Wow, what a spring we’ve had. Horticulture students here at UW were very busy in my greenhouse crop production class. The class of 19 made four field trips to operations in Laramie, WY and Fort Collins, CO; students grew their own crops (as well as some very healthy aphids and whiteflies); and everyone passed. Opportunities for students outside the regular classroom abounded as well, particularly with our All-America Selections Display Garden. We house the only one in Wyoming and three students were, and still are, heavily involved. One handled sowing seeds of the various crops, another is maintaining the ornamentals section over near Old Main, and a third is handling the AAS vegetables in raised beds outside our greenhouse facility. So, even at a small land grant institution horticulture is alive and well!

The home front has been about as busy. We’ve planted at least a dozen large containers of various bedding plants; replanted some of our perennials that didn’t manage our wicked winter; and planted all the beds around the house with splashes of bedding plant color. Now we just hope we don’t get hail this summer! This area of the Rockies is very prone to hailstorms (no glass greenhouses) so we’ll cross our fingers for this growing season.

Pi Alpha Xi National is experiencing some very busy times too. Later in this edition of the Lotus Leaflet you’ll read about our two new chapters. Installations at both will occur this fall. We’re also involved in updating the process for nominating new chapters, will announce our latest PAX Fellow, and are in the midst of accepting entries for our annual photography contest.

All this and more will be on the agenda at our annual meeting during the American Society for Horticultural Science conference in New Orleans. Our PAX lunch meeting will be Wednesday, August 5, from noon to 2 pm in the Gallery Ballroom at the Sheraton Hotel New Orleans. We hope to see you all there!

Karen Panter
Pi Alpha Xi President
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