

# The Pipeline

An Information Publication of Beta Phi Mu

FALL 2007

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT



It is an honor to be writing my first newsletter column as the president of Beta Phi Mu and I thank you for investing in me the trust of this office. I thought I might begin by sharing with all of you, especially our new initiates who I hope will become active members in our Society, a little information about myself and how I came to be president.

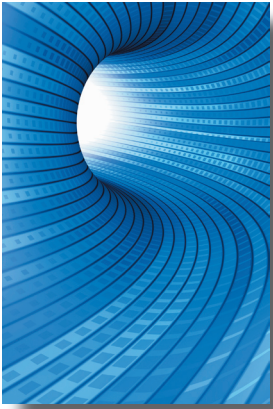
I was initiated into membership through the Pi Chapter at the University of Pittsburgh in 1974. The students at Pitt probably knew more about BΦM than most LIS students because headquarters was housed in the then Graduate School of Library and Information Science and three Pitt professors, all of whom taught during my time as a student, have served as the Executive Secretary of the Society. Dr. Harold Lancour, one of the founders of BΦM, served as its first Executive Secretary for 25 years, followed by Drs. Frank Sessa and Blanche Woolls. Each of them demonstrated by example the worth of active membership in BΦM.

In 1985, when I moved to Texas to begin my Ph.D. studies, I transferred to the Beta Lambda Chapter at Texas Woman's University, and then transferred again in 1993 to the Beta Delta Chapter when I became a professor at the University at Buffalo, and then again in 2000 to the Beta Omega Chapter at the University of South Carolina serving as faculty advisor of the latter two. Through the years, whenever possible, I attended chapter meetings and the General Assembly meeting of BΦM held at the annual conference of the American Library Association (ALA). From that attendance, I was asked to stand for election as director and served in that capacity from 1991-1997. During that time headquarters was moved to Florida State University with Dr. William Summers as the new Executive Director.

Whether as a member, officer, or faculty advisor, I have benefited much from my active involvement in BΦM, but especially from my chapter participation. Each has provided me with opportunities for professional growth and service and has afforded me an instant peer group of smart and talented LIS folks. I learn a lot from hearing about the initiatives and projects of other chapters at the General Assembly meetings as chapter reps share ideas and information and often come away inspired by the good work being done. Members of every chapter have chosen to embrace the pledge they took at initiation to uphold the motto of BΦM, *Aliis inserviando consumor*, which translates as "consumed in the service of others." Chapters of BΦM grant scholarships, fund and encourage research, reward good teaching, mentor current LIS students, and conduct innumerable service projects in libraries and in their communities. While membership in the international society is for life, chapters usually have minimal annual dues that support local initiatives. I urge all of you to become active in your chapter. Help it grow and prosper. I am confident that you will find it a productive and rewarding use of your time and talents.

*(President's Message continued on last page)*

## *Put It In The Pipeline*



If you have something you think would be of interest to the BΦM community, email it to: [betaphimuinfo@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:betaphimuinfo@admin.fsu.edu). If we use your story, joke, trivia, poem, website link, etc. we'll send you your very own BΦM *Purple and Silver Leather Bookmark* (please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery). So put your thinking cap on and let us hear from you!

## *Have A Question? Ask A Librarian.*

If you would like to know more about Beta Phi Mu, library history, or information science, submit your inquiry to [betaphimuinfo@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:betaphimuinfo@admin.fsu.edu) and, if we publish your Q&A, you will receive a very prestigious (and rare!) BΦM *Purple Pen*.



## *"Those Were The Good Old Days!"*



We're looking for a few good stories from the good old days. A lot has changed at your local library over the years and we're willing to bet some of the more senior members of BΦM could tell some tales and shed a little light on what library life was like way back when. Got a great photo? Send it to us with a caption and we'll publish in the next *Pipeline* or on our website!

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## *Dr. Mary Alice Hunt*

### *Beta Phi Mu Pioneer*

*The retired FSU professor talks about her long and distinguished association with Beta Phi Mu. Christie Koontz -- longtime friend and colleague and Beta Phi Mu's new Executive Director -- interviewed her former major professor at home in Tallahassee for this issue of The Pipeline.*

Dr. Mary Alice Hunt is a founding member of Gamma Chapter, College of Information, Florida State University, celebrating its 50th Anniversary during Beta Phi Mu's 60th. In 2005, she was named Gamma's outstanding member. Dr. Hunt worked at FSU for forty-four years before retiring in 1995. She will turn 80 on April 14, 2008! We thank her for sharing some of her story.

**CK:** "How did Beta Phi Mu start?"

**Dr. Hunt:** "Well, it was started by Harold Lancour at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Graduate School of Library Science, where he was the director. It was, of course, the Alpha chapter, hence the beginning of the Greek alphabet."

**CK:** "When did you join?"

**Dr. Hunt:** "I was initiated by the Alpha Chapter at ALA in Miami Beach in the early fifties. I remember we all went to a place called the *Soup Kitchen* to celebrate – each of us had three bowls of soup and were trying to share 15 bowls of soup – funny what you remember! It was alumnae and new BΦM members."

**CK:** "It must have been quite an honor?"

**Dr. Hunt:** "Well, just as it is now, you had to have a certain grade point average. At the time, there were some prestigious folks in Gamma – I believe Ruth Rockwood, John Clemmons and Louis Shores, the first dean at FSU, was an honorary member. He came to all our events though. I know that Alphonse Trezza, who received an ALA Lifetime Award last year, is also an honorary member of the Gamma chapter and he attends most events. It is and was a great honor. And, to be honest, when I received the invitation I was astonished! At the time, we did not have a chapter at FSU and I did not know you could become a member. So, I was originally initiated into the Alpha chapter. Then I helped start the Gamma chapter. Oh yes, that date was July 26, 1957!"

**CK:** "What kinds of things did the Gamma chapter do as far as activities?"

**Dr. Hunt:** "Well, we held an annual homecoming convocation such as the one at FSU for the 50th. We would bring in prestigious speakers such as Lester Asheim – often in conjunction with the Library School -- as neither of us could afford it completely. We always tried to bring in people who could 'inspire.' We also held initiations every summer. Because it was a year-long program, most could not come back at another time as they were either employed or job hunting! Summer was the time and they all wanted to wear that new BΦM pin!"

*(Dr. Mary Alice Hunt interview continued on next page)*

CK: “When did you decide to be a librarian or library student?”

Dr. Hunt: “I worked for the local paper, the *Tallahassee Democrat*. I had majored in journalism and was making \$.35 an hour! I was sent to cover a story about Louis Shores, the new dean of the Library School who had just returned from his Fulbright in England. Basically, Dr. Shores talked me into it. He called me two days later and offered me a graduate assistantship. I could write and type like mad – so I quit my job and took him up on it!”

CK: “What happened next?”

Dr. Hunt: “Well, I graduated in 1953 with my Masters and started teaching in 1955, after working as the Materials Librarian. I taught administration and then mostly children and youth literature – I think they called it ‘materials’ later. We had 25-30 in a class in the basement of Strozier where the library school was located.”

CK: “Over the years did you see a change in the type of student?”

Dr. Hunt: “Well, yes, our requirements continued to go up – higher GRE score – it started at 650 – it is at 1000 now and we had just a 2.0 – and now it is a 3.0! We also began to get foreign students in the fifties.”

CK: “What would you say today to a young – or any age person – who might be considering the library and information profession?”

Dr. Hunt: “It is a profession that can lead in so many directions. There are so many specialties and you have a range of opportunities from libraries to IT, and to even and still cataloging! Our degree combines with any undergraduate program that a student might have completed, as well as previous careers of folks.”

CK: “What do you think the present and future goals of Beta Phi Mu and its chapters should be?”

Dr. Hunt: “To honor those who achieve, promote leadership, stimulate the educational program by bringing in speakers of merit, support the LIS schools with which they are affiliated, and stress the importance and the distinction of **BΦM** so all students will strive for membership.”

*Note: The Spring 2008 Pipeline will feature a profile of Alpha Chapter’s Kathryn Luther Henderson.*



*What's The Buzz*  
is a section for you to  
share information about  
your **BΦM** chapter.  
Please submit info to:  
[betaphimuinfo@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:betaphimuinfo@admin.fsu.edu)



# Beta Phi Mu Chapter News

*As reported at the 2007 Beta Phi Mu General Assembly*

**Beta Lambda** chapter, at the University of North Texas and Texas Women's University, has four major membership activities and sponsors two speaker's programs at the state level each year at the Texas Library Association meeting. This past year, Dr. Elizabeth Figa spoke on re-imaging and storytelling in the workplace. In the summer, they sponsored a past-president's leadership seminar which had very good attendance. --*Joe Jackson, Chapter President*

**Pi Lambda Sigma** chapter, at Syracuse University, reports that they had their initiation commencement weekend following convocation. They changed their annual meeting date about three years ago and have now doubled their attendance and response rate. Verifying the GPA of students since grades are not finalized at the time of the annual meeting can be problematic -- they are working on this issue. Moving the meetings has increased their membership. -- *Pauline Shostack, Chapter Representative*

**Omicron** chapter, at Rutgers University in New Jersey, now has a complete and active Board. The officers from last year agreed to stay on the Board again at this year's annual meeting. Omicron had an increase in the number of members they inducted this year. At their induction, they invited Pat Wheeling, the past advisor, who is a retired professor from Rutgers, to speak. Pat took them on a "fabulous" walk down memory lane and gave them the history of Beta Phi Mu throughout her years at Rutgers. The Omicron chapter website is now up and running and linked to Beta Phi Mu's website. Their third annual lecture in combination with the New Jersey Center for the Book and Rutgers Library took place September 20th. Wilma Gray, who is the director of the Newark Public Library and a Beta Phi Mu member, presented "How Libraries Help Learning". --*Ruth Lumpkin, Chapter President*

**Gamma** chapter, at Florida State University in Tallahassee, received a distinguished lectureship from Beta Phi Mu this year and that funding was used to present Wayne Wiegand, as Melvil Dewey, at the Florida Library Association meeting last April. With their presentation, they reached a state-wide audience and attracted some attention for the chapter. At the local level, Gamma chapter co-sponsored and was recognized at the FSU College of Information's annual convocation and Homecoming activities. The theme this year was "Celebrating Gamma Chapter's 50th Anniversary". They considered many ways to celebrate and felt like this combined effort with the College was the best. The event was held on October 27th on the Florida State University campus. --*Linda Most, Secretary/Treasurer of Gamma Chapter, past-President and the co-chair of Gamma chapter's 50th Anniversary and chapter celebration.*

**Iota** chapter, at Catholic University and University of Maryland in Washington D.C., held an induction ceremony this past year. Roberta Schaffer was the speaker at the event. She is the Director of the Federal Library and Information Center. She talked on new technologies and their affect on how they will be going forward into the future. After a positive experience last year participating in the National Book Festival, sponsored by the Library of Congress and Laura Bush, Iota chapter is planning to go again this year. The chapter volunteers to participate in this event and goes to dinner afterwards. Kimberly Kelly is the new dean at Catholic University. She comes from University of Maryland. They (Catholic University) will now have a good tie in with Maryland University. --*Diane Schurrpusch, Chapter Past-President*

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## BPM Chapter News (continued)

**Alpha** chapter, at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, held their 2006 initiation this year in the Fall. It was a luncheon, and Valerie Hotchkiss spoke to the group. Dr. Hotchkiss is the relatively new head of rare books and manuscripts at the University. The chapter plans are set for this year's initiation, at which Paul Adams, Director of Prairienet, will give a presentation. Prairienet is a community information network that was started at GSLIS and now conducts outreach into impoverished countries. Paul will talk about a project in the small African nation of Sao Tome. Because Alpha Chapter was the first Beta Phi Mu chapter, they will have their own 60th anniversary celebration this year. --*Sue Searing, Alpha Chapter Representative*

**Beta Omega**, at the University of South Carolina, reports that initiation of new members was held in April 2007 in conjunction with SLIS's Annual Deans' Lecture given this year by Dr. Ken Haycock, Director of the School of Library and Information Science, San Jose State University. **BΦM** has been working on several service projects, most notably with the South Carolina Center for Children's Books and Literacy on the School's literacy initiatives. --*Nancy Zimmerman, President-elect, reporting for Liz Qunell, Beta Omega Faculty Sponsor*

**Beta Phi** chapter, at University of South Florida, held its annual initiation on Sunday, April 22 in conjunction with the Alice G. Smith Lecture and Jean Key Gates Distinguished Alumni Award. This year's Alice G. Smith Lecture was presented by Ashley Bryan, award-winning children's author and illustrator, and honored the memory of one of the School's beloved faculty members, Alice G. Smith. The Jean Key Gates Distinguished Alumni Award recipient was Dr. Patricia Thomas Bauer. Bauer was initiated into Beta Phi Chapter in April 1983. --*Stephanie Maata, Faculty Representative*

**Theta** chapter, from New York City, reports that their featured speaker at this year's initiation ceremony was Marie Radford, who gave a compelling presentation on Web 2.0. Then, at their Fall Lecture Series, the chapter tried something different. Instead of a speaker, they gave a workshop on Web 2.0 which was very well attended. Everyone had their own workstations in the computer lab and participants learned about setting up blogs, posting to blogs, setting up wikis, hosting their own wikis, etc. It was quite informative and a nice departure from the usual lecture format. --*Ron Miller, Theta Chapter Past-President*





## Tips & Tools

### MAKING THE MOST OF YOUR BΦM CHAPTER!

Hi!

I'm Linda Most, Secretary/Treasurer of Gamma Chapter at the College of Information at Florida State University. Our chapter is fortunate to be co-located with the Beta Phi Mu

national office. Executive Director Christie Koontz asked me to share some of my tips for keeping a chapter strong.

1) Apply for a Beta Phi Mu distinguished lectureship. We have received two in the last five years. One was presented in conjunction with our annual meeting and initiation ceremony. Most recently, we presented the distinguished lectureship at the annual state library association meeting. We co-sponsored the event with the Florida Library Association. They provided the room and the publicity and we provided the speaker. The lectureship paid for his expenses and honorarium, which he donated back to the chapter. The best thing about this arrangement was that we were able to reach a state-wide audience of LIS professionals including many FSU alumni. We distributed membership address updates at the lecture and got some new addresses for the database.

2) Keep your membership database current. I send invitations to the annual meeting and initiation ceremony out by first class mail so I can get address corrections, and then I update the database. We keep our database in Microsoft Access and we have about 1,500 entries, but only 300 are coded as active members. We keep people as active members if they've paid dues within the last ten years and if their mailing address is still good.

3) We hold our annual meeting and initiation ceremony in conjunction with our college's annual convocation activities. This is the best way we know to bring people to campus. Six weeks before the meeting we send out a printed flyer with an invitation to the annual meeting, a summary of last year's meeting minutes, a summary of the year's activities, and the membership renewal form in the same packet.

The bottom line is that a chapter needs people willing to do some work to keep these processes flowing. As a full-time doctoral candidate, I have an office on campus so I can check the mail every day and maintain the files and do whatever needs to be done. There may be other ways to make this job successful. But, for me, making my Beta Phi Mu responsibilities part of my weekly schedule is the key to keeping things current. Hope this helps and good luck with your chapters!

## Dates & Deadlines



**January 11-16, 2008**  
**American Library Association**  
**Philadelphia, PA**  
**2008 Midwinter Meeting**  
**Friday, January 11 • 2:00-5:00 PM**  
**Pennsylvania Convention Center #301**



**June 26 - July 2, 2008**  
**American Library Association**  
**2008 Annual Conference**  
**Anaheim, CA**



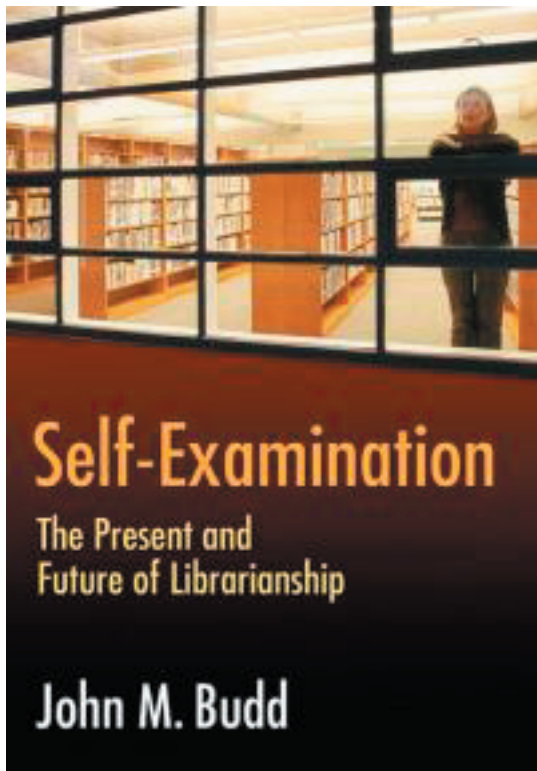
**March 15, 2008**  
**Deadline for Member/Student Scholarships**  
*Sarah Rebecca Reed Scholarship*  
*Frank B. Sessa Scholarship for Continuing Education*  
*Harold Lancour Scholarship for International Studies*  
*Blanche E. Woolls Scholarship for School Media*  
*Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship*



**March 1, 2008**  
**Deadline for Submissions**  
**Spring edition of *The Pipeline* newsletter.**

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## A Good Read. A Good Cause.

*Attention All Beta Phi Mu Members!*

John Budd's new book, *Self-Examination*, is due to publish at the end of this month.

The author has requested that Beta Phi Mu Honor Society receive 25% of book royalties.

Price: \$60.00

ISBN13: 9781591585916

ISBN10: 1591585910

Libraries Unlimited

Paperback DOI: 10.1336/1591585910

Publication Date: 11/30/2007

Series: Beta Phi Mu Monograph Series

### Description

What makes us librarians? What is it we do that is indispensable? John Budd joins an august group of library-science luminaries, such as Pierce Butler, Jesse Shera, and Michael Gorman, whose works and example invite professional and critical self-examination. Here, Budd challenges us to confront the uneasy truth of whether "libraries still represent people's will and intellect, or the cabalistic enclaves of an old guard?" Through intellectually rich and engaging entrees into ethics, democracy, social responsibility, governance, and globalization, he makes the case that librarians who fail to grasp the importance of their heritage will never truly respond to societal change or the needs of the individual user.

### Contents

Introduction

Chapter 1: Genealogy of the Profession

Chapter 2: Place and Identity

Chapter 3: Being Informed about Informing

Chapter 4: What's the Right Thing to Do?

Chapter 5: In a Democracy . . .

Chapter 6: The Information Society

Chapter 7: Optimistic Synthesis

References

Index

**JOHN M. BUDD** is Professor and Associate Director of the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies at the University of Missouri-Columbia. His 2001 book, *Knowledge and Knowing in Library and Information Science: A Philosophical Framework*, was awarded the 2002 Highsmith Library Literature Award.



*(President's Message continued from front page)*

I also want to take this opportunity to tell you a little of what is happening at headquarters. BΦM welcomed a new Executive Director this summer, Dr. Christie Koontz. Dr. Koontz succeeds Dr. Wayne Wiegand as Executive Director and is a faculty member of the College of Information at Florida State University and Director, GeoLib. She is also the recipient of the prestigious Carroll Baber Research Award of the ALA. It is with great pleasure that we welcome Dr. Koontz to our Society and we extend our best wishes to Dr. Wiegand in his new endeavors.

Dr. Koontz has added John Paul Walters to the headquarters staff, replacing Melody Venable. BΦM is in the process of updating databases and digitizing the archival records that date back to our 1948 founding. We are also upgrading our web presence to facilitate communication and provide a simple, efficient way for members and chapters to electronically update records. We welcome John Paul and his expertise to the staff as we undertake these projects and we thank Melody for her contributions to BΦM.

At ALA Annual in 2007 in Washington D.C., it was my privilege to present to Dr. Barbara Immroth, professor in the School of Information at the University of Texas at Austin, the Beta Phi Mu Award from the American Library Association for distinguished service in the field of library and information science education. Dr. Immroth is former President of the Association for Library Services to Children, a Trustee of the Freedom to Read Foundation, a former President of the Texas Library Association and, of course, a former President of BΦM. Congratulations, Dr. Immroth, on this award and on all of your achievements.

This is also the time to extend thanks to the outgoing officers of BΦM. I know you join me in saluting Drs. Anna Perrault and Tim Sineath, President and Past President/Director respectively, for their service and hard work. I would also like to thank and give a warm welcome to our newest Director, Eloise May and to Dave Whisenant, our new Treasurer.

At the General Assembly meeting of BΦM at the ALA Annual Conference in 2008 in Anaheim, we will be celebrating the 60th anniversary of our society's founding. Please put this event on your calendar and watch for details. We hope to see you there.

*Nancy Zimmerman*

*Aliis  
inserviando  
consumor*



*Consumed  
in the service  
of others*

[www.beta-phi-mu.org](http://www.beta-phi-mu.org)

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