



**Beta Phi Mu
International Library and Information Studies Honor Society
Pi Lambda Sigma
Syracuse University Chapter
Fall, 2011 Greetings**

Dear Members of Pi Lambda Sigma,

It's time for our annual dues message, and once again we are including a newsletter to better inform you of your Chapter's program over the last year. As of September, we have 268 "active" members, those who have paid dues in the past 3 years. Those who pay dues for the "current" year qualify to receive current news and mailings and may apply for our awards and grants.

Continuing terms on the Executive Board are President: Linda Galloway, Past President: Abby Kasowitz-Scheer, Recording Secretary: Brian Dobreski, Corresponding Secretary: Susan Slenker, Treasurer: Suzanne Preate, Scholarship Chairs: Gary Maggi and Valarie Massulik, Membership Chair: Christine Demetros, Board Members: Meg Backus, Carole Kupelian, and Ellen Owens. Our iSchool Faculty Advisor is Dr. Megan Oakleaf.

The Board meets 4 times a year, plus Initiation, and does the rest by email. As always, we strive for a balance among public, academic, school, and special libraries. As we start a new year, please note where we have vacancies as members take new jobs or finish their terms. We always keep a list of local members willing to fill a vacancy. Any member who lives in the Syracuse area may volunteer for a 2-year term on the Board. Our website is < <http://bpm.syr.edu> > Please feel free to contact us through the President.

In May we held our 108th Annual Chapter Meeting and Initiation and celebrated 52 years of affiliation with National Beta Phi Mu. We are pleased to announce that 13 MSLIS graduates accepted membership in our Society for 2011. Initiated *in person* were: Nicole C. Dittrich, Elizabeth A. Gall, and Jessica R. O'Toole. Initiated *in absentia* were: Jessica M. Ammons, Anne McKeegan Debraggio, Gabrielle Gosselin, Ashley Jean Groff, Catherine V. Medeot, Kathleen A. O'Connell, Andrea Lynne Phelps, Lorraine Porcello, Margaret A. Queija, Peter Dombrowsky Schult.

Pi Lambda Sigma's Scholarship Committee is reviewing candidates for the Joseph and Marta Dosa Scholarship. This award covers the cost of one 3-credit course in the MSLIS program. We publicize our NO-INTEREST Florence Van Hoesen loans through the iSchool listserv, as we have built this fund up. We continue to work closely with iSchool staff to increase awareness of this type of financial support through their website and our Chapter website. These awards are managed as investment portfolios by Syracuse University. **There are check-offs for donations on every annual dues form. The dollar interest generated by these funds is the amount available for awards. We especially encourage donations to the Dosa Fund.** Please encourage iSchool MSLIS students to apply for these awards, as we have money we want put to use by deserving students. Financial support is the primary mission of this Chapter. Information is also available on our Chapter website.

Our Chapter awards a Marion Mullen Travel Award to help defray attendance expenses at Summer ALA. The Board has increased the amount awarded to \$500.00. We expect the winner to attend the BPM National meeting, held at Summer ALA each year, and report to the Board. This year, the National meeting took place in June in New Orleans. Application is in the spring, with the 2012 ALA meeting scheduled for June 21-26 in Anaheim, CA. Our 2011 winner/attendeo was Ellen Owens.

For those of you who have not received your National membership certificate, be advised that National's Program Director, John Paul Walters, heads up day-to-day operations. Certain family situations in his life have been resolved, and he is back in the office but only for one more year. The National office will be leaving Florida State University in July. JP has been very responsive to our many requests. I am once again working on registering those PLS members whose National registrations were lost or never sent. Again, these appear limited to the 2001-2002-2003 initiate classes, and we continue to work toward resolving this situation.

Please note also that National's newsletters ("The Pipeline") are in electronic format only and are at their website: < <http://beta-phi-mu.org/> > You are encouraged to visit National for updates each semester. The Fall 2011 e-newsletter is being prepared now. Please take advantage of National's website to network, especially as some of you seek or take new jobs. There are many award opportunities listed there also.

Your local Board is being pro-active on the issue of "grade inflation" and how it impacts students in the invitation process for Beta Phi Mu membership. We spent a lot of time discussing this at our summer Board meeting. In August, we sent a formal request to National Director Dr. Christie Koontz documenting our case and asking that National Board consider our request. They will take the issue up at their January meeting during ALA Mid-Winter in Dallas. Our specific request is that the 25% rule be eliminated and base GPA for membership be raised. We feel strongly that this will better-balance the twin criteria for membership: academic excellence and "leadership potential" and result in a pool of candidates more representative of our honor society's goal - namely initiating future leaders in our profession.

As always, Pi Lambda Sigma and its Executive Board welcome your input on Chapter business. As an academic honorary, our work never ends. Each academic year we encourage development of leadership in the information field by financially supporting the most promising students. We are happy to offer support for continuing study to our members, too. Your comments and ideas are valuable. Please direct them to any Board member.

Finally, please note Graduation Weekend, May 12-14, in your 2012 planner. Pi Lambda Sigma will hold our 109th Annual Meeting and Initiation following Convocation on Saturday afternoon, May 12th. We invite all members to attend this event. Details will follow in the spring.

Sincerely,
Susan Slenker, Corresponding Secretary
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