



Beta Phi Mu
Honor Society

The Pipeline

The Newsletter of Beta Phi Mu
The International Library and Information Studies Honor Society

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Inside this issue:

70th Anniversary Keynote	1-2
YOU are Beta Phi Mu	3-4
2018 Election Results	5
2019 Sessa Lottery	5
2018 Scholarship Winners	6
Chapter News	7-13
Ex. Director Column	13
Thanks to Our Sponsors	14
New Membership Policies	15

BPM 70th Anniversary Keynote Address

Em Claire Knowles, D.A.

The following are excerpts from the Keynote Address delivered by Em Claire Knowles at Beta Phi Mu's 70th Anniversary Celebration, held in conjunction with the ALA Annual Meeting in New Orleans in June, 2018. To read the complete text of Dr. Knowles' address, please go to <https://www.betaphimu.org/2018-keynote.html>

....I was inducted into Beta Phi Mu at a national meeting of Beta Phi Mu at the annual ALA Conference in San Francisco in 1975. It was an induction ceremony and program similar to the one that occurs today. I went to the University of California-Berkeley, where there had not been a commencement for a while due to the era of campus protests and demonstrations, and so joining the honor society seemed like a significant and public event to acknowledge my graduation and the honor of being invited into the honor society.



Then I lost touch with Beta Phi Mu for a long while. In my first professional position, no one ever mentioned anything about Beta Phi Mu. In 1988, when I was appointed to my position at Simmons, that all changed.

I began attending the Simmons Beta Beta Chapter events on a regular basis because I was a member of the society, and wanted to support new inductees. Remember that if you have moved, you too can join the chapter nearest you! Then, in 1997, Dean James

Matarazzo asked me to take over as the advisor of the Beta Beta Chapter and I have continued in that role to the present day.

Over the twenty-plus years I have led or encouraged students to become active members and officers of the local chapter with service projects of collecting books for marginalized communities, promoting Beta Phi Mu by making sure that all of our students were aware of the available national scholarships, by applying for national financial support to bring speakers such as Dr. Stephen Bell and Dr. Kathleen de la Pena-McCook, (a past recipient of the Beta Phi Mu Award) for the Beta Beta Chapter inductions and school wide programs, beginning local chapter scholarships, promoting our chapter to alumni and students, and making special efforts to promote the importance of the honor society to diverse students through our social affinity group. Furthermore, we have striven to maintain our own 501(c)3 status, and the officers continue to think of new ways to change, grow and stay relevant among the many other alumni groups at Simmons. When asked to run for election to serve on the national board, I recognized this as another way to serve the organization.

Service is a major component of this organization. Service has also been an important factor, along with servant leadership, in my personal life. In fact, there is perhaps, not one weekend that goes by that I am not doing some public service in my own communities, whether it be for Simmons, organizations on which I serve on boards, my sorority of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., my church, or my friends, and neighbors. It is something that is simply built into my DNA, more likely, it reflects the way I was raised by my parents.

....I see the role of Beta Phi Mu in the profession is more like the talented tenth or the talented twenty-fifth, in the case of Beta Phi Mu, that W.E.B. DuBois promoted in the early twentieth century, to describe the best and brightest of African Americans who would become educated leaders of the race. This is the same role that I see for the members of Beta Phi Mu, the leaders in our profession.

Imagine, applications for library positions stating a preference for members of Beta Phi Mu; or signature lines in email messages that include an acknowledgement of Beta Phi Mu membership. We need to be proud of our careers and of our honor in this society.

....I asked a few long time members and past officers of Beta Phi Mu why they think Beta Phi Mu provides value. I will share a couple of responses with you. Beta Phi Mu Past President Eileen G. Abels, said, "Beta Phi Mu recognizes students in MS-LIS programs, not only for their grade point averages but also for their potential as leaders. This is incredibly important for our field of Library and Information Science. Furthermore, our members benefit from publishing opportunities and discounts for continuing education. We encourage scholarship, services, and leadership."

Another response comes from another Past President, Dr. John Budd, who is in the audience, who offers the following advice, "The main benefit from Beta Phi Mu national would be the several fellowships and financial aid opportunities for students and professionals. These help fulfill both the scholarship and leadership targets. There is also the annual research paper award, co-sponsored with the Library Research Round Table. A major benefit of membership, though, is participation in the many chapter activities, which includes scholarships, programming at conferences, and work within the chapter community. These are meaningful and substantive, and well worth the life membership."

The above comments illustrate the value and benefit for our organization, and I hope you can find something that strengthens your commitment to Beta Phi Mu. So, where Beta Phi Mu, the Library and Information Science Honor Society goes is dependent on where the membership, not just takes it, but directs it to go. Our organization will go where the membership leads it. *It all depends on you!*

YOU are Beta Phi Mu

In this issue, we're spotlighting one of our newest professional members in Beta Phi Mu. Kurt W. Wagner is University Librarian at the Guggenheim Memorial Library at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, New Jersey.

Tell us a bit about yourself—how did you first get interested in librarianship?

I grew up in a home with books and with parents who were avid readers. I remember trips to the local public library even before I could read myself. So, I began by having a well-established habit of reading, love of learning, and multi-disciplinary curiosity. I completed a BA in Anthropology, which in many ways satisfied my wide-ranging interest in history, geography, languages, culture, religion, art and biology. On the side I studied the military and spaceflight. With that setting, I ended up with a college reference librarian as a neighbor and good friend and he encouraged me to consider going to Library School. I hadn't considered that as a career path before then, but once I learned about it, it seemed tailor made to my career interests.

What has your career path been like? How did you end up as the director of an academic library?

After completing my MA in Library Science at the University of Arizona in 1994 I was offered a position at (then) William Paterson College in Wayne, NJ as a reference librarian and publications coordinator. It was a tenure-track position and required completion of a 2nd master's degree for tenure. I completed an MA in Communication at William Paterson, feeling that a librarian needs to be a skilled communicator. I also appreciated the interdisciplinary nature of both library science and communication fields of study, and they both fit nicely with my broad range of interests. I enjoyed reference, library instruction, and desktop and print publication. I had been employed at a daily newspaper in Colorado doing production design and was there during a transition from physical to computer-based production. I brought these skills to our publications at William Paterson. I also became interested in Powerpoint and web authoring, both relatively new in 1994. I created the first web pages for the library. Within a few years I was asked to learn how to run the reporting part of our integrated library system, which led to becoming a systems administrator. Eventually, I became a systems librarian, head of library information systems, web manager, and finally the Assistant Director of the David and Lorraine Cheng Library at William Paterson University. This part of my career at William Paterson lasted for 22 years (1994-2016) before I was offered the position of University Librarian at the Guggenheim Memorial Library at Monmouth University in West Long Branch, NJ. I feel like my success has come from being open to new challenges and opportunities, my ability to communicate well, my desire to collaborate and work in high performing teams, and to manage strategic organizational planning and change.



What made you interested in becoming a Beta Phi Mu member?

In my turbulent time during the last part of being at the University of Arizona I recall being invited to apply to BPM, but I think that there was so much else happening in my life then, and then I moved to New Jersey, embarked upon my career, and really hardly ever looked back. It wasn't until I began my current position at Monmouth and have been regularly invited to and have attended the Business School's Beta Gamma Sigma Honor Society induction dinner, that I was reminded of Beta Phi Mu. Looking at the BPM website then took me along to thinking about my own career and how I might give something back somehow. Everything that BPM does reflects my own desire to serve, promote, mentor, and contribute to the discipline that has become my professional home.

What's your view of the current state of the field of LIS? What challenges are we facing? What successes do we have that we can feel good about?

From my first day in my first class at the School of Information and Library Studies I remember the conversation being about how the internet and worldwide web would impact libraries and librarianship. I feel like for the 20 years or so that comprised the "first part" of my career the focus was on the explosion of new formats and the adoption of the technologies needed to accommodate them. Though the shift to digital and online still continues I believe that enough time has passed for this no longer to be something new. Our academic library users were born digital and they expect things to be online. I feel like we have been challenged by the evolution in formats, but maybe not exactly in the way it seemed to be 20 years ago. I believe that the enormous challenge and opportunity for libraries and librarians now lies in information literacy, media literacy, critical thinking and collaboration with others to make sure that our users are able to capably navigate the near infinite universe of online resources. It has never been more important for librarians to be seen as educators, communicators, and collaborators. Many of our users feel that they can get everything they need without any assistance. Little do they know that they can search better, smarter, and more accurately. We can teach them. Often they are searching and getting poor results, not because there is no information, but rather because they're searching in the wrong place or in the wrong database. We can teach them. Our teachers at every level need to make sure that our students have the habit of reading instilled early to counter-balance the shallow, distracted skimming and surfing that is the more common mode now. We must collaborate with teachers. I feel that our discipline has evolved. We can feel good that what it means to be a librarian has changed, and we have changed along with it. I see librarians as now being concierges of information, rather than gatekeepers of books. To the extent that we embrace the change, keep the love of books and reading while incorporating the new formats, media, and technology, we will remain the intellectual, institutional heart of our communities.



Learn more about Professional Membership in Beta Phi Mu!

If you have colleagues or friends who did not become Beta Phi Mu members at graduation, but would like to get involved, encourage them to check out our new Professional Membership category! For all the details, see the Membership page on our website: <https://www.betaphimu.org/membership.html>

2018 Election Results

Beta Phi Mu Honor Society is pleased to announce the results of the 2018 elections for new board members and officers. We appreciate our members' willingness to serve and lead our honor society.

Dr. Elaine Yontz (East Carolina University, Beta Beta Omicron Chapter) is the new President of our society. **Dr. Vicki Gregory** (University of South Florida, Beta Phi Chapter) moves to the role of Past President. We also welcome our new Vice President/President Elect, **Dr. Cecelia Brown** (University of Oklahoma, Lambda Chapter).

Our new Director is **Dr. Sheri Ross** (St. Catherine University, Beta Beta Xi Chapter) and our new Directors-at-Large are **Dr. Heather Moulaison-Sandy** (University of Missouri, Psi Chapter) and **Camille McCutcheon** (University of South Carolina Library, Beta Omega Chapter).

They join our continuing board members: **Dr. Emily Knox**, Treasurer (University of Illinois, Urban-Champaign, Alpha Chapter), Director-at-Large **Michelle Demeter** (Florida State University Library, Gamma Chapter), and Directors **Dr. Gordon Baker** (Clayton State University Library, Beta Beta Mu Chapter) and **Dr. Laura Saunders** (Simmons College, Beta Beta Chapter).

We would also like to thank our outgoing board members for their support and service: **Dr. Linda Smith**, Past President (University of Illinois, Urban-Champaign, Alpha Chapter), Director-at-Large **Dr. Em Claire Knowles** (Simmons College, Beta Beta Chapter), and Directors **Robin Canuel** (McGill University Library, At Large) and **Bill Davis** (At Large).

Thanks also to all of our members who participated in the voting process, both in the online ballot and the on-site election at the BPM membership meeting at ALA Annual in New Orleans.

2019 Sessa Lottery Opens on January 1, 2019

The lottery for Frank B. Sessa Scholarships for Continuing Professional Education of Beta Phi Mu Members will be open for registration on New Year's Day, 2019. Random drawings of five names for awards of \$150 each will be made in both March and September of 2019. The ability to register for these award drawings are an exclusive benefit of Beta Phi Mu membership.

The Sessa Scholarships are intended to help underwrite an approved continuing education opportunity of the selected member's choice. The first ten recipients of these scholarships were announced in 2018, and we are happy to be making the revised version of these awards for the second year in a row. Much thanks to Library Juice Academy for their sponsorship of these scholarships!

Visit <https://www.betaphimu.org/sessa.html> for more information about these awards and to sign up for the lottery in the new year!

***Bibliothekarios philax mathesis -
"Librarians are the guardians of knowledge"***

2018 Scholarships and Award Winners

Beta Phi Mu is pleased to announce the award winners for its 2018 scholarship season. Each year, Beta Phi Mu provides \$10,000 worth of scholarships and awards for study and research related to Library and Information Science, in addition to administering the Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships.

The winners of the **Sarah Rebecca Reed Scholarships**, which support beginning students at an ALA-accredited Library and Information Science (LIS) program are **Gloria Acosta** at Emporia State University and **Joanna Smith** at the University of California, Los Angeles. They will receive awards of \$2,250 each.

The **Blanche E. Woolls Scholarship for School Library Media Service** supports a beginning LIS student intending to pursue a career in school library media service and attending an ALA-accredited or an American Association of School Librarians (AASL) recognized program. The winner of this year's \$2,250 award is **Rebekah Craig** at Valdosta State University.

The **Harold Lancour Scholarship for Foreign Study** was awarded to **Emily Drabinski**, librarian at Long Island University Library. This \$1,750 award will support original research into the politics of cataloging and classification in the academic libraries of former colonies of the United States.

Five additional **Frank B. Sessa Scholarships for Continuing Professional Education of Beta Phi Mu Members** were awarded in September to **Sara Zettervall** (Beta Beta Xi Chapter, St. Catherine University); **Jolanda-Pieta van Arnhem** (Beta Omega Chapter, University of South Carolina); **Patricia Carroll** (At Large, Dominican University); **Sharon McQueen** (Beta Rho Chapter, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee); and **Laura Doan** (Sigma Chapter, Drexel University). They each receive \$150 toward the expenses associated with a professional continuing education opportunity of their choice.

Six recipients of the **Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship** for 2018 were also announced. These \$3,000 awards provide support for doctoral students who are working on their dissertations in Library and Information Science, Information Studies. 2018 winners are:

Brian Dobreski, Syracuse University, "Values in Knowledge Organization Standards: A Value Analysis of Resource Description and Access (RDA)"

Jamila Ghaddar, University of Toronto, "Archives, third world futurities and the making of a global order: UNESCO in the Middle East"

Philipp Jordan, University of Hawaii, "A Meta-Study and Content Analysis of Science Fiction in Computer Science Research"

Hyungjoo Park, University of Wisconsin – Milwaukee, "The impact of research data sharing and re-use on data citation in STEM fields"

Jennifer Pierre, University of California, Los Angeles, "One Big Digital Family: Examining Social Media and Social Support in the Development of 'At-Risk' Youth"

Mei Zhang, University of Wisconsin- Madison, "What counts as a good selection? E-book product selection in U.S. academic libraries"

Congratulations to all of the 2018 Beta Phi Mu Scholarship and Award winners! Many thanks to **Dr. Emily Knox**, chair of the BPM Scholarship Committee, and all committee members for their work in reviewing the many applications for these awards.

Chapter News

Sigma Chapter at Drexel University

Sigma Chapter welcomed 11 new members on June 14, 2018, at a reception in Hagerty Library, following Commencement exercises at Drexel University. John Wiggins kindly arranged for a Zoom room to include remote attendees.

Joining Sigma Chapter are Adrienne Bross, Heather Davila, Karen Grant, Kieran O'Leary, Debbie Schreck, Katelynn Scott, Ian Sheddan, Erica Siegrist, Joseph Stolarick, Caleb West, and Alexandra Wilder. The initiates represent the Classes of 2018, 2017, and 2016.



Sigma Chapter members and staff at Hagerty Library and CCI professors also participated in the event. Pictured in front are Sigma Chapter Board member Caitlin Angelone, and Phebe Dickson, Business Librarian at Hagerty Library. Pictured from left are John Wiggins, Director, Services and Quality Improvement at Hagerty Library; Dr. Danuta Nitecki, Dean of Hagerty Library; Jordana Shane, Secretary of Sigma Chapter; initiates Heather Davila and Joseph Stolarick; Sigma Chapter Advisor Dr. Alexander Poole; BPM Executive Director Dr. Alison Lewis; and Jay Bhatt, Engineering Librarian at Hagerty Library. Also in attendance were Drs. Denise Agosto and Jane Greenberg, of Drexel University's College of Computing and Informatics, and the parents of the initiates.

The Board of Sigma Chapter is working to re-engage with its membership, and welcomes past members to email us at sigmabetaphimu@gmail.com with updates to contact information, suggestions for service activities for our geographically-dispersed membership, or just to say "hi." We look forward to hearing from you!

Beta Zeta Chapter at Louisiana State

The annual initiation ceremony of Beta Zeta Chapter (Louisiana State University), Beta Phi Mu, was held Sunday, April 8, 2018 at 6:30 pm in the meeting room of the East Baton Rouge Parish Library, Main Branch. Kathryn Carlson was initiated into Beta Phi Mu and signed the Great Roll. New members inducted in absentia were Paula Dupont, Sara Harrington, and Amanda Munson. Current officers are Dr. Boryung Ju, Co-Chapter Advisor; Dr. Yejun Wu, Co Chapter Advisor; and Emilie Smart, President (outgoing).

Alpha Chapter at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

The Alpha Chapter of Beta Phi Mu celebrated its annual meeting and initiation ceremony on Saturday, October 27, 2018 at the School of Information Sciences. The event was livestreamed and recorded. Twenty-five graduates were inducted into Beta Phi Mu. Five were able to attend and sign the Great Roll in person: Sara R. Benson (MS '17), Elisandro Cabada (MS '17), Joshua D. Lynch (MS '17), Cassia R. Smith (MS '18), and Kimberly L. Tipton (MS '18).

The occasion marked the 70th anniversary of the founding of Beta Phi Mu at Illinois in 1948:



First Beta Phi Mu Initiation, 1948

Linda Smith, Alpha Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, shared greetings from Professor Emerita Kathryn Luther Henderson, a founding member.

Other business included: a report of chapter finances; a report on Beta Phi Mu activities at the national level; announcement of the recipients of two awards supported by Alpha Chapter: Opetoritse A. Adefolalu (MS '17) as the Anne M. Boyd Award recipient and Joseph J. Porto (MS '18) as the Kathryn Luther & William T Henderson Award recipient; and election of Paul Healey (PhD '10) as incoming Vice-President/President-Elect. Following the ceremony and business meeting, the members, new initiates, and guests enjoyed a luncheon. The event concluded with a talk by Lynne M. Thomas (MS '99), Head of the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, whose presentation was entitled, "The Accidental Time Traveler." As a seven-time Hugo Award winner for editing and podcasting in the science fiction genre, she explored how her career intertwined rare books and special collections with *Doctor Who* and other science fiction.

Right: New Alpha Chapter Initiates:
Sara R. Benson, Elisandro Cabada,
Cassia R. Smith, Joshua D. Lynch,
Kimberly L. Tipton



Above: New Initiates joined by Alpha Chapter 2017-2018 officers: Linda Smith, Secretary/Treasurer; Lian Ruan, President; Emily Knox, Faculty Advisor; Kim Anderson, Past President; and (2nd from right) Christine Cahill, Vice-President/President-Elect

Right: Lynne M. Thomas, speaking on "The Accidental Time Traveler"



Beta Beta Theta Chapter at the University of Iowa

The 31st Annual Chapter Program of the Beta Beta Theta Chapter of Beta Phi Mu was held on May 10, 2018 at the Marengo Public Library in Marengo, Iowa. Jackie Jordan, Library Director, opened the library after hours for the event. Chapter President Shana Stuart, who is director of the Carnegie Libraries in Iowa Project (CLIP), spoke on the mission of CLIP to document the history and changes in Iowa's Carnegie libraries: <https://dsps.lib.uiowa.edu/clip/>. The Marengo Public Library, one of 101 public Carnegie libraries built in the State of Iowa, received a Carnegie Grant in 1903 and officially opened on August 4, 1905. It is one of 48 of those buildings that remain in operation as libraries today. One in seven academic libraries built in Iowa with Carnegie funding remains in use as a library.

The chapter awarded scholarships to SLIS students Kaeli Nieves-Whitmore, Dana Williams, and Emily McClimon. Seven graduates were inducted into membership in the society: Elizabeth Riordan, Katherine Walden, Amanda Jenkins, Chloe Waryan, Willa Liburd Tavernier (2017 Beta Beta Theta Scholarship winner), James Cox, and Christopher Taylor.

Chapter Officers for the 2018/2019 academic year are: President Susan Henricks (Library Director, Carnegie-Stout Public Library); Past President Shana Stuart (Director, Carnegie Libraries in Iowa Project); Vice-President/President-Elect Justin Baumgartner (Digital Project Librarian, UI Libraries); Secretary-Treasurer Marilyn Swanson (Homemaker); and Faculty Advisor Lindsay Mattock (Assistant Professor, UI-SLIS).

Right: The beautifully refurbished Carnegie Library in Marengo, Iowa.

Below: Chapter President Shana Stuart read the Initiation Ritual in front of a slide of the original Marengo Public Library building.

Below Right: Chapter President Shana Stuart ordered custom made cookies for the event.



Pi Lambda Sigma Chapter at Syracuse University

Our annual Spring Initiation was held during Graduation Weekend on May 12 in Bird Library with Amy Dickinson, nationally syndicated advice columnist, best-selling author, and NPR panelist as our guest speaker. At our luncheon we initiated five new members: Adrienne M. Canino, Kara E. Conley, Samantha L. Dannick, Kayla M. DelBiondo, and Nicole H. Potter. The 2018 Dosa Scholarship winner is Leanne Minkoff. The VanHoesen Award winners are Samantha A. Mairson, Jenna Bossert, and Elizabeth Benoodt. Congratulations, All!

At our summer dinner planning meeting in July, Nicole Westerdahl moved up to President. Carole Kupelian became Past President, Vice-President and Recording Secretary are yet to be determined, and Corresponding Secretary is Susan Slenker. Scholarship Chairs are Valarie Massulik and Vanessa St.Oegger-Menn. Membership Chair is Christine Demetros. At-Large Board members Ellen Owens, Amy Slutzky, and Robert Weiner were joined by new Board member Barbara A. Wall. Together, we manage the Chapter's mission of extending financial support to the most academically-gifted iSchool students in the Library and Information Science graduate degree program. iSchool Advisor is Blythe Bennett, Program Manager, MLIS/School Media degree.

A main topic of discussion at the summer meeting was addressing additional financial aid to struggling but otherwise qualified LIS grad students. In response to this need and also in light of an increase to National's membership fee for new initiates, our Chapter has created the Pi Lambda Sigma Assistance Fund. Unlike our other funds, which are endowments managed by the University, this will be self-funded by Chapter members with an initial amount contributed by the Chapter treasury. It is meant as one-time assistance to cover smaller emergencies that LIS students may be facing that ultimately would result in withdrawal from the program, or in refusing BPM membership. The general membership will be encouraged to contribute to build the Assistance Fund.

Member News: Dean Elizabeth Liddy has announced her pending retirement from the iSchool this coming May. Liz has been a driving force in information study for decades and is recognized worldwide for her research into natural language development in computers. Our Chapter wishes her a happy future life! Pi Lambda Sigma Scholarship co-chair Vanessa St. Oegger-Menn, in her position as Assistant University Archivist, curated an outstanding 30th anniversary memorial to the 270 victims of the December, 1988, terrorist bombing of Pan-Am Flight 103. Thirty-five of the victims were SU students returning from semesters studying abroad. The village of Lockerbie, Scotland and the University are forever linked by this tragedy and as a result remain joined in extensive programming each year to assure that these people are never forgotten.



Beta Epsilon Chapter at Emporia State

On October 26, 2018, Beta Epsilon chapter of Beta Phi Mu celebrated the induction of twenty new members during the 2018 business meeting which took place both in person (at the KLA/MPLA Conference in Wichita, Kansas) and online via Zoom software.

The following new members accepted Beta Phi Mu membership this year: Charles Ackerly, Jacqueline D. Belden, Nathan Chamberlain, Cindy L. Davis, Sabrina M. Davis, Teresa Deem-Reilly, Autumn Friedli, Shawna Gilbert, Mira Greene, Emily Groom Hemmerling, Nathaniel Robert Harris, Kayla Kettleson, Tracie Kreighbaum, Melinda Rittgers, Marion Schweitzer, Joshua M. Shawnee, Margaret Sheppard, Merideth Snepp, Terri Summey, and Theresa Wojtalewica.



Dr. Emily Vardell of the Emporia State University School of Library and Information Management presented “Health Insurance Information Needs: How Librarians Can Help” at the Kansas Library Association & Mountain Plains Library Association Ad Astra . . . Together, from the Mountains to the Plains Conference October 26, 2018, in Wichita during the Beta Phi Mu, Beta Epsilon Chapter annual meeting.

Focusing on the value of librarians who provide patrons with necessary information needs enhancing their health decisions, Dr. Vardell stated, “Today many adults have difficulty knowing how to find a physician, fill a prescription, use and pay for medications, and use information to make informed decisions about their health. Libraries are prominent places in communities making libraries and librarians excellent resources for advancing health information literacy. For example, librarians can address the unmet information needs that leave many unable to make appropriate health insurance choices. For those with lower levels of health insurance literacy, the ability to procure appropriate levels of health insurance coverage may be limited, which can have dire effects on individuals’ health statuses.”



This program provided details about advancing health information literacy in local communities. The slideshare is available at Tinyurl.com/KLAhealth.

Beta Epsilon Chapter was also pleased to announce Amanda Harrison as candidate for 2018-19 Chapter Vice President. For more information about Amanda see: <https://slimbetaepsilon.wordpress.com/2018/09/25/introducing-amanda-harrison/>. After elections in October, Amanada joins other officers, including President-elect and current Vice-President, Carmaine Ternes; Immediate Past President, Jan Brooks; Past President, Kelly Visnak; Secretary, Michael Lang; Treasurer, Laura DeBaun; and Faculty Advisor, Dr. Mirah Dow.



Theta Chapter at Pratt Institute

Karen Erani, President of Theta Chapter at the Pratt Institute School of Information, invites all Beta Phi Mu members to visit their website at <http://www.bpmtheta.org/> for news of the chapter.

From the Beta Phi Mu Executive Director

The holiday season and the end of the year are often busy times for many people. Many of us will have time off from work, which can sometimes be more stressful than it is relaxing! Despite the continued demands on our time, I hope that Beta Phi Mu members will find some joy in the holiday season and have some “quality time” with friends, family, and colleagues.

The end of the year is also a time to reflect upon the past year, and look ahead to the next. In considering Beta Phi Mu’s situation, we did not meet our fundraising goal for 2018 and we are still experiencing financial pressures. However, the board made several important decisions over the past year that I hope will have a positive impact on the honor society and our finances as we move into the next year.

As always, there is much to be grateful for: the willingness of Beta Phi Mu members to serve as directors and officers of the national organization; the service of faculty advisors and chapter officers; the support of LIS programs and volunteers; members and chapters who contribute financially to our organization; and members who proudly declare themselves a part of Beta Phi Mu on their resumes and LinkedIn profiles.

As our former board member Em Claire Knowles states elsewhere in this newsletter, “It all depends on you!” Happy Holidays to all!



Alison M. Lewis

Thanks to Our Partners and Sponsors!

In addition to our members and chapters, our partners and sponsors help make the work and continued existence of our honor society possible. Thank you!

Thanks also to the many generous Library & Information Science programs and corporate sponsors who help to underwrite our 2018 Business Meeting and Member Reception at ALA in New Orleans!



Contact Us:

Mailing address:
PO Box 42139
Philadelphia, PA 19101

Phone:
267-361-5018

E-mail:
headquarters@
betaphimu.org

We're on the Web at:
www.betaphimu.org

NEW Membership Policies and Options

In addition to electing new officers and directors by ballot last spring, Beta Phi Mu members also approved two by-laws changes. One change that impacts programs nominating new honor society members is that the cap for percentage of nominees from a graduating class has been raised from 25% to 35%. This change is in accordance with Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) guidelines that allow specialized honor societies, such as Beta Phi Mu, to recognize excellence in those completing a graduate program in a specialized field. It is understood that such programs will have a higher percentage of graduates who meet minimum GPA and other requirements. Previously, Beta Phi Mu had been following the 25% rule, which is meant for more general honor societies on the undergraduate level.

Other than the fact that programs may now nominate up to 35% of their graduating class, the other requirements for membership remain in place. Nominees must meet the minimum GPA of 3.75 or above, and they must be recommended by the faculty of their LIS program.

The Beta Phi Mu Executive Board approved raising lifetime membership fees at their June board meeting. Regular lifetime membership (US addresses) will rise from \$85 to \$100, and International lifetime membership (non-US addresses) will rise from \$100 to \$115. These changes go into effect on January 1, 2019. New membership forms reflecting these changes will be made available on the Forms page of the Beta Phi Mu website.

The Beta Phi Mu membership also approved the by-laws change that institutes a new membership category, that of Professional Membership. This new category is also in line with practices of other ACHS-approved honor societies. This membership category is intended to recognize non-BPM members who have MLIS degrees and who have made significant contributions to the field. Professional membership carries all the same rights and responsibilities of regular membership, unlike honorary membership. There is more information available about membership categories and requirements on the Membership page of our website: <https://www.betaphimu.org/membership.html>



*Aliis inserviando consumor -
“Consumed in the service of others”*