

Letter from President Mark Bridgen
2023



HAPPY 100th ANNIVERSARY!

This year, Pi Alpha Xi celebrates its 100th anniversary! Pi Alpha Xi began with the installation of its first chapter, the Alpha Chapter, back on June 1, 1923, at Cornell University. Since then, we have expanded to 42 chapters.

At this momentous time in history, it is appropriate to remind ourselves about the purpose of our Society:

To promote high scholarship, to foster good fellowship among its members, to raise the visibility of the profession, to promote the exchange of ideas, and to establish cordial relations among students, educators, and professional horticulturists and plant scientists. In summary, we are here to enrich human life through plants.

This year, in special recognition of our 100th anniversary, and after several years of discussion and planning, PAX has established the *Pi Alpha Xi National Endowment*. The objective of this Endowment is to provide financial support to undergraduate and graduate students who are active members of Pi Alpha Xi. Students in all active chapters are eligible to apply.

The endowment has been perpetually invested and only the income that is generated from these investments will be used. By using the income from a sustained endowed fund, Pi Alpha Xi National can make a long-term commitment to students. Activities that are supported by the Fund include travel to the annual ASHS Annual Conference, travel to attend PAX activities,

participation in educational events, registration fees for appropriate events or activities, or financial support to continue advancing in the student's academic career (books, food, rent, tuition, etc. are acceptable). If applicants are not sure if their request is appropriate, the PAX Endowment Selection Committee can be contacted to determine if requests are appropriate. Special thanks goes to Ellen Paparozzi for leading the effort to get this endowment established.

This year, we inducted Dr. Mary Albright (Zeta 166) as a Fellow in PAX. The Fellow's Award is given to Pi Alpha Xi members who have achieved marked service or excellence in the field of Horticulture and/or who have distinguished themselves with meritorious service to Pi Alpha Xi. Mary truly deserves this award for her hard work and dedication to our organization both nationally and in her local chapter.

Now that we have reached the landmark age of 100 years, we cannot get complacent. We still have a lot of work to do to keep Pi Alpha Xi alive and vibrant. If you have ideas or suggestions, please feel free to email me at mpb27@cornell.edu or text/call 631-921-4941.

Thank you, and stay well,
Mark Bridgen, Alpha Chapter

