

FALL  
WINTER  
2020  
2021



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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Camille McCutcheon, MLIS

## From the President

Dear Beta Phi Mu Members,

This has been quite a year. I was looking forward to meeting many of you in Chicago this summer but, as with so many other events, we ended up “meeting” via Zoom. I know that this has been a very difficult time and I would like to thank you for your support of the honor society. Like many other institutions, Beta Phi Mu is at a crossroads. What does it mean to be an honor society in the 21st century? How can we respond to the needs of the field and profession?

One of the society’s most pressing issues concerns our finances. Our current financial model is simply not sustainable. Here’s a quick overview of the structural problem: When someone becomes a member of the honor society, they pay a one-time membership fee. This means that the society does not have a regular, sustained source of financial support. We recently instituted a modest chapter assessment fee, but this will still not be enough to keep the society going into the future.

Our financial shortfall has led to administrative changes. We will soon transfer much of the work of running BPM to the board. This “working board” model is necessary as we can no longer afford the services of a paid executive director. Alison Lewis, the board, and I are exploring other options for day-to-day administration of BPM and will report when we have a solution.

Although this is a rather bleak column, I believe that Beta Phi Mu will continue to give back to the



field of Library and Information Science for years to come. We will make it through these difficult times and continue to recognize “the scholastic achievement and leadership potential of LIS graduates, and foster the values of scholarship, leadership, and service in its members.” It is imperative that we do so as it is our members’ scholarship, leadership, and service that will help us through this time of misinformation and societal upheaval. It is our members, for example, who will work toward solutions for providing reliable information for vaccines and broadband access for all.

Through its support of students and scholarship, BPM ensures that a new generation of professionals has the tools they need to confront issues in their communities.

Please join me in contributing to the work of the society by donating if you are able, and I hope to see you in Chicago in Summer 2021.

Stay safe,  
Emily J.M. Knox, Ph.D.  
*President*



# YOU are Beta Phi Mu

## Introducing: Jo-Ann Wong

Jo-Ann Wong is a member the Theta Chapter of Beta Phi Mu. Jo-Ann currently works as a General Librarian at Queens Public Library.

### **Tell us a bit about yourself.**

I'm from, and currently work in, New York City. Growing up, libraries and art museums were always my favorite places to be. Besides reading, I love to try creative tasks, whether it's painting, crocheting, or any other endeavors. I also love watching films at movie theatres and attending concerts. When I'm at home, some of my go-to reads are Jane Austen, V. E. Schwab, graphic novels, and poetry. During this time of staying indoors, I've started indoor gardening and learning family recipes.

### **What has your career path been like?**

I'm currently working as a General Librarian at Queens Public Library, Hunters Point Branch. Prior, I had been working as a Librarian at the Chancellor Robert R Livingston Masonic Library. I received my MLIS from Pratt Institute, with a certificate in Archives. During my studies, I had a number of wonderful learning opportunities that included working as a page at the Lionel Pincus and Princess Firyal Map Division, a cataloging intern at Gagosian Gallery, and a volunteer intern at ARChive of Contemporary Music.

I was drawn to librarianship's core tenet of building relationships and engaging with our community. Despite the different types of institutions that I have worked in, one of the overarching aspects that kept appearing was the library's ability to create impactful and meaningful moments for our patrons. Being able to

create positive experiences for our patrons – whether through our resources, materials, programs, or ability to provide access – is an opportunity to encourage growth in our patrons, our communities, and in ourselves. To me, this is a wonderful goal to strive for, and what ultimately drew me to the profession.

### **How did you get involved with Beta Phi Mu?**

I was invited to join Beta Phi Mu through the Theta Chapter at Pratt Institute. This honor society is important, as it provides a forum for members to converse, network, and discuss new and upcoming trends within the field.

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

I believe that librarianship will continue to remain vital in our society. With the rise in fake news and clickbait, libraries are given a platform to inform and educate against misinformation. As centers of the community, we strive to provide safe spaces and positive engagement between community members. Especially with many of our communities experiencing crisis during COVID-19, libraries continue to be increasingly important in these two aspects. With many libraries transitioning to the virtual world, I do believe that virtual resources and programs will be here to stay, for the long-term. As such, knowing and learning various technologies and media platforms have become imperative tools for library staff.



## 2020 Scholarship & Award Winners

Each year, Beta Phi Mu provides multiple scholarships and awards for study and research related to Library and Information Science, in addition to administering the Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships.

### **Sarah Rebecca Reed Scholarship** (\$2,250)

*Tobias Paul*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

### **Blanche E. Woolls Scholarship for School Library Media Service** (\$2,250)

*Nicole Pereversoff*, University of Western Ontario

### **Harold Lancour Scholarship for Foreign Study** (\$1,750)

*Erin Eldermire*, Head of the Flower-Sprecher Veterinary Library, Cornell University Library

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

*Heather Arrington*, Wayne State, At-Large

*Laurie Fuentes*, Texas Woman's University, Beta Lambda Chapter

*Sarah Cruz Mendoza*, University of South Florida, Beta Phi Chapter

*Sara Quashnie*, University of Illinois, Alpha Chapter

*Katy Sternberger*, Simmons University, Beta Beta Chapter

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

*Houda El mimouni*, Drexel University

"Robotic Telepresence in the Classroom and Values"

*Jiangu He*, Drexel University

"Predictive and Visual Analytics of Scientific Development"

*Wenqing Lu*, Simmons University

"Using Social Media Tools for Collaborative Learning: An Mixed-Method Study on Academic Group Work by Worldwide iSchool Students"

*Lassana Magassa*, University of Washington

"I am Not Computer Savy": A Look into the Everyday Digital Literacy Level of Formerly Incarcerated People Using a Novel Holistic Digital Literacy Framework"

*Martin Nord*, University of Western Ontario

"Documents and the Positioning of the Moral Self: The United Church of Canada's Reconciliation Documents"

*Bonnie Tulloch*, University of British Columbia

"Do the Ends Justify the Memes? Exploring the Relationship between Youth, Internet Memes, and Digital Citizenship"

Congratulations to all of the 2020 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 2021 Beta Phi Mu scholarship application season is open as of November 15, 2020. For more information visit: [betaphimu.org/scholarships](http://betaphimu.org/scholarships)

## FRANK B. SESSA SCHOLARSHIPS

for Continuing Professional Education of Beta Phi Mu Members

Lottery registration for 2021 Sessa Scholarships will soon be open. Beta Phi Mu members may register once between January 1, 2021 and August 31, 2021.

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.](#)

# PARTNERS IN TEACHING AND LEARNING

COORDINATING A  
SUCCESSFUL ACADEMIC  
LIBRARY INSTRUCTION PROGRAM

## New Scholar Series Title

*Partners in Teaching and Learning: Coordinating a Successful Academic  
Library Instruction Program*

by Melissa Mallon

ISBNs: 978-1-5381-1883-2 (Hardback); 978-1-5381-1884-9 (Paperback); 978-1-5381-1885-6 (ebook)

Instruction coordinators & directors in academic libraries may have a variety of titles and wear an entire wardrobe's worth of hats, but we face many of the same challenges in developing, promoting, and evaluating our instruction programs.

Please use [this link](#) to view additional details about this book.

## 2020 Election Results

**Beta Phi Mu Honor Society is pleased to announce the results of the 2020 elections for new board members and officers.**

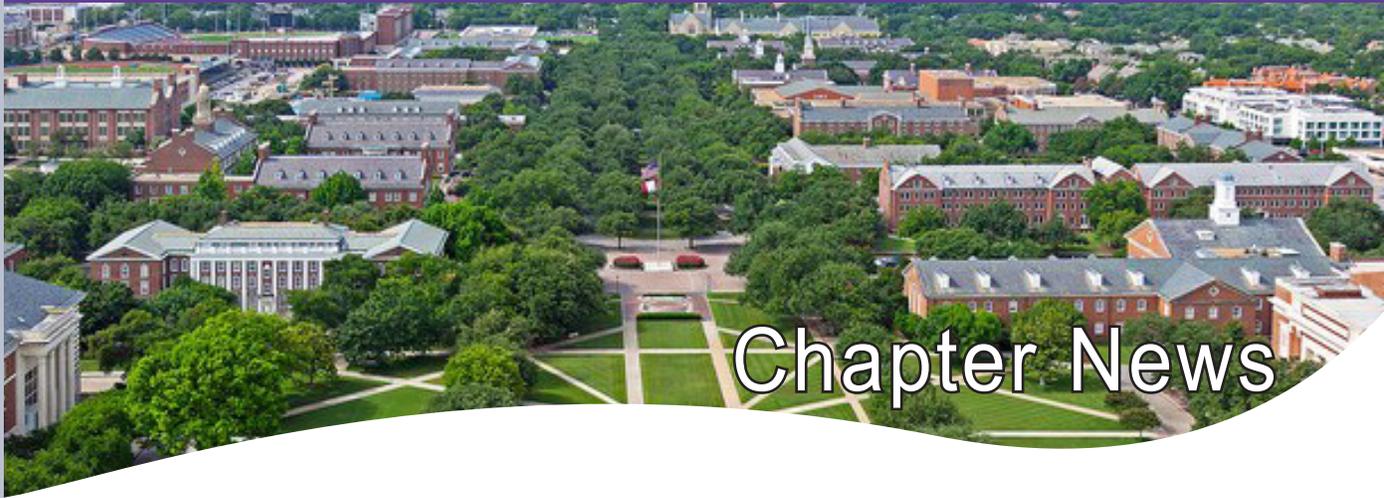
**Dr. Emily Knox** (Alpha Chapter) is the new President. **Dr. Cecelia Brown** (Lambda Chapter) moves to the role of Past President. We also welcome our new Vice-President/President-Elect **Tom Rink** (Lambda Chapter) and Treasurer **Dr. Vicki Gregory** (Beta Phi Chapter).

**Camille McCutcheon** (Beta Omega Chapter) has been elected to a second term as Director-At-Large. **Dr. Mirah Dow** (Beta Epsilon Chapter) and **Jack Fisher**

(Beta Beta Omicron Chapter) have been newly elected as directors.

They join our continuing board members: **Michelle Demeter**, Director-At-Large (Gamma Chapter), **Dr. Gordon N. Baker**, Director (Beta Beta Mu Chapter), and **Dr. Laura Saunders**, Director (Beta Beta Chapter).

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



# Chapter News

## Lambda Chapter at The University of Oklahoma Spring 2020 Initiation

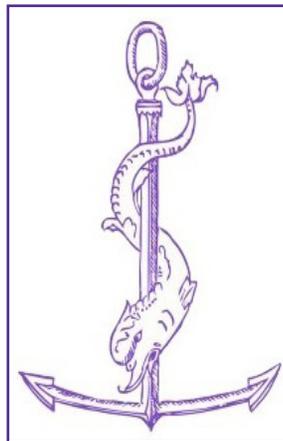
On July 27th, 2020, 29 members virtually attended the Lambda Chapter's spring initiation and business meeting via Zoom. Dr. June Lester was the speaker at the event and spoke on the elements and merits of "Accidental Librarianship." Dr. Lester had not intended to have a career in Librarianship. However, she gave three pieces of advice on getting an accidental career: 1) take advantage of good opportunities, 2) mind other people's business by learning what they do and why they do it, and 3) be adventurous in your career by taking chances to grow, learn, and meet challenges you did not expect to face.

The Lambda Chapter initiated 19 new members to the organization: Peter Addison, Tracy Ashby, Jodena Brown, Hailey Carroll, Shannon Craycraft, Sarah Davis, Sheryl Lynn Hamilton, Laura Haygood, Jessica Humphrey, Haley Hurt, Brittany Muirhead, Sarah Munguia, Melodie Pennington, Sammie Robertson, Chloe Summers, Kelly Walvoord, Elizabeth Wasson, Tiffany Wood, and Jamie York. The Lambda Chapter is excited to welcome these new librarians and see what "accidental" career moves they make! Two new board members were also welcomed: Marianne Myers (Treasurer) and Elizabeth Szkirpan (Vice President). Marianne is a Reference and Instruction Librarian for the Northeast Campus Library at Tulsa Community College. Elizabeth is the Director of Bibliographic Services for the McFarlin Library at the University of Tulsa. While it is always exciting to welcome newbies, we also sadly say farewell to those exiting the board: Mellisa Kash (Past President) and Lyssa Prince

(Treasurer). Their contributions to the chapter such as creating a new website and setting up PayPal (respectively) are much appreciated and they will be missed!

## Pi Chapter at University of Pittsburg Pi Chapter Inducts 13 New Members

After a several year hiatus, the Pi Chapter at the University of Pittsburgh is back and pleased to induct 13 new members. On October 6, the following joined the Pi Chapter: Alexandra Beddall, Kahila Charr-Perez, Flynn Collins, Elizabeth Foster, Jacob Griffith-Rosenberger, Chelsea Gunn, Evan Hrobak, Tessa Ludin, Jaimi Miller, Julie Mozelewski, Daniel Przybylak, Heidi Reis, and Deanna Webb.



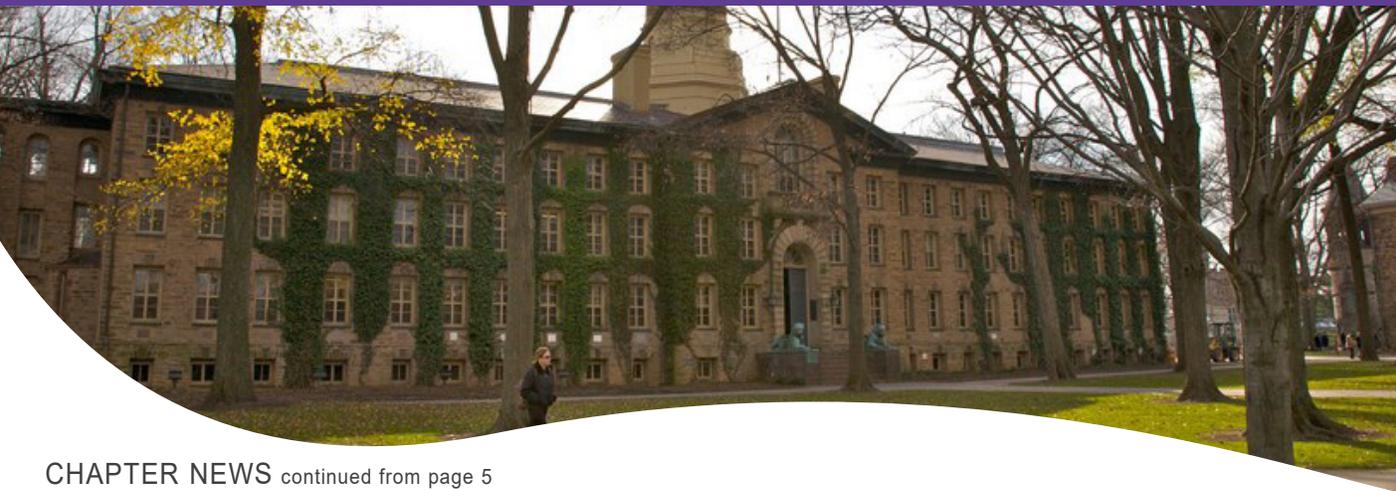
Under the leadership of faculty member Dr. Marcia Rapchak and program administrator Debbie Day, the Pi Chapter has elected officers and will be planning for spring activities beginning in January. The Chapter will also be reaching out to current members to update contact information. If any members of the Chapter would like to be contacted regarding activities,

please send an email to Treasurer Barb Zaborowski at [bzabor@pennhighlands.edu](mailto:bzabor@pennhighlands.edu).

## Epsilon Chapter at UNC-Chapel Hill Recognizing BPM Member Caitlin Kennedy

The Epsilon Chapter would like to acknowledge Beta Phi Mu inductee Caitlin Kennedy. Caitlin is the winner of the Achievement Award from UNC-Chapel Hill School of Information and Library Science. This award is bestowed on the person with the highest GPA in their cohort. Caitlin received the highest possible final grade in all of her classes. Congratulations Caitlin!

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## Alpha Chapter at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

### Annual Meeting and Initiation Ceremony

The Alpha Chapter celebrated its annual meeting and initiation ceremony on Saturday, November 7, 2020, convening via Zoom. 42 graduates were initiated into Beta Phi Mu, including 17 who joined us in person from across the United States: Amy C. Brokaw, Raegan Leigh Carter, Ben B. Chiewphasa, Tina A. Cowser, Marilyn G. Creswell, Catherine Moon Dudley, Linden Daniel Galloway, Monica Kate Tucker Hoh, Thom M. Jencks, J. Nicole Miller, Shubhanshu Mishra, Kathryn R. O’Conaill, Chrissy L. O’Grady, Kayla Lee Ann Phillips, Patty A. Templeton, Ryan Wang, and Amanda J. Weber. More than 30 alumni also joined via Zoom from as far away as Boston and San Francisco. Following the initiation, attendees heard a presentation by Diane Foote, Executive Director of the Illinois Library Association (ILA) and Alpha Chapter member, who gave an inspiring talk reflecting on the relevance of the Beta Phi Mu motto *Aliis inserviando consumor* (“consumed in the service of others”) in the context of the current pandemic.



Alpha Chapter officers participating in the meeting included President Paul Healy, Vice President/

President-Elect Sharon Comstock, Past President Christine Cahill, Secretary/Treasurer Linda C. Smith, and Alpha Chapter Faculty Advisor Emily Knox. The meeting that followed the initiation ceremony included topics such as a report of chapter finances, announcement of the recipients of two awards supported by the Alpha Chapter: Ben B. Chiewphasa as the Anne M. Boyd Award recipient and Monica Hoh and Jimi Jones as the Kathryn Luther and William T Henderson Award recipients, approval of proposed revisions to the Alpha Chapter bylaws to allow undergraduates to be invited for membership, and election of Pia Hunter as incoming Vice President/President-Elect.

At the conclusion of the meeting, all new initiates were invited to join the Alpha Chapter officers for a group photo in Zoom. Given the success of this first virtual annual meeting and initiation ceremony, Alpha Chapter officers anticipate incorporating more opportunities for virtual participation in future meetings.

## Beta Epsilon Chapter at Emporia State University

### Chapter Meeting, Initiation, and Program

The Beta Epsilon Chapter at Emporia State University held its annual meeting during the 2020 Kansas Library Association (KLA) Big Think: Innovation, Inspiration, Impact Conference. Congratulations to new initiate Sara Schoenthaler! Due to Laura DeBaun’s retirement, former President Jan Brooks, the Interlibrary Loan Librarian and Instructor from Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, was nominated and will serve as Treasurer. Her leadership, commitment to the profession, and her dedication the Beta Epsilon Chapter website and social media platforms are impressive. Praise was also extended to Laura from librarians across the state for her efforts spanning

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over 20 years in the management and planning of budgets, personnel, strategic planning, legislative advocacy, insight, and leadership.

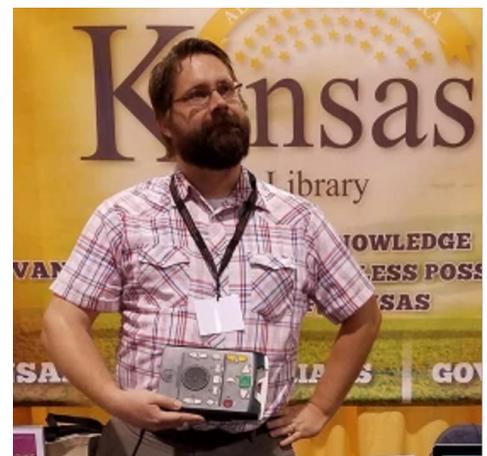
Dr. Amanda Harrison was elected as President. Dr. Harrison is a Library Media Specialist in four McPherson Elementary School Libraries and is known for her endorsements in Library Science, Early-Late Childhood Generalist, Reading, English Language Arts, History, Government, Social Studies, and Journalism. She succeeds immediate past president Carmaine Ternes, author, retired Emporia High School Librarian, former Kansas Association of School Librarians (KASL) president, and a member of the planning committee for the Kansas Summer Institute for School Librarians for ten years.

Tabitha Hogan was nominated and agreed to serve as vice-president. She is a School Library Media & Technology Specialist at Winfield High School. Active in KASL, Tabitha presents at district workshops and state conferences. As a Certified Google Educator and EdPuzzler, she remains current in technology. Her Project Book Lit Club demonstrates her interest in empowering readers as leaders.

Faculty sponsor Dr. Mirah Dow, a professor and director of the Ph.D. program at Emporia State University, School of Library and Information Management provided an update. Dr. Dow accepted a two-year appointment by Kathryn Roots Lewis, American Association of School Librarians (AASL) President, to the AASL School Library Research Editorial Board and is the recent recipient of the Beta Phi Mu Award recognized at 2019 ALA conference! As an advocate at many levels to ensure librarians are deeply involved in teaching and

learning via the Summer Institute for School Librarians and other workshops, Dr. Dow remains a steadfast leader and mentor.

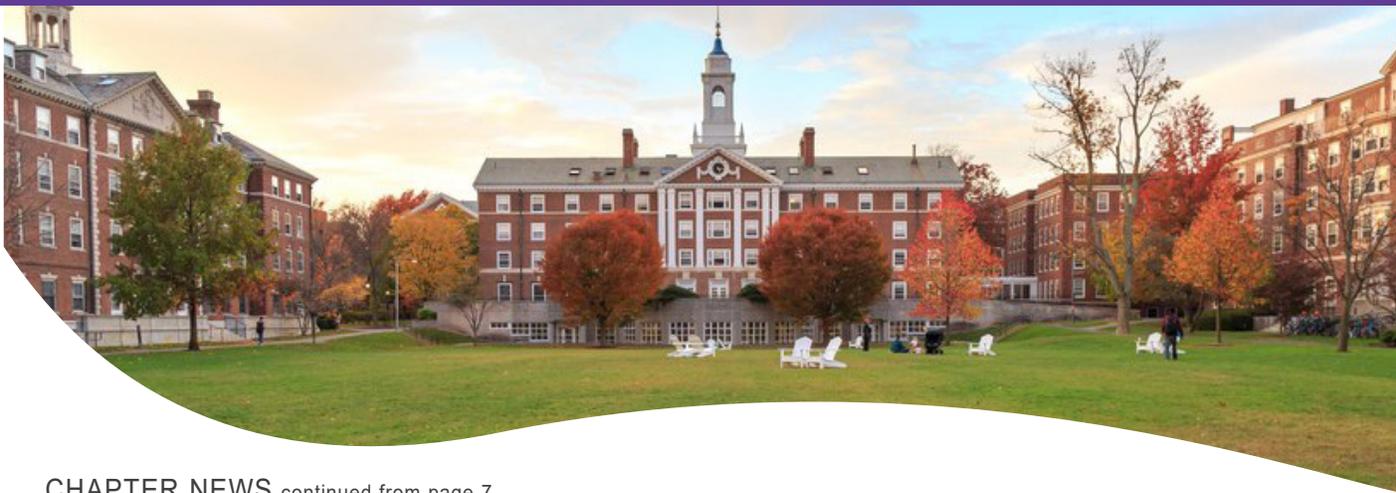
Secretary Michael Lang reported the minutes and presented the program *Celebrating Fifty Years of Kansas Talking Books!* The Director of the State Library of Kansas, Talking Books Service, Lang researched and shared amazing services and experiences. He provided details about this free program providing more than 100,000 accessible audio books and reading materials for Kansans with visual impairments, physical impairments, and other print disabilities.



### **Pi Lambda Sigma Chapter at Syracuse University** **Updates from Pi Lambda Sigma**

Our annual May 2020 Initiation, which would have been the 117th annual meeting of Pi Lambda Sigma and 61st as a BPM Chapter, was cancelled when Syracuse University closed due to the pandemic. Nevertheless, we contacted each qualified candidate and explained the honor society and assured

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them all that we would invite them when the next university graduation ceremony was scheduled.

Some changes to our Executive Board have been made: Carole Kupelian, President; Nicole Westerdahl, Past President; Ellen Owens, Vice President 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, Barbara Wall, 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.

While we normally award a Dosa Scholarship for tuition and one or more VanHoesen Awards for expenses, they are on hold at this time. As noted last year, we had further addressed the subject of providing emergency financial aid to struggling, but otherwise qualified LIS grad students. In honor of, and with the assistance of our recently retired Dean of the iSchool, our Chapter created the Elizabeth D. Liddy Assistance Fund. Unlike our other funds, which are endowments managed by the University, this fund is self-funded by Chapter members with an initial amount contributed by "a grateful alum". 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 possibly in refusing BPM membership. The Chapter membership has already contributed enough to provide for such an emergency. We anticipated opportunities during the pandemic, but so far virtual learning has not resulted in requests.

In spite of it all, the Board met by Zoom in November to touch base, see each other, and set up plans for a potential 20-21 joint initiation. Regards to all the other Chapters and our hope that you are staying active as well.

### **Sigma Chapter at Drexel University Chapter Initiation**

Sigma Chapter welcomed three new members this past September: Stefan A. Buruschkin, Albert Lin, and Daniel R. Zuccarelli.

Congratulations to these recent graduates! The Sigma Chapter Board welcomes you to Beta Phi Mu.

**Do you have chapter news  
to share? Email us at  
[betaphimunews@gmail.com](mailto: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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