

FALL
WINTER
2021
2022



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

The Pipeline

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Beta Phi Mu Executive Board

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Tom Rink, MLIS
President

Adrienne Teague, MLIS
Vice President/President-Elect

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Past President

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Mirah J. Dow, Ph.D.

Jack Fisher, MSLS

Kimberly M. Gay, MLS

Elizabeth Jones, Ph.D.

Directors-At-Large

Lisa Hussey, Ph.D.

Camille McCutcheon, MLIS

From the President

Dear Beta Phi Mu members,

The Greek philosopher Heraclitus is credited with saying that "change is the only constant in life." This in turn caused me to remember a book title about change by Mac Anderson and Tom Feltenstein: *Change is Good, You Go First*. Yes, change is hard, and not always fun, but the alternative (i.e., to keep doing the same thing, yet expecting a different result) is Einstein's definition of insanity. Your board has been working very hard to "go first" as we deal with the challenges and changes affecting Beta Phi Mu.

Several steps have already been taken to ameliorate our unsustainable financial model: we suspended the Society-supported scholarships; we instituted a chapter assessment fee; we moved away from a paid Executive Director toward a working board model with a paid part-time administrative assistant; and lastly, we initiated a national annual membership fee, passed in the bylaws vote last summer. Our hope is that these changes will help us improve our revenues and cash-flow moving forward.

To further explain the working board model, our former Executive Director, Alison Lewis, created a monthly timeline of tasks for the year, provided detailed documentation of the various functional areas, and created a detailed list of the working board job descriptions for the following posi-

tions: administrative assistant, President, Vice President, Past President, Treasurer, Membership Chair, Chapter Outreach Chair, Communications Chair, Scholarship Chair, Fundraising Chair, and Program Chair. We have a couple of board members assigned to each of these functional areas and the model seems to be working just fine, all in part to Alison's training coupled with our hiring of a knowledgeable part-time administrative assistant.

We hired Romina Rodons in the summer to serve as our part-time administrative assistant and she has hit the ground running. Romina also works for Alpha Phi Sigma, the Criminal Justice Honor Society. Her knowledge and understanding of honor societies and how they operate is a godsend to us during this transition to the working board model.



Since the annual membership fee is the newest strategy we've implemented (effective July 2021, for new members; January 1, 2022, for existing members), allow me to reiterate what

President Knox wrote last spring:

"The national annual membership fee is \$35 USD and a one-year active membership is included in the national initiation fee of \$100 USD for US members or \$115 USD for non-US members. Members must pay the annual fee to vote, hold office, and receive access to member benefits."

The national annual membership fee is separate from any local chapter fees.

Additionally, we are looking into establishing some form of “legacy” society or endowment for funding our scholarships. We are still working on fleshing out the details of this legacy society and will certainly push all of the information out to the membership once it is finalized, but in short, we are hoping to further bolster our fundraising efforts by offering the opportunity to include Beta Phi Mu in your estate plans through a planned gift whether that be a will or trust, a retirement plan or life insurance beneficiary designation, or

a gift of royalties.

So yes, a lot of change, but we are moving forward. I hope to “see” you virtually during the LibLearnX this January or hopefully in-person at ALA Annual in DC, Summer 2022.

Take care,
Tom Rink, MLIS, FSLA
President of Beta Phi Mu

FRANK B. SESSA SCHOLARSHIPS

for Continuing
Professional Education
of Beta Phi Mu Members

Lottery registration for 2022 Sessa Scholarships will soon be open. Beta Phi Mu members may register once between January 1, 2022 and August 31, 2022.

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.](#)



2021 Scholarship & Award Winners

Frank B. Sessa Scholarships for Continuing Professional Education of Beta Phi Mu Members (\$150 each)

Lori Bello, Rutgers School of Communication & Information, Omicron Chapter
Araceli Hintermeister, Simmons University, Beta Beta Chapter
Ariel Barnes, Simmons University, Beta Beta Chapter
Regina Pagani, Simmons University, Beta Beta Chapter
Heather Healy, Emporia State University, Beta Epsilon Chapter

Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (\$3,000 each)

Stephen Abrams, Queensland University of Technology/San José State University
“A Communicological Critique of Evaluative Norms for Digital Preservation Success”
Elizabeth Campbell, Drexel University
“A Framework for Measuring and Mitigating Bias in Electronic Health Record Data: A Case Study in Childhood Obesity Incident”
Yi-Yun Cheng, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
“Agreeing to Disagree: Applying a Logic Based Approach to Reconciling and Merging Multiple Taxonomies”
Julaine Clunis, Kent State University
“Semantic Analysis Mapping Framework for Clinical Coding Schemes”
Lo Lee, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
“Exploring Information Behavior of Hobbyists and the Making Process of Arts and Crafts”
Rongqian Ma, University of Pittsburgh
“Bridging Sight and Insight: Visualization in Action among Digital Humanists”

Congratulations to all of the 2021 Beta Phi Mu Scholarship and Award winners! Much thanks to Camille McCutcheon, Chair of the BPM Scholarship Committee, and all committee members for their work in reviewing the many applications for these awards.

The 2022 Beta Phi Mu scholarship application season is open as of November 15, 2021. For more information visit: betaphimu.org/scholarships



Invite a Colleague to Become a Beta Phi Mu Member

Those of us honored by membership in Beta Phi Mu can now encourage a professional colleague to apply for membership. Have them look into the new **Professional Membership**.

For whatever reason, many graduating from library school didn't get invited or didn't join BPM after receiving an invitation. Many of these potential members have gone on to fascinating careers in the library field and could easily qualify for membership under the new Professional category. Contributions to the library field such as publishing, providing innovative service approaches, and attaining leadership positions at the state and national level are just a few examples of activities that would qualify a person for membership in addition to an excellent academic record.

The online application is on the BPM website in the Procedures Section and links to the Online Professional Membership Application. You just need a transcript indicating your GPA, current CV or resume, a brief statement noting contributions to the library field, and contact information for two individuals who would provide a recommendation. More details concerning requirements and necessary application information are available at betaphimu.org/membership.html.

As a BPM board member who has reviewed several recent applications for professional membership, I can say that those applicants certainly exemplified the scholarship, leadership, and service values of Beta Phi Mu. Help your honor society to expand its impact by talking to colleagues about BPM and joining a great organization.

2021 Election Results

Beta Phi Mu Honor Society is pleased to announce the results of the 2021 elections for new board members and officers.

Tom Rink, MLIS (Lambda Chapter) is the new President. **Dr. Emily Knox** (Alpha Chapter) moves to the role of Past President. We also welcome our new Vice-President/President-Elect **Adrienne Teague, MLIS** (Pi Lambda Sigma Chapter).

Dr. Lisa Hussey (Beta Beta Chapter) joins us as a new Director-At-Large. **Kimberly M. Gay, MLIS** (Beta Lambda Chapter) and **Dr. Elizabeth Jones** (Lambda Chapter) have been newly elected as directors.

They join our continuing board members: **Dr. Vicki Gregory**, Treasurer (Beta Phi Chapter), **Camille McCutcheon, MLIS**, Director-At-Large (Beta Omega Chapter), **Dr. Mirah Dow**, Director (Beta Epsilon Chapter), and **Jack Fisher, MSLS**, Director (Beta Beta Omicron Chapter).

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



YOU are Beta Phi Mu

Introducing:

Marilyn Swanson, MSLS

Marilyn Swanson served as the Secretary-Treasurer for the Beta Beta Theta Chapter at The University of Iowa. Marilyn has a long history of library work, both in the US and Europe, and she is now semi-retired.

In 1967 I graduated from North Park College (now University) with a BA in music. I would like to have become an arts administrator, but that was men's work in my generation. A classmate said that her mother was best friends with the Personnel Director of the Chicago Public Library (CPL), and I should apply for a job there. I laughed and said that would be impossible because I was never quiet! Nevertheless, I went for an interview and was offered a position in the History Department. I declined and said they should let me know when there was an opening in the Music Department. I got a call halfway through the summer that a Library Assistant position had become available in music. By September I was a member of the staff at CPL, and I loved my job. Working with professional musicians, music teachers, and everyone else in the city who loved to come to the library to borrow books, scores, and LPs to learn and enjoy music was thrilling for me.

Then along came a new librarian with a master's degree who earned half my salary and had upward mobility within the library system. I scoured college catalogues for a library school where I could specialize in music. Case Western Reserve University (which no longer has a library school) in Cleveland, OH offered a program in which I could write all my reports and take all my tests with a music emphasis. After graduation I spent a summer as a librarian at National Music Camp, Interlochen, MI, and then returned to Chicago. Eventually, I was able to return to CPL as the librarian who ordered music scores for the department.

My husband's goal was to become a full-time opera singer. When he was offered a full-tuition scholarship to the International Opera Studio in Zurich, Switzerland in 1975, we packed our suitcases and ten boxes of music scores and flew there. I had been promised a position in the opera house library. The trouble was, the librarian spoke only Swiss German, and I spoke no German. Later, I met the librarian at the music conservatory who wanted to hire me to catalog a collection of LPs of music by Swiss composers. I had a student visa, however, and was not allowed to work. Mrs. Thew went right down to City Hall and explained that I was an "opportunity hire," because at that time, there was no library school in Switzerland. I was given a limited work permit.

Two years later, we moved to Germany and started a family. I had my hands full, but I also learned about that country's system for family leave. When a new baby is born, one of the parents is allowed to take leave of absence from their job for three years. When the time is up, the job is there for them. I was able to fill in for the Director of the public library part-time and for a cataloger from the university library for as long as they stayed home with their children.

Since I had been a member of Beta Phi Mu since 1972, I was invited to become a charter member of the Beta Beta Delta Chapter which would serve European libraries and librarians. Installation of the Chapter took place at the 1983 conference of the International Federation of Library Associations (IFLA) in Munich. Meetings took place during the annual conference of the German Library Association in various cities throughout Germany. Expanding the membership was a challenge for the German librarians because public librarians and academic librarians went through different educational processes. It was impossible to select new members based on grade point average when they attended different types of schools and had different professional designations. I was Treasurer of the Chapter for a year before my husband and I decided to move back to the US.

In 1994, we moved to Iowa City. I checked the Beta Phi Mu directory and, sure enough, there was a chapter at The University of Iowa. In fact, the Secretary-Treasurer of the Beta Beta Theta Chapter, Ethel Bloesch, was married to a professor who would be a colleague of my husband. When Ethel retired, she asked me to take over the Secretary-Treasurer position for the Iowa Chapter of Beta Phi Mu. I was delighted to be able to be actively involved in my profession, and it gave me an opportunity to get to know a wide variety of Iowa librarians. After 17 years of leadership with Beta Phi Mu in Iowa, I turned over all the boxes, file folders, and binders to Heidi Lauritzen.

My library skills are not lost in my semi-retired status, however, as I continue to select "clerical" mysteries as a co-facilitator for my church's book club. I also continue to select music and write program notes for thematic faculty recitals my husband presents at the university.



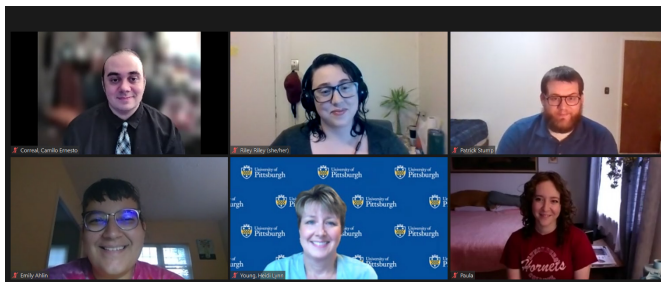
Chapter News

Pi Chapter at University of Pittsburgh

Pi Chapter Inducts Eight New Members

The Pi Chapter at the University of Pittsburgh is pleased to induct 8 new members. On October 8, 2021 the following joined the Pi Chapter: Emily Ahlin, Camilo Correal, Brianna Facciani, Elson Kwon, Riley Riley, Patrick Stump, Paula Wiley, and Heidi Young.

Under the leadership of faculty member Dr. Marcia Rapchak and Program Administrator Debbie Day, the Pi Chapter has elected officers and will be planning for spring activities beginning in January. The Chapter will also be reaching out to current members to update contact information. If any members of the Chapter would like to be contacted regarding activities, please send an email to Treasurer, Barb Zaborowski at bza-bor@pennhighlands.edu.



Beta Epsilon Chapter at Emporia State University

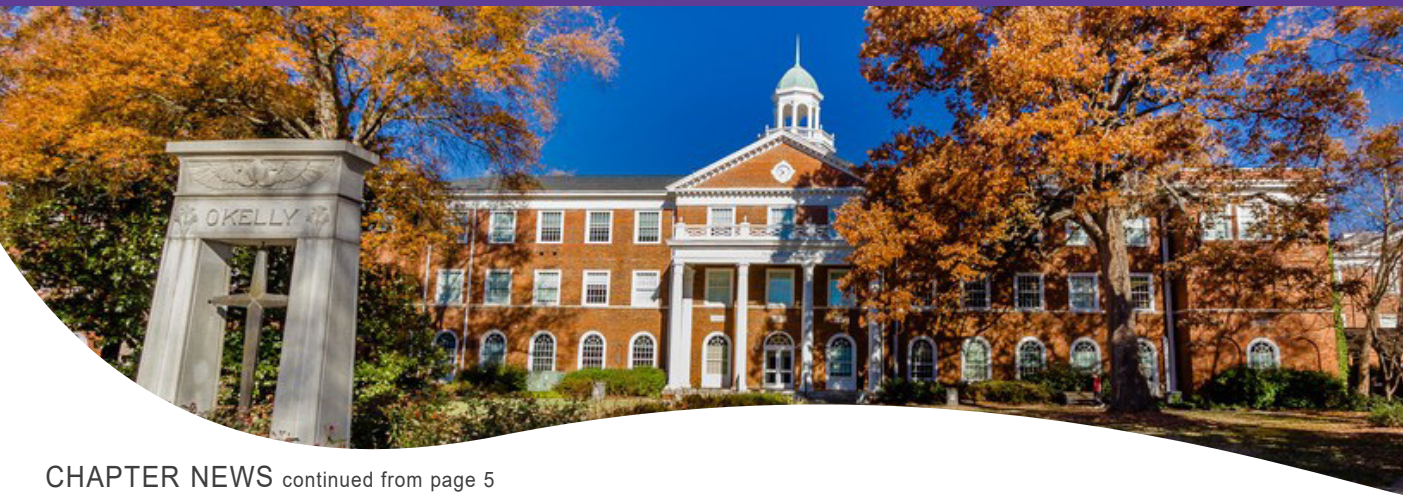
Annual Business Meeting and Initiation

The Emporia State University Beta Epsilon Chapter held its annual business meeting and new member initiation on October 29th, 2021 at the Kansas Library Association (KLA) annual conference in Wichita, Kansas. During a virtual and in-person initiation ceremony, ten MLS and Ph.D. members were inducted and welcomed to BPM.

Michael Lang, who ended his term as Chapter Secretary, was praised and thanked for his excellent service. Autumn Friedli (ESU MLS 2016) was welcomed as the new Beta Epsilon Chapter Secretary. Autumn is the Readers Services Supervisor at Topeka & Shawnee County Public Library in Topeka, KS, where she oversees reading for adults and participates in the library's podcast, *The Bookmark*.

Carmaine Ternes, Past President of the Beta Epsilon Chapter, reported on Chapter members' work on the 2021 *Kansas Beats the Virus* campaign, a statewide project in collaboration with Kansas Association of School Librarians and the Kansas Leadership Center. This project was organized and conducted in four steps: Voicing the Value of the Vaccine Vaccination Victory, Reading is the Gateway to Success!, and Knowledge is Power.

Following the Chapter business meeting, the Beta Epsilon Chapter hosted a well-attended, in-person and online KLA program. The invited guest presenter was Dr. Brendan Fay, Associate Professor of Library and Information Science in the School of Library and Information Management, ESU. Dr. Fay presented, *Whispers in the Library: Conspiracy Theories and Professional Values in the Misinformation Age*. Dr. Fay is a historian and past-academic librarians whose research areas include academic libraries, early modern and modern European History, Weimar and Nazi Germany, misinformation and conspiracy theories, and information in closed societies. Dr. Fay is the author of *Classical Music in Weimar Germany: Culture and Politics before the Third Reich* (2019, London: Bloomsbury).



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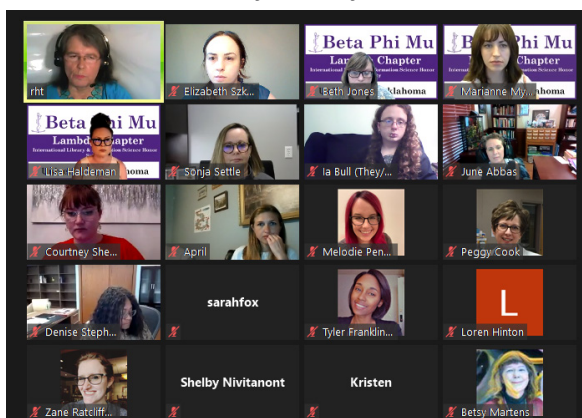
The ESU Beta Epsilon Chapter remains committed to libraries, librarians, and information professionals through promoting the values of scholarship, leadership, and service in the library and information science field.

Lambda Chapter at University of Oklahoma Lambda Chapter Welcomes New Initiates and Board Members

On July 28, 2021, 27 members attended the Lambda Chapter's initiation and business meeting via Zoom. Dr. Rhonda Taylor was the speaker at the event and spoke on *Self-Education for Understanding Diversity*. Dr. Taylor relayed to attendees that when they leave behind the learning environment and academic requirements of a degree, they should create a Professional Development Plan, and this plan should include goals to develop a better understanding of diversity. Dr. Taylor stressed that "preparation for this profession has emphasized the necessity not only for your service clientele, but for you to commit to lifelong learning." She offered four strategies to help fulfill the diversity goal within a professional development plan: 1) Become very familiar with the support provided by your professional organizations; 2) Every day, the news' broad coverage of issues presents vocabulary and topics related to diversity, and those terms and topics should be ticklers; 3) Enrich your own leisure reading and information seeking by adding diversity; 4) Connect person to person. Dr. Taylor went on to say, "Understanding diversity is not some sort of add-on to this profession—it is fundamental to this profession. So start out admitting that you will make mistakes, that there will be setbacks and challenges, that you will be uncomfortable at times, but commit to continue."

The Lambda Chapter welcomed the following new members from the Class of 2021: Kady Bernhardt,

Caitlin Cundiff, Tyler Franklin, April Harden-Akbas, Loren Hinton, Ia Bull, Shelby Nivitanont, Zane Ratcliffe, Jonathan Self, Courtney Shelley, and Jamie Walt.



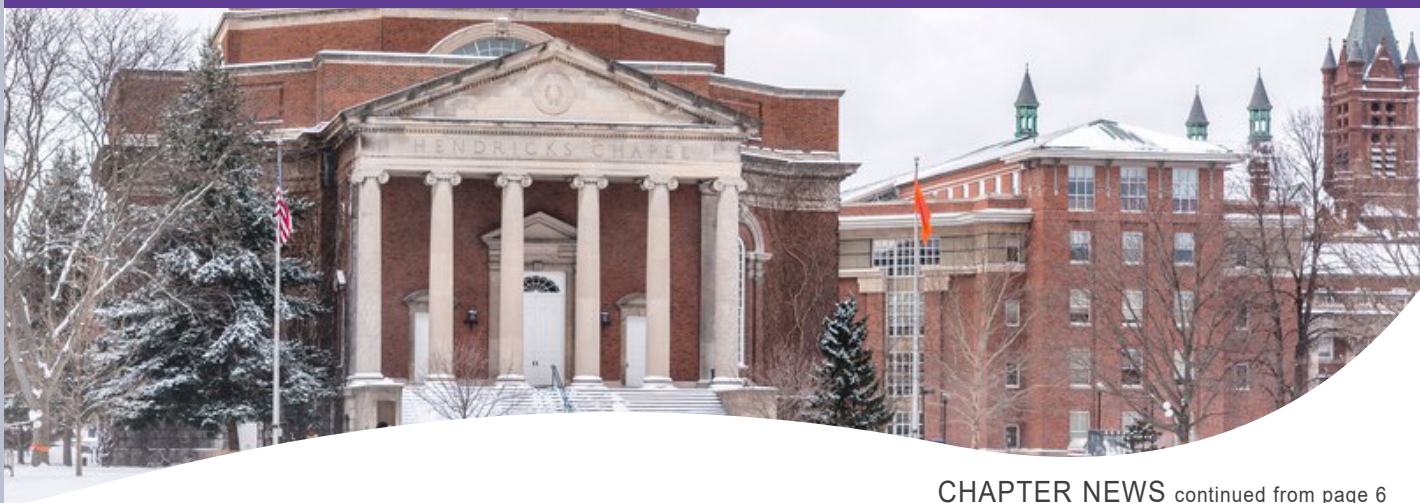
Two new board members were also welcomed: Melodie Pennington (Vice President/President Elect) and Sonja Settle (Secretary). Melodie is a Library Media Specialist at Jenks East Intermediate School. Sonja is a Librarian at the OSU College of Osteopathic Medicine at the Cherokee Nation. While it is always exciting to welcome new board members, we also sadly say farewell to Lisa Haldeman (Secretary), who will be exiting the board. Beth Jones will remain on the board as Past President. The contributions by Lisa and Beth to the chapter, such as a diversity scholarship and mentoring program, are much appreciated.

Pi Lambda Sigma Chapter at Syracuse University

Fall 2021 Greetings from Pi Lambda Sigma

Once again, our May 2021 Annual Initiation, which would have been the 118th annual meeting of Pi Lambda Sigma and 62nd as a BPM Chapter, was cancelled while Syracuse University was still dealing with the pandemic. Regardless, the Executive Board met via Zoom and has plans to contact each qualified 2020 and 2021 candidate with invitations to join the 2022

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in-person Graduation Weekend. Being partially closed also placed awards on hold from our scholarship and loans programs.

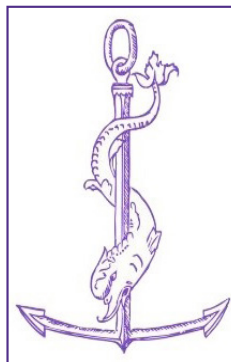
Our Executive Board are as follows: Carole Kupelian, President; Nicole Westerdahl, Past President; Ellen Owens, VP as needed; Hannah Nast, Recording Secretary; Susan Slenker, Corresponding Secretary; Valarie Massulik, Scholarship Chair; Christine Demetros, Membership Chair. At-Large Board Members are Amy Slutzky and Robert Weiner. 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, who works overtime keeping track of opportunities to help students.

In April 2021 we mourned the untimely passing of Barbara Settel, the retired Alumni Affairs Director and past staff advisor to Pi Lambda Sigma Chapter. Barb was a huge part of our Chapter's growth in the 1970s, 80s, and 90s as the Dean's assistant. She knew every student and made many connections for the Board.

As mentioned in the Initiation Ritual, it is from the ranks of BPM members that the future leaders of our profession will come. We at Pi Lambda Sigma demonstrate this especially through the many local members who work at the University. Each Fall, we commemorate Remembrance Week, when the University honors the 35 students killed on Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland in December, 1988. This was the first mass-casualty terrorist attack and led to our modern

travel protocols. Pi Lambda Sigma member Vanessa St.Oegger-Menn, Assistant Archivist of this collection, plays an integral part every year in organizing the displays and arranging the immersion in this event for the Remembrance Scholars and the University community as a whole. Vanessa recently presented her work to the Society of American Archivists' annual conference. Though her work, these 35 people come alive again.

Psi Chapter at University of Missouri Psi Chapter Welcomes Three Classes of New Members



Since our last update in the Fall 2019 Issue, the Psi Chapter has welcomed three classes of new members. We held a pandemic-delayed virtual induction ceremony for the 2018 and 2019 classes on December 16, 2020, and we inducted the 2020 class on May 5, 2021. Thank you to Karen Robinson, iSchool faculty, for an inspiring 2020 keynote and to Felicity Dykas, Head of Digital Services and Chapter Secretary/Treasurer, for her words at the 2021 ceremony - and congratulations to both colleagues on their recent retirements. Congratulations to our 14, 12, and 26 new members, respectively! We look forward to your contributions.

**Do you have Chapter News
to share? Email us at
betaphimunews@gmail.com
to be included in the next
issue of *The Pipeline*!**

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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