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Xi Sigma Pi and Xi Sigma Mu

Richard Doak

by Mark Hammer

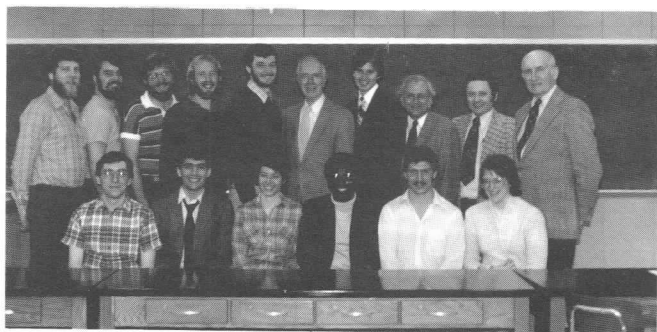
Alpha Gamma Chapter of Xi Sigma Pi is continuing its trend from being a purely academic honorary towards being an academic/service honorary.

Activities started this past year with the new initiates participating in a service day. Terese Walsh and Jerry Olson headed the service project which consisted of collecting Iowa native prairie seed from the Doolittle Prairie for the County Conservation Commission. The project was followed by an initiation ceremony and dinner at the Brown Bottle Restaurant.

On Friday, April 8, some members of Xi Sigma Pi traveled to the Valley West Mall in Des Moines to judge the Forestry Consortium Awards at the Hawkeye Science Fair. This year our selection for the top Forestry Consortium Award was also named as the outstanding exhibit at the fair.

This year's VEISHEA display was headed by Reinee Hildebrandt.

This year's recipient of the Keith A. Bauer Award was Linda Haefner. Also, our nominee for the national scholarship/citizenship award, Jeff Prestemon, was chosen to receive one of the scholarships.



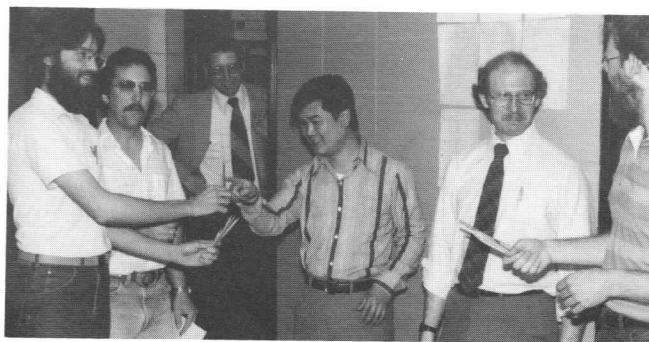
L to R: Tom Agan, Les Bender, Maureen Connolly, Kome Onokpise, Rich Doak-Forester, Reinee Hildebrandt. 2nd Row: Les Miller-Associate Forester, Mike Scanlon, John Browning-Secretary-Fiscal Agent, Maure Sand, Dave Donovan, Dr. Fred Hopkins-National Secretary-Fiscal Agent, Jeff Prestemon-Ranger, Dr. Sande McNabb-National Forester, Dr. Dave Countryman-Advisor, Dr. George Thomson. Not pictured: Suzie Berregaard, Terese Walsh, Jerry Olson, Joel Soliday, Brian McGee, Rich Faltonson, Dr. Rick Hall, Douglas Stokke.

A new organization got its unofficial start this year in the Forestry Department. Xi Sigma Mu was started humorously as an "honorary" fraternity for the "average" student. The members of the organization had a good time with it and enjoyed having a unique organization. Even though this unofficial organization will fade into the memories of a few crazy foresters, I hope the meaning will stay for a long time.

Xi Sigma Mu was started to honor those "average" students who often do not get recognition. Since college is a grade-oriented system, effort put forth, and often times, knowledge obtained in a classroom are not always reflected by the grades received.

Besides, the "average" student faces a difficulty that is not faced by other students. Teachers always put the average student's grade (μ) on the board after handing back a test. This must be embarrassing to have your grade singled out and shown to everyone.

Although this is an average article, the concept of "average student" does not really exist. Everyone does bad in some things, and better in others. Besides, grades describe only one small facet of a student's school life. So, one cannot measure a student merely by the grades that a student receives. In short, this article and Xi Sigma Mu are dedicated to every student, not to be discouraged by average grades, but to excel in their diligence on obtaining the goal of an education.



Xi Sigma Mu service day.



Xi Sigma Pi service day.