



BETA PHI MU | OMICRON CHAPTER

International Library and Information Science Honor Society

Find Us Online

Please visit our website (<http://bit.ly/bpmomicron>) and/or follow us on Facebook: <http://facebook.com/betaphimuomicron>

Stay in Touch

If you've moved or have changed email addresses, please contact this year's chapter secretary, David Platt: david.s.platt@rutgers.edu.

Volunteer for 2019-2020

This year, the position of chapter **Vice President** is open. The election will be held at the BPM Annual Meeting & Dinner on April 16, 2019. Please consider volunteering for this service opportunity! Contact chapter President Barbara Burton with any questions you have (burton.barbara@gmail.com).

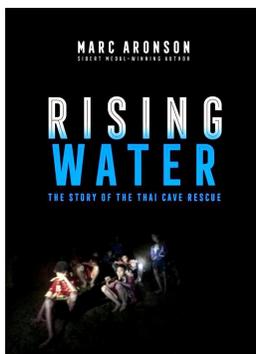
Want to Know More About How Beta Phi Mu Works?

Beta Phi Mu has a new handbook for 2018-2019. You can find it at: <https://www.betaphimu.org/handbook.html>

Show your BPM Pride!

Beta Phi Mu has an online shop where you can purchase honors cords, insignia pins, and more. Find the shop online at: <http://beta-phi-mu.org/merchandise/>

Hello, Omicron members! Another year, another newsletter. This year's newsletter includes your annual renewal form, dinner RSVP, and scholarship donation request.



2019 BPM Omicron Annual Meeting & Dinner

Please join us at the 2019 Omicron Annual Meeting & Dinner on Tuesday, April 16th at 6:00pm at the Rutgers University Inn & Conference Center (<http://inn.rutgers.edu/>), at 178 Ryders Lane, New Brunswick, NJ 08901. This venue for our BPM spring event is located on the Douglass Campus just off Route 1, with plenty of parking. You are invited to help us honor the 2019 inductees and scholarship winners. This year's guest speakers, Dr. Marc Aronson & Diana

Floegel (Rutgers), and Dr. Minjie Chen (Princeton) will present on "The Many Stories Behind the Thai Cave Rescue: How an International Team Recounted an International Event." The talk will describe the process of researching and writing Dr. Aronson's book, *Rising Water*, and how this transformed the story as they explored it.

Report on the 2018 BPM Annual Meeting & Dinner *Library Efforts to Stem Fake News Addressed*

Mamie Ney, Director of the Auburn Maine Public Library was our speaker at the 2018 Annual Meeting & Induction. Ney headed a pilot program launched by the American Library Association on how to help library users to understand misinformation, and fake news, and what to do when spotting it. The library partnered with the local Lewiston Sun Journal newspaper and their executive Editor Judy Meyer in creating materials to support the initiative. Ney discussed the implementation and outcomes from the program as well as her experiences in a public setting in what proved to be an interesting and engaging forum. Learn more about this critical topic at <http://www.ala.org/tools/programming/post-truth-fake-news-and-new-era-information-literacy>

BPM Omicron Chapter Initiates 8 New Members, Welcome All!

- Lori Bello
- Jennifer Danielle Berry
- Edward Hanks
- David Edward Louis McMahon
- Alexandra Plante
- David Platt
- Shawon Sarkar
- Christine Williamson

Omicron Chapter Officers: 2018-2019

President: Barbara Burton, Ph.D.,
Part-Time Lecturer, Rutgers
University

Vice President: Meaghan Darling,
Youth Services Librarian, Sparta
Public Library.

Secretary: David Platt, Ph.D.,
Special Collections Assistant,
Marquand Library of Art and
Archaeology, Princeton.

Treasurer: Jennifer Berry,
Children's Librarian, Morris
County Library

Past President: Melody Scagnelli-
Townley, Training & Digital
Initiatives Librarian, Bergen
County Cooperative Library
System (BCCLS)

Faculty Advisor: Marie L.
Radford, Ph.D., Professor and
Chair, Department of Library &
Information Science

LOC Internship for 2018 Scholarship Winner

Last summer, Lisa Thornton was
awarded a highly competitive
Knowledge Services Group
internship at the Congressional
Research Service of the Library of
Congress, working on the
description and arrangement of
Congressional records.
Congratulations, Lisa!

Got News?

We'd love to hear about your
new job, retirement, publication,
or presentation so we can share it
in the next newsletter. Send
announcements to David Platt
(david.s.platt@rutgers.edu).

2018 Scholarship Recipients

The 2018 Beta Phi Mu Omicron scholarships went to:
James Harvey, Kristen Matteucci, Lisa Thornton, and
Timothy Valente. Kristen (left) and Lisa (right) were at
the dinner to collect their awards in person. These
\$1,000 scholarships go to students currently enrolled
in the Rutgers MI program. Hearty congratulations to
all four and sincere thanks to the BPM members who
contributed to the scholarship fund!



Deborah Blackwell Delivers Fall 2018 Lecture: "Nurturing the Public Voice: The Library's Role in Community Transformation"

Deborah Blackwell presented this year's BPM Fall lecture, in Alexander
Library's Scholarly Communication Center, starting at 7pm on Tuesday, 16th
October. Ms. Blackwell is the Supervising Librarian/Public Manager for Ocean
County Public Library. In addition, she has certifications as a Public Manager
(through Fairleigh Dickinson University) and Temperament Therapist.

In a powerful and wide-ranging talk, Ms. Blackwell brought her expertise to
bear on the question of how we can accommodate disagreements as service
professionals, challenging the widely held idea that librarians are somehow
apolitical and emphasizing librarians' obligations to the communities they
serve. She took the audience back to the 1936 conference of the American
Library Association, in Richmond, VA. When African-American members were
barred from entry to the 58th meeting's venue due to segregation, members
protested the board's initial acquiescence, and the board issued a declaration
that they would no longer use facilities that would not accommodate *all* ALA
members. Far from being "neutral," librarians have always been engaged in
the issues of the day—and she gave current examples of the kind of work that
librarians do in Ferguson, MO, East Morgan County, CO, Baltimore, MD, and
even Ocean County, NJ.

Drawing on personal experience, Ms. Blackwell emphasized librarians'
responsibility to their communities to not retreat when faced with difficult
encounters but to communicate assertively. It's only through doing so that we
might come to understand that different sides might not be working from the
same definitions and assumptions. There may still be insurmountable
differences of opinion but it's only through communicating assertively that
we will have any hope of overcoming and resolving those differences.

A packed question and answer session made it clear that Ms. Blackwell's
inspirational presentation had given the audience much to think about.

The talk was co-sponsored by Beta Phi Mu Honor Society-Omicron Chapter,
Rutgers University Libraries, the SC&I Alumni Association, SC&I Department of
Library and Information Science, and The New Jersey Center for the Book.