Remembering
Keith C. Kuhn (December 17, 1950-May 6, 2008)
Beta Phi Mu Chi Chapter Executive Board officer 2005-2008
Honored at the
Beta Phi Mu Chi Chapter Initiation and Awards Ceremony
Indiana State Library, Nov. 20, 2008
Beta Phi Mu Chi Chapter Remembers Keith C. Kuhn

Beta Phi Mu Chi Chapter Past President Keith C. Kuhn died May 6, 2008 at the age of 57 and is greatly missed. Keith was the Library Services Director of the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County. He served on the Chi Chapter Executive Board several years, from 2005-2008, inspiring us with his dedication to service and leadership.

He made the trip from Cincinnati to Bloomington regularly to serve on the Chi Chapter Executive Board and on the SLIS Alumni Board. He began his service to Chi Chapter as Vice President 2005-2006. He helped plan and lead BPM events such as moderating the 2007 fall career forum panel discussion. He was a mentor to students, sharing his knowledge at the Beta Phi Mu career forums and establishing the Indiana University SLIS-Keith C. Kuhn Tri-State Scholarship for Cincinnati area students to pursue their library degree at Indiana University.

Keith received a B.A. from Indiana University/Purdue University, Indianapolis, and a M.L.S. from Indiana University Bloomington. He joined the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County on January 29, 1979 as the Adult Assistant in the Institutions/Books-By-Mail Department, quickly moving into the supervisor’s position in the department, and becoming Department Head on March 31, 1986. In 1993, he became the Department Head of Circulation Services. On January 7, 1996, he was promoted to Deputy Librarian-Main and on January 30, 2000, he was promoted to Director of the library’s Public Services Office.

In addition to serving on the Beta Phi Mu Chi Chapter Board, Keith shared his time generously with the profession and his community. He served as the President of the Indiana University SLIS Alumni Board from 2003 to 2008 and received the 2008 SLIS Distinguished Alumni Award posthumously. He also served on the ProQuest Advisory Board, the Macmillan/Scribner’s Advisory Board, the W.J. Williams YMCA Advisory Board as President, and the Board of the YMCA of Cincinnati.

He was also a co-founder of the Cincinnati USA Books by the Banks Festival.

Keith was the 2007 recipient of the American Library Association’s Sullivan Award for Public Library Administrators Supporting Services to Children. This award recognized his leadership role in making children’s services an organizational priority for the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County and in creating a Children’s Services Council for the PLCH System which gained state and national attention as a model for children’s services.

Memorials may be directed to the Indiana University Foundation for the Keith Kuhn Tri-State Scholarship (or in memory of Keith Kuhn), PO Box 2298, Bloomington, IN 47402 or the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, 800 Vine Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202.

His family has a memorial guestbook (http://www.busseborgmann.com/) where friends and colleagues can post messages.