Dear Friends of the Lotus,

Winter will soon be fading (at least those of us in the sub-zero Plains hope so!) and it will be time for the Intercollegiate Floral Crop Judging and Design contest in sunny Stillwater, Oklahoma. Many of you are already ‘charged up’ about this semester after a fantastic floriculture trip to the Netherlands and Germany—one of the best National Floriculture Forum meetings ever! Be sure to ask your colleagues to share some of their hundreds of slides and video clips with you for class and other speaking engagements.

Meanwhile, your executive committee and the Rules committee have been diligently updating the initiation ritual as well as the chapter installation document. The duties of the elected officers have been codified in order to ease our transition in leadership. Thanks to Dr. Ken Sanderson, Professor Emeritus of Auburn University, we are now in direct contact with our archivist at Cornell University. I hope to make a trip there some time to view the archives so I can see what we have and what we don’t have in terms of our history. Changing our name to the Honor Society of Horticulture has drawn a bit of fire from alums, but what’s done is done!

For many chapters, this Spring means new initiates. Don’t forget to download that wonderful color brochure to give to your students.

In addition to the coaches meeting at the Intercollegiate Floral Crop Judging and Design contest, we will again have our luncheon and annual meeting at the American Society for Horticultural Science meetings in Scottsdale, Arizona. Our slot is Wednesday, July 18 from Noon to 2 PM. Don’t forget to bring your photos!

I hope to see many of you at Oklahoma State University March 28-30.

Until then, remember – Recruit, Retain and Reward students with an invitation to join The Horticulture Honor Society, Pi Alpha Xi.

As ever,

Ellen

THE PURPOSE OF PI ALPHA XI, THE HONOR SOCIETY FOR 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.

Newsletter Editor:
Dr. Daniel Warnock,
University of Illinois
Greetings from America’s Heartland!

The Alpha-Delta Chapter of Pi Alpha Xi and the Department of Horticulture and Landscape Architecture at Oklahoma State University are busily preparing for you and your team to join us in Oklahoma for the 66th National Intercollegiate Floral Crop Quality Evaluation and Design Competition on March 28-30, 2007.

The American Floral Endowment and Pi Alpha Xi are well-known for their co-sponsorship of this competition. From AFE’s generous grant to Pi Alpha Xi, travel stipends to help offset the cost of participating in the Competition are awarded to participating schools based on distance from the host site. Approximately 11 schools bring teams to the competition annually, and we would like to see this grow. For those universities who do not have a team to participate this year, I encourage you or one of your colleagues to join us and let the coaches of the participating teams share with you their techniques of evaluating floral crops, building strong horticulture programs, and teaching students. It’s the perfect opportunity for you to network with your colleagues in floriculture and ornamental horticulture. As discussed in the *HortScience* article "Flower Judging to Develop Professionalism among Floriculture Students" [24(6), p897-898] by Dr. Dennis Wolnick, the activity develops a sense of responsibility within the students for high quality plant material and trains them to identify quality characteristics. In keeping with the goals of Pi Alpha Xi, fellowship and scholarship are shared by students, educators, and professionals throughout the Competition.

The Competition will begin with a welcome reception on Wednesday evening, March 28th; the Floral Crop Quality Evaluation Competition will be held on Thursday, March 29th, and the Floral Design Competition will be held on Friday, March 30th. We are looking forward to hosting you and your team to a floriculture feast. Planned activities include tours of local and Oklahoma City greenhouses and floral industries, as well as a visit to the “survivor tree” at the National Memorial to the Alfred P. Murrow Federal Building. Don’t pass up this opportunity for you and your team to network with colleagues and industry professionals!

Lodging, travel, and registration information and their respective deadlines are posted on the Pi Alpha Xi National website at (http://www.pax.okstate.edu/paxfljg.html)

Looking forward to seeing you,

Douglas Needham, Ph.D.
Past President, Pi Alpha Xi – the Honor Society for Horticulture Professor of Floriculture and 4-H Youth Programs

http://www.netstate.com/states/symb/wildflowers/ok_indian_blanket.htm
March 28-30, 2007
Oklahoma State University

Housing: the Atherton Hotel at OSU
Phone: 405-744-6835 (mention group code "flower")
FAX: 405-744-7652

Rates:
- Regular Queen Room for 1-2 persons (1 queen bed) $78.95+tax.
- Deluxe Queen Room for 1-3 persons (1 queen bed with space for roll-away) $88.95+tax.
- Double Double Room for 1-2 persons (2 double beds) $88.95+tax.

Make Reservations BEFORE February 28th

See National Pi Alpha Xi website for resources and rules – www.pax.okstate.edu

Flower Judging Manual – cost $7 each

Order from: Dr. Terry Ferriss
Dept. Plant and Earth Sciences
403 S. 3rd Street
River Falls, WI 54022

Phone: (715) 425-3345
Fax: (715) 425-3785
ALL CHAPTERS

YOUR CHAPTER DUES ($20) TO NATIONAL PI ALPHA XI

SHOULD BE SENT TO:
Dr. Michael Compton
School of Agriculture
University of Wisconsin-Platteville
1 University Plaza
Platteville, WI 53818

By April 1st

These dues allow us to keep certificate and pin costs (and mailing) fixed at $15 per new initiate.
President Needham called the meeting to order about 1:00pm.

**Attendance:**
Present were coaches and assistants from the 10 participating judging and design teams including:
Virginia Walter, Cal Poly; David Hartley and Tara Costanzo, Colorado State U.; Dianne Noland, U. of Illinois; Sabine Green, New Mexico State U.; Doug Needham, Oklahoma State U.; LaMar Anderson, Utah State U.; Terry Ferriss, Becky Everson, Shelly Wollerman and Nicholas Kuehl, U. of Wisconsin-River Falls; Mike Compton, U. of Wisconsin-Platteville; Rob and Jennifer Berghage, Penn State University; and David Graper, South Dakota State U. Total attendance est. 16.

**Location of Future Competitions:**
President Needham announced that the 2007 competition will be held at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater, March 28-30. Coordinator of the competition will be Doug Needham.

The 2008 competition will be held at University of Wisconsin at Platteville. Coordinator of the competition will be Mike Compton.

The 2009 competition will be held at South Dakota State University in Brookings. Coordinator of the competition will be David Graper.

**Chapter Participation in the Intercollegiate Floral Quality Evaluation and Design Competition:**
President Needham noted that chapter participation in this year’s event had decreased over last year’s event. Neil Anderson at U. of Minnesota is preparing to be on sabbatical and could not attend. Texas A&M University will not be attending in the future. Discussion followed about increasing participation in the national event and PAX in general. The decision was made to have Daniel Warnock, PAX secretary, contact the department head or chair AND the possible faculty coach(es) of the following universities: The Ohio State University, Purdue, Michigan State, Arkansas, Kentucky, Mississippi State U., Cornell, Nebraska, Kansas State, Florida, and North Carolina State. President Needham asked each coach present to send Secretary Warnock specific contact names and addresses.

A general discussion about the conflict for students’ time and resources followed. Planet (formerly ALCA) contest is held in spring, also. The group discussed combining with the ASHS student contest. PAX could be responsible for the student judging contest and ASHS could be responsible for the student research poster contest. The selling points to ASHS would be the following: 1) competition is held during the school year, 2) faculty members are not torn between research presentations and student activities, and 3) ASHS student contest would have added status. President Needham will contact Janet Cole, ASHS vice president of education to discuss ASHS’s interest.

**Floral Evaluation Manual:**
Terry Ferriss, U. of Wisconsin, River Falls, reported that a formatting problem occurred at the printers. The 9th edition of A Manual For Flower Judging will be re-printed.
President Needham reported that he showed the judging manual to attendees at the ProFlora Show. They were impressed with the thoroughness and information. Several people asked about a Spanish version. President Needham asked if anyone was fluent in Spanish. Let him know if you are able and willing. The Calla and Anthurium chapters were discussed. Virginia Walter, California Polytechnic State University, collaborated with industry producers for terminology and determining relative values of merits and faults. President Needham will request Secretary Warnock to distribute the revised drafts of the Calla and Anthurium chapters from the 2005 Coaches Meeting to all current coaches for further review.

President Needham initiated a discussion of the Liatris chapter. The following changes, among others, will be incorporated into the revised printing of the 9th edition. Relative Value of Faults: 9 – delete “Overmature plume” and append “Missing tip” to read “Missing tip resulting in gap at tip;” 8 – reword “Overmature flowers” to read “More than ½ of plume open,” delete “Broken off voids,” move “Tip failing to open” to 6, and reword “Poor stage of flower opening on plume” to read “Poor progression of floret opening in the plume” and, then, move to 6; 7 – reword “Secondary stem or branching” to read “Lateral branching in the plume;” 6 – append “Broken florets” to read “Broken florets or missing floret” and delete “Missing flower.”

Other Discussion:
None
No Treasurer’s or Membership report were presented at this meeting

The meeting was adjourned about 3:00pm.

Minutes by Dianne Noland, University of Illinois

Submitted by

Daniel Warnock
Secretary-Treasurer

Note:
All Pi Alpha Xi Meeting Minutes must be published for membership review. The Minutes from the 2006 Pi Alpha Xi Meeting at Utah State University, Logan were approved during the 2006 Annual Meeting of Pi Alpha Xi at New Orleans, LA on July 29th. Minutes from the 2006 Pi Alpha Xi Meeting at Utah State University, Logan however, remained unpublished to this date.