

BETA PHI MU

Executive Board

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Vinette Thomas

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Lynn Silipigni Connaway
Susan E. Searing

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The Pipeline



Winter

2014/2015

President's Page

Holiday greetings to all! In academia, the holiday season is a busy time of the year. Students are wrapping up projects and taking exams. Faculty members are busy grading. Soon, graduation will bring a new group of inductees into Beta Phi Mu. When your chapter hosts an event for inductees, I hope that you will take time to attend that event and congratulate the new members. Perhaps you can offer to mentor a new member of Beta Phi Mu. Remember that membership is based not only on academic achievement but also on service and leadership. Mentoring will have a great impact and it is a mutually rewarding experience. Let's each have a new year's resolution to support our motto through our actions:

*Aliis inserviando
consumor -- Consumed in
the service of others.*

Beyond your chapter, there are opportunities for volunteering at the national level. Please check out the website at <http://beta-phi-mu.org/membership/volunteer/> for opportunities of giving back to Beta



Eileen G. Abels, Beta Phi Mu President

Phi Mu. The more volunteers we have, the stronger we are as an organization. It seems appropriate to recognize those who are role models in terms of leadership and service. Please join me in congratulating our newly elected officers: Charles McElroy has been elected as our new Vice President/President Elect and Sue Searing is our new Director-At-

Large. Here are two great examples of members who are stepping up to make sure that we continue to be a thriving organization.

Wishing you all a happy holiday season and a productive and service-filled new year!



Executive Director's Page

How we connect

An on-going challenge faced by any membership organization is answering the question, "How do we connect with our members?" It's a question that is normally answered in multiple ways, because there is usually more than one way of connecting and different members have different needs at different points in their lives and careers.

One of the main ways that members connect with Beta Phi Mu has been through their local chapter. Every time I read the chapter reports in *The Pipeline*, I'm impressed with the range of activities presented and how well they reflect the Beta Phi Mu values of scholarship, leadership, and service. Knowing how demanding most people's 21st century lives can be, I'm particularly impressed with the time and energy expended on behalf of Beta Phi Mu by those serving in chapter leadership positions. Your hard work is much appreciated!

The chapter model continues to be an important part of the Beta Phi Mu structure, but it does not serve as a way of connecting with all of our members. In fact, it never has. Even back in the day when I was working on my M.L.S. degree, full-time in an entirely face-to-

face setting, many of us came from other cities and even other states. We made the commitment to move to the area for at least a year to complete our degrees, then some of us returned to work in our home communities and others left to take jobs elsewhere. Staying connected with our chapter of Beta Phi Mu usually consisted of receiving a print newsletter once or twice a year; chances for active participation were minimal. I'm sure that the situation was similar at other institutions.

So, historically there have always been a large number of Beta Phi Mu members who were unanchored, as it were, from the chapter at their home institution. Of course there was (and is) always the possibility of affiliating with another chapter if you were/are lucky enough to move to an area with one, although this would not always be the case. The phenomenon of unanchored members has only grown in recent years with the rise of online education. An increasing percentage of our new initiates have never lived in the vicinity of their home institution and its associated BPM chapter.

Luckily, the same technology that has led to this situation of greater disconnection has also provided some tools for connection. As of the beginning of 2015, Beta Phi Mu has 1,073 people who "Like" us on Facebook, 181 people who follow us on Twitter, and 1,920 people who have connected with us through LinkedIn. Of course some people may connect with us in more than one of these ways, so that the total number of members reached is smaller than the total of these figures. Even the total number is but a small percentage of our overall membership – but these social media venues do represent ways of connecting with some members who otherwise might be disconnected.

Looking ahead, I believe that finding new ways to connect Beta Phi Mu members with each other and with the organization should be a priority. I'm convinced that a number of possibilities, both physical ones and virtual ones, exist. Of course, driving this exploration of *how* we connect should be the larger question of *why* we connect – a subject for a future column.



Alison M. Lewis

Election Results

Congratulations to our new Vice-President/President elect Charles McElroy, Serials Department Head at Florida State University and the new Director-At-Large, Sue Searing, Associate Dean of Libraries at the University of Illinois. We welcome back both Charles and Sue to the Board. The proposed changes to the bylaws were also passed.

Charles McElroy has a B.A. in history from the University of Florida and an M.A. in Library and Information Science from the University of South Florida. He is a member of the Gamma Chapter and has been chapter secretary since 2011. Charles served on the BPM Board from 2012-2013 and on the BPM Scholarship Committee in 2007.

Sue Searing is a member of the library faculty at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign where she serves as Interim Associate University Librarian for User Services, with a joint appointment in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Her distinguished career includes positions at Yale and in the University of Wisconsin System, which comprises 26 campuses. Sue has published research on topics relevant to library and information science and is currently the subject editor for LIS for the *ALA Guide to Reference* database. She served previously as an elected director of Beta Phi Mu. She is a member of Alpha Chapter.

Thank you to the chapters for getting the

word out to members about the election and thank you to all of the members who participated in the voting process. The turnout for the 2014 election of unfilled board seats was gratifyingly substantial. There were 265 Beta Phi Mu members who participated in the election.

Continued revisions to the bylaws are needed to best reflect current practice so expect to see more proposed revisions on future ballots. Please be aware that several board members are finishing their terms in 2015 so it is important to the honor society that we see a continuation of this trend of increased participation. A slate of candidates will be needed prior to the ALA Annual Conference held in June.

Other News from Headquarters

In case you hadn't noticed, the Beta Phi Mu website (<http://beta-phi-mu.org/>) contains a lot of new information. There is an updated, electronic version of the Handbook (<http://beta-phi-mu.org/about-us/beta-phi-mu-handbook/>). The last print version was published in 2007. The electronic version includes hotlinks to the bylaws, salient IRS publications, the American Library Association, and many other locations. *Beta Beta Theta* graciously allowed us

to use their chapter bylaws as an example for other chapters to follow in drafting their own bylaws. We hope that the sample initiate invitation, a copy of the Initiation Ritual, suggestions on how to identify potential new initiates, suggestions on what records the local chapters need to maintain, as well as a clear outline of the procedure for reporting new initiates to Headquarters will prove helpful to the chapters.

Besides the Beta Phi Mu handbook, we have

listed all past Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation winners, with the dissertation titles (in some cases working titles) and ProQuest dissertation numbers to help in finding the published dissertations online (<http://beta-phi-mu.org/scholarships/eugene-garfield-doctoral-dissertation-recipients/>).

We plan to scan older issues of *The Pipeline* and put them on the website in the near future; stay tuned for more news on this development.

Happy New Year!

Chapter News

Lambda Chapter



Kelvin White, Ph.D.
University of Oklahoma

Lambda Chapter of Beta Phi Mu would like to take this season's greetings to greet you by way of introductions. First and foremost, we are grateful to introduce the national Beta Phi Mu membership to our faculty sponsor with the University of Oklahoma School of Library and Information Studies (OU SLIS), Dr. Kelvin White.

Using social justice as a framework, Dr. Kelvin White's research examines the interconnections between the social, cultural, and historical contexts in which recordkeeping activities exist and the implications they have for marginalized or underrepresented communities; critically interrogates contemporary archival theory and other constructs such as archival education and practice; and develops ways in which education and pedagogy might contribute to cultural relevancy and sensitivity in archival practice and research. This is significant because the memories and identity of minority communities are often subsumed and/or controlled through the hegemonic processes of the dominant culture.

Collectively, his research argues that education in Archival Science, which is a construct, has played a fundamental role in perpetuating the cultural hegemony of dominant groups. Furthermore, it argues that Archival Science will continue to play this role until the underlying archival paradigm, as taught within professional and research education in North America, is reconceptualized and transformed, thus making that paradigm more inclusive of communities that continue (even in the 21st

Century) to rely on a combination of textual, oral (e.g. songs and spoken language where there is no alphabet or grammar), and kinetic (e.g. dances and rituals) recordkeeping practices. Such communities include, but are not limited to Indigenous groups in North America—many of which have no written language—, Afro-Mexicans who officially do not exist in Mexico's official historical narrative, and various communities scattered throughout the Pacific Rim. His current research is a study on the information needs of historians of women's history. His study seeks to understand the full dimensions of the information needs and uses of relevant material that historians of women's history use to write women's history.

Dr. White is a co-principal investigator of the Archival Education and Research Institute (AERI), which is a collaboration of archival education programs that aims to educate a new generation of academics in archival education who are versed in contemporary issues and knowledgeable of the work being conducted by colleagues. He is also serves on the Steering Committee of the International Council on Archive's Section of Archival Education and Training (SAE) and is a member of the Society of American Archivists' Cultural Property Working Group (CPWG).

This year's Beta Phi Mu Lambda Chapter is represented by four officers. JJ Compton, President JJ is Assistant Professor of Technical Services and Archives for Oklahoma Christian University in Edmond, OK. JJ also serves as liaison with the History & Political Science and Nursing depart-

ments. In addition to Beta Phi Mu, JJ is a member of the Christian College Librarians and Society of Southwest Archivists, as well as a soccer coach through the Edmond YMCA.

Jerrie Hall, President-Elect Jerrie is the Associate Director and Head of Technical Services at Oklahoma State University Tulsa Library. In these capacities, Jerrie oversees Acquisitions, Cataloging, Processing, Interlibrary Loan, and the library website, as well as the Voyager ILS and Summon Discovery system.

George Gottschalk, Secretary George is the Collection Development Librarian for Rogers State University in Claremore, OK where he also oversees interlibrary loan. George is the liaison to English & Humanities, Communications and Fine Arts departments.

Nelson Dent, Treasurer Nelson is an Information Services Librarian with Pioneer Library System in Norman, OK. In addition to Beta Phi Mu, Nelson is active in several library and community organizations including United Way of Norman, the University of Oklahoma Library School Alumni Association Board of Directors, the American Library Association, the Public Library Association, and the Oklahoma Library Association.

All of us look forward to April 25, 2015, when we will have our annual joint membership meeting and SLIS celebration with OU SLIS. We are excited to hear speaker Pam Sandlian-Smith, Director of Anythink Libraries in Colorado.

Theta Chapter

The Beta Phi Mu Theta Chapter at Pratt Institute in New York had our Fall Lecture on October 15, 2014. The guest lecturer was Deirdre Lawrence, the Principal Librarian at the Brooklyn Museum. Her lecture was entitled "The hybrid library: The challenges of being a steward of both a physical and digital art library". It was a wonderful event with a thoughtful and timely presentation by Deirdre and a lively Q&A session.



Deirdre Lawrence



A sizable crowd attended the Fall Lecture



L-R: Michael Hassett; Alexandra Nader, Chapter President; Deirdre Lawrence; Dean Tulah Giannini

Pi Chapter

The Pi Chapter at the University of Pittsburgh inducted six new members in October. New members, Emily Mross and Meghan Philp were able to attend the ceremony which was presided over by members Jessica Smith, Barbara Zaborowski, and Kathy Maron-Wood and held at the iSchool. The Pi Chapter will also be offering scholarships to Information Science students beginning in the spring semester. Scholarships will be awarded based

upon samples of research submitted by students.



L-R: Barbara Zaborowski, Emily Mross, Meghan Philp, Jessica Smith, and Kathy Maron-Wood.

Alpha Chapter

The annual meeting of the Alpha Chapter was held on Saturday, November 8, at the Hawthorn Suites hotel in Champaign, IL. The primary order of business was the initiation of new members. Five new members were in attendance and signed the Great Roll.

Other business included:

- A vote to donate money to the Graduate School of Library and Information Science to support students' attendance at professional conferences;
- A report on Beta Phi Mu activities at the national level;
- A vote to increase the monetary value of the Anne M. Boyd award, which is given each May to an outstanding graduating student selected by the GSLIS faculty.
- Election of officers.

An important piece of new business was the creation of a new award, the "Kathryn Luther and William T Henderson Award." This \$500 award honors Kathryn Luther Henderson, one of the founders of Beta Phi Mu and for many years the faculty advisor to Alpha Chapter, and her husband William T Henderson, long-time treasurer of the chapter. A graduating student will be presented the Henderson Award in recognition of a demonstrated record of service to the community (home, campus, fellow students, etc.) through professional activities. The recipient will stand as an exemplar of the Beta Phi Mu motto, *Aliis inserviendo consumor*, "Consumed in the service of others."

Following the ceremony and business meeting, the members, new initiates and guests en-

joyed a luncheon. The event concluded with a talk by Travis McDade, Curator of Rare Books at the University of Illinois College of Law. Professor McDade, whose research investigates library theft, regaled the audience with a fascinating account titled "The Ten Year Heist: The Looting of Kenyon College's Special Collections."

In other chapter news, the steering group recently approved a records retention policy and has begun populating an online "Officer's Guide" with electronic versions of all important documents.



Alpha Chapter initiates: L to R, Regina Carter, Sarah Yarrito, Pia Hunter, Sarah Hoover, Thomas Boehmer.



Alpha Chapter officers, 2014-15: L to R, Melody Allison, vice-president/president-elect; Meg Miner, president; Linda Smith, secretary-treasurer; Susan Searing, representative to the national assembly; David Harber, past president. Not present: Emily Knox, faculty advisor.

BETA PHI MU

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Beta Phi Mu was founded in 1948 by a group of leading librarians and library educators to recognize and encourage scholastic achievement among library and information studies students. Our name comes from the initials of the Greek words *Bibliothekarios philax mathesis*, meaning “librarians are the guardians of knowledge.” The motto, *Aliis inserviando consumor*, meaning “Consumed in the service of others” was selected by the founders based on the concept of the dedication of librarians and other information professionals to the service of others. Eligibility for membership in Beta Phi Mu is by invitation of the faculty from institutions where the American Library Association, or other recognized accrediting agency approved by the Beta Phi Mu Executive Board, has accredited or recognized a professional degree program.

Upcoming Events—Mark Your Calendars

November 15—March 15

Scholarship Season
Apply online
[http://beta-phi-mu.org/
scholarships/](http://beta-phi-mu.org/scholarships/)

January 30—February 3

ALA MidWinter Meeting

