Autumn 2015

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 President
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