

FALL
WINTER
2019
2020



The Newsletter of
Beta Phi Mu
The International
Library & Information
Science Society

The Pipeline



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From the President

Happy Fall Beta Phi Mu members! It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as your president this year. As 2019 comes to a close and we enter into the 2020s, thank you so much for your support of the only honor society that recognizes the scholastic achievement and leadership potential of library and information studies graduates, and fosters the values of scholarship, leadership, and service in our members. Your membership and continued assistance make it possible to award scholarships to outstanding LIS students and to fund continuing education and international research endeavors for BPM members. Your generosity is deeply appreciated.

The BPM Executive Board remains concerned about the long-term capacity of our unique honor society to recognize and celebrate the best and brightest of our profession. This year we have continued to brainstorm for effective methods to sustain our current activities and to invest in future opportunities. The Professional Membership category introduced last year has been very successful with 19 new colleagues joining to date, bringing our honor society to a total of about 10,000 strong! Please encourage your accomplished colleagues who have been out of library school for at least 5 years to visit www.betaphimu.org/membership.html to apply. Also please encourage your BPM chapter to work with schools offering a library and information studies program to nominate newly minted



library and information studies professionals for membership. To further bolster our capacity as an honor society, this year we are encouraging members to donate to BPM on an ongoing basis by becoming a "Sustaining Member" for \$10/year (or \$20/year for professional members). Please consider becoming a continuing sponsor of BPM.

Moving forward, please know that as your involvement is the foundation of BPM, we hope you will join us at our Meeting & Member Reception ALA 2020 in Chicago, IL, to share your ideas with the Board. New BPM members in any category will be initiated, refreshments served, chapter updates delivered, plus you will have the opportunity to network with your incredible BPM colleagues! The time and location will be announced soon. In the meantime, or if you are not able to attend ALA 2020, please contact me with any suggestions at cbrown@ou.edu.

Wishing you all the very best for a wonderful holiday season.

Cecy Brown, Ph.D.
President

YOU are Beta Phi Mu

Introducing: Michelle Demeter, MLIS

Michelle Demeter serves on the Executive Board of Beta Phi Mu as a Director-at-Large. Michelle currently works as the Head of Instruction and Undergraduate Services at New York University.



Tell us a bit about yourself.

I just moved from Florida to New York City for my new job at New York University. Having grown up and lived in Florida most of my life, it's been quite a transition since NYC isn't like anywhere else on Earth (for better or worse). I spend a lot of my time wandering the borough's different neighborhoods and checking out what makes them unique. I am an art history major so I spend a lot of time in the amazing museums and gardens throughout the area. When I am not exploring the city, I am chipping away at my dissertation on the 1964-1965 New York World's Fair and the four Disney attractions that debuted there. Funny enough, I am also enjoying the snow, but I have a feeling that novelty may wear off sooner rather than later.

What has your career path been like?

My career path, like many librarians', has been long and winding. I had careers in journalism and high school English education before I landed in librarianship, which gave me a pedagogical freedom that adjuncting and teaching high school students didn't. I love seeing the fascinating and world-changing projects that students are working on and providing them with helpful library tools and resources for taking control of their personal research processes. I also like the fact that my day is never the same and that I have creative latitude to build new programs and resources.

After being accepted to library school, I was fortunate to be hired as a graduate teaching assistant at Stroz Library at Florida State University. After graduation, I was hired as a visiting librarian, then the academic partnerships librarian and eventually interviewed to be the coordinator of outreach

and distance services before landing my final FSU position as associate director of undergraduate research and learning services. After almost a decade of service, I left FSU to focus on my PhD for a while but when the Head of Instruction and Undergraduate Services position at New York University came up it was too good to pass by so I applied and started at NYU in January 2019.

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

I joined Beta Phi Mu after graduating from Florida State University but did not get involved until a few years ago when a colleague, Charles McElroy who is quite active with the FSU BPM chapter, encouraged me to get more involved by running as a director at large in 2017. I am now in my second term as a director at large. I am especially proud of one of our most recent initiatives, the creation of the professional membership opportunity within BPM. I think it's important that we encourage all eligible librarians who are dedicated to library scholarship and leadership an opportunity to join BPM where they will find a community of like-minded professionals interested in advancing scholarly discourse within our field.

What are your thoughts about the future of librarianship and the need for librarians in society?

I know the death knell of libraries continues to sound as technology advances, but I really do not ever see a time when libraries will not be relevant to society. Technology is definitely not the end of libraries; rather it often infuses new life and opportunities for libraries to offer additional support to their users. The idea that libraries are simply warehouses of books is outdated and inherently ill-founded. The reality is that libraries have always been physical and metaphysical places where ideas are generated, exchanged, and debated. Librarians are the gatekeepers of information creation and dissemination, and while Google can offer quick searches, librarians can sit down with their users and provide true guidance through the research and learning process. This richer experience highlights the librarian's role as a sage and a mentor in a world that becomes increasingly difficult to understand and interpret, both by intent and happenstance. For these reasons, I value being able to use my skills and experience to develop programs and resources that help students cut through the static that surrounds them so they can ask the questions that matter to them and facilitate their searches for answers to those questions.



New 2019 Sessa Scholarship Winners

Beta Phi Mu is pleased to announce the winners of the September 2019 drawing for the Frank B. Sessa Scholarships for Continuing Professional Education of Beta Phi Mu Members!

The winners are:

- Ann Chiu (University of Illinois, Alpha Chapter)
- Hilary Swett (San Jose State University, Omega Chapter)
- Kayla Kuni (University of South Florida, Beta Phi Chapter)
- Joshua Avery (SUNY Albany, At-Large)
- Alison Gregory (Clarion University, At-Large)

Congratulations to all! Each of these winners will receive \$150 toward the continuing education opportunity of their choice. Many thanks to Library Juice Academy for their generous support of these awards. All recipients have one year to take advantage of their award.

Did you sign up for the Sessa lottery but didn't win this time? Not to worry -- you'll have another chance to enter next year! Check back after the first of the year to register for the 2020 lottery. Beta Phi Mu members may register once between January 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020. For more information, visit the Sessa Scholarships page at www.betaphimu.org/sessa.html.

2019 Election Results

Beta Phi Mu Honor Society is pleased to announce the results of the 2019 elections for new board members and officers.

Dr. Cecelia Brown (Lambda Chapter) is the new President. **Dr. Elaine Yontz** (Beta Beta Omicron Chapter) moves to the role of Past President. We also welcome our new Vice-President/President-Elect **Dr. Emily Knox** (Alpha Chapter) and Interim Treasurer **Dr. Vicki Gregory** (Beta Phi Chapter).

(Gamma Chapter), **Camille McCutcheon**, Director-At-Large (Beta Omega Chapter), **Dr. Gordon N. Baker**, Director (Beta Beta Mu Chapter), **Dr. Heather Moulaison Sandy**, Director (Psi Chapter), **Dr. Sheri Ross**, Director (Beta Beta Xi Chapter), and **Dr. Laura Saunders**, Director (Beta Beta Chapter).

They join our continuing board members: **Michelle Demeter**, Director-At-Large

Thanks to all of our members who participated in the voting process!

FRANK B. SESSA SCHOLARSHIPS

for Continuing Professional Education of Beta Phi Mu Members

Lottery registration for 2020 Sessa Scholarships will soon be open. Beta Phi Mu members may register once between January 1, 2020 and August 31, 2020.

Sessa Scholarships are intended to support Beta Phi Mu members in pursuing continuing professional education in LIS, archival studies, or other approved information-related studies.

Approved uses include attendance at professional preconference workshops or short courses; continuing education courses offered by accredited LIS programs; and online or face-to-face continuing education workshops and classes sponsored by professional associations and approved continuing education providers. These awards are not intended to support conference attendance or the pursuit of a formal degree, such as a Ph.D. or second Master's degree.

[Click here for more info.](#)



Chapter News

Pi Lambda Sigma Chapter at Syracuse University

Annual Chapter Initiation

The annual Pi Lambda Sigma Chapter Initiation was held May 11th of Graduation Weekend in Bird Library with Dr. Sally Roesch Wagner, nationally-recognized lecturer and author, as speaker. Dr. Wagner has written and lectured extensively on women's rights history and the leaders of the movement in the 19th century. Dr. Wagner was the driving force behind the purchase and restoration of suffragist leader Matilda Joslyn Gage's home in Fayetteville, NY and is its Executive Director. In celebrating the 100th anniversary of women gaining national voting rights, Penguin recently published Dr. Wagner's reader, *The Women's Suffrage Movement*.



Fifteen new members were initiated: Jenna Bossert, Angela Brady, Melissa Cadena, Rebecca Corlett, Jennifer Dickenson, Merrie Hanmann, Kimberly Hoffman, Sara Kern, Nathan Keefe, Hyun Seung Lee, Leanne Minkoff, Leslie Pcolinsky, Jillian Scarson, Maria Shellman, and Adrienne Teague.

Chapter officers are Nicole Westerdahl, President; Carole Kupelian, Past President; VP TBD; Recording Secretary Hannah Nast; Corresponding Secretary

Susan Slenker. Scholarship Chairs are Valarie Massulik and Vanessa St.Oegger-Menn. Membership Chair is Christine Demetros. At-Large Board members are Ellen Owens, Amy Slutzky, Barbara Wall, and Robert Weiner. Together they 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.

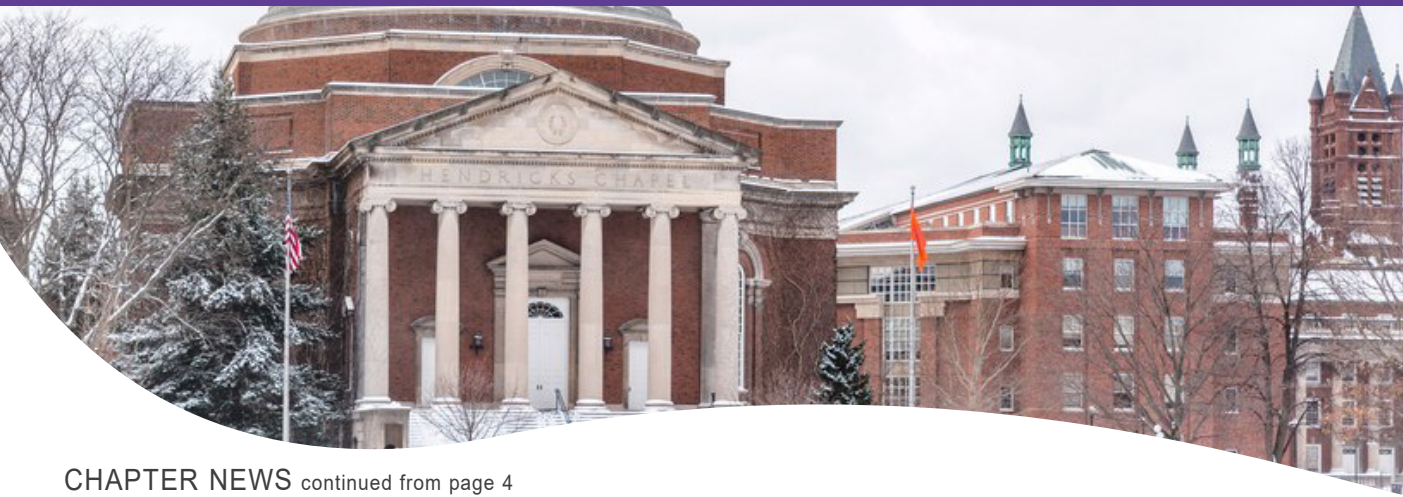
Elizabeth D. Liddy Assistance Fund

Following much discussion over the previous year, the Chapter has addressed the subject of providing emergency financial aid to struggling -- but otherwise qualified -- LIS grad students. In honor of, and with the assistance of the recently retired Dean of the iSchool, they created the Elizabeth D. Liddy Assistance Fund. Unlike their other funds, which are endowments managed by the University, this fund is self-funded by Chapter members. It is meant to be used as one-time assistance to cover smaller emergencies that LIS students may be facing that ultimately would result in withdrawal from the program, or possibly in refusing BPM membership. The Chapter membership has already contributed enough to provide for such an emergency.

Theta Chapter at Pratt Institute Annual Meeting and Initiation Ceremony

This year's Theta chapter initiation was held on May 16, 2019 at Pratt Manhattan Campus (PMC). Anthony Cocciolo, Dean of the School of Information, gave an update on what will be going on at Pratt Manhattan in the coming year. Especially exciting is the upcoming redesign and construction at PMC.

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Coral Salomón, a Beta Phi Mu member, was the featured speaker at the 2019 Initiation. Coral is the Digital Strategies Librarian at the University of Pennsylvania, where she implements and manages all aspects of Penn Libraries' first web archiving program, while also initiating and maintaining collaborative professional relationships and establishing training programs. Coral, who is from Puerto Rico, spoke about how heartened she was by all the volunteering efforts by many Philadelphia organizations, residents and students to help people on the island in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria by collecting emergency supplies and assisting hurricane evacuees who fled to the City of Brotherly Love.

Mount Sinai Services/Queen Hospital Center; and Sheryl Ramer, Director of Hospital Library, Elmhurst Hospital Center, Mount Sinai Services.

Beta Epsilon Chapter at Emporia State University **Annual Business Meeting and New Member Initiation**

Michael Lang, Secretary of the Emporia State University (ESU) Beta Epsilon Chapter of Beta Phi Mu, greeted the School of Library and Information Management (SLIM) faculty members during the opening session of the Faculty's first meeting of the fall 2019 semester.

The Beta Epsilon Chapter held an annual business meeting and initiation at the KLA Conference: Libraries Build Communities: Healthy, Wealthy & Wise October 25. BPM Beta Epsilon is present at state library conferences wherever ESU SLIM is present through conference sessions or sponsorship.

Highlights from last spring include the Graduate Faculty Mentor Award - Congratulations to Dr. Mirah Dow who received a \$1,000 honorarium at the Emporia State University Research and Creativity Day. Vice-President Amanda Harrison of the Emporia State University Beta Epsilon Chapter received the Kansas Association of School Librarians (KASL) AASL National Scholarship to attend the November 2019 Conference in Louisville, KY. Congratulations to Dr. Mirah Dow, recipient of the Beta Phi Mu Award presented last June at ALA, in Washington, DC.



On March 26th Beta Phi Mu Theta Chapter, SLA's Professional Development and Diversity Committee and Pratt SI, held a joint event - Career Stories: Interesting Opportunities for Librarians and Info Pros.

Five speakers shared their career histories and their passion for their current roles: Emily Toder, Processing Archivist at the New York Transit Museum; Stacey Calabrese, Manager of Research Services at the American Association of Advertising Agencies; Brynn White, Archivist at the American Kennel Club; Deborah Goss, Director, Library at

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Treasurer Laura DeBaun introduced the new initiates: Brenna J. Allen, Korey Erickson, and Tyler Johnson and welcomed last year's new members: 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.

Reflecting on Two Years of Teen Leadership and Teen Literature through the LitUp Conference

The Emporia State University Beta Epsilon Chapter of Beta Phi Mu hosted a program at the Kansas Library Conference in Overland Park October 25, 2019. Reflecting on Two Years of Teen Leadership and Teen Literature through the LitUp Conference showcased the creativity that is possible with one teen's passion in the driver's seat. With an amazing lineup of authors, swag bags, poetry slams, and more, LitUp offers the best in teen programming. A panel discussion with event coordinators from the Mid-Continent Public Library was facilitated by Beta Phi Mu. Challenges, successes, and suggestions for fundraising and raising awareness of these types of events were shared. Participants learned about the program and asked questions of Sara Peterson-Davis and Emery Uhlig.

Sara Peterson-Davis is the Special Events Coordinator for Mid-Continent Public Library in Independence, Missouri. Sara oversees and supports more than a dozen large programs and events

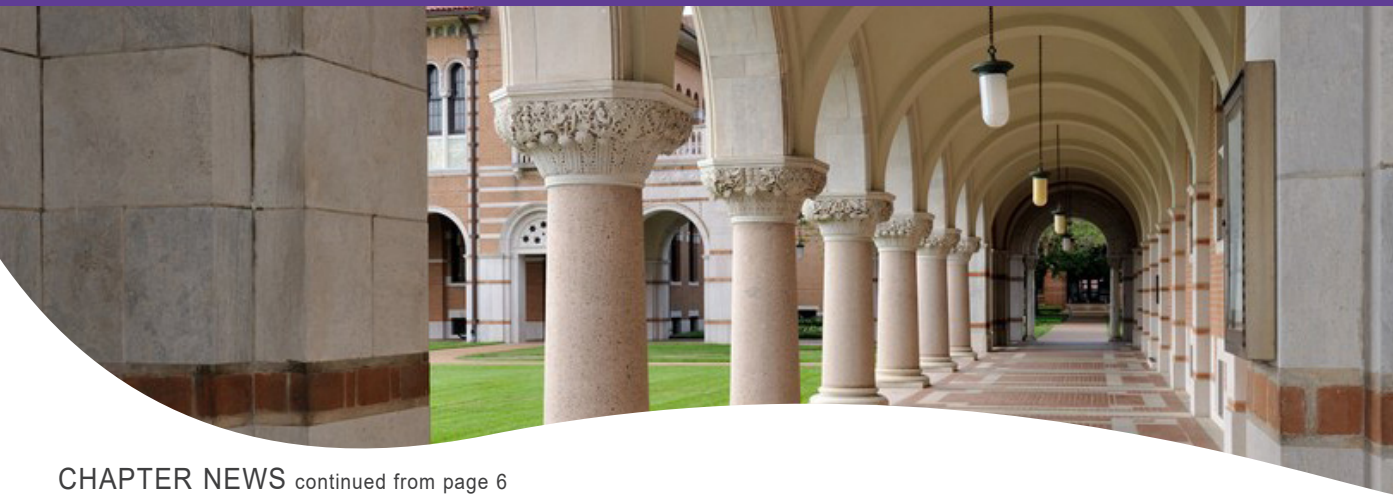
as well as manages traveling displays and exhibits. A relative newcomer to the libraries, Sara has served in various programming roles with MCPL for the last thirteen years.

Emery Uhlig is the founder of LitUp: Books and Art for the Next Generation, a festival designed specifically for and by teenagers. A senior at Shawnee Mission East High School, Emery and her partner, the Mid-Continent Public Library, held the first annual LitUp in May of 2018. In the summer of 2019, Emery interned at the Library of Congress, where she worked on the National Book Festival.



The LitUp Festival was a celebration for Kansas City-area teens with bestselling authors, screenwriters, poets, and illustrators united in conversation. LitUp submissions included: visual art, nonfiction, fiction, and poetry. Events consisted of keynote speakers, author visits, artists presentations, writing workshops, and poetry slams. Button making was also a highlight. Look for future LitUp Festivals in Knoxville, TN; Albuquerque, NM; Fort Myers, FL; Palm Harbor, FL; Des Moines, IA; and Howard County, MD. "Amazing Books & Art for the Next Generation!"

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Alpha Chapter at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Annual Meeting and Initiation Ceremony

The Alpha Chapter of Beta Phi Mu celebrated its annual meeting and initiation ceremony on Saturday, November 9, 2019 at the School of Information Sciences. The event was livestreamed and recorded. Eighteen graduates were inducted into Beta Phi Mu. Six were able to attend and sign the Great Roll in person: Marcus A. Berry (MS '18), Tomi Itzel J. Jihan (MS '19), Alaine C. Martaus (PhD '19), Rachel M. Stewart (MS '18), Lisa M. Watkins (MS '19), and Steven W. Witt (PhD '18). Among the attendees at the meeting was Barbara Slanker, who became a member of Alpha Chapter sixty years ago in 1959.

Other business included: a report of chapter finances and progress on updating chapter archives; announcement of the recipients of two awards supported by Alpha Chapter: Sharon K. Han (MS '19) as the Anne M. Boyd Award recipient and Halle Burns (MS '19) as the Kathryn Luther and William T Henderson Award recipient; approval of proposed revisions to the Alpha Chapter bylaws; and election of Sharon Comstock (PhD '12) 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 Dr. Rachel Magee, Assistant Professor in the School of Information Sciences, whose presentation was entitled "Youth, Social Media, and Everyday Life Technology Use: Opportunities and Considerations." She shared her research on the best ways to connect teens to the original research process and incor-

porate youth perspectives into research about teen technology practices.



New initiates joined by Alpha Chapter 2018-2019 officers: Linda Smith, Secretary/Treasurer; Emily Knox, Faculty Advisor; Christine Cahill, President; and (4th from right) Paul Healey, Vice President/President-Elect.

Lambda Chapter at University of Central Oklahoma

Spring 2019 Initiation

On March 14th, 2019, the Lambda Chapter of Beta Phi Mu held their spring initiation and business meeting at the Embassy Suites Hotel and Conference Center in Norman, Oklahoma. The chapter was lucky enough to get BPM President Dr. Cecelia Brown as a speaker. Dr. Brown gave a motivating speech on Excellence through Diversity in which she referenced Dr. Lotsee Patterson, a well-known colleague, and her many achievements with tribal libraries. Dr. Brown pointed out that excellence "can start small but grow really big. It can be totally doable with your scholastic ability and unquantifiable leadership potential."

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The Lambda Chapter initiated 18 new members: Jayanna Greenwood, Samantha Free, David Gilley, Adrian Fisher, Lynda Siavashpour, Elizabeth Szkirpan, James Dodd, Marianne Myers, Vona Bowling, Emily Wolfgeher, Cassandra Darling, Gail Currier, Evelyn Cox-Steib, Vivian Feng, Katherine LeFevre, Daniel Pool, Kyndra Valencia, and Brynn Simons. The Lambda Chapter is excited to see how these librarians pursue excellence in their respective areas.

Two new board members were also welcomed: Lisa Halderman (Secretary) and Elizabeth Jones (Vice President). Lisa is the Library Director for the Northeast Campus Library at Tulsa Community College. Elizabeth is the Director of Library Technology

& Data Management for the Max Chambers Library at the University of Central Oklahoma. While it is always exciting to welcome new members, the chapter also sadly says farewell to those exiting the board: Andy Taylor (Past President) and Garnet Nowell (Secretary). Their hard work and dedication to the chapter is greatly appreciated.

Psi Chapter at University of Missouri

We gratefully thank Dr. Heather Moulaison Sandy for serving as Faculty Advisor of the Psi Chapter from 2014-2019, and welcome Dr. Sarah Buchanan to the role in 2020.

In Memorium

Remembering Alice Bonvenuto



Alice McMahon Bonvenuto was born in Stamford, CT. She passed into eternal rest on October 2, 2019. Alice is survived by Angelo, her loving husband of 40 years & brothers, Thom (Mary Grace), of Hamden & Brian of San Francisco. She was predeceased by her

brother, James (Anita) of the U.K. She is survived by nephews Dennis (Mari Beth) of Stamford, Robert (Cathy) of Trumbull, her nieces Susan (Frank) DiPaola of North Haven & Shannon Connor of West Haven. Alice is also survived by her grandnephews Frank DiPaola, Shane McMahon, Collin McMahon, & grandnieces Katielynn Bevino & Arianna DiPaola.

Alice graduated from Stamford High School & St. Bonaventure University. She earned a Masters

in Theatre History from UCONN & an Associates degree from the American Academy of Dramatic Arts. Alice also received a Masters in Library Science from Long Island University & was a member of Beta Phi Mu Honor Society. Early in her career, she was an Adoption Case worker in Baltimore MD & Stamford, CT. Alice was a Librarian at the Greenwich Library for the last 34 years. Alice was an Award Winning Actress in Community Theatre at the Country Players of Brookfield & Square 1 Theater, along with many others.



New in 2020 - BPM Chapter Assessments

On December 6, 1983, Blanche Woolls, the Executive Secretary of Beta Phi Mu at the time, sent a memo to all chapters clarifying a request for donations. She wrote that: “most honorary associations such as ours who have no continuing dues structure are finding it increasingly more difficult to ‘make ends meet.’” In response, the Advisory Council requested a \$50 donation from all chapters in order to maintain the society’s programs. At some point over the years, this request for donations ended.

Thirty-six years later, the society finds itself again in a similar financial position. Our current financial model of a one-time, national-level lifetime membership fee does not provide sufficient funds for supporting our programs. In order to continue our offerings, including our national scholarships, it is necessary to have a continuous income stream. In light of this, during the June business meeting, the general assembly voted to implement a \$125 assessment fee per chapter beginning in the fiscal year starting January 1, 2020. This assessment matches the rate of inflation since the \$50 donation was requested in 1983.

The Executive Committee recognizes that this is a shift in the national society’s relationship to local chapters. In order for chapters to adjust to this change, payment is not expected until September 1, 2020. Chapters can expect an invoice for the assessment in January.

If you have any questions, please contact Emily Knox, Vice-President, at knox@illinois.edu / 217-300-0212 or Alison Lewis, Executive Director, exectuivedirector@betaphimu.org / 267-361-5018.



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!

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