Dr. Terry Ferriss completed four years as President of Pi Alpha Xi in August 1994. Under her leadership many changes occurred that will direct Pi Alpha Xi for many years. Terry is the first to point out that most of the ideas for change were not hers, but were suggestions made by other Pi Alpha Xi members. However, without Terry’s leadership, dedication and gentle coaxing of many of us on the Executive Board and members of the committees many of these ideas would not have been implemented. Below are major changes or accomplishments that have occurred in the Society under Terry’s tenure.

1. **Annual Pi Alpha Xi meeting**: The annual meeting is now held in conjunction with the annual meeting of ASHS. As a result of this change nearly 50 members have attended each meeting during the past three years. This has generated renewed interest in the organization by those who were not involved in past PAX activities and has added new vigor to the Society.

2. **Standing committees established**: The Rules, Publication and Membership Services, and Floral Crop Quality Evaluation and Design Competition Committees have been very active during the past four years in carrying out the purposes of Pi Alpha Xi.

3. **Constitution revised**: The revision reflects changes that have occurred in the direction of the Society during the past several years.

4. **National Intercollegiate Floral Design Contest “Rules and Regulations” and “Guidelines for Contest Officials”**: The documents have been discussed, reviewed and modified several times and are now nearing completion. The documents will provide the needed direction and consistency for the running of the contest.

5. **Lotus Leaflet established**: The quarterly publication maintains contact with chapters and members through timely information about the Society.

6. **New chapters**: Two new chapters were installed and a third soon will be.

7. **American Floral Endowment funding**: The increased funding for the Annual National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality Evaluation and Design Competition to $6000 to cover awards, team travel and provide more assistance to the host school is greatly appreciated.

Pi Alpha Xi thanks Terry for four years of dedication to the principles of Pi Alpha Xi in promoting scholarship, activities and the exchange of ideas within the Society.
PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

What are the plans and activities of Pi Alpha Xi for the future? At the August annual meeting in Corvallis, Oregon, the Standing Committees’ reports laid out plans that will be addressed during the next year.

The Publication and Membership Services Committee recommends that PAX review and update the Flower Judging Manual, revise the PAX brochure, explore the possibility of offering a scholarship, establish an Endowment fund, and establish a non-university member chapter of PAX.

The Floral Crop Quality Evaluation and Design Competition Committee will be busy finalizing rules and regulations for the Floral Design Contest. A questionnaire will be distributed to determine reasons for decreased participation in the contest.

The rules committee has completed a major revision of the Constitution, but the Constitution and By-Laws must always evolve to reflect the needs of the Society.

For further information on what these committees have accomplished during the past year and their plans for the future see reports elsewhere in this newsletter.

PI ALPHA XI NEEDS YOUR HELP

These committees need your help to implement their goals. If you have interest in serving on one of the standing committees contact me or members of the Executive Board. Also, if you have ideas about furthering the goals of Pi Alpha Xi we would like to hear from you.

The Executive Board looks forward to serving as your officers during the next two years.

Sincerely,
Jack Buxton

About the Cover—A Letter from the Editor

Several of you commented at the National meeting that you liked to duplicate the Lotus Leaflet for distribution to your chapter members. I am pleased that you find the Society’s newsletter informative. However, I understand that the blue paper made photocopying of past newsletters difficult; therefore, the body of this and subsequent newsletters is being printed on white paper, and a blue cover has been added to retain identity of the Lotus Leaflet.

As I pass the editing of the Lotus Leaflet on to PAX’s new Secretary-Treasurer Terri Woods Starman, I encourage you to use it as a forum to discuss society issues and to appraise one another of your chapters’ activities.

Yours Truly,
Doug Needham
Minutes

Pi Alpha Xi’s National Meeting was held on Monday, August 8, from 6-8:30 P.M. at Oregon State University in Corvallis in conjunction with the American Society for Horticultural Science’s National Meeting.

President Terry Ferriss opened the dinner/meeting, welcoming 46 members, representing 22 chapters.

PRESENTATION OF FELLOWS AWARDS

It was with great pleasure that President Ferriss honored Dr. Lou Berninger and Dr. Marlin Rogers with the Pi Alpha Xi National Fellows Awards.

Dr. Berninger served the University of Wisconsin—Madison as Extension Floriculture Specialist from 1954-1984 and was Marketing Manager for Speedling, Inc. from 1984-1992. During his tenure at UW—Madison, Lou coached Flower Judging Teams for approximately ten years, served as Advisor for the UW—Madison PAX Chapter, and hosted the National Intercollegiate Flower Judging Contest in 1980. At the National level of Pi Alpha Xi, Lou served as Secretary/Treasurer, Vice President, and President. As President Berninger, he was responsible for establishing several new chapters. Lou always encouraged the other coaches and made them feel welcome. He continues to attend the National PAX Meetings every year even in his retirement.

Dr. Berninger

Dr. Marlin Rogers

Dr. Marlin Rogers served the University of Missouri as Teaching Professor and Extension Specialist in Floriculture. He recalls an early experience with flower judging, “I participated as a student judge in the National Flower Judging Contest in the Spring of 1942 at the Chicago Flower Show. It was just as World War II was getting under way for us, and travel was beginning to be restricted to save rubber and gasoline.”

From that early commitment to flower judging and Pi Alpha Xi, Dr. Rogers promoted floriculture throughout his tenure at the University of Missouri. As a graduate student, Marlin coached his first team in 1952 at the National Flower Show in Washington, D.C. He continued to coach approximately twenty teams while at the University of Missouri. Dr. Rogers and Professor J.E. Smith, Jr.
Pi Alpha Xi hosted the National Intercollegiate Flower Judging Contest at the University of Missouri in Columbia in 1975, where Dr. Smith organized the first flower arranging segment of the contest.

Pi Alpha Xi’s Flower Judging Manual was conceptualized from a course manual of Dr. Roger’s Flower Judging class at the University of Missouri. Marlin served on the PAX Committee for the revision of the Flower Judging Manual, helping to make the Manual a valuable tool in the teaching of floriculture crop judging.

MEMBERSHIP AND FINANCE REPORTS

New Members Report: Pi Alpha Xi chapters initiated 257 new members during fiscal year 1994, bringing PAX’s total membership to 10,200.

Financial Report: A balance sheet was distributed. The balance of funds in PAX’s account at the end of fiscal year 1994 was $16,359.55, which included total expenses of $7,775.59 and total income of $8,639.89. The audited report was accepted.

Minutes: The minutes of the 1993 Annual Meeting of Pi Alpha Xi, which was held at the Opryland Hotel in Nashville, Tennessee, in conjunction with the American Society for Horticultural Science’s annual meeting, were accepted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Rules Committee: Farrell Wise, Chairman, reported that the Committee, consisting of Harvey Lang, Barb Fails, Vice President Jack Buxton, and himself, had as its main responsibility for the year the incorporation and dissemination of approved changes to the Pi Alpha Xi National Constitution and By-Laws. Nine of thirty-one active chapters submitted ballots (University of Illinois, Penn State, Auburn, Kansas State, Oklahoma State, University of Nebraska—Lincoln, University of California—Davis, Texas Tech, and Iowa State). In accordance with the prior Constitution, nonvoting chapters were recorded as voting for the amendments. All amendments were consequently approved. Among the major changes are expansion of the organization’s formal name, updating of membership criteria, formal establishment of standing committees, changing the preferred annual convention site to coincide with ASHS meetings, adding a second option for voting on society business, updating the secretary-treasurer’s annual budget, limiting Constitutional changes to mailed votes only, and establishing a Fellows Award for the Society.

Jack Buxton, 1992-1993 Rules Committee Chairman, incorporated the approved changes into a final draft, and other Committee members (Barb Fails, Harvey Lang, and Farrell Wise) reviewed it for phrasing and typographical errors. Doug Needham, Secretary-Treasurer, distributed copies of the final version to all chapters in early May.

The Rules Committee offered thanks to all involved for making this run smoothly.

Publications and Membership Services Committee: Ellen Paparozzi reported that the Committee, consisting of Chairman Brian Corr, Lou Berninger, President Terry Ferriss, and herself, was charged with determining some of the needs of the membership. To that end, she discussed 6 items.

1. Scholarship for local chapters: PAX national has limited budget and would like to give multiple awards, e.g. initially 10 awards to 10 chapters
Minutes

with funds eventually available for all chapters. A matching situation and rotating which chapters receive the awards until all chapters can be funded was discussed. It was recommended that a Scholarship Committee be established and be charged with working out the particulars such as guidelines for presentation and discussion at the 1995 Pi Alpha Xi National meeting. After the discussion, a mail ballot to all active chapters will be sent. Volunteers for this committee?

2. It was discussed that should the Secretary-Treasurer need help with the Lotus Leaflet, that the Committee is available. However, members should be encouraged to offer to write a paragraph for the Lotus Leaflet, so that the entire burden is not always on the Secretary-Treasurer.

3. The Committee was charged with assisting a subcommittee for review of the Flower Judging Manual. Drs. Lou Berninger and Will Healy had, at the time offered to lead this charge. [Both agreed at the National Meeting that they were still willing to work on this project.] May we have more volunteers or nominations of individuals to be contacted to help with this process?

4. The current PAX brochure needs to be revised and updated. This should be a main thrust for the Committee next year. The brochure needs to be "jazzier" possibly with some color photographs. Brian Corr has offered to take the lead on accomplishing this. He will contact Paul Thomas for help. Anyone interested in helping? Anyone that has old/new flower judging photos that could be included?

5. Since formation of a scholarship committee implies continuing funds and many of the projects proposed also need funding, the establishment of an endowment fund was discussed. The initial purpose of the fund would be to fund scholarships, but the fund should be flexible enough to allow for other worthy functions. The Committee requests that the Executive Board look into this matter.

6. The Committee felt that methods need to be developed to involve non-university associated floriculture, ornamental horticulturists and landscape horticulturists in Pi Alpha Xi National. To accomplish this, it was suggested that we create a special chapter to maintain communication and identity for any Pi Alpha Xi member not actively associated with a university chapter. It was suggested that this chapter could hold chapter meetings at other professional gatherings such as PPGA, SAF, etc. It was suggested that a short article be written for the trade magazines to see if industry members would be interested. They would each, individually, receive the Lotus Leaflet (possibly gratis for one year and then a small charge, $5-10, for mailing after that). This is the second area the current Committee feels should be worked on by the next committee, for next year.

Brian Corr will consider continuing as Chairman, and Ellen Paparozzi would like to continue on this committee.

Floral Crop Quality Evaluation & Design Contest Committee: Terri Woods Starman, Chairwoman, reported that the Committee, consisting of LaMar Anderson, Will Healy, Secretary-Treasurer Doug Needham, and herself, had three conference calls through the year. Before the first conference call, each Committee member received for his/her review, copies of the National Intercollegiate Floral Design Contest "Rules and Regulations" and "Guidelines for Contest Officials" prepared in 1990 by Barb Fails in cooperation with Jim Johnson and Terri Starman.
During the first conference call, held on January 27, 1994, the Committee agreed the design contest is worthwhile and needs to be reinstated. The Committee agreed many of the "hassles" associated with hosting the design contest would be alleviated by adopting the two new documents. It was agreed that the Committee would recommend adoption of the two documents with some modifications.

Several modifications were discussed and Terri Starman obtained the computer disks containing the two documents from Barb Fails at Michigan State to make the proposed changes. The Committee’s modified forms of the documents were labeled “Version 2”. Terri Starman talked to Barb Fails and Jim Johnson on the phone about the Committee’s proposed changes to find out their prior reasoning during the writing of the original documents.

At a second conference call on March 17, 1994, Terri Starman brought the opinions of the original authors of the document to the Committee. Each proposed modification was thoroughly discussed and “Version 3” was produced. Copies of “Version 3” were given to the coaches participating in the National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality Evaluation and Design Competition held in Kentucky in April, 1994. Doug Needham and LaMar Anderson led a discussion about the documents with the coaches.

The Committee’s third conference call was held July 20, 1994. Doug Needham reviewed the coaches’ discussion and the Committee decided to conform the documents to the coaches’ wishes, making further modifications and developing “Version 4”.

In summary, the Committee has looked at what has been done at the contest in the past. We recommend that the contest be continued, and that the final revised edition (Version 4) of the National Intercollegiate Floral Design Contest “Rules and Regulations” and “Guidelines for Contest Officials” be approved. It is suggested that the two documents be adopted on a one year trial basis and that a committee be formed to gather input for future modification.

A copy of “Version 4” was given to each person at the Pi Alpha Xi National dinner/meeting in Corvallis. Until a new committee is formed, anyone wanting to comment about the two documents should send his/her thoughts to Terri Starman for addition to the committee’s working notebook. Virginia Walter, Cal Poly—San Luis Obispo, reminded the Committee that the coaches desired the elimination of “team awards” from the Floral Design Contest. Secretary-Treasurer Doug Needham indicated that the elimination of the team awards had unintentionally been overlooked. Copies of each document and a ballot will be mailed this fall to each chapter for voting on the adoption of the new “Rules and Regulations” and “Guidelines for Contest Officials.”

In addition to working on the two documents, the Committee has developed a questionnaire to be used as a tool for determining why some schools are not participating in the National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality Evaluation and Design Competition.

Nominations Committee: Mary Lewnes Albrecht, Chairwomen, reported that the Committee, consisting of Jim Klett, Paul Reed, and herself, wished to nominate Jack Buxton as President, Douglas Needham as Vice President, and Terri Woods Starman as Secretary-Treasurer. Ellen Paparozzi made the motion to approve the nominations by acclamation, and Will Healy seconded the motion.
OPEN DISCUSSION

Mary Lewnes Albrecht announced that Kansas State University will host the 54th National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality Evaluation and Design Competition at its campus in Manhattan on April 6-8, 1995.

Lou Berninger offered a special thanks to President Terry Ferriss for leading Pi Alpha Xi for the past four years. Vice President Jack Buxton presented President Ferriss the book Ornamental Grasses as a token of the Society’s appreciation.

Chapter News

Iota Chapter at North Carolina State University

Each year the Iota Chapter holds two plant sales (fall and spring) during which thousands of dollars are raised. The money is donated to various organizations and causes to promote horticulture and to enrich human life through plants. One such organization is the local 4-H program.

The Iota Chapter received an award for supporting the North Carolina 4-H program for five years. The chapter sponsors the 4-H artistic arrangements presentation contest and helps sponsor the horticultural judging, identification and information contest. The presentation contest winners receive scholarships and savings bonds, and the senior winning horticultural team receives three $150 scholarships to attend the National Junior Horticultural Association convention. Extension Horticultural Specialist Larry Bass and Iota Chapter President Tania K. Dautlick accepted the award on July 20, 1993, during State 4-H Congress in Raleigh. Dr. Robert C. Wells, Associate Dean and Director of the North Carolina Cooperative Extension Service, made the presentation. The 4-H Development Fund, headquartered at NCSU, sponsors the award. The Extension Service conducts the 4-H program through county offices for more than 231,000 Tar Heel youths with the aid of more than 32,235 adult and youth volunteers.

Phi Chapter at South Dakota State University

The Phi Chapter of Pi Alpha Xi hosted an awards banquet on October 5, 1993, where all 1993 scholarship winners from the Department of Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape & Parks were honored. The Phi Chapter hosts this banquet annually and also provides a $100 scholarship to a new PAX initiate. Richard Rysavy was the 1993 recipient.

The Phi Chapter raised funds through plant and flower sales for the scholarship and to send a team to the PAX National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality Evaluation and Design

FY ’95 Dues Now Payable

Pi Alpha Xi National membership chapter dues of $20 for fiscal year 1995 are due and payable to the PAX National Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. Terri Woods Starman, University of Tennessee, Department of Ornamental Horticulture and Landscape Design, P.O. Box 1071, Knoxville, Tennessee 37901-1071. Initiation fees for new members remain at $15 each.
Competition. Materials for training the team were obtained by selling sponsorships. The sponsors then received the judging materials after each training session. This kept the Phi Chapter’s departmental cost down and was quite popular with the sponsors who enjoyed having fresh flowers every week.

Retirement of Ken Sanderson

Ken Sanderson, Professor at Auburn University, retired on September 1, 1994. Dr. Sanderson served Pi Alpha Xi National as Secretary-Treasurer (1984-1986), Vice President (1986-1988), and President (1988-1990). He compiled and edited the 1988 and 1992 Lotus Leaves. He chaired the committee that produced a new and uniform Ritual from all the chapters’ rituals.

Ken coached Auburn’s Flower Judging Teams nearly every year from 1976-1993 and is a member of PAX’s Charter Class of Distinguished Flower Judging Contest Coaches. Ken comments, “My wife has asked me why I coach a flower judging team. I think the definition of a coach can be found in my answer—‘because someone did it for me.’ A coach is someone doing something for someone else. Some very fundamental attributes of humankind are involved: love of people, love of flowers and plants, helping humankind, and a desire to make this earth a better place.”

Pi Alpha Xi wishes Ken and Barbara Sanderson good health and long life together.

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to the 54th National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality Evaluation and Design Competition

Mary Lewnes Albrecht announced at the PAX National Meeting that Kansas State University will be hosting the 54th National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality Evaluation and Design Competition at Manhattan on April 6 & 7, 1995.

Ramada Inn of Manhattan is holding a block of rooms until March 8. All participants are encouraged to reserve their rooms before this deadline by calling 913-539-7531. A room for 1-4 persons is $57/night. Be sure to specify that you will be in town for the “Flower Judging Contest” to receive the special room rate. The Ramada Inn of Manhattan is conveniently located across the street from the Kansas State Union at 17th and Anderson Avenue.

Possible excursions while at the Competition may include tours of Fort Riley, the Konza Prairie Research Center, the Eisenhower Museum and Presidential Library in Abilene, and a visit with the Great and Powerful Wizard of Oz in the Emerald City.

Plan to share a memorable trip with your students—take them to the Land of Oz!