The purpose of Pi Alpha Xi - The Honor Society for Floriculture, Landscape Horticulture, and Ornamental horticulture is to recognize high scholarship, to foster good relationships among its members, to promote or to facilitate the exchange of ideas among members of the professions, and to establish cordial relations among students, educators, and industry members.

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Letter from Your President

Who benefits from the Pi Alpha Xi Photography Contest?
1. Students. Registration fees for the Photography Contest fund Pi Alpha Xi's scholarships. Each chapter is encouraged to offer a scholarship to a deserving student in its floriculture, ornamental horticulture, or landscape horticulture program, to which Pi Alpha Xi National will match up to $100. Pi Alpha Xi National has contributed to $1300 scholarships since the Photography Contest began in 1996. Let's bolster participation in the Photography Contest and subsequently boost the dollars available for student scholarships.

2. Contestants. The Photography Contest provides an excellent opportunity for colleagues of ASHS to show and view beautiful horticultural photography. Prizes include $50 for First Place, $25 for Second Place, $10 for Third Place, $50 for Best in Show, and recognition, of course, is priceless.

3. Pi Alpha Xi. As many other honorary organizations, Pi Alpha Xi, can suffer from lack of visibility. The Photography Contest showcases the beauty of horticulture through photographs of flowers, ornamental plants, and landscape or interiorscape scenes. The Photography Contest captures the spirit of camaraderie that is so much a part of Pi Alpha Xi.

This year we had 13 entries in the contest at ASHS. Be sure to check out the fall issue of the Lotus Leaflet to see the winning entries. Please keep up the good work and encourage others to participate in the future.

Doug Needham

Note from the Editor.

This is the last issue of the Lotus Leaflet that I will be completely responsible for. I hope that you have enjoyed the newsletter these last two years and liked what I did. I will be passing on this honor to Bridget Behe from Michigan State University as the new Pi Alpha Xi National Secretary-Treasurer. I will miss all the “fun duties” associated with this position but look forward to moving on as Vice President. One thing for sure, my printer will appreciate the reprieve. If you have any new correspondence for the Secretary-Treasurer, please send it directly to Bridget. Her address is: A216 Plant & Soil Sciences Building, East Lansing, MI 48824.

Dave

David F. Graper
Ten teams from universities across the U.S. competed in the 57th Annual National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality Evaluation and Design Competition at South Dakota State University in Brookings, April 2 and 3. The Department of Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape and Parks at South Dakota State hosted the event.

Students evaluated quality of cut flowers and flowering and foliage potted plants during the competition. Growers from South Dakota, Minnesota, California and Hawaii provided over 60 selections of plant material for the contest, according to Dr. David F. Graper, chairperson for the competition with South Dakota State University, Department of Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape and Parks and Secretary/treasurer of Pi Alpha Xi National, one of the event’s sponsors.

“The students evaluated common floricultural crops such as chrysanthemums, carnations and lilies and exotic ones such as orchids and ginger. Many of the cut flowers and potted plants used in the two-day contest were either grown by SDSU students or from growers in South Dakota and Minnesota. However, many were also obtained from several growers in California and Hawaii.

“Coaches spend many hours of preparation with their students to get ready for the competition. The students not only learn to recognize quality through critical examination, but also to understand production techniques which will ensure high quality floricultural crops in the industry. The judging experience helps them to develop more logical reasoning skills, to make decisions and also practice their presentation skills with their fellow judges,” he said.

“The competition also provides an excellent opportunity for students to interact with industry professionals and professors from many of the
Nation’s top schools of horticulture.” They also get the chance to know each other. Contacts which may become vital to them after they leave college and enter into the horticulture industry or go on to graduate school,” he said. Who knows, the students they got to know while they were here at SDSU could become a business partner, supplier or national customer.

University of Wisconsin-River Falls at River Falls won the team competition in the overall judging. Other universities and their placing included: California Polytechnic State University, second; University of Illinois, third; Oklahoma State University, fourth and Kansas State University, fifth. Paula Christ, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, was the top individual in the evaluation contest. Daniel B. McClure, California Polytechnic State University, placed second and Sarah Beckman, University of Wisconsin - River Falls, placed third.

Paula Christ, University of Wisconsin-River Falls, placed first in the individual cut flower judging. Sarah Beckman, University of Wisconsin - River Falls, placed second and Daniel M. McClure, California Polytechnic State University, placed third. For individual potted plant judging, Scott Rusch, South Dakota State University, placed first. Finishing second was Kelly Rhodes, Oklahoma State University, and placing third was Daniel M. McClure, California Polytechnic State University.

Participants in the design contest applied their skills in two levels. Students competing in the professional divisions had experience in a retail flower shop. In the non-professional division, participants had no previous professional experience.

Division I Class I—One-sided Asymmetrical
First Place—Scott Buchanan, Oklahoma State University
Second Place—Lori McNinch, Kansas State University
Third Place—Dawn Koster, South Dakota State University

Division I Class II—Round/Oval
First Place—Keely Muncrief, New Mexico State University

Oklahoma State University - 4th Place Team. Team members included: Douglas Needham, Coach; Scott Buchanan, Asst. Coach; Kelly Rhodes, Shaun Dalrymple, Dora Holland, Mandi Branstetter, Holly Dobbs, and Angie Edwards.

Kansas State University - 5th Place Team. Team members included: Allen Stevens, Coach; Kim Williams, Coach; Janet Gottstine, Carrie Mangen, Lori McNinch, and Tim Lytle.

Paula Christ - Univ. of Wisconsin - River Falls - 1st Overall; 1st Cutflowers; 5th Potted Plants; 2nd Place Designer’s Choice arrangement.
Second Place—Holly Dobbs, Oklahoma State University
Third Place—Naomi Boehm, University of Illinois

**Division II Class III—Corsage**
First Place—Sarah Bryner, Utah State University
Second Place—Janet Gottstine, Kansas State University
Third Place—Mellisa Bartosh, South Dakota State University

**Division II Class IV—Designer’s Choice**
First Place—Laura McNeely, Texas A & M University
Second Place—Carrie Mangan, Kansas State University
Third Place—Paula Christ, University of Wisconsin - River Falls.

Altogether ten teams competed in the event including: California Polytechnic State University, coached by Virginia Walter; Kansas State University coached by Alan Stevens and Kim Williams; New Mexico State University, coached by Geno Picchioni; Oklahoma State University coached by Douglas C Needham; South Dakota State University, coached by David Graper; Texas A&M University, coached by Jim Johnson; The University of Illinois, coached by Marvin Carbonneau; University of Wisconsin-Platteville, coached by Michael E. Compton; University of Wisconsin-River Falls, coached by Terry Ferriss and Utah State University, coached by LaMar Anderson.

When the students were not competing at the event, they toured the South Dakota Agricultural Heritage Museum, SDSU Ice Cream Plant, South Dakota Art Museum and the SDSU horticulture greenhouses. Participants also toured the EROS Data Center, a USGS facility that utilizes satellite imaging to make maps of the world. Hiebert’s Greenhouse, a commercial greenhouse in Sioux Falls was also visited during the tour. Teams also enjoyed and evening of fun and good food with a South Dakota barbeque pork loin sandwich.
dinner followed by a rousing game of Bunco which really got people interacting with each other and having a great time.

“One of the things that really stood out in this year’s competition was how hard SDSU’s students worked to put this important event together. Numerous coaches from other teams commented on how friendly everyone was and how helpful the students were.” “I feel that our SDSU students all earned a grand prize for their efforts to put together a first rate national competition. I never had to worry about things getting done, even when we needed people to be here at 5:00 AM, they were there ready to work. They all did a fantastic job and really showed off SDSU as being a great place to visit and get an education in floriculture,” he said.

The event was sponsored by Pi Alpha Xi the national honor society for floriculture, ornamental horticulture and landscape horticulture; American Floral Endowment; and Paul Ecke Poinsettias, Inc. PAX and AFE support academic achievement, education and research activities of the floriculture industry. Additional financial support and assistance was provided by Gurney Seed and Nursery Co, Yankton, SD, District 7-C of FTD and Perennial Passion of Sioux Falls, SD and South Dakota State University, Department of Horticulture, Forestry, Landscape and Parks Department.

New Members to Pi Alpha Xi

**Alpha Chapter (1068)**

*Cornell University*

Shana Behan  
Ruby Beil  
Lise Caron  
Jamie Critelli  
Jason Field  
Kelly Hennigan  
Steve Munson  
Sadie Puglisi  
Kristina Slater  
Donna Vasiloff  
Peter Vidulich  
Matthew Willann

**Beta Chapter (569)**

*University of Illinois - Urbana Champaign*

Naomi Boehm  
Keri Brumfield  
Kevin Colombe  
Kathryn Dieter  
Vanessa Gage  
Nancy Holda  
Heather Kraujalis  
Patricia Locke  
Laura Maupin  
Joe Muehlethaler  
Tim Quigley  
Ann Redington  
Erin Robinson  
Kathryn Sadowski  
Joey Schaljo  
Beth Smith  
Jennifer Stahl  
Jennifer Strauss  
Jay Hensley  
Heather O'Connor

**Gamma Chapter (872)**

*Pennsylvania State University*

Andy Faust  
Kosta Bounos  
Justin Wheeler  
Eric Mesics  
Jim Kallenborn  
Tony Assetto  
Kory Beidler  
Amanda Carson  
Charlene Wentz  
William Peacock III  
Amanda McDaniel  
Samantha Rodgers  
Jay Rohrbach  
Andrew Macijowsky  
Holly Harris  
Mathew Seifer

**Iota Chapter (495)**

*North Carolina State University*

Carrie Blackman  
Denae Brown  
Tyler Burgess  
Thad Cherry  
Sandra Cook  
Don Davis  
Jon Davis  
Frankie Fanelli  
Kimberly Keech  
Philip Lassiter  
Anthony Lebude  
Young Mi-Oh  
David Norden  
Julia Parker  
Kimberly Partin  
Adam Pfum  
Evangeline Richardson  
Phyllis Richardson  
Kevin Sipe  
Bruton Strange  
Johnny Woodall  
Allison Modafferi
New Mexico State University Team members included: Geno Picchioni, Coach; Sabine Green and Sandra Castillo, Asst. Coaches; Carla Logan, Michele Hudson, Jose Quiles, Veronica Sevilla, Aaron Wohler, Keely Muncrief, Sandy Stout, and Danise.

South Dakota State University Team members included: David Graper, Coach, Rebecca Siemonsma, Asst. Coach; Scott Rusch, Allison Peters, Erica Weeks, Cory Hawley, Dawn Koster, Sarah Jensen, Mellisa Bartosh, Ted Heeren, Jeremy Elsom, Travis Christensen, and Jamie Rossow.

Texas A & M University Team members included: Jim Johnson, Coach; Laura McNeely, Christine MacAlpine, Christie Caldwell, Dana Norris, Sonal Gupta, and Laura Turpin.

Kappa Chapter (517)
Virginia Polytechnic & State University
Stephen Black
Suzanne Chance
Emily Givens
Brian Ray
Jennifer Burn
Elizabeth Carter
Robert Creegan
Elizabeth Federico
Brandon Fisher
Alison Hectus

Matthew Jones
Carrie Jubb
Ann Macloskey
Julia Marsh
Donna Martin
Edward McGarry
Matt Thacker
Brian Trader
Kenneth Van Hoven
John Varrieur
Andrea Wise

Upsilon Chapter (804)
California Polytechnic State University
Kerry M. Abel
Bryan J. Ashby
Lisa J. Dance
Michele A. Donahue
Timothy J. Isle
Christine Jauregui
Angela R. Lopopo
Jennifer Perez
Jordan P. Schwarten
Stephen E. Swart
Barbara A. Bravo
Kate S. Flores
David M. Karp
Stephanie H. Knoch
Liana M. May
Megan C. McGrath
Harriet L. Morris
Amy C. Pearson
Marty C. Phillips
Anne-Marie E. Plubell
Brenda H. Schultz
Alana M. Woodruff
Barbara A. Bravo
Kate S. Flores
David M. Karp
Stephanie H. Knoch
Liana M. May
Megan C. McGrath
Harriet L. Morris
Amy C. Pearson
Marty C. Phillips
Anne-Marie E. Plubell
Brenda H. Schultz
Alana M. Woodruff

Phi Chapter (147)
South Dakota State University
Jennifer Bass
Steen Garvey
Stephanie Koehler
David Mills

Allison Peters
Mary Roduner
Ed Rogich
Sam Shroyer

Chi Chapter
Colorado State University (493)
Cara Ablin
Deirdre Anderson
David P. Befus
Ben J. Bookout
Cindy Chickles
Calvin R. Cook
Nicole W. S. Davelis
B. Joanne Jones
Sharon Lehman Kendall
Wade Jeffrey Pruett
Rieka Dawn Long
Christopher J. Mitchell
Loretta Mannix
Sean R. Tully
Sarah Strong

Lisa M. Steinke
Dana Schubert
Joseph E. Schmidt
Nathanial A. F. Parker
David P. Monheiser
Jill Meryl Morganelli
Kelly Anne King
Dianne M. Oakley
Julie Peterson-Harms
Natasha Murphy
Tina Reynolds
Andrea K. Cummins
Catherine E. Hudachek
Shannon Miller
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University of Wisconsin - Platteville Team members included: Michael Compton, Coach; Angela Lawrence, Asst. Coach; Jennie Schulz, Scott Gensler, Nick Homan, Jodi Katsma, Brenda Fuchs, Fred Westphal, and Jason Jawarski.

University of Wisconsin - Platteville Team members included:

Utah State University Team members included:

University of Wisconsin - River Falls

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

University of Tennessee

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