



Beta Phi Mu –

International Library and Information Science Honor
Society

– Chi Chapter News

2001, Issue No. 2

President's Letter

A few months after graduating from SLIS, I received my first job offer. After cobbling together a living from a part-time job here and a freelance editing job there, the modest salary I was being offered seemed like a king's ransom. What's more, after all the anxieties of the job search, the knowledge that somebody wanted me to work for them really went to my head.

Believe me, it was tough to turn down that first offer, with no other offers in sight and bills to pay. But it was the right decision. Soon after, another offer came that was much more suited to me. Fortunately, I had a good friend who walked me through the process of negotiating my salary. That initial salary has had a positive impact on my career ever since, but I would never have dreamed of bargaining so hard if left to my own devices. How many new graduates do?

These days job prospects for MLS and MIS degree holders are bright. There is no shortage of advice out there that will explain how to find jobs, write killer resumes, and wow interviewers. But when it comes to responding to those first job offers and negotiating compensation, benefits, and the terms of the job, most graduates have little guidance. Yet those negotiations can have a lasting impact on a person's experience of the job and early career.

This year's Career Forum is designed to fill that gap. As in past years, I hope that many Beta Phi Mu'ers will join us for the panel discussion—the more experiences that are represented, the better! And, you are all also warmly invited to the reception afterwards to catch up with old friends and critique the cookies.

—Moira Smith, Chi Chapter President

Career Forum to be held November 2, 2001

The 2001 Career Forum, "What to when you are offered the Job," will be held on Friday, November 2nd from 2:00-4:00 p.m. in the SLIS auditorium. The Career Forum will have a new focus this year – speakers will be addressing how to negotiate the best job offer rather than offering insights into the responsibilities and abilities required in various careers. Speakers will represent both libraries and corporations. Registration is requested in advance to ensure a full audience. All are welcome, so plan on joining us November 2nd. You can register by contacting a Board member via email, or use the form provided at the end of this newsletter.

2001 Chi Chapter Annual Awards/Initiation Breakfast News

Initiation

The annual Awards/Initiation Breakfast was held during the Indiana Library Federation's Annual Conference at the Indiana Convention Center in April. Twenty-seven new members were initiated into Beta Phi Mu. The Board and current Chi Chapter members would like to extend a warm welcome to all new initiates!

Service Award

The Chi Chapter Service Award is presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the library and information science profession.

This year's Service Award was presented to Dr. Shirley Fitzgibbons, Associate Professor Emerita of Indiana University SLIS. Until her retirement in May 2000, Dr. Fitzgibbons was the SLIS

specialist in library services and literature for children and young adults. She taught and advised hundreds of students and inspired countless future librarians.

In her acceptance speech, Dr. Fitzgibbons emphasized three primary themes: career development, professional development, and role modeling. She began by explaining the impact of books, libraries, and librarians on her own development as a child, and then traced her career path from teacher to librarian to SLIS faculty member (and teacher again). She highlighted the importance of building a network of peers and colleagues, and stressed that enthusiasm and trying new things are vital to keep both personal careers and the profession vibrant and alive. Finally, she offered the advice that involvement in professional organizations promotes personal and professional development and allows opportunities to give back to the profession.

Scholarship Award

The student scholarship award was presented to Kirsten Kowalewski for her paper "Reading Engagement: What Influences the Choice to Read?" Kirsten was unable to attend the annual meeting, but her mother was able to accept the award on her behalf and convey Kirsten's appreciation for recognition of her paper.

2002 Scholarship Deadline

The deadline for submissions for the 2002 Student Scholarship Award is February 16, 2002. A web page summarizing the award is available at the following URL:
www.monroe.lib.in.us/~bpmchi/scholarship.html

Treasurer's Two Cents

The following members have renewed their support for the Chi Chapter for 2001 by sending us \$10.00: Carol Abell, Patsy Allen, Dorothy Ansart, Rita Barsun, Rachel Boyd, Jo Burgess, Helen Chirakos, Stephen Cochran, Kathy Coleman, Amy Coolidge-Harshbarger, Tom Emmett, Shirley Fitzgibbons, Mary Ann Fleetwood, John Fritch, Paula Gray-Overtoom, Gail Hartzell, Katerina Kakouri, Eva Kiewitt, Mary Krutulis, Bonnie LaClave, Kuk Lee, Lois Lehman, Jim Lockwood, Anna M. Martinson, Penney Mathiesen, Stephanie Michel, Andrea Morrison, Julieann Nilson, Kathleen Owens, Scottie Patterson, Karen Pegors, Peter Rayment, Virginia Richey, Dee Schlatter, Antonia Sekula,

Marina Smith, Moira Smith, Sue Stancu, Mary Ann Tuytschaevers.

If you received this newsletter in the mail and your name is *not* on the list above, please consider renewing your support for the Chi Chapter. Your support is essential to the Chi Chapter's continued work at IU SLIS.

How essential? The \$390.00 that the above dues represent makes a real difference in a small operation like Chi Chapter. In the last three years, we've never had more than \$2,300.00 in our bank account at any one time, so you can figure that this \$390.00 represents about 17% of our operating budget. In order to provide current SLIS students with opportunities like the Career Forum, we've sought out both corporate sponsors and other organizations (like the ALA student chapter) in order to minimize our expenses, because we operate so close to the edge.

If all 334 members of Chi Chapter were to send in their \$10.00 dues, that would be a total of \$3,340.00, a larger amount than we've had on hand for years! This would allow Chi Chapter to significantly expand our work with SLIS to provide educational and career opportunities to those just entering the library and information professions.

So thanks to all those who've done their part, and—if you're not one of them—please consider renewing your support of Chi Chapter.

--Stephen Cochran, Treasurer

Chi Chapter Board Positions

If you would be willing to serve on the Executive Board of Chi Chapter, please contact Moira Smith, Chi Chapter President (molsmith@indiana.edu)

2001-2002 Dues and Change of Address

If you are an initiated member of Beta Phi Mu and are interested in joining Chi Chapter or renewing your current membership, you may pay your dues (\$10.00) at the Career Forum or send a check at any time to:

Stephen L. Cochran, Chi Chapter Treasurer
837 Walnut Street, Mt. Vernon, IN 47620

Please let us know if you have changed your address recently by sending current address information to the above address, or, you may update your records by sending a "Chi Membership Update" from the Chi website at: <http://www.monroe.lib.in.us/~bpmchi/members.html>

In addition, change of address notification should be sent to the National Society: Beta Phi Mu, School of Information Studies, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306

Officers for Beta Phi Mu Chi Chapter Executive Board 2001- 2002

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Please Note: Chi Chapter is considering issuing this newsletter in electronic format, and the Executive Board is soliciting comments and opinions concerning an electronic newsletter. If you have questions or comments regarding this topic, please contact any Executive Board member or use the registration form below.

Registration Form for the Annual Career Forum

Friday November 2, 2001 at 2:00 p.m. in the IU SLIS Auditorium

Cost: None

Name:

Address:

Email:

Comments on issuing the newsletter in electronic format (use back if necessary):

***Please mail to:
John W. Fritch, Chi Chapter Secretary
8265 South 1000 East
Lafayette, IN 47905***