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.

Letter from the President

The Pi Alpha Xi National Annual meeting in Montreal, Quebec was well attended again this year. More than 50 members represented most Pi Alpha Xi chapters. In addition to announcing Pi Alpha Xi Fellows, several new activities of the society were approved.

The highlight of Pi Alpha Xi annual meetings is the induction of Fellows. The 1995 Fellows are Drs. James E. Klett, Kenneth C. Sanderson and Dennis J. Wolnick. Each Fellow has contributed significantly to the profession of Floriculture, Landscape Horticulture and/or Ornamental Horticulture and have served Pi Alpha Xi. Congratulations to each Fellow. Please read about each Fellow’s achievements elsewhere in the newsletter.

Two very interesting and exciting proposals were approved at the Annual Meeting which will aid in promoting Pi Alpha Xi, as well as support the society’s goals. Richard Criley, University of Hawai, proposed a photo display/contest be sponsored by Pi Alpha Xi. The display/contest would be held during the annual meeting of ASHS. The purpose would be to promote excellence in photography as well as Pi Alpha Xi. Dr. Criley has developed a draft of the rules for conducting the contest. After the Executive Committee approves the rules, they will be published and the contest promoted in ASHS and Pi Alpha Xi publications. A Pi Alpha Xi Scholarship Program was linked to the photo display/contest. The Scholarship Subcommittee, members Terry Ferriss and Alice LeDuc, proposed the establishment of a Pi Alpha Xi Scholarship Program. The entry fee for the photo display/contest will support the Scholarship Program. Plan now to enter your outstanding photo in the 1st Annual Pi Alpha Xi photo/display contest in Lexington, Ky next October and support the Scholarship Program as well. More details about the Scholarship Program are included in the minutes. If you have comments about the photo display/contest please contact Richard Criley or a Pi Alpha Xi officer.

Now is the time to start planning for the Annual Intercollegiate Floral Crop Evaluation and Design Contest. The contest will be held in Logan, Utah on April 10-12, 1996. As stated in the last Newsletter, we are concerned about the dwindling number of teams participating in the Floral Crop Evaluation Contest. If you have some interest in participating, but have not competed in the past you should contact a member of the Executive Committee to help you get started. For additional information about the 1996 Contest contact LaMar Anderson, Utah State University.

The 1996 Pi Alpha Xi National Annual Meeting will be held in the great city of Lexington, Kentucky in conjunction again with the ASHS meetings. October in Lexington is very pleasant. The days are dry and mild and the nights cool. You will find the rolling hills, green pastures and beautiful horse farms an attractive place to visit this time of year. Because of a change in scheduling, an additional attraction will be thoroughbred horse racing at Keeneland. However the racing season will also create a shortage of hotel rooms in the Lexington area. Reserve rooms early, no rooms will be available in Lexington after the ASHS deadline for reservations.

Sincerely,
Jack Buxton

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WINTER
1996
PAX National Meeting at Montreal

Pi Alpha Xi’s National Meeting was held on Tuesday, August 1, from Noon-1:30 p.m. at Palais des Congres (Montreal Convention Center) in conjunction with the American Society for Horticultural Science’s 92nd Annual Meeting.

President Jack Buxton opened the luncheon/meeting, welcoming nearly 55 members, representing 21 chapters. Jack also welcomed our newest chapter - Alpha Nu at Utah State University. An article about the initiation of Alpha Nu appeared in the Summer 1995 issue of the Lotus Leaflet.

Presentation of Fellows Awards

Drs. James E. Klett, Kenneth C. Sanderson and Dennis J. Wolnick were inducted as Pi Alpha Xi Fellows at the Annual Meeting in Montreal, Quebec on August 1, 1995. Fellows of Pi Alpha Xi have “achieved marked service or excellence in the field of Floriculture, Landscape Horticulture or Ornamental Horticulture and/or distinguished themselves with meritorious service to Pi Alpha Xi”.

Dr. James E. Klett

Dr. James E. Klett was recognized for contributions to Ornamental and Landscape Horticulture. Dr. Klett began his academic career at South Dakota State University in 1975. There he helped establish the Phi chapter of Pi Alpha Xi and was the chapter’s advisor for 4 years. During this period Dr. Klett coached the Floral Crop Evaluation Team. From 1980 to present Dr. Klett has been a Colorado State University faculty member. Since 1980 he has served as Chi Chapter’s advisor. From 1978-90 he was an officer of Pi Alpha Xi National and was President from 1982-86. During his tenure as President, 4 new chapters were installed. Dr. Klett continues to serve on Pi Alpha Xi National Committees. Dr. Klett has taught many courses in ornamental horticulture and advises both undergraduate and graduate students. His research has benefited the Colorado ornamental industry. He is the Director of the W.D. Holley Plant Environmental Research Center and Coordinator of the Resident Instruction Program. He has been recognized in many ways for his contributions to teaching and service to the horticulture industry.

Dr. Kenneth C. Sanderson

Dr. Kenneth C. Sanderson was recognized for contributions to Floriculture. Dr. Sanderson began his academic career at Louisiana State University and from 1966 to 1994 was a faculty member at Auburn University. Dr. Sanderson now enjoys retirement. He organized the Nu chapter at Auburn University and served as the advisor for 1974-1994. In 1976 he coached the first flower judging team from Auburn and coached many Auburn teams since then. He was the Co-chair of the 38th Intercollegiate Flower Judging Contest held at Callaway Gardens. Dr. Sanderson from 1982-1994 was an officer of Pi Alpha Xi National. During his tenure as President from 1988-1990 several new chapters were initiated. In 1991 he initiated and was a recipient of the Pi Alpha Xi Outstanding Coaches Award which recognized coaches who coached 10 or more teams. He edited and published the Pi Alpha Xi Leaflet in 1988 and 1992 and has served on numerous Pi Alpha Xi committees. Dr. Sanderson before his retirement taught courses and conducted research in ornamental horticulture and floriculture and advised students at Auburn University. At the 1994 Annual ASHS Meeting, Dr. Sanderson became an ASHS Fellow.
Dr. Dennis J. Wolnick was recognized for contributions to Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture. Dr. Wolnick began his academic career at The Pennsylvania University in 1970. He served as advisor for the Pi Alpha Xi Gamma chapter for more than 10 years. Beginning in 1974, Dr. Wolnick has coached the Flower Judging Team and in 1985 was the General Chair for the 43rd Intercollegiate Flower Judging and Design Contest; his teams placed 1st in the 45th and 46th Intercollegiate Flower Judging Contest. In 1992 he received the Pi Alpha Xi Outstanding Coaches Award for 10 or more years as a coach. Dr. Wolnick assembled and has maintained records of Floral Crop Evaluation Contests and in 1989 authored a HortScience article about flower judging. Dr. Wolnick teaches courses in flower arranging and horticulture business management as well as serves as extension specialist for floriculture and garden center marketing and conducts research in these areas. He was recognized by ASHS for service and by the Pennsylvania Florists for outstanding contributions to the floriculture industry.

Congratulations to the 1995 Pi Alpha Xi Fellows.

Members of the Pi Alpha Xi Fellow Selection Committee:
   Terry Ferriss, Chair
   Paul Read
   Carl Scharfenburg
   Doug Needham
   Jack Buxton

The Bad News

We are sorry to note the company that we have always bought our PAX initiation pins from has recently gone out of business. The news came after I had waited several months for an order that was to replenish my dwindling supply. This has caused a delay to several chapters who initiated new members this Fall.

The Good News

I have located another company that is making our pins for us ... at about half the cost we were paying! Luckily we did not loose any money with the previous company. We should have pins for our new initiates by early spring. I will do my best to get your pins to you as soon as possible.

Thanks for your patience!

Yours Truly,

Terri Starman