The mission of Pi Alpha Xi is to promote high scholarship, fellowship, professional leadership and the enrichment of human life through plants.

*Edited by Ryan Contreras, 2016-17 National Vice President, Iota 564*
Dear Pi Alpha Xi Members,

It was wonderful to see many of you at the Pi Alpha Xi luncheon this summer in Atlanta. The luncheon is always a great chance to see so many friends and colleagues from Pi Alpha Xi.

I would like to thank Karen Panter for her service and work as President for the past two years. Under her leadership, we have two new chapters, a re-vamped photography contest, and a new website. Thank you, Karen!

If you haven’t gotten a chance to visit our new website, it is now hosted by the American Society for Horticulture Science. You can reach it directly from their homepage (under ‘membership’), or at the following link: http://www.ashs.org/page/PiAlphaXiHome. Our Executive Secretary, Cindy Slone, has worked tirelessly to update this page and make it easily accessibly for Pi Alpha Xi members.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as your President. I’ve been a member of Pi Alpha Xi since 2005. Dr. Paul Thomas inducted me into the Tau Chapter at the University of Georgia. Currently, I serve as an Associate Professor at the University of Maine. Last year, I started the Alpha Tau Chapter of Pi Alpha Xi at the University of Maine. Serving as an advisor has given me a new appreciation for Pi Alpha Xi; it has been a pleasure to see the positive impact of Pi Alpha Xi on my students’ careers.

My goal for the next two years is to support continued growth of our membership and to particularly assist of undergraduate student members of Pi Alpha Xi. Our committees and board do great work for Pi Alpha Xi, and I hope to support them and the members as much as possible.

Best regards,

Stephanie Burnett

Tau 52
Pi Alpha Xi National, Annual Business Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 10, 2016
Noon to 2 pm, Atlanta 2, Sheraton Atlanta Hotel

1. Welcome and introductions of officers – Karen Panter
The meeting started promptly at 2pm.

2. Lunch
A lunch of salad, bread, pasta and cheesecake was served.

3. Business meeting
   a. Roll call of chapters – Tina Cade
Twenty-five people attended with 19 chapters represented including:

Gamma – Pennsylvania State University
Iota – North Carolina State University
Kappa – Virginia Polytechnic & State University
Lambda – University of Minnesota
Mu – University of Florida
Omicron – Purdue University
Tau – University of Georgia
Phi – South Dakota State University
Chi – Colorado State University
Psi – Texas A&M University
Alpha Beta – University of Tennessee
Alpha Gamma – University of Nebraska – Lincoln
Alpha Zeta – University of Wisconsin – River Falls
Alpha Theta – Iowa State University
Alpha Kappa – Mississippi State University
Alpha Xi – Texas State University – San Marcos
Alpha Rho – Oregon State University
Alpha Sigma – University of Wyoming
Alpha Tau – University of Maine

   b. Approval of agenda – Karen Panter
The agenda was approved and seconded.


The minutes were approved and seconded.

d. Financial report – Tina Cade

The financial report was given, approved and seconded.

e. Committee reports
   i. Membership services – Stephanie Burnett

Dr. Burnett mentioned that new chapters could be recruited. Delaware Valley University is potentially putting together a packet for a new chapter to be established.

   ii. Rules – Richard Harkess

Dr. Harkess presented and distributed changes to the constitution. The changes will be voted on electronically after September 1 to include all chapters and during active school year. If approved, the updated changes will reflect a “21st century document.” It was mentioned that a reference to the Operations Manual needs to be added to the constitution.

   iii. Student Activities – Brian Trader or John Peterson

No report was given nor necessary regarding student activities.

   iv. Photography Contest – Paul Thomas

Dr. Thomas gave a report on the changes made to the Photography Contest. The contest was operational this year through the ASHS, Pi Alpha Xi website and dropbox. The process reportedly went well and with ease. There was an increase from 20-30 entries. The gross income was $300 and expenses were $140. Winners were announced on the ASHS Facebook page and in the meeting rooms during the conference. The goals for next year are to increase participation and sponsorship. Dr. Thomas asked that folks let him know of potential donors or sponsors. Revenue generated should support scholarships. It was proposed that there be a 1:1 match of up to $500 for chapters requesting scholarship funds. An ad-hoc committee on scholarships was established and includes: Douglas Needham, Paul Thomas, John Peterson, Chad and Stephanie Burnett.

   v. Nominations – Paul Thomas

The officers for 2016-17 include: Mary Albrecht (past-past president), Karen Panter (past-president), Stephanie Burnett (president), Ryan Contreras (vice-president) and Tina Marie Waliczek Cade (treasurer/secretary)

   vi. Web Site (ad hoc) – Karen Panter

Dr. Panter presented the Facebook site and mentioned that news, photos and other updates could be added. The link to the official Pi Alpha Xi site through the ASHS website was displayed. Discussion ensued on ways the page could be more easily accessed or changed to be more navigable. Drs. Panter and Thomas said they would work on this task.

   vii. Fellows – Mary Albrecht

No report was given nor necessary regarding fellows.

   viii. New Chapter Guidelines Revision (ad hoc) – Mary Albrecht, Richard Harkess
New chapter guidelines were updated, outlined and digitized for the new century and to ensure business did not rely on institutional memory.

f. Old business
   i. Installations of new chapters last fall
      1. Alpha Sigma – University of Wyoming – Karen Panter
         Six students (total number of graduate and undergraduate students) were inducted at this new chapter.

      2. Alpha Tau – University of Maine – Stephanie Burnett
         Eighteen new members (undergraduates, graduate students and faculty) were inducted at this new chapter.

g. New business
   i. Election of new Vice President – Ryan Contreras, Oregon State University, Alpha Rho chapter – has accepted the nomination. Dr. Contreras will be in Hawaii.
      1. Tina Cade would like to continue as Secretary – Treasurer
      2. Stephanie Burnett moves to President role
      3. Karen Panter moves to Immediate Past President role
      4. Mary Albrecht moves to Past President
      5. John Peterson rotates off the board
   ii. Introductions of new officers
      Officers present stood. A motion was made to accept the officers and seconded.

   iii. Items from membership? – Karen Panter
      Dr. Doug Needham thanked Pi Alpha Xi for the contribution to Seed Your Future. Susan Yoder is joining the Longwood Program.

   4. Adjourn – Karen Panter

      Adjournment occurred at 1:46pm.
The Tau chapter of Pi Alpha Xi, located on the beautiful campus of the University of Georgia, has been busy planting and selling poinsettias this past year as well as giving back to the university and the community. As an example regarding the university, every semester, the Tau chapter is in charge of designing the floral arrangement for the large planters in front of the historic Four Towers building located on south campus. The chapter donates beautiful annuals such as ornamental sweet potatoes in May as well as pansies and dianthus in November. One member, Courtney Phillips, said “my favorite part is that we get to design it on our own. Its good practice for landscape design or just showing your creative side.” With this service, the executives of the Four Towers complex grant us access to their large meeting room where we induct new members each spring semester with a formal dinner ceremony.

Our 2016 induction ceremony was record-breaking, with twenty-two students who qualified. Eighteen of these inductees were able to make it to the dinner ceremony. We also initiated an Honorary Member--Dr. Marc van Iersel, for the first time! Over a tasty meal catered by a local Athens company, Pi Alpha Xi members mingled and became acquainted with one another. The ceremony was exciting and memorable, with so many new inductees and discussions about the future poinsettia sale and member trips.

Each fall semester, Pi Alpha Xi members take a weekend trip to a town outside of Georgia to explore new areas of science and build relations among each other. Last November, the destination was Mammoth Cave National Park in central Kentucky. The travel time took five hours but was well worth it as the caverns was a different place for almost everyone. We hiked and explored the extensive caves, learned about the geology and interactions of water on rock, and took in the fine architecture of local Kentucky communities. It was a remarkable experience. The drive back to Athens, Georgia concluded with a crimson sunset over the Appalachian Mountains.
Every fall, our Tau chapter holds a poinsettia sale to raise funds for the chapter activities. The plants are grown from cuttings by horticulture majors through an experiential learning class (Hort 4070). For last year’s sale, we sold about 500 plants! This sale is a great experience for our members as we gain not only sales skills and knowledge about poinsettias, but also learning to work together as a team. Macy Fox, an active member, recollects: “My personal favorite part of the whole process was tying bows on the pots in the computer lab of Miller Plant Sciences. There was a lot of camaraderie and I enjoyed teaching everybody how to tie the correct shape.” Any unsold poinsettias are donated to the local Hospice program in Athens. The poinsettia sale makes our chapter form a closer bond and we learn a great deal about selling, managing shipping and customer relations.

From the Vice President’s Desk

I want to thank Paul Thomas and the students of Tau Chapter for being active and setting a great example to follow. I love seeing what other chapters are up to and will try to follow this example of relaying our activities here at Alpha Rho to the rest of you. Sneak peek to the left! I encourage all chapters to send along updates as available – I would love to have overflowing Lotus Leaflets in future editions with the great things you all are doing!

Also, **chapter need to be submitted by January 30!** Remittance address: ASHS Headquarters, attn.: PAX Chapter Dues, 1018 Duke St., Alexandria, VA 22314.
PHOTO CONTEST WINNERS

The Contest:

We established the photography contest to foster appreciation for the beauty of the plant life we work with each day. The art of photography, and the skills one gains engaging this art form, fits well within the principals of horticultural science. We hope you enjoy viewing our contributor’s submissions, and share our appreciation of the beauty that surrounds us as horticulturists.

Before continuing with a description of this year’s contest and winners, I want to extend thanks to several key folks. First, to Paul Thomas for updating the process to streamline submissions. Thanks to the American Society For Horticultural Science for hosting our web page, and to Angie Lower for her technical assistance! To the Judges: Stephanie Burnett, University of Maine; Debi Aker, The American Floral Endowment; and John Dole, North Carolina State University. Finally, special thanks to the administrative folks at the American Society for Horticultural Science – Cindy Slone and Michael Neff for supporting all of the PAX national events and activities!

The contest is divided into four submission categories and we also award a Best in Show award. Categories and top three selections are as follows:
Category: Horticulture in the Kitchen

Images should show the end result of horticultural products we use for food. The horticultural product must be recognizable to the viewer, example: Apple Pie cut-away. Fruits, Roots, Tubers, Leafy Greens, Vegetables, Herbs and Spices are all fair game.

**FIRST PLACE: RICHELLE STAFNE**

Title: *Honeyed blackberry with crackers and dairy.*

Caption: Fresh picked thornless blackberry (Rubus subgenus rubus ‘Apache’) with Mississippi honey, cream cheese, honey and wheat crackers.

(left)

**SECOND PLACE: ROBERT J. MCNEIL**

Title: *Avocado Pasta.*

Caption: Avocados, plum tomatoes, basil, garlic, olive oil, salt, penne pasta. (right)

**THIRD PLACE: STEPHANY HARVEY**

Title: *Crusade for Crucifers*

Caption: Crusade for Crucifers is a composition depicting many horticultural favorites from the family Brassicaceae (formerly known as the Cruciferae) washed and prepared for use in the kitchen.

(left)
Category: Serendipity

This image must represent a rare or unexpected, or “right place, right time” moment that the photographer did not, could not, control or stage during the taking of the image. Examples: Coconut palms at sunset, frost on strawberries, *Erythrina* in full bloom in a fog, fall color on *Heuchera*, or a hail decimated garden would qualify.

**FIRST PLACE: KIM SHEARER LATTIER**

Title: *Calyx Awakening*  (left)

Caption: The back side of *Hibiscus coccineus* (scarlet rosemallow) covered in morning dew at the North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC

**SECOND PLACE: CHANGBIN CHEN**

Title: *Autumn Pond*  (right)

Caption: This is a photograph of a beautiful pond in our neighborhood. In a sunny morning, the pond reflected the fall color surrounding it. Great landscape design and perfect moment with morning sunshine from its east corner, still pond water reflects fall color of mixed maple, hackberry, ginkgo trees. I can almost hear the sounds of leaf falling

**THIRD PLACE: RICHARD CRILEY**

Title: *Brownea macrophylla*

Caption: The new orange
Category: Perfect Partners

These images represent what the photographer believes to be outstanding plant combinations. These can be container, bed or floral design compositions. The images should show clearly how the two plant partners are being used, IE landscape setting, etc.

**FIRST PLACE: LARRY RUPP**

Title: *Parasitic Partners* (left)

Caption: Indian paintbrush (*Castilleja* spp.) is a hemiparasite of sagebrush (*Artemisia* spp.) and other grasses and forbs. This image illustrates a probable hemiparasitic partnership on the Kern Mountains of Nevada.

**SECOND PLACE: RICHARD CRILEY**

Title: *Sterculia, Sansevieria and Bamboo in an Arrangement*

Caption: Simplicity works!

**THIRD PLACE: STEVEN NEWMAN**

Title: *Hops and LEDs in the greenhouse* (left)

Caption: Humulus lupulus, hops, is a unique flowering crop for the controlled environment. LED interlighting of hops in the greenhouse has opened the possibility of year-round harvest of the strobiles (flowers) for unique flavoring of beer.
Category: Garden Visitors

Humans are not the only entity that engages gardens. Images are to show other life forms visiting / interacting with gardens, landscapes and indoor plants. In this category, staging of animals/insects etc, is permitted. However, the image must be balanced in regards to the impact of the visitor and the horticultural item. A cat sleeping inside a carved pumpkin, a hummingbird visiting a flower, or a deer munching on pansies would qualify.

**FIRST PLACE: SHERRI DORN**

Title: *Respite* (left)

Caption: If only for a second

**SECOND PLACE: RICHELLE STAFNE**

Title: *Dance of the azalea caterpillar in D. major*

Caption: *Datana major* (azalea caterpillar) on summer azaleas (*Rhododendron* sp.) in Mississippi

**THIRD PLACE: JESSICA CHITWOOD**

Title: *Early Morning Friend*

Caption: Caterpillar on young scarlet-hull cowpea
Category: Best in Show

KIM SHEARER LATTIER

Title: Calyx Awakening

Caption: The back side of *Hibiscus coccineus* (scarlet rosemallow) covered in morning dew at the North Carolina Arboretum, Asheville, NC
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No Assurance is Provided
Pi Alpha Xi National
Unaudited Statement of Activities
July 2015 through June 2016

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| Net Income                                                             | **2,271.78**    |
Roster of Pi Alpha Xi Chapters

1. Alpha - Cornell University, chartered June 1, 1923
2. Beta - University of Illinois, chartered April 2, 1924
3. Gamma - Penn State University, chartered May 29, 1926
4. Delta - Michigan State University, chartered April 12, 1929
5. Epsilon - Ohio State University, chartered January 6, 1929
6. Zeta - Rutgers University, chartered November 16, 1933 -
7. Eta - Washington State University, chartered March 12, 1949
8. Theta - University of Maryland, chartered September 14, 1949
9. Iota - North Carolina State University, chartered February 15, 1957
10. Kappa - Virginia Polytechnic & State University, chartered June 1, 1968
11. Lambda - University of Minnesota, chartered May 28, 1968
12. Mu - University of Florida, chartered May 16, 1974
13. Nu - Auburn University, chartered May 30, 1974
14. Xi - New Mexico State University, chartered December 1, 1974
15. Omicron - Purdue University, chartered February 23, 1975
16. Pi - Clemson University, chartered April 17, 1975
17. Rho - University of Wisconsin-Madison, chartered March 1, 1975
18. Sigma - Southern Illinois University, chartered April 2, 1975
19. Tau - University of Georgia, chartered May 30, 1975
20. Upsilon - California Polytechnic State University, chartered September 1, 1975
21. Phi - South Dakota State University, chartered October 29, 1975
22. Chi - Colorado State University, chartered May 29, 1975
23. Psi - Texas A&M University, chartered May 31, 1978
24. Omega - Kansas State University, chartered March 16, 1979
25. Alpha Beta - University of Tennessee, chartered May 26, 1980
26. Alpha Gamma - University of Nebraska-Lincoln, chartered April 23, 1982
27. Alpha Delta - Oklahoma State University, chartered April 24, 1983
28. Alpha Epsilon - University of California-Davis, chartered Spring 1984
29. Alpha Zeta - University of Wisconsin-River Falls, chartered May 16, 1985
30. Alpha Eta - Delaware Valley College of Science & Agriculture, chartered Spring 1985
31. Alpha Theta - Iowa State University, chartered November 6, 1986
32. Alpha Iota - Texas Tech University, chartered March 24, 1988
33. Alpha Kappa - Mississippi State University, chartered Spring 1990
34. Alpha Lambda - Florida A&M University, chartered February 1, 1992
35. Alpha Mu - Temple University, chartered Spring 1992
36. Alpha Nu - Utah State University, chartered June 2, 1995
37. Alpha Xi - Texas State University-San Marcos, chartered April 18, 2005
38. Alpha Omicron - University of Arkansas, chartered May 2, 2006
39. Alpha Pi - University of Wisconsin-Platteville, chartered May 4, 2006
40. Alpha Rho - Oregon State University, chartered 2011
41. Alpha Sigma – University of Wyoming, chartered October 13, 2015
42. Alpha Tau – University of Maine, chartered September 21, 2015