Frank A. Blazich, Gamma 374

Frank A. Blazich was initiated as a member of Pi Alpha Xi on April 1, 1974 by the Gamma Chapter of Pi Alpha Xi at Penn State University. Upon his arrival at North Carolina State University, Dr. Blazich reactivated the Iota chapter and has served as advisor for over 25 years. Since then the group has been a very active one holding regular meetings and plant sales as well as initiation. Monies from these sales have been used for scholarships as well as donations to various causes such as JC Raulston Arboretum, The American Red Cross and programs in the public schools. This last year the Iota chapter’s two plant sales grossed about $80,000.

According to his letters of support Dr. Blazich attends every Pi Alpha Xi meeting and takes personal interest in each of the graduate and undergraduate students. This is in addition to his regular undergraduate and graduate advising from which he has successfully advised over 100 undergrad students and mentored over 26 graduate students. Dr. Blazich teaches both undergraduate and graduate plant propagation courses (for which he has received numerous teaching recognitions) as well as maintaining a thriving research program. Dr. Blazich has teaching and research responsibilities in plant propagation, including tissue culture, with emphasis on woody ornamentals. His research emphasis is concentrated on improvement and development of sexual and asexual propagation techniques for introduced and native landscape species. He has over 100 refereed papers from these endeavors.

The motto of Pi Alpha Xi is Always to Excel and our 2007 National Pi Alpha Xi Fellow Dr. Frank A. Blazich certainly exemplifies this! Thus it is with great pleasure that Pi Alpha Xi bestows the Fellows Award to Frank A. Blazich in recognition of his marked service and excellence in the field of horticulture.

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