Dear Beta Phi Mu Members,

My previous newsletter column ended with the hope that we would see each other in Chicago. I think I was being overly optimistic. Even though lockdowns are ending and many more people in the U.S. are vaccinated, there are still SARS-CoV-2 variants spreading and the effects of traveling are still uncertain. Our annual meeting will be virtual this year and, so as not to interfere with the ALA Annual Conference and the July 4th holiday, will take place on Saturday, July 10, 2021 from 3:30-4:30 PM Central Time via Zoom. I invite all of you to join the meeting with us as we announce the winners of our scholarships, acknowledge new members, and conduct Honor Society business.

My previous column also noted that our Honor Society is at a crossroads and the Executive Board has worked hard this spring to address a series of crises. Earlier this year, each of you received information about a new annual membership fee and I would like to restate some of the reasons for this change in our financial model here. First, the Honor Society has poor cash flow and we were unable to give our Society-supported scholarships this year, including the Rebecca Reed Scholarship for new students in the field. Second, the recently instituted chapter fee brings additional funds but still does not provide enough to cover all of the Society’s expenses. The new annual fee for regular and professional members, approved by the board in April, will ensure that the Society has a continuous, stable income stream in the future. As I noted when we instituted the chapter fee in 2020, 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 for the society to have continuous and varied income streams. 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. If this bylaws change is approved, the annual fee will be implemented for all new members starting this summer. Members who were admitted prior to July 2021 will not receive an invoice for the fee until the new fiscal year begins on January 1, 2022.

Finally, the Society is moving toward a working board model for administration. Although we will have paid administrative assistance, this will be a part-time position and board members will take on regular tasks for running the society. I hope that, with the support we will receive from the new annual fee, we will be able to have a full-time Executive Director in the very near future. Even with more regular income streams, Beta Phi Mu will still depend on donations to support our work. Please join me in donating to the Society and I hope to see you at our annual meeting on July 10.

Stay safe,
Emily J.M. Knox, Ph.D.
President of Beta Phi Mu
Tell us a bit about yourself.
Hi, I’m Gordon Baker! A native Georgian and a much rarer, native Atlantan, I have lived most of my life in the metropolitan Atlanta area in the suburbs of Henry County (McDonough and Stockbridge). My family is from the Savannah area, so I decided to return to my roots with my partner and retired to Savannah, GA in 2018.

I hold Bachelor of Science in Education from Valdosta State University, both a Master and Specialist in Library Service from Clark-Atlanta University and Doctor of Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University.

What has your career path been like?
I have been an elementary school teacher, elementary school librarian, middle school librarian, high school librarian, district-wide coordinator of instructional technology and media services, reference librarian at the junior college level, reference librarian at the state college level, and head of public services and director of libraries at the state university level. In 2010 I was named Dean of University Libraries at Clayton State University in Morrow, GA. I retired in March 2019 with 40 years of service to the University and was granted Emeritus Status. I currently am an adjunct instructor in the MLIS degree program at Valdosta State University.

What drew you to librarianship?
Both of my parents were educators, one of my grandmothers was an educator, and three aunts were also educators. One of these aunts was a director of a regional library system in South Georgia. Early in life she began giving me books, as did my parents. I became a regular user of our public library at an early age.

While pursuing my degree in elementary education, I decided that I wanted to minor in library science. I thought I would give teaching five years and then if it was not what I wanted to do, I would become a librarian. After my second year of teaching, I realized that librarianship was my goal. At that time, and even now, I view the library as the largest classroom in the school, regardless of education level.

How did you get involved with Beta Phi Mu?
I became a member of Beta Phi Mu when I received my MLIS from Clark Atlanta University in 1976. I first served on the BPM Board as a member-at-large in 1979-1981. At the time, I was the only K-12 individual on the board. I have now been a member of the board since 2017 and will cycle off this year. I have enjoyed my tenure on the board and hope I will be back in the future.

Beta Phi Mu is so important to the library profession. There are so many professional associations for so many professions, but BPM is it for librarians. It’s great to have the opportunity to chat with our peers on special topics and just to network. BPM is essential to the library profession.

What are your thoughts about the future of librarianship and the need for librarians in society?
Everyone is so concerned about the future of librarianship, but I am not worried about it in the least. Since the library in Ancient Alexandria, individuals have needed repositories of knowledge. Through time these repositories have evolved into what we know as today’s libraries. People talk about the internet replacing the library. Well, the internet is a great storehouse of information, but here again librarians are needed. Our profession has always assisted patrons in locating information. Today, we are using different tools to extract that information. In a way, we are somewhat a combination librarian and cruise director: showing patrons where to find information and to have fun, too!

In your experience, how has the COVID-19 Pandemic impacted libraries?
COVID-19 has been a devastating hit to us the last 16 months. I think it showed the patrons of our libraries how much they rely on the library. So many libraries went to virtual only and had to make lots of accommodations; but they survived, and we still managed to serve our patrons. I hope that the leaders of today’s libraries will step back and reflect on what has happened during the time of COVID and move forward with new ideas on serving our patrons.
ANNUAL BETA PHI MU VIRTUAL RAFFLE!
Saturday, July 10th
3:30pm CDT

A raffle for Beta Phi Mu-related items has been a mainstay of recent Beta Phi Mu Membership Meetings, and we are happy to continue the virtual raffle for a second year! We’ve even added some special book-lover items this year!

Chances may be purchased for $5 each through the online store on our website. Enter to win Beta Phi Mu honor cords, a copy of the BPM Scholars Series title, *Partners in Teaching and Learning* by Melissa N. Mallon, and other fabulous book prizes! Buy as many chances as you’d like to win one of these fine items, and support your honor society!

The drawing for the winners of these prizes will be held during our online membership meeting, which will take place on Saturday, July 10th.

Support BPM – buy a raffle ticket!
betaphimu.org/store/p6/raffle.html

Join us for a Virtual Membership Meeting!

The 2021 Beta Phi Mu Annual Business Meeting will take place online again this year. Please join us via Zoom on **Saturday, July 10, 2021 from 3:30-4:30 PM Central Time**.

We will conduct Honor Society business, announce scholarship winners and election results, and acknowledge new members of our organization. All active chapters should send a representative to this event. Registration in advance is required. Please visit the Events 2021 page for more information and the link to register: www.betaphimu.org/events-2021.html

VOTE! in the 2021 Beta Phi Mu Election

The polls are open! All Beta Phi Mu members are encouraged to participate in the 2021 Election! We’ll be electing a new Vice President/President Elect and three new directors/directors-at-large, as well as approving or rejecting proposed BPM by-laws changes.

Polls will remain open until **Wednesday, June 30th**.

Click here to cast your vote!

betaphimu.org/store/p6/raffle.html
This is the last newsletter edition published during my tenure as Executive Director of Beta Phi Mu, a position I have held since Fall 2012. It is bitter-sweet to be leaving, since it has always been my honor to serve in this capacity.

I still have strong memories of my initiation into Beta Phi Mu as a newly-minted MLS-degree holder from Florida State University. We had real candles lit, and I felt very moved by the initiation ceremony, which underscored the excitement and sense of dedication I felt beginning a career as an information professional. I still have, framed on my wall, my hand-calligraphed membership certificate signed by Blanche Woolls, then the Beta Phi Mu Executive Director. Little did I know at the time that, decades later, I would attempt to fill her shoes.

I will officially retire as Executive Director by the end of August 2021. The Honor Society will move to a new model of governance, with an Administrative Assistant handling day-to-day activities and the board members and officers taking on greater responsibility for the many tasks that are required to keep a small non-profit functioning. As these changes approach, I feel somewhat like a parent whose child is going away to school for the first time. I’m a little worried and apprehensive, hoping that I’ve done enough to prepare the child for launching into this next phase. I’m also proud and excited, waiting to see how the Honor Society grows and changes, and what new initiatives and new ways of doing things emerge in this new environment. I’ll be cheering for you on the sidelines!

As my role as Executive Director draws to a close, I’d like to thank the many people who worked so hard to support our organization and kept things going through sometimes trying times.

Special thanks are due to those who served in Headquarters staff positions: Erin Gabriele, who helped unpack a pallet-load of boxes and set up our first BPM office space; Isabel Gray, a “consummate librarian” whose efficiency and organization skills took our office to the next level and made my life so much easier; and John Parrish, whose support of both BPM and myself has been heroic at times. Much thanks also to all who served as board members and officers through the years—your dedication and willingness to step up and do the work exemplifies the Beta Phi Mu ideal of service. The same can be said for the many BPM members who run the chapters that are the backbone of our organization, have volunteered for committee work, and have served as editors on BPM publishing initiatives and in other appointed positions. We couldn’t have done it without your contributions.

Finally, I’d like to ask all Beta Phi Mu members to keep the BPM ideals of scholarship, leadership, and service in their hearts and minds, and in their actions, as they move forward in their own lives and careers. An honor has been bestowed upon you in recognizing your scholarship and your professional potential when you were invited to join our society. I hope that everyone will also extend their leadership and service capabilities in continuing to support Beta Phi Mu in this next phase of its existence, truly embodying our motto: Alis inserviendo consumor, “Consumed in the service of others.”

- Alison Lewis, Ph.D.
Dr. Marcia Rapchak
2021 Beta Phi Mu Award Winner

Dr. Marcia Rapchak, Teaching Assistant Professor of the School of Computing and Information, University of Pittsburgh, has been selected as the 2021 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, which consists of $1,000 and a citation of achievement, is sponsored by the Beta Phi Mu International Library Science Honor Society.

Rapchak holds a Master of Arts in English from Ohio State University, a Master’s of Science in Library Science for the University of Kentucky, and an Instructional Technology Doctorate in Education from Duquesne University. She has developed an extensive record of scholarship and a lasting impression on her works as a scholar, professor, and colleague. Rapchak took a vision for the future of library science education and began making it a reality through both her redesign of a 1-credit course taught at the Gumberg Library of Duquesne University and in her contribution to redesigning the Masters of Library and Information Science program at the University of Pittsburgh.

Colleagues and students alike are eager to work with her, impressed by her ability to understand classroom pedagogy and translate it to the practice of librarianship. Her students describe her as inspiring. Students in her Critical Librarianship and Information Professionals course appreciated the way she centered diversity and inclusion on creating equity and justice in the practice of librarianship. Noting that “her course moved past the performative activism and problematic celebratory multiculturalism librarianship is often accused of and pushed students to recognize systems of oppression in libraries and other knowledge organizations that disallow marginalized communities from fully benefiting from the services offered by our institutions and organizations.”

She is equally skillful at engaging students outside of the classroom. She encourages them to demonstrate knowledge attainment through active learning experiences and participation in communities of practices that she also participates in. Additionally, students appreciate her course design and describe it as “immersive and experiential.” This level of engagement was especially meaningful during the COVID-19 pandemic when despite the barriers, students still found the course engaging and praised her ability to “check-in.”

Rapchak’s scholarship is also focused on the critical application of library science from both pedagogical and practical experience. Her focus on the adaptability of the ACRL Information Literacy standards for different audiences and formats demonstrates her understanding of the holistic nature of information literacy as a tool and skill. Her scholarship, which includes articles such as “Information Literacy and Adult Learners: Using authentic Assessment to Determine Skill Gaps” and Digital immigrants, Digital Learning: Reaching Adults through Information Literacy Instruction Online,” provide an application of concepts that all teaching librarians can use. Further, she recognizes the limitation of the ACRL Framework as articulated in a recent article, “That Which Cannot Be Named: The Absence of Race in the Framework for Information Literacy for Higher Education.”

The annual award will be presented on Sunday, June 27, 2021 at the American Library Association virtual Annual Conference.
Beta Beta Chapter at Simmons University
Induction Ceremony Held Virtually
In 2020 the Beta Beta Chapter’s induction ceremony was cancelled when our campus shut down in mid-March. We hoped to move it to the fall, but for obvious reasons, that did not happen. This year, we decided to hold our induction ceremony via Zoom and invited both this year’s new Beta Beta Chapter members and those who joined last year but were not formally inducted to this online event. We had record turnout with more than 70 people joining the ceremony – inductees from last year and this year, faculty members, and family members of inductees.

While we did not have access to our BPM items such as the lamp and Great Book, we lit a candle to start the induction ceremony and called names as the new members turned on their Zoom pictures. It was quite moving to have so many of us together. The ceremony was followed by a speaker, Gianna Gifford, Chief of Adult Library Services for the Boston Public Library. While we look forward to in-person events again in the future, we are considering the longer reach that an online ceremony can provide.

Beta Delta Chapter at University at Buffalo
Beta Delta Chapter Inducts Six New Members
We were honored to induct the following 2020 graduates into the Beta Delta Chapter in March 2021:

- Matthew Allan Alexander
- Lisa Marie Buda
- Mallory Sue Quinn
- Caterina Marie Reed
- Erica A. Soper
- Anne C. Windholz

Congratulations to our newest members!

Alpha Chapter at The University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Chapter Initiation Hosted Fully Online
The Alpha Chapter at University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign celebrated its Annual Meeting and Initiation Ceremony on Saturday, May 8. In the context of the pandemic, it was hosted fully online for the second time in Alpha Chapter history. Participation of our Initiates from digitally disparate locations was a silver lining, enabling a welcomed moment to come together to celebrate success. In what seems like a new tradition, new initiates were invited to join the Alpha Chapter officers for a group photo in Zoom.

Two awards supported by the Alpha Chapter were bestowed this year: the Kathryn Luther and William T Henderson Award to Paul Richmond; and the Anne M. Boyd Award/Beta Phi Mu to Hanh H. Nguyen.

Join us in welcoming our newest Alpha Chapter members: Class of 2021: Kadet Luise Alaks, Sydney Elizabeth Anderson, Kailey Lynn Bowen, Bran Eveland Cron, Eden C. Crothers, Lily M. Dawson, Jeffrey Thomas Diamond, Marian Ekweogwu, Brynlee Paige Emery, Jeanmarie Grace Floyd, Madina Grace, Rebecca Catherine Greenlee, Katherine Elizabeth Howell, Katherine Anne Hunnicutt, Clairissa M. Ihssen,

Alpha Chapter Officers in attendance were President Sharon Comstock, Vice President/President-Elect Pia Hunter, Secretary/Treasurer Linda Smith, and Past President Paul Healey. Also in attendance and serving Alpha Chapter this year was Emily Knox, Faculty Advisor, and National Beta Phi Mu President.

Alpha Chapter President Sharon Comstock, Ph.D., M.A., and faculty member of the iSchool at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign offered words on storytelling as a requisite of leadership: “Bibliothekarios philax mathesis ‘Guardians of Knowledge’ or Stewards of Stories?” Comstock invoked the origin stories of our Alpha Chapter founders, mentors, and members from 1948, in particular drawing on the inspirations of former President and Secretary/Treasurer William (Bill) T. Henderson (1929-2020) and Prof. Emerita Kathryn L. Henderson. Inspirations of Alpha Chapter’s past live in membership present, and Comstock urged all to honor the perseverance our current initiates demonstrated throughout the Pandemic at iSchool. Stories of Alpha Chapter included those of past compassionate leadership and mentorship, as well as current initiatives being adaptive, creative, resilient, and triumphant. She invited all members to live the stories we want to tell, listen for the stories we most need to hear, and to embrace the responsibility of being transformative tellers/leaders as Alpha Chapter members.

Beta Beta Theta Chapter at The University of Iowa
33rd Annual Meeting Held Outdoors
The 33rd Annual Chapter Program of the Beta Beta Theta Chapter was held on May 13, 2021 in Coralville, Iowa. Earlier in the spring, when our chapter’s Executive Council began planning the initiation, we wanted very much to meet even though pandemic precautions were still in effect in our community. We decided to hold an abbreviated meeting outdoors in a local park shelter, and ultimately were rewarded with perfect weather and the CDC’s announcement that day that fully vaccinated people could gather without wearing a mask or physical distancing. 24 members, initiates, and guests attended.

The Chapter awarded $400 scholarships to SLIS students Kinza Brue, Trevor Krug, and Rachel Miller-Haughton.

Five 2021 graduates were inducted into membership in the society: Lauren Claeys and Breanna Himschoot continued on page 8
(both 2020 Beta Beta Theta Scholarship winners); Douglas Nye; and Hang Nguyen and Natasha Otteson, both initiated in absentia. Two members from the Class of 2020 who were inducted in absentia last year also were present to sign the Great Roll: Damien Ihrig and Alecs Mickunas.

Chapter Officers for the 2021/2022 academic year are: President Justin Baumgartner (Digital Project Librarian, UI Libraries); Vice-President/President Elect Melody Dworak (Librarian, Iowa City Public Library); Past President Susan Henricks (Director, Carnegie-Stout Public Library); Secretary-Treasurer Heidi Lauritzen (Retired Librarian); and Faculty Advisor Lindsay Mattock (Associate Professor, UI-SLIS).

No formal program was planned, but three members led a discussion on delivering library service during the past year’s COVID-19 Pandemic. Perspectives from two public libraries and one academic library kicked off the discussion, and interesting questions from the audience kept the conversation going until dusk.

Beta Epsilon Chapter at Emporia State University
Beta Epsilon Summer Spotlight
Former Beta Epsilon president Carmaine Ternes represented Beta Phi Mu at the Kansas Leadership Center’s virtual seminar “Kansas Beats the Virus” in December 2020. Thanks to the assistance of Dr. Mirah Dow, Jan Brooks, and numerous public, school, and academic librarians, Fact Over Fiction infographics raising COVID-19 awareness were disseminated. Especially during an “INFODEMIC,” all Kansans deserve access to accurate resources, and librarians advocated with digital programs, books/ebooks, materials, electronic resources, web flyers, and much more. Beta Epsilon collaborated with the Kansas Association of School Librarians (KASL) and the Kansas Library Association (KLA) distributing reliable information via the electronic listerv and various platforms. Librarians raised awareness with research from the CDC, ALA, AASL, NIH, and other institutes woven into social media posts crediting leaders who advocate for the health and well-being of all Kansans.

The Beta Epsilon Chapter at Emporia State University is proud to announce Dr. Amanda Harrison was elected as President. Dr. Harrison is a Library Media Specialist in four McPherson Elementary School Libraries and temporarily filled in for the middle and high school librarian during the 2020-2021 school year in USD 418, McPherson, Kansas. Known for her endorsements in Library Science, Early-Late Childhood Generalist, Reading, English Language Arts, History, Government, Social Studies, and Journalism, Dr. Harrison is also the Kansas Association of School Librarians (KASL) treasurer. She has written and been awarded over $300,000 in grants for books, technology, programs, and professional development. Her Navigating Change Chats support an online discussion forum for librarians during this pandemic. Dr. Harrison succeeds immediate
past president Carmaine Ternes, author, editor, retired Emporia High School Librarian, former 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, contributes to various committees, administers the KASL Facebook Online Community for Kansas Librarians and Advocates, and much more. As an active KASL district director, Tabitha creates, hosts, and presents at numerous 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.

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 devotion to the Beta Epsilon Chapter website and social media platforms are impressive. Jan’s participation in Beta Epsilon and the Kansas Library Association (KLA) validate her management, collaborative, and advocacy skills.

Faculty sponsor Dr. Mirah Dow, Professor and Director of the Ph.D. Program at Emporia State University, School of Library and Information Management, 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 prestigious Beta Phi Mu Award recognized at 2019 ALA conference. Identified for her scholarship and distinguished service to education for librarianship, Dr. Dow’s accomplishments and expertise have enhanced the profession. 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. She is admired for her sincere disposition, strategic planning, pedagogy, and insightfulness.

Thanks to SLIM Dean Wooseob Jeong for funding Beta Epsilon’s conference program advertisement and promotion. Details are available at slimbetaepsilon.wordpress.com. The virtual meeting, initiation, and events united numerous outstanding leaders in the profession.

The Beta Epsilon Chapter executive committee held their Spring 2021 meeting via Zoom. While we enjoy time together in the same physical space, we used video conferencing to keep our chapter active and productive during the COVID-19 Pandemic. For years, we have used Zoom to engage members across the U.S. in initiation ceremonies, projects, meetings, and programs. Our annual meeting and program are scheduled in conjunction with the upcoming Kansas Library Association conference.
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!