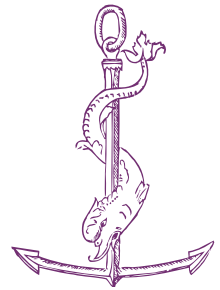


# The Pipeline

An Information Publication of Beta Phi Mu SPRING 2008



## THE FOUNDING AND FLOURISHING OF BETA PHI MU: A FOND REMEMBRANCE

*by Kathryn Luther Henderson*

The year 1948 was a memorable one at the Library School, University of Illinois (later the names would change to Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS), University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)). In a time between two all encompassing wars, a new Associate Director, Harold Lancour, came to lead the School; the GI Bill brought veterans to complete interrupted library science educational endeavors or to begin new studies; the curriculum changed from granting a fifth year bachelor's degree for the first library science degree to offering a master's degree; and the first class of library science doctoral students began their studies. In the summer of 1948, Harold Lancour began his practice of bringing distinguished librarians of the time to the Library School to serve on the summer session faculty. That summer brought William Jesse, Director of Libraries, University of Tennessee; Richard Sealock, Librarian, Kansas City Public Library; and Lawrence S. Thompson, Librarian, University of Kentucky, to campus.



First Beta Phi Mu initiation, held in the Spring of 1949 at the University of Illinois.

*(continued on next page)*

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When he was a student at Columbia University, Lancour had proposed establishing a library science honor society but there was no enthusiasm to do so. A dozen years later, Lancour and the librarians mentioned above, with others from the University Library (Robert B. Downs, George B. Brown, Icho Iben, Arnold H. Trotier, and Wayne Yenawine), along with Katharine Stokes (Western Michigan College of Education), Madeline Thompson Yourman (Brooklyn College), and Anne Boyd and Rose B. Phelps from the Library School faculty, were enthusiastic and agreed to serve as sponsors of such a society.

Lancour proposed that a select group of students currently enrolled in the graduate program be invited to organize the honor society while the sponsors would lend moral support and encouragement. Students chosen were Alice Appell, Alice Cooper, Louise Lodge, Dorothy Short Shaffer, Rolland Stevens, Jean Atcheson Stockdale, Nancy Burham Sutton, Robert Talmadge, Francis (Chuck) Taylor, Virginia Pumphrey Webb, Howard Winger, and myself. Rolland Stevens was elected President, Chuck Taylor, Vice President, Nancy Sutton, Treasurer, and I was the first Secretary. We also became the first national officers. The student group worked hard to decide on a name and motto, develop a constitution and bylaws, take care of legal requirements, and prepare an initiation ceremony. The dolphin and anchor of the famous printer Aldus Manutius was chosen as the insignia. Remarkably, all of this was accomplished in time to hold the first initiation on April 21, 1949. The founders became the Board of Governors and set up means by which those who met the criteria for membership but had graduated prior to the founding of the society could become Beta Phi Mu members. We also worked diligently to encourage the establishment of new chapters. Both endeavors were quite successful.

Through the years, Beta Phi Mu has continued to play an important role in my life in many ways. Beta Phi Mu issued certificates of membership to the growing number of initiates and my sister, Mildred Luther, and I learned the practice, if not the art, of calligraphy by lettering the names of initiates in India ink using broad point pens. We were paid fifty cents per certificate--more a labor of love than a money-making endeavor! Later, I was happy to welcome my husband, William T Henderson, into membership after he was elected from his studies at the Graduate Library School, University of Chicago. He served as President of Alpha Chapter during the twenty-fifth anniversary year when Harold Lancour returned to deliver the anniversary address. Bill has, for many years, served as Alpha Chapter's Secretary-Treasurer while I have long been the Chapter's faculty advisor. In 1993, I was honored with the ALA Beta Phi Mu Award for dedication to teaching and to education for librarianship. During the fiftieth anniversary year, the national organization awarded a Distinguished Member Golden Anniversary Award to one member of each chapter. I was the recipient of Alpha Chapter's award.

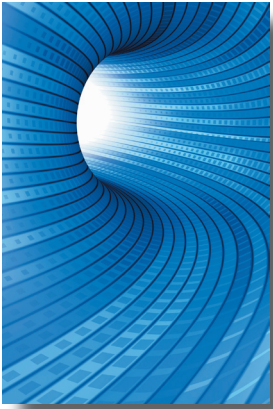
My greatest joy has been to welcome into membership many of the outstanding students I have been privileged to work with and to see them take on leading roles in Beta Phi Mu at the national and Alpha Chapter levels. In 1998, one of my former students, Marion Reid, was national president and gave the address at Alpha Chapter's Golden Anniversary Celebration.

Happy 60th Birthday, Beta Phi Mu! You certainly are not edging into retirement!

*Professor Kathryn Luther Henderson has been a technical services librarian in several libraries and became a GSLIS faculty member in 1965 teaching cataloging courses for almost three decades. With her husband, she continues to team teach courses in technical services and preservation at GSLIS. In addition to the awards noted above, in 1991 she received the UIUC Graduate Teaching Award given to only one UIUC faculty member per year, receiving it in the second year it was offered; the GSLIS Distinguished Alumnus Award in 1993; and the Association of Library and Information Science Education Award for Teaching Excellence in 1995. She has served as an Editorial Board member of Cataloging & Classification Quarterly for over two decades and has authored articles on the history of cataloging and technical services, education for librarianship, and mentoring. She is a 60-year member of the American Library Association, and the Illinois Library Association, and a fifty year member of the American Theological Library Association.*



## *Put It In The Pipeline*



If you have something you think would be of interest to the **BΦM** community, email it to: [betaphimuinfo@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:betaphimuinfo@admin.fsu.edu). If we use your story, joke, trivia, poem, web site link, etc. we'll send you your very own **BΦM** *Purple and Silver Leather Bookmark*. So put your thinking cap on and let us hear from you!

## *Have A Question? Ask A Librarian.*

If you would like to know more about Beta Phi Mu, library history, or information science, submit your inquiry to [betaphimuinfo@admin.fsu.edu](mailto:betaphimuinfo@admin.fsu.edu) and, if we publish your Q&A, you will receive a very prestigious (and rare!) **BΦM** *Purple Pen*.



## *"Those Were The Good Old Days!"*

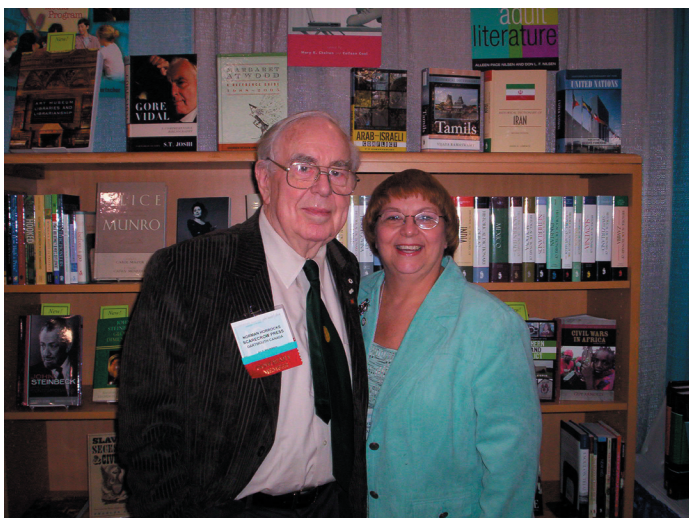


We're looking for a few good stories from the good old days. A lot has changed at your local library over the years and we're willing to bet some of the more senior members of **BΦM** could tell some tales and shed a little light on what library life was like way back when. Got a great photo? Send it to us with a caption and we'll publish it in *The Pipeline* or on our web site!

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*Norman Horrocks with Beta Phi Mu President Nancy Zimmerman at ALA Midwinter Meeting in Philadelphia, PA. in January, 2008. Both are Pitt grads!*

## *Beta Phi Mu Moments* *By Norman Horrocks*

I joined Beta Phi Mu in 1964 after obtaining my MLS from the University of Pittsburgh. The Pitt program received its initial accreditation in 1964 and established Pi Chapter the same year. At this time the Dean of the Pitt School, Harold Lancour, was the Executive Secretary of Beta PhiMu. It was because of Harold's influence that I became the National Treasurer in 1968 serving until 1971 at which time I resigned on moving to a newly established School at Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada.

My first Board Meeting as Treasurer got me off to a bad start. I wasn't smart enough then to know that when flying you should always take your meeting papers in your carry-on briefcase. I packed mine in my suitcase which, of course, got lost en route. The Board was tolerant of my stupidity but prudently decided to appoint auditors to report at the next Board meeting. That evening we adjourned to the hotel bar where the then still well-known movie star Pat O'Brien was presenting his night-club act. He told stories about Ireland and his fellow movie actors such as Ronald Reagan, George Raft and Spencer Tracy. He ended with his famous speech "win just one for the Gipper" given in the 1940 movie in which he played the title role as the football coach "Knute Rockne, All American."

The four Presidents during my term as Treasurer were Dr. Katharine (Kitty) Stokes, US Office of Education, (1968); Robert (Bob) Delzell, University of Illinois Libraries, (1969); Dr. Jesse H. Shera, School of Library Science, Western Reserve University, (1970); and Dr. Frank B. Sessa, Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Pittsburgh, (1971). Dr. Sessa later became Executive Secretary from 1975-80 following Dr. Lancour who had held office from 1954 to 1975. It was from Jesse Shera that I first heard the role of Beta Phi Mu likened to that of the butterfly. No deep purpose was needed to justify its existence - it was sufficient to recognize and admire it as a thing of beauty.

After the Dalhousie program was accredited the School nominated qualified graduates for membership in Beta Phi Mu as do other Canadian Schools. While individuals have joined no Canadian school has yet established a Beta Phi Mu Chapter. Dr. Sessa came to Canada and spoke to a meeting of the Deans and Directors of the Canadian Schools but roused no enthusiasm for the establishment of Chapters. Honor Societies are not as common in Canada as they are in the U.S.

In 1991, when I was back in the U.S., I was asked to run for the Presidency of Beta Phi Mu which I did. I was duly elected for what by then had become a two-year term. It was during my Presidency that I represented Beta Phi Mu at the installation of a new Chancellor, marching in the academic procession along with the representatives from other learned and honor societies which had links with the university's program. I was proud to represent those who had been honored by membership in Beta Phi Mu and the University which was installing a new Chancellor was - very appropriately - Pittsburgh.



# Beta Phi Mu Chapter News



**RHO CHAPTER** (Kent State University) 2007–2008 Highlights: Last April, we launched our Rho Chapter Web Site (<http://betaphimu.slis.kent.edu/Index.htm>), and this January, our Facebook Site (for Rho Chapter members only). By mid-March, 2008, the Rho Chapter will have published three online newsletters (<http://betaphimu.slis.kent.edu/Newsletter.htm>). In October, 2007, Carolyn T. Dubiel (Vice President and President-Elect) & Kathryn Feeley (member), presented a Continuing Education Workshop on Customer Service “How I Survived the Reference Desk!” This workshop, sponsored by Rho Chapter and the Northeast Ohio Regional Library System (NEO-RLS), was very informative

and very well attended. This April, at our Initiation Ceremony, we will unveil our very own Rho Chapter Banner, handmade by Jodie C. Lyons, Secretary/Treasurer. We have held several social mixers: 1) May 25, 2007 – dinner at Ray’s Place in Kent, Ohio; 2) February 17, 2008 – First Annual Handfeeding of Chickadees at the Brecksville Nature Center with ALSSO (the ALA student chapter) and lunch at Panera Bread in Brecksville, Ohio. FYI, this is what people “up North” do when it is freezing outside! We have initiated a collaboration with ALSSO on social events – after all, the SLIS students are our future colleagues! We have begun to brainstorm a fundraising initiative – advertising as part of our online newsletters. We continue to add to our online membership database.

*Submitted by Susan L. Fensore, President, Webmaster, Facebook Creator & Moderator, Rho Chapter*



**XI CHAPTER** was founded at the University of Hawai’i at Manoa in 1968. In the Spring of 2007, seventeen new initiates were inducted into the chapter. The keynote speaker at the ceremony was Florence Yee, Library Director of the Hawaii State Library. She encouraged the new graduates to equip themselves not only with new technology but also with people skills in order to better serve their clientele. All who attended were entertained by the musical stylings of guitarist Shoji Ledward. In July, 2007 Xi Chapter volunteered at the 60th Annual Friends of the Library Book Sale. Chapter members rang up the sales for “Authors’ Night” which was held in the McKinley High School pavillion. Some of the local authors were on hand to sign their books. *Submitted by Dr. Andrew Wertheimer, LIS Faculty Advisor.*



Beta Phi Mu Initiation Ceremony 2007



# BPM Chapter News *(continued)*



GSLIS student Anna Duprey and Terry Plum, Assistant Dean for GSLIS Technology & Mount Holyoke Campus program.

**BETA BETA CHAPTER** (Simmons College) has awarded its second annual book award, which was established to recognize a GSLIS student who shows dedication to scholarship and service in the library and information science field. Anna Duprey was selected as the book scholarship recipient of the Beta Beta Chapter of Beta Phi Mu, the International Library and Information Studies Honor Society. The scholarship was given to an outstanding GSLIS student who had completed twelve semester hours of their program of study with a grade point average of 3.75, and who had written an essay that explained their demonstration to service and scholarship in current practice and in the future. Jennifer Kessler, the president of the Beta Beta chapter, and her officers were most impressed with a passage of Duprey's essay that thoughtfully exemplifies her commitment: "I consider good collection

development decisions to be good customer service. My collection development decisions are greatly influenced by information I glean from journal articles, newspapers, Web sites, blogs, and from talking to other librarians." Ms. Duprey is a student at the Mount Holyoke campus. The Beta Beta chapter presents a competition for its book scholarship every fall semester and uses this opportunity to expose current students to and become familiar with the honor society. *Submitted by Alisa Libby, Beta Beta Chapter.*



**OMICRON CHAPTER** (Rutgers University) will be welcoming new initiates, awarding scholarships, and conducting a business meeting at the chapter's 2008 Annual Meeting on May 7th. Besides taking care of business, **BΦM** colleagues will enjoy a delicious buffet dinner and cash bar at the Rutgers Club. After dinner, Marianne Gaunt, our own Rutgers University Librarian will speak on: "The Proof is in the Partnerships." She will address the themes of partnerships, collaborations and leveraging our work in New Jersey libraries. This Fall, the 4th Annual Lecture, sponsored by **BΦM** and the New Jersey Center for the Book, will be hosted by the Scholarly Communications Center at Rutgers Alexander Library. Marie L. Radford, a Rutgers graduate, SCILS professor, **BΦM** board member, and our Chapter Advisor, will look into her crystal ball to speak about "Reference Futures," the growing importance of virtual reference, and other new reference approaches including Web 2.0 and social software. *Submitted by Preston Hope, Omicron Chapter Vice President.*



**CHI CHAPTER** (Indiana University) held a Career Forum for students of the School of Library & Information Science, Bloomington, on Oct. 17, 2007 with about 50 students and guests in attendance. Four panels were held, including Public Libraries, Academic, School Media and Special-Technology-Alternative Careers. The fifteen panelists were practicing librarians and Chi Chapter board members served as moderators. Each one hour panel was held twice, so that each student had the option of attending two sessions. The program was from 1:30 to 4:00 pm on a Wednesday, with a half-hour intermission for networking. Refreshments were provided by the IU library school. Feedback was very positive, and lots of good questions were asked. Our format was a half hour of panelists answering basic questions about their backgrounds, and a half hour of questions from the audience. In the past, we had only one panelist from each library track and one audience. This time the separate groups allowed for more specific questions and discussion. We plan on expanding this to the school's Indianapolis campus in the Fall. Hopefully some of our Distinguished Alumni Award winners will be in attendance and share their wisdom with today's up and coming student librarians. *Submitted by Cindy Monnier, Chi Chapter President.*

# BPM Chapter News *(continued)*

**BETA MU CHAPTER** (Long Island University) is sponsoring a program on May 8th at the 2008 Long Island Library Conference (<http://www.suffolk.lib.ny.us/lilc/>). Pulitzer prize winning author Dr. Edwin Burrows will highlight the stories of some of the thousands of Americans who died in captivity during the British occupation of New York City and Long Island and explain how the island's libraries helped him with his research. Lifelong learners will appreciate this wonderful opportunity to hear Dr. Burrows present *Tales From The Occupation: Rediscovering Long Island's Revolutionary War Prisoners*. Our chapter also sponsors the Joseph N. Whitten scholarship for students who are currently enrolled in the C. W. Post Palmer School of Library and Information Science. We award two \$2,000 scholarships every November. The application deadline is November 1, 2008 and applications are available by contacting Carol Albano ([calbano@suffolk.lib.ny.us](mailto:calbano@suffolk.lib.ny.us)). *Submitted by Carol Albano, Beta Mu Board Member*

## *Ching-chih Chen Receives 2008 Beta Phi Mu Award*

**Chicago** - Dr. Ching-chih Chen, professor of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at Simmons College, has been selected as the recipient of the American Library Association's 2008 Beta Phi Mu Award. This annual award, donated by the Beta Phi Mu International Library & Information Studies Honor Society, is presented to a library school faculty member or to an individual for distinguished service to education in librarianship.

"In selecting Dr. Chen for this award, the Jury commended her for her excellence as a devoted teacher and mentor; her outstanding and far-reaching service to education for librarianship worldwide; her amazing publishing, presenting and grants record; her vision and innovation in developing Global Memory Net as part of her ongoing commitment to global partnerships to advance knowledge and share information; and her using her professional skills to cross from the library world into scientific, governmental and cultural arenas all over the planet," said Eric W. Johnson, Library Director at Southeastern Louisiana University, Sims Memorial Library. "The Jury was unanimous in its praise of the breadth and scope of her activities, her support for and guidance of her students in helping them to achieve their professional and intellectual goals and her profound impact on the field of global librarianship."

The annual award, consisting of \$1,000 and a Citation of Achievement, will be presented at the ALA Conference in Anaheim, CA in June. The deadline for submission of applications for the 2009 Beta Phi Mu Award is December 1. Guidelines and application forms are available on the ALA web site: <http://www.ala.org/ala/awardsbucket/betaphimuaward/betaphimuaward.htm>.

## Dates & Deadlines



June 26 - July 2, 2008  
American Library Association  
2008 Annual Conference  
Anaheim, CA



Saturday, June 28, 2008  
4:00 - 5:30 PM  
Beta Phi Mu @ ALA  
60TH ANNIVERSARY G-ALA!  
Location: Sheraton Park Hotel  
Tiffany Terrace & Patio



October 1, 2008  
Deadline for Submissions  
Mary Jo Lynch Distinguished  
Lecture Award Proposals



October 15, 2008  
Deadline for Submissions  
Fall edition of *The Pipeline* newsletter.



Four scholarships and the Eugene Garfield  
Doctoral Dissertation Fellowships are awarded  
annually by Beta Phi Mu.  
Applications for 2009 scholarships and fellowships  
are accepted beginning November 15.



July, 2008  
Chapter Rebate Checks mailed.

## Beta Lambda Chapter Receives Distinguished Lecture Award

The Beta Lambda Chapter (University of North Texas/ Texas Woman's University) is this year's recipient of the **Mary Jo Lynch Distinguished Lecture Award**. The \$2,000 cash award is co-sponsored by the **Florida State University Information Use Management and Policy Institute** and **Beta Phi Mu**. The 2008 Texas Library Association Conference **BΦM** Breakfast featured a presentation by Dr. Danny P. Wallace: *Using Technology to Effectively Serve Older Adults and Baby Boomers in Your Local Library*. Dr. Wallace, Professor of Library and Information Studies at the University of Oklahoma at Norman, is a nationally recognized leader in the profession and has conducted research on the current and future challenges presented to libraries by the changing demographics of our population as the aging of post-World War II Baby Boomers continue to impact our society. The event took place April 18, 2008 in Dallas, TX. For more information, contact Joe Jackson at [jjackson49@suddenlink.net](mailto:jjackson49@suddenlink.net). Congratulations Beta Lambda Chapter!

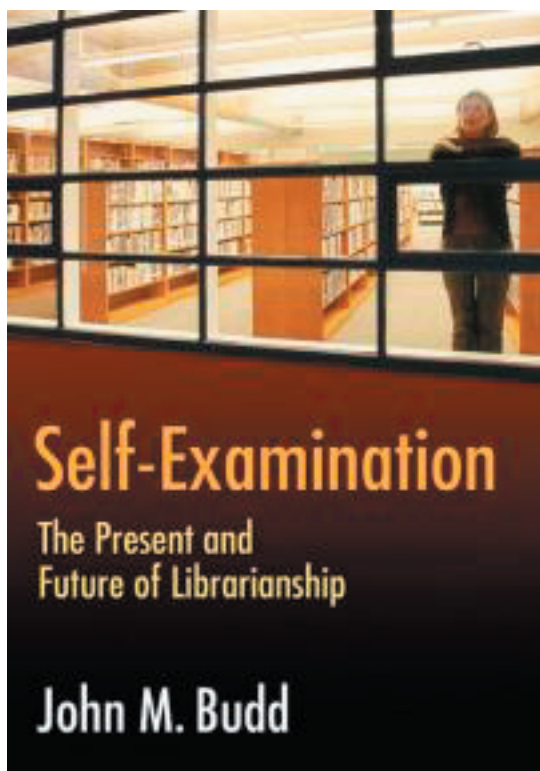
Happy Birthday  
**BΦM**



In case you haven't heard, Beta Phi Mu turns 60 years old in 2008! If you're planning to attend the ALA Annual Meeting in Anaheim, CA this summer, don't miss the **BΦM 60TH ANNIVERSARY G-ALA** on Saturday, June 28th from 4:00-5:30 PM at the Sheraton Park Hotel Tiffany Terrace and Patio. Light refreshments will be served. Show your colors and wear something **PURPLE** (official **BΦM** color).

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## A Good Read. A Good Cause.

*Attention All Beta Phi Mu Members!*

John Budd's new book, *Self-Examination*, is due to publish at the end of this month.

The author has requested that  
Beta Phi Mu Honor Society  
receive 25% of book royalties.

Price: \$60.00

ISBN13: 9781591585916

ISBN10: 1591585910

Libraries Unlimited

Paperback DOI: 10.1336/1591585910

Publication Date: 11/30/2007

Series: Beta Phi Mu Monograph Series

### Description

What makes us librarians? What is it we do that is indispensable? John Budd joins an august group of library-science luminaries, such as Pierce Butler, Jesse Shera, and Michael Gorman, whose works and example invite professional and critical self-examination. Here, Budd challenges us to confront the uneasy truth of whether "libraries still represent people's will and intellect, or the cabalistic enclaves of an old guard?" Through intellectually rich and engaging entrees into ethics, democracy, social responsibility, governance, and globalization, he makes the case that librarians who fail to grasp the importance of their heritage will never truly respond to societal change or the needs of the individual user.

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Chapter 1: Genealogy of the Profession

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Chapter 4: What's the Right Thing to Do?

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Chapter 6: The Information Society

Chapter 7: Optimistic Synthesis

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**JOHN M. BUDD** is Professor and Associate Director of the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies at the University of Missouri-Columbia. His 2001 book, *Knowledge and Knowing in Library and Information Science: A Philosophical Framework*, was awarded the 2002 Highsmith Library Literature Award.

# *The President's Page*

*by Nancy Zimmerman, Ph.D.*

As you've read in the lead article of this newsletter, "The Founding and Flourishing of Beta Phi Mu" written by the first secretary of the Alpha Chapter, Kathryn Luther Henderson, Beta Phi Mu will celebrate the 60th anniversary of its founding at a G-ALA celebration at the ALA Annual Conference in Anaheim. From that beginning at the library school of the University of Illinois, Beta Phi Mu has grown to approximately 30,000 members and today has 46 active chapters. As I began to prepare for the G-ALA and after I read Kathryn Henderson's interview, I decided to research the history of Beta Phi Mu a bit more and I want to share briefly some of what I found with you.

We Beta Phi Mu members have an incredible bloodline. In addition to Kathryn Henderson, names such as Harold Lancour, Jesse Shera, Robert Downs, Wayne Yenawine, Frank Sessa, and others of the library world's Who's Who appear with frequency in our history and these scholars serve as incredible models for our members. While most members know the founders of Beta Phi Mu selected the dolphin and anchor from the mark of the Venetian printer Aldus Manutius as the insignia, I suspect that many do not know Beta Phi Mu's name came from the first letters of the Greek words "bibliothekarios philax mathesis" meaning "librarians are the guardians of knowledge."<sup>1</sup>

I always knew that chapters had Greek names, but I recently learned that chapter names are assigned in the order installed to correspond with the order of the Greek alphabet, so Illinois is the Alpha chapter, University of Southern California was the Beta chapter, Florida State is the Gamma chapter, and so on. I had always assumed that chapters just selected their Greek names from something symbolic just as the founding sponsors selected the name Beta Phi Mu as our Society's name. In keeping with that naming tradition, our newest chapter, Valdosta State, will be installed as the Beta Beta Mu chapter at the 60th G-ALA. It is such an honor to install a new chapter during my presidency and to extend that honor of participation to all the chapters. I'm asking each one to send a representative to participate in a roll call of chapters as part of the ceremony. To honor the naming tradition, the roll call will be made in order of installation.

During its history, several universities have hosted the headquarters of Beta Phi Mu - first, the University of Illinois, then the University of Pittsburgh, and now Florida State University. There have been six executive secretaries (now called the executive director) - Drs. Harold Lancour, Frank Sessa, Blanche Woolls, William Summers, Wayne Wiegand, and now Christie Koontz.

My research also found that as society, Beta Phi Mu serves the profession in ways not usually known. Not only does Beta Phi Mu and its chapters host research seminars, give grants and scholarships, and publish a series of scholarly chapbooks, but Beta Phi Mu contributed money to the Association for Library and Information Science Education (ALISE) to help launch their scholarly journal (JELIS) and to ALA to help establish the ALA archives. Additionally, chapters conduct many service projects and provide members with professional and social networking opportunities.

During the years there have been arguments made that honor societies, including Beta Phi Mu, are elitist and irrelevant, but after researching Beta Phi Mu's history and contributions I am convinced that by maintaining our high standards of selection of those students who demonstrate scholarship and leadership potential, Beta Phi Mu will continue its heritage of service to the profession and be as relevant for today's inducted graduates as it has been for those of us inducted in its first 60 years. Please join us in Anaheim for the G-ALA and help us celebrate Beta Phi Mu's rich history and continued success. Event details can be found in this newsletter and on our web page. Hope to see you there!

<sup>1</sup>Cheoesiuk, R. (1999). It's an honor: Fifty years of Beta Phi Mu. *American Libraries*, 3(11), 66.

[www.beta-phi-mu.org](http://www.beta-phi-mu.org)

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