Greetings to all Pi Alpha Xi members and friends,

As I write this, my first letter to you as president, I am sitting in my home office watching yet another snow storm roll through the Great Plains and add to the six to eight foot piles of snow we have along our driveway. As I anxiously await the warmer weather and green of spring, I find the myriad collection of seed and garden catalogs that we have received over the last few months are more frequently finding their way into my hands.

Winter gives us time to reflect on the bounty of last year's gardens and harvests and plan for the gardens of the future. So what are you going to grow in your garden? I have told my wife that I am not going to plant as many vegetables as last year since we cannot possibly eat everything we grow or even find enough people to accept the free produce, but I know I will just have to try a few more new things again this year and once again end up with more than we need. So many plants, so little time.

Speaking of time, over the last year I have had the opportunity to have my time occupied with classroom teaching, a bit of a switch from my previous 100% home/commercial Extension appointment. Now I find myself tending another "crop," that of aspiring young horticulturalists. Working directly with the students I am continually reminded of my own college days as I was lead down the garden path of discovery. Who would have ever guessed that there were so many different kinds of flowers, ornamentals and vegetables to learn about and try to grow? I am very grateful to my teachers and professors from those days, they taught me so much about the beauty, glory and complexity of those plants and all the aspects of how they grow.

Now that I find myself in that role, I feel honored to have that opportunity to pass some of that knowledge and wonder onto my students. There is a special satisfaction from seeing something you plant, grow, thrive and bloom. I feel the same exhilaration in helping my students to grow and thrive as they develop their horticultural knowledge and skills. A feeling that I am certain I share with many of you... after all, isn't that why so many of us do what we do? Floriculture and ornamental horticulture are honorable professions, as is teaching. Pi Alpha Xi is our national honorary society. Let us always try to hold to those ideals which we read and attested to during our initiation. As I close this letter to you, I encourage each of you to take some extra time to tend that very most special of crops, your students, for they are our future and the future of our profession. And, if you get a chance, send a word of thanks to some of those key individuals that have helped you to grow too.

Sincerely,

Dave
David F. Graper
President, Pi Alpha Xi National
2001 Flower Judging Contest

This year’s National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality Evaluation Contest will be held April 4-6, 2001 at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo, California. Your hosts for this year's contest invite you to come to California with a judging team and compete. They promise you a great contest, fun activities, and wonderful weather! The weather may be in doubt, but the contest isn't.

Many of you already have this event on your calendars, but for those of you who do not please mark these dates. Also, many of you already have a team in training, but if you do not, don't worry, it is not too late! Virginia Walter reports she just started training a month ago. Judging is fun, informative, educational, and the contest is a great way for students to mix with other undergraduates from universities across the country. A team consists of three judges, but you can bring as many students as you can afford. Contact Dr. Terry Ferris at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, (715) 425-5545, for Flower Judging Manuals to practice with. As usual there will be some funds available to help pay for team expenses, hopefully travel costs will not keep teams from coming this year. The host school has intentionally requested additional funding on their campus to keep your contest expenses at a minimum.

The schedule is quite simple. Arrive in San Luis Obispo by 6 PM April 4 for registration and a mixer. The judging contest and an industry dinner are planned for April 5. The floral design contest, a field trip, and the awards banquet are on April 6.

Your travel arrangements will likely include air travel. Both United Express and American Eagle commute into San Luis Obispo from Los Angeles or San Francisco. America West flies into San Luis Obispo from Phoenix. If you choose to drive from a major airport, Los Angeles is about 200 miles away, San Francisco about 255 miles, San Jose about 190, and Santa Barbara about 100 miles. Major rental car companies have branches in San Luis Obispo. You will not have to have a car, but it certainly would allow you the most flexibility while you are here.

The Holiday Inn Express will serve as our headquarters. There are blocks of rooms held there for April 4-6 as well as at two other nearby motels. All three are close to each other and the campus and have fine facilities. There are easily another dozen motels on Monterey, but these three have blocks of rooms held for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hotel Name</th>
<th>Room Blocks and Rates</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Holiday Inn Express</td>
<td>Unlimited rooms for April 4-5, and only 10 rooms for April 6. Ask for Cal Poly Flower Judging rates, $76 per room, 1-4 people. Held until Mar. 21.</td>
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<tr>
<td>100 Monterey St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Luis Obispo, CA 95401</td>
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<tr>
<td>1-05-544-600 or 1-600-465-4529</td>
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<tr>
<td>La Cuesta Inn</td>
<td>20 rooms only one bed per room. $69 per night Weds, and Thurs., $99 per night Friday. Rooms held until Mar. 10. Ask for Cal Poly Flower Judging.</td>
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<td>2074 Monterey St.</td>
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<td>San Luis Obispo, CA 93401</td>
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<td>1-000-545-2777</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Sands Motel</td>
<td>20 rooms available, 10 being held until Mar. 15. One queen size is $71.10 per night, 2 queen size is $89.10 per night. Conf. # DP000 or ask for Cal Poly Flower Judging rooms.</td>
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<td>1950 Monterey St.</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Luis Obispo, CA 95401</td>
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<td>1-000-441-4657</td>
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Robert W. Langhans

Robert W. Langhans (Zeta 68), Professor of Floriculture and Controlled Environment Agriculture, Department of Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture, Cornell University, is named Fellow of Pi Alpha Xi for his plus forty years of leadership, innovation, mentorship, research and teaching in floriculture.

Dr. Langhans received the B.S. from Rutgers University, 1952, the M.S. from Cornell University, 1954, and the Ph.D. from Cornell University, 1956. Dr. Langhans served as major professor for 45 graduate students during his career and served on numerous other graduate committees. Dr. Langhans authored over 70 peer reviewed research papers, more than 50 outreach articles, edited eight books including a series of pioneering crop manuals, contributed chapters to eight books, edited the New York State Flower Growers Bulletin for 14 years, and authored a greenhouse management textbook.

Through his leadership roles with the American Society for Horticultural Science, Society of American Florists, Seeley Conferences, Kenneth Post Foundation, and Pi Alpha Xi, he has helped countless students at other institutions.

Research interests focus on various parts of growing systems in Controlled Environment Agriculture, which include treatment of propagules, early growth and selection of seedlings, transplanting, hydroponics (systems, physical and biological disease control and water quality), vegetative and reproductive growth (particularly the interrelated effects of irradiance, temperature and CO2). He is recognized internationally as a true leader of floriculture having addressed professional meetings and taken sabbatical leaves on five of the seven continents: North and South America, Australia, Asia, and Europe; only missing Africa and Antarctica. Already a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (1990) and the American Society for Horticultural Science (1981), it is fitting to install Dr. Langhans in the "millennium" class of Pi Alpha Xi Fellows.

Terry L. Ferriss

Terry L. Ferriss (Chi 12), Professor of Horticulture and Assistant Dean of the College of Agriculture, Food, and Environmental Sciences, University of Wisconsin—River Falls (UWRF), is named Fellow of Pi Alpha Xi for her service to the organization and her dedication to excellence in horticultural teaching. Dr. Ferriss was initiated into the Chi Chapter as a charter member. Subsequently, she served as President of the Lambda Chapter and in 1985 founded the Alpha-Theta Chapter. She has served as Vice President and President of Pi Alpha Xi National.

Dr. Ferriss received the BS in horticulture from Colorado State University and the MS and PhD in horticulture from the University of Minnesota.

Dr. Ferriss was the 1998 recipient of the Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences Award, sponsored by the USDA and the NASULGC. In recognition of her educational approach and her professional accomplishments, she has received numerous awards and honors, including, but not limited to, the American Society for Horticultural Sciences’ Outstanding Undergraduate Educator Award, the Pi Alpha Xi Woody Kalin Award, the Wisconsin Garden Club Federation’s Bronze Award, her College’s Outstanding Teacher Award, and her University’s Distinguished Teacher Award.

Through her teaching in UWRF’s College of Agriculture, Food and Environmental Sciences, Dr. Ferriss focuses on helping students become competent professionals who will shape the future of the profession. Throughout her career, she has been actively involved in curriculum development. During her nearly 21 years as a faculty member, she has developed five new horticulture classes as well as one offered through distance education. She has incorporated the use of technology and computers into her courses including the use of computerized greenhouse environmental control and landscaping systems and cost analysis systems.

Dr. Ferriss is dedicated to serving her students. She advises 30-35 undergraduates annually, advises the UWRF Horticulture Society, advises the UWRF chapter of Pi Alpha Xi, advises her college’s Student Advisory Council, and coaches the UWRF Floral Quality Evaluation Team.
President Terri Starman called the meeting to order at 12:40 PM and welcomed the group.

Secretary/Treasurer Bridget Behe called the roll. Chapters represented were Alpha (Cornell), Beta (Illinois), Gamma (Penn State), Delta (Michigan State), Epsilon (Ohio), Iota (North Carolina), Lambda (Minnesota), Mu (Florida), Nu (Auburn Univ.), Omicron (Purdue), Sigma (Southern Illinois), Upsilon (Cal Poly), Phi (South Dakota), Chi (Colorado), Psi (Texas A&M), Omega (Kansas State), Alpha-Beta (Tennessee), Alpha-Gamma (Nebraska), Alpha-Delta (Oklahoma), Alpha-Zeta (Univ. Wisc.-River Falls), and Alpha-Kappa (Mississippi State).

The minutes from the previous meeting were adopted with a minor typographical correction.

The financial report was made by Bridget Behe. It was accepted after answering a question regarding the disposition of the money from the prior year’s photography contest entry fees.

Vice-President David Graper reported on the photography contest. There were nine entries in 2000 in the three categories. Winners were (Flower Category): Richard Criley, 1st Place; Bob Stamps, 2nd Place and Don Maynard, 3rd Place. For the Ornaments Category, one award was made to Stephanie Harvey, In the Landscape Category one award was made to Bob Stamps. Richard Criley won Best of Show. The organization thanked the judges for this year’s contest. Kimberly Klock-Moor, University of Florida and Sylvia DeMar, ASHS Publications Manager. There was some discussion of the use of digital photographs and re-touching digital photographs. Mike Neff offered to obtain prices of calendars. Inventory and sales were concerns members voiced. Perhaps the photography contest could be a means to raise scholarship funds.

Jack Buxton reported for the Rules Committee. Two changes were proposed. The full name of the organization may not be descriptive enough to encompass all disciplines. Should we add environmental horticulture to "The honor society for floriculture, landscape and ornamental horticulture"? This phrase appears 16 times in the constitution. A ballot was to be sent to each chapter to discover if this was a real perception. The proposal adopted was to leave the current name intact and perhaps identify a short acronym.

A second change was to make the creation, editing and publication of the Lotus Leaf a duty of the Vice-President, transferring some of the responsibility to the vice-president. This required a change to the PAX Constitution and By-Laws and was submitted for a vote by the membership. These changes passed unanimously.

1. The Vice-President shall assume the duties of President in the absence of the President. The Vice President shall serve as editor and distribute the Lotus Leaflet; and shall coordinate the Pi Alpha Xi web site.

2. The official publication of the Honor Society shall be the Lotus Leaflet, which shall be in the form of a newsletter. The contents of the publication shall be determined by and edited by the Publications and Membership Services Committee with approval of the Board of Directors. The Vice-president shall serve as editor of the Lotus Leaflet. The publication shall be financed by the (Pi Alpha Xi) National treasury. One copy of the current issue shall be distributed gratis to each chapter in good standing.

   **Note:** The By-Laws do not include the Pi Alpha Xi web site.

3. Faculty members of departments from disciplines other than floriculture, landscape horticulture and ornamental horticulture...

   The Publications Committee report was made by Terry Ferriss. Mike Neff (ASHS HQ) offered to print the flower judging book on demand, take orders, warehouse inventory, and drop-ship to the secretary. Given the manual is approximately 80 pages, it would cost $2 to $5 to mail. The goals, as reiterated by Terry Ferriss were to (a) increase visibility of publication advertised with other ASHS publications and (b) process requests through a more central visible site to high schools and universities. Mike Neff reported that ASHS can assist PAX for a unit charge for advertising costs. Essentially, ASHS could handle everything and send a royalty check to PAX. The group decided to defer the decision to chapters where flower judging and training judges were active engaged in. Could SAF help defray some of
the cost? When would the cost of the manual become prohibitive, perhaps $10 (now $8)? Are photographs included in the manual, increasing its cost?

Flower Quality and Design Competition had nine teams compete at Texas A&M University, the lowest number of participating teams in recent times. Cal Poly placed first, Kansas State placed second and Penn State placed third in the overall team competition. The site for the 2002 competition is the University of Wisconsin-River Falls during the first week of April 2002. The site for the 2005 competition is New Mexico State University. Schools which have not participated in the recent past were urged to consider bringing a team. Members urged teams at MN, KY, OH, NC, and CO to renew their past interest.

The American Floral Endowment has changed their policy on sending funds for the FQD competition. They now request an application for funds. Terri Starman and David Graper have been working to submit a grant to train coaches and encourage attendance at the 2001 competition.

Fellows Selection report by Doug Needham. The millennial class included Terry Ferriss and Robert Langhans. The National membership is very much appreciative of the time, energy, and contributions these two individuals have made to our honor society. Terry Ferriss was present and given a plaque to honor her contributions. Robert Langhans was unable to attend and his award was mailed.

Election of Officers: (Steve Newman) The slate of officers nominated by the nominations committee for 2001 were: President David Graper. Vice-President Bridget Behe, and Secretary & Treasurer: Dennis Wolnick. The members cast a unanimous ballot.

Incoming National President David Graper presented outgoing President Terri Starman with a book on greenhouse management as a token of the members appreciation for her service over the past several years.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bridget K. Behe
Secretary & Treasurer

<table>
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<tr>
<th>President: David Graper</th>
<th>Vice-President: Bridget Behe</th>
<th>Secretary &amp; Treasurer: Dennis Wolnick</th>
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<td>Box 2140 NPBL254-D</td>
<td>2&amp;6 Plant &amp; Soil Sciences Bldg.</td>
<td>102 Tyson Building</td>
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<td>South Dakota State Univ.</td>
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<td>East Lansing, MI 46524-1325</td>
<td>University Park, PA 16302</td>
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<td><a href="mailto:djw8@psu.edu">djw8@psu.edu</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Photo Contest 2000

Richard Criley
First Place: Flower
Best of Show

Bob Stamps
Second Place: Flower

Don Maynard
Third Place: Flower

Bob Stamps
First Place: Landscape

Stephanie Harvey
First Place Ornamental