         1. Changes made to the guidelines were discussed.
      ii. ASHS certification programs – Karen Panter
         1. Panter encouraged everyone to promote the certification programs and become certified if they are not already.
      iii. Items from membership? – Karen Panter
         1. Paul Read announced a tenure-track job available at the University of Nebraska in Environmental Horticulture.
   c. Adjourn – Karen Panter
2014 Meeting Minutes (amended)

Pi Alpha Xi National Meeting Minutes
July 29th, 2014, Orlando, Florida
Submitted by Stephanie E. Burnett and Tina Cade
Amended by Stephanie E. Burnett on 9 September, 2015

Chapters Present:
Gamma (Pennsylvania State)
Epsilon (Ohio State)
Zeta (Rutgers)
Eta (Washington)
Iota (North Carolina State)
Kappa (Virginia Tech)
Lambda (Minnesota)
Nu (Auburn)
Chi (Colorado State)
Omicron (Purdue)
Tau (Georgia)
Upsilon (Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo)
Psi (Texas A&M)
Omega (Kansas State)
Alpha Zeta (Wisconsin, River Falls)
Alpha Iota (Texas Tech University)
Alpha Kappa (Mississippi State)

1. Mary Albrecht welcomed everyone to the lunch and called the meeting to order.

2. Stephanie Burnett called the chapters; all chapters present at the meeting are shown above.

3. The group voted to approve the 2013 minutes from the meeting in California.

4. Stephanie Burnett gave the treasurer’s report. Very few chapters are currently utilizing the matching scholarship offered by PAX and are encouraged to do so if possible. PAX matches $50 provided by the chapter for this scholarship.

5. Paul Thomas reported from the ASHS Endowment Committee that they are looking for video testimonials from students who have received ASHS travel scholarships or faculty who have students who have benefited from these scholarships. These videos will be posted to the ASHS website. Please contact Paul Thomas for more information.

6. Committee Reports:

   a. Terry Ferris reported on behalf of the Member Services Committee that the University of Maine and North Dakota State University are considering starting new chapters.

   b. Richard Harkess announced an upcoming vote on behalf of the Rules Committee. There are three proposed changes to the bylaws. The group received a handout describing these proposed changes, and all active chapters received a description of the proposed changes via e-mail prior to the meeting. Once the semester begins, the Rules committee will ask active chapters to vote on the proposed changes. They will have two months to respond. No response after two months is
The results from the PAX photography contest are in and will be posted on the ASHS website. Many thanks to Bob Lyons for organizing the contest and to the photography contest judges!

a. The nominations committee proposed the following officers for 2014-2016:

Dr. Karen Panter, President, University of Wyoming
Dr. Stephanie Burnett, Vice President, University of Maine
Dr. Tina Cade, Secretary/Treasurer, Texas State University
Dr. Mary Lewnes Albrecht, Immediate Past President, University of Tennessee
Dr. John Peterson, Past President, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo

Terry Ferris made a motion to approve the slate of officers; Steve Newman seconded. The group approved the incoming officers.

2. New Business –

The group discussed options for increasing attendance at the annual meeting each year. It is possible that the $30 lunch fee could be deterring attendance, particularly from graduate and undergraduate PAX members. One idea was to have a cheaper meal with just appetizers or possibly coffee/muffins. The group decided to go with a possibly cheaper meal next year, and if that doesn’t attract more people, to consider the option of a brown bag lunch meeting for 2016. In both scenarios, people would still be asked to sign up for the meeting so that we know how large of a room is needed.

3. The group discussed providing funding for the National Strategic Initiative to promote horticulture (i.e. recruit the next generation of horticulture professionals). We voted on providing funds for the initiative and pledged $2,000 each year for the next three years.

4. Mary passed the gavel to our new president, Karen Panter. Thank you, Mary, for you service as President! We appreciate your service and leadership.
Standing Committees 2014-2016

Fellows Selection Committee – solicits nominations for Fellows of the Society and is responsible for assembling support documentation for selection.

- Pi Alpha Xi Past President John Peterson (chair), Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, drjohncp@calpoly.edu
- Pi Alpha Xi Past President Daniel Warnock, Monsanto, daniel.f.warnock@monsanto.com
- Doug Needham, Longwood Gardens, dneedham@longwoodgardens.org
- Pi Alpha Xi Immediate President Mary Lewnes Albrecht, University of Tennessee, mlalbrecht@utk.edu
- Pi Alpha Xi President, Karen Panter, University of Wyoming, ex officio, kpanter@uwyo.edu

Membership Services Committee – coordinates the publication of the Recruitment Brochure, Flower Judging Manual, and other services and materials of the Honor Society.

- Janet Cole, Oklahoma State University, janet.cole@okstate.edu
- Holly Scoggins, Virginia Tech University, perennials@vt.edu
- Pi Alpha Xi Vice-President, Stephanie Burnett, University of Maine, sburnett@maine.edu

Nominations Committee – develops a slate of candidates for the National Offices and presents the slate at the National Meeting in 2016.

- Paul Thomas (chair), University of Georgia, pathoms@uga.edu
- Tina Marie Cade, Texas State University, tc10@txstate.edu
- Pi Alpha Xi Immediate Past President, Mary Lewnes Albrecht, University of Tennessee, mlalbrecht@utk.edu

Photography Contest Committee – oversees the rules, fees, and prizes associated with the photography contest at the annual ASHS conference and PAX annual business meeting.

- Paul Thomas, University of Georgia, pathoms@uga.edu
- Tim Rhodus, Ohio State University, rhodus.1@osu.edu
- Pi Alpha Xi Immediate President Mary Lewnes Albrecht, University of Tennessee, mlalbrecht@utk.edu
- Pi Alpha Xi President, Karen Panter, University of Wyoming, ex officio, kpanter@uwyo.edu
Rules Committee – reviews the Constitution and By-Laws of the Honor Society and the Operations Manual. Revisions to the Constitution and By-Laws are presented to the membership for consideration.

- Richard Harkess (chair), Mississippi State University, rharkess@pss.msstate.edu
- Jim Klett, Colorado State University, jim.klett@colostate.edu
- Alice LeDuc, Texas State University, aliceleduc45@gmail.com
- Pi Alpha Xi Vice President, Stephanie Burnett, University of Maine, ex officio, sburnett@maine.edu

Student Activities Committee – proposes, develops, and oversees activities of the Honor Society intended to engage undergraduate and graduate students at national events.

- Brian Trader, Longwood Gardens, btrader@longwoodgardens.org
- Pi Alpha Xi Past President John Peterson, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, drjohncp@calpoly.edu

Ad Hoc Committee 2014-2016

Website Committee - oversees development and maintenance of the society’s website.

- Tim Rhodus (chair), Ohio State University, rhodus.1@osu.edu
- Executive Secretary, Cindy Slone, ex officio, cslone@ashs.org or Mike Neff, ex officio, mwneff@ashs.org
- Pi Alpha Xi President, Karen Panter, University of Wyoming, ex officio, kpanter@uwyo.edu

Resources on the Web

Check out our website, http://pax.ashs.org for information and helpful tools -

- Find our Operations Manual on our web site! Look under Resources.
- Also look for our revised Initiation Ceremonies under Membership!
- Our revised National Constitution is also available!

We are on Facebook! Connect with Pi Alpha Xi members from other chapters through our Facebook page, and quickly find updates on the latest news.