



The Pipeline

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

Beta Phi Mu Executive Board

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From the President

Vicki Gregory, Ph.D.

Most students in MLIS programs are working, and many are married and have family responsibilities and/or elderly parents who need their daily help. Maintaining a high grade-point average (GPA) requires an even higher level of commitment and dedication under these circumstances. Our honor society therefore recognizes and honors for their academic achievements those many who must go “over and beyond” in their academic efforts every day. We are very proud of the achievements against the odds that our members have accomplished and their recognition should prove useful to them in their careers.



Why should I join Beta Phi Mu?

1. To enhance your resume.

Although a high GPA can speak for itself, joining an honor society can boost your resume even further. Since service is one of the criteria for membership in Beta Phi Mu, in addition to the minimum 3.75 GPA, employers who are looking for job applicants who have shown extracurricular involvement, may see membership in Beta Phi Mu as an indicator of a service orientation, which may help bolster your employment appeal. Getting involved with the Society after joining is another way to display a commitment of service to the LIS profession.

2. To celebrate your accomplishments

When you have put forth the time and effort to earn a high GPA, why not ensure recognition of your accomplishments by becoming a member of Beta Phi Mu? Receiving your honor society acceptance letter and membership certificate can be a rewarding and memorable experience in itself that you can fondly remember for years to come. So, if you've been invited to join Beta Phi Mu, I encourage you to give us a try and get involved. (The membership fee of \$85 is a one-time payment; how many lifetime investments like that are on offer these days?)

3. To network with leaders in the profession

Leaders in our field tend to be members of Beta Phi Mu and often serve as board members and officers of the honor society. We also have a business meeting and member reception at ALA Annual each year and all members are invited. Become a part of this group by joining and then being willing to serve on committees or assume a role of leadership on the Board.

4. To make new friends and acquaintances

Joining any organization new to you provides a great opportunity for meeting new people, but joining an LIS honor society allows you to meet other dedicated LIS graduates who likely share your professional goals and outlook. Not only can honor societies help you form friendships, but they can also introduce you to people who can motivate you to perform at your best in all of your professional endeavors and be a valuable asset when looking for a mentor or help in a job search.

5. To enjoy member benefits

In exchange for the lifetime membership fee, Beta Phi Mu offers exclusive benefits to their members such as the opportunity to apply for a continuing education scholarship and a fellowship for international research; discounts on our Scholars Series books; and other publishing and service opportunities.

I know from experience that people starting out in their careers these days are not always "joiners" to the same extent as earlier generations. It can be difficult to encourage new graduates to join an honor society as it is one more expense at a time when they may not have started their new professional job or may not have even secured employment. But in the long run, membership in Beta Phi Mu is important to their careers. Let us work on getting more of the students who qualify for membership to join and get involved.



YOU are Beta Phi Mu

Monica Rudzinski and Public Library Service

Monica Rudzinski is the Branch Manager of Sterling Library, a branch of the Cleveland Public Library system. This branch serves one of the most impoverished neighborhoods in Cleveland; it was the focus of an article in the Cleveland Plain Dealer [<http://www.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2017/09/sterling-library-gives-children-food-for-mind-body-and-soul.html>] last year concerning their outreach and support services for children. Monica is a 2009 graduate of Kent State University and has been serving as the Sterling branch manager for the past five years. She was one of the inaugural recipients of the Frank B. Sessa Scholarships for Continuing Professional Education of Beta Phi Mu Members and has also taken the time to volunteer on Beta Phi Mu's Scholarship Committee. Get to know more about Monica and her work!



What motivated you to pursue LIS as a career?

Barbara Mates, Will Reed IV and the extraordinary people at the Library for the Blind and Physically Handicapped in Cleveland (now the Ohio Library for the Blind and Physically Disabled). With a total staff of 15, LBPH served the 55 counties of northern Ohio and circulated 750,000 items per year. The staff provided training to use adaptive technologies which help people with disabilities and seniors live independently. Barb and Will set high standards for service and the staff exceeded them on a daily basis. More importantly, they did it with joy and humor. Can you tell my time at LBPH was one of the happiest work experiences? Additionally, I did my practicum at LBPH: A Study of the Availability of Adaptive Technologies in Public Libraries in Ohio.

Why did you choose to accept your nomination to Beta Phi Mu?

I was so surprised and honored to receive the nomination. I encourage everyone who is nominated to join Beta Phi Mu.

What's your philosophy of library service and how do you put that into action in your current position?

I don't know that it's a philosophy but rather how I approach my work: The Sterling Branch is 105 years old and an institution in the neighborhood. The most important thing I can do is listen: to our patrons, our community partners, our local arts organizations. And welcome new ideas and opportunities while respecting the traditions of the past. Sterling has been serving the needs of patrons since 1915. Our archive has photos from the 1915 summer reading club taken by the children's librarian. It's 2018 and we are getting ready for another summer of reading. I found a photo of the Society for the Blind Book Club from 1952 which met at the Sterling Branch. Though it doesn't meet at Sterling now, the book club is still in existence.

I think we are doing something right at Sterling. A ten-year-old patron was talking about the library being 105 years old. He said, “the outside is raggedy but the inside is awesome.” That is a tribute to the staff who every day make Sterling an awesome place for our patrons.

How does the work you do relate to Beta Phi Mu values of scholarship, leadership, and service?

Directly. I encourage every member of the Sterling staff to take advantage of professional development opportunities. I’m planning a series of events for the Sterling branch staff: “Beyond CPL: a staff networking initiative.” Sterling staff will attend The City Club of Cleveland’s forums and luncheons as my guests. Forum topics are of regional and national interest. The luncheons provide staff with networking opportunities.

The largest program we have at Sterling is the Kids Café and Summer Lunch program through the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. We serve lunch Monday through Friday year ‘round with a short break between the start and end of the school year. While demand is greater in the summer we serve an average of 40 meals a day.

It seems like you have a very demanding job. How do you find the time to volunteer for Beta Phi Mu?

This year I volunteered to serve on the Beta Phi Mu scholarship committee as a judge. Since everything is done online it is easy to schedule the time.

What do you see for the future of the LIS profession?

As we all know, there are so many facets of the profession and so many bright and forward-thinking students in schools now. As long as we listen, welcome new ideas and meet the needs of our patrons we will be here in 2118.



Sterling Library Branch of the Cleveland Public Library System

From the Executive Director

Alison M. Lewis, Ph.D.

Today's political, social, and technological climate continues to pose challenges to the profession of library and information science—and by extension, to Beta Phi Mu as well. It's more important than ever to communicate the value of what libraries, and librarians, do for the communities they serve. It's more important than ever to encourage promising college graduates and career-changers to enter the profession. And it's more important than ever to support librarians in their careers and in the day-to-day work that they do.

This edition of *The Pipeline* features a profile of one of our members in the "YOU are Beta Phi Mu" column. Monica Rudzinski typifies the dedication that so many librarians feel, both to the people they serve and to the profession itself. Like many public librarians, she goes "above and beyond" in serving the members of her Cleveland, OH community. Her work at her branch has been recognized in the local press, providing some excellent PR for librarianship and our continued relevancy.

We need to share, and to celebrate, more of the stories of the important work that our members do. Let's hear from you! We welcome short news and updates from our members (promotions, awards, life events) and also encourage volunteers and suggestions for members to profile for "YOU are Beta Phi Mu." Tell us how you, or that special BPM member you know, are facing the challenges and dealing with the opportunities of librarianship in the 21st century.

***Bibliothekarios philax mathesis —
"Librarians are the guardians
of knowledge."***



Polls Are Still Open

Be sure to vote in the 2018 Beta Phi Mu election by May 31st. We'll be electing a new Vice President/President Elect for our organization, as well as a new director-at-large. There are also two by-laws changes on the ballot, one concerning the percentage of eligible candidates who may be nominated for membership from a LIS program, and one concerning a proposed new Professional Membership category. See the "Voting" page in the Members area of our website.

News of Members

Current Past President Linda Smith has been recognized as one of the "150 for 150: Celebrating the Accomplishments of Women at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign." <https://gec150.web.illinois.edu/1970s/linda-c-smith/>

Juan Rivera, a 2016 initiate of the Pi Lambda Sigma Chapter at Syracuse University, was selected as a 2018 ALA Emerging Leader. His application was supported by the American Association of School Librarians (AASL). <http://www.ala.org/news/member-news/2017/12/new-class-2018-emerging-leaders-announced>

We'd love to hear from you! Send information about your news and accomplishments to headquarters@betaphimu.org.

First Round of NEW Sessa Scholarships Awarded

Congratulations to the first five recipients of the newly re-vamped **Frank B. Sessa Scholarships for Continuing Professional Education of Beta Phi Mu Members**. The winners of the March drawing are: Alexa Hirsch Lalejini (Pi Lambda Sigma Chapter, Syracuse University); Adriene Galindo (Beta Beta Chapter, Simmons College); Kristin Hall (Beta Beta Xi Chapter, St. Catherine University); James Clark (Beta Phi Chapter, University of South Florida); and Monica Rudzinski (At-Large, Kent State University). They each receive \$150 toward the expenses associated with a professional continuing education opportunity of their choice.

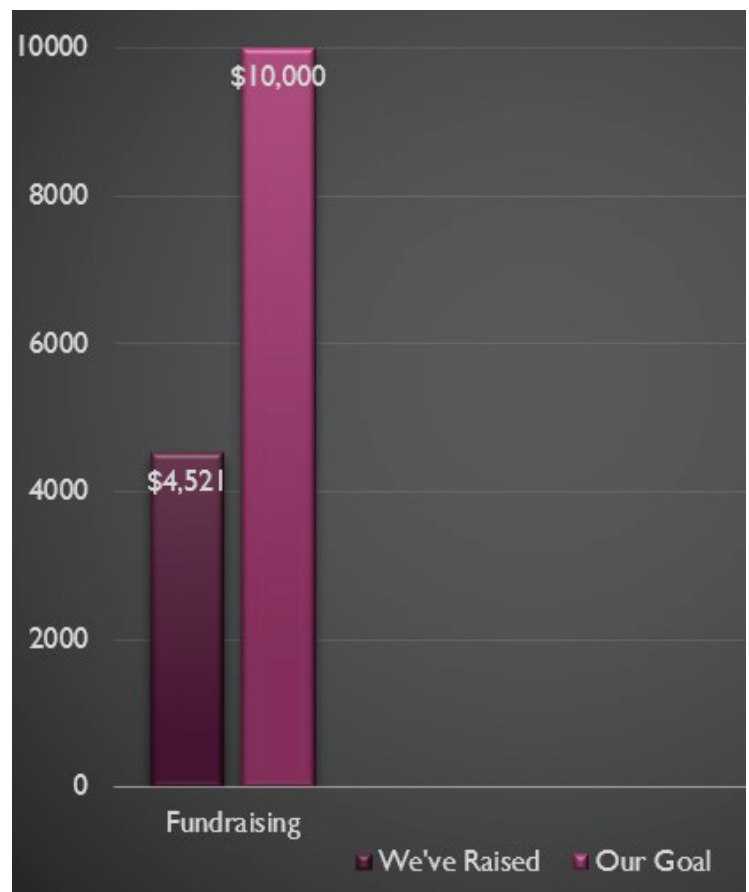
The first cohort of winners have already chosen to take advantage of continuing education opportunities such as: an SAA workshop on digital records, a workshop on National School Library Standards, and an education workshop on working with children of incarcerated parents. All recipients have up to a year to take advantage of these funds. Many thanks to **Library Juice Academy** for underwriting the Sessa scholarships!

Beta Phi Mu members who have registered for the lottery but did not win in March are still eligible for the September drawing. Beta Phi Mu members who haven't yet registered may do so any time between now and August 31st. Please do not register more than once as multiple submissions will result in disqualification. These scholarships are not based on need and are not competitive. They are a benefit of Beta Phi Mu membership and are awarded by lottery. For more information and a link to the registration form, see: <https://www.betaphimu.org/sessa.html>

Beta Phi Mu Annual Fund Update

We are pleased to announce that we have raised almost 50% of our fundraising goal of \$10,000 for the year! As of press time, we have received donations totaling \$4,521. Much thanks to our members, supporters, and board members who have been so generous and helped us to get almost to the half-way point!

Your help is still needed! Please help ensure that Beta Phi Mu remains a viable component of the LIS profession, and that we can continue to provide the scholarships, awards, and services we are known for. Consider making a contribution today: <https://www.betaphimu.org/donations.html>



Beta Phi Mu Chapter News



Current Officers: Andy Taylor (President, Melissa Kunz (Vice-President/President-elect), Garnet Nowell (Secretary), and Jerrie Hall (Treasurer-not pictured).

2018-2019 Officers: Melissa Kunz (President), Melissa Kash (Vice-President/President-elect), Garnet Nowell (Secretary), and Lyssa Prince (Treasurer)

New Members: Catherine Dean, Sarah Fox, Robin Miller, Dr. Stacy Schrank, Sonja Settle, Alyssa Vaughn, and Rhonda Holt
Speaker: Professor Emeritus Sr. Lotsee Patterson, University of Oklahoma - Retired

Lambda Chapter at the University of Oklahoma

This has been a great year for the Lambda Chapter of Beta Phi Mu at the University of Oklahoma. We have been working hard to increase active participation from our current members, and in an effort to do this, we have started our first BPM-Lambda Chapter Facebook page. Our page can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/lambdabetaphimu/>. Since the page went live a few months ago, more and more members are interacting through our social media channel.

We were also extremely excited to have had a total of 17 new individuals recommended for initiation and membership by the OU-SLIS faculty. Of these 17 people, 10 accepted membership into the organization, and 7 were recently initiated at our Annual Meeting at the Oklahoma Library Association Conference held in Tulsa, OK on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. We were also very fortunate to have Professor Emeritus Dr. Lotsee Patterson as the guest speaker at our 2018 Annual Meeting. Dr. Patterson is the founding member of the Native American Library Association.

The new officers will start their positions on June 1, 2018, and we are looking forward to another great year! We would also like to extend a sincere and heart-felt thank you to our amazing faculty advisor, Dr. Betsy Martens, for all of her hard work and support!

Sigma Chapter at Drexel University

The Sigma Chapter Initiation Ceremony will be held on: June 14, 2018 - 1:00 to 3 PM
Initiation Ceremony at 1:30
Drexel University's W.W. Hagerty Library
Mary Hagerty Learning Lab – Room L33
3300 Market St. Philadelphia, PA 19104

Virtual attendance will also be available via Zoom: please join the Zoom room at 1:25 p.m.
<https://DrexelIRT.zoom.us/j/7806222416>

Please RSVP via Eventbrite: <https://bpmsigma2018initiation.eventbrite.com>

All Sigma Chapter members and CCI faculty are welcome to attend.
Questions can be directed to sigmabetaphimu@gmail.com

Beta Delta Chapter at SUNY Buffalo

The following 2017 graduates were inducted into the Beta Delta Chapter of Beta Phi Mu in January 2018: Roxanne Lee Kehr, Asia Kolakowski, Melissa Sue Laidman, Kim Harris Myers, and Ashley M. Senske.

Congratulations to all!

Beta Phi Chapter at the University of South Florida

The Beta Phi Chapter held an initiation on May 4, 2018.



VickiJohn Gathegi, Jung-Won Yoon, Angela Switzer, Karen Garcia, Vicki Gregory, Kiersten Cox

Dr. Clara M. Chu Wins 2018 Beta Phi Mu Award

Dr. Clara M. Chu, Mortenson Distinguished Professor and director of the Mortenson Center for International Library Programs at the University of Illinois Library at Urbana-Champaign, and an affiliated faculty at The iSchool of Illinois, has been selected as the 2018 recipient of the American Library Association's Beta Phi Mu Award. This award is given in recognition of the achievement of a library school faculty member or another individual for distinguished service to education for librarianship. This annual award consists of \$1,000 and a citation of achievement. It will be presented on Sunday, June 24, 2018 at ALA Annual.

Dr. Chu holds a bachelor's degree from University of British Columbia and master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Western Ontario. Prior to her current position at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she was a Professor and Department Chair of the Library and Information Studies Department at University of North Carolina—Greensboro. Her previous position was as Associate Professor at the University of California at Los Angeles, Department of Library and Information Studies.



She has received the Achievement in Library Diversity Research honor, served as co-chair on the Diversity Recruitment and Mentoring Committee at UCLA, and was recipient of the 2002 ALA Equality Award. Her leadership role of principle investigator for Program PRAXIS, A Pre-Doctoral and Recruitment Program for Tomorrows Culturally Diverse Information Studies, informed the development of the Academic and Cultural Enrichment (ACE) Scholars program at UNCG to increase cultural diversity in UNCG's program and in the library and information field as a whole. Both of these projects were funded by the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Dr. Chu was the winner of the 2015 Distinguished Service Award from the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), the association's highest honor. She is serving as the American Library Association's (ALA) representative to the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO. In this capacity, she advocates for "the transformational role of libraries and ensuring information access for all, in strategic alignment with UNESCO priorities." She is active in many professional organizations, including CALA, ALA, Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALSIE), International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) and others. In addition, she has been honored nationally and internationally with multiple awards that mark her commitment to excellence in the profession.

Dr. Chu's impressive multilingual contributions to the field include her extensive publication record of articles, over 40 refereed articles and book chapters, as well as her co-authored book, *Educating the Profession: 40 years of the IFLA Section on Education and Training*. She is a highly sought-after speaker, as well as an active consultant. Dr. Chu has successfully led at least sixty grants, many of them contribute to her interests in diversity and multiculturalism.

For more information, see the full ALA press release at: <http://www.ala.org/news/press-releases/2018/05/dr-clara-m-chu-wins-beta-phi-mu-award>

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

Connect with us on:
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BPM at ALA Annual 2018 in New Orleans

Join us at our Beta Phi Mu events taking place in conjunction with the American Library Association Annual Conference in New Orleans, LA. Be sure to pick up a badge ribbon near registration, to identify yourself as a Beta Phi Mu member.

Beta Phi Mu's Annual Business Meeting and Member Reception will take place on Saturday, June 23, 2018 from 4:00-6:00pm at the Le Meridien, Esplanade Ballroom 1 (#16 on the ALA hotel chart). In addition to conducting Honor Society business and providing networking opportunities, an initiation of new members will be held, as well as a special celebration of our 70th Anniversary. There will be special recognition of past Beta Phi Mu Award winners and past Beta Phi Mu Presidents. Dr. Em Claire Knowles of Simmons College will be the featured speaker. Please rvsp to headquarters@betaphimu.org if you plan to attend. Please also let us know if you wish to be initiated or if you will be representing your chapter.

The **Beta Phi Mu Award**, which recognizes distinguished service to education for librarianship, will be presented to Dr. Clara Chu on Sunday, June 24, 2018 at the Awards Ceremony, 3:00-3:30pm New Orleans Theatre B at the Morial Convention Center.

We hope to see you in New Orleans!



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

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!

