From David Ross:
Aliis inserviendo consumor
I remember asking myself, upon first hearing Beta Phi Mu’s motto, “Just what am I getting myself into?” What exactly does it mean to be “consumed in the service of others?” It sounds fatal. It sounds, at the very least, like a fine recipe for burnout. It’s a phrase worthy of a soldier, a doctor, a monk–someone willing to make sacrifices for their beliefs. It’s a phrase that sets a very high standard indeed.

We honor our inductees for their academic records, and then casually drop the motto on them: “Oh, did we mention there were some strings attached?” “What’s in it for us?” they wonder. One answer is that there is often great joy to be found in serving others. As library and information professionals we are lucky to have much of this kind of joy in our work.

It’s also true that a “commitment to service” is a marketable commodity. Those who are committed to service tend to out-perform others on the job, and get better pay. So, offering our inductees a formula for job satisfaction and higher pay isn’t really placing such a burden on them at all. It’s giving them a recipe for success.

It’s no accident that we give our Distinguished Service Award to a role model (like this year’s recipient Nancy Lair) at our annual meeting when new members are inducted. It’s the proof that our motto really works!

Within our own Chi Chapter board we are also embracing service questions this year: Serving whom? Serving how? We have our mainstay services of the annual Career Forum, the Scholarship award for a student paper or web site, and the Award for Distinguished Service.

Resume Reality Check: Feb 25, 2005
Working with Deborah Shaw of SLIS, we will be testing a new program idea in February. It will build on the Career Forum experience by allowing students to interact closely with alumni for a “hands-on” session in resume readiness. Stay tuned for more information.

This year we are also working toward better service to our chapter members. Our dedicated, and often, veteran, board members, are quite active this year, dusting off the bylaws, reconstituting our mailing list and our web site, and charting a fresh course for our fresh century.

A primary goal is to achieve an increase in networking among our members. We need you to communicate your vision, your desires and ideas to your Chi Chapter board, to keep our chapter strong and growing. You can do this by joining us in the boardroom, or contacting us via email, phone, or any other means. Together, we will work on those things that energize us the most!

Energize... hmmm. Does anyone have the phone number of that very “un-consumed” bunny? I think my batteries are running low.

--David Ross, Chi Chapter President
Career Forum to be held
October 15th, 2004

The 2004 Chi Chapter Career Forum will be held on Friday, October 15th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in the SLIS Auditorium. Speakers will address changes in the job market, including new career opportunities, and what skill sets will best serve the library and information professional of the future. Where will the best jobs for SLIS graduates be found in the years ahead? Find out at the Career Forum! Refreshments following.

This year’s Career Forum is co-sponsored by these SLIS student organizations: ALA, ACM, SLA, and ASIST.

Confirmed speakers include:

Keith Kuhn, Head of Public Services, Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County
Brian Kleber, Director, Bloomington Small Business Development Center/inVenture
Cheryl Niemeier, Director Library Services, Bose McKinney & Evans, Indianapolis
4th Speaker to be announced

2004 Chi Chapter Annual Awards/Initiation News

Initiation
The annual Awards/Initiation Meeting was held at the Monroe County Public Library on April 30th. The Board thought that the change of venue would permit many initiates who were not planning to attend ILF to come to the ceremony. Thirteen 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 members:

Gena Asher  Catherine M.M. Jansen
Brian F. Clark  Susan J. Leach-Murray
Jennifer Gerke  Quinton Lee
Lisa Habegger  Aaron Loehrlein
Anne W. Hennessy  Jennifer Riley
Anne Marie Kelker  Adele D. Smith
Bara Swinson

Service Award

The Chi Chapter Service Award is presented annually to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession of library and information science. This year’s Service Award was presented to Nancy Lair, retired faculty member of SLIS, beloved by her many students during a 39 year career in Library and Information Science. Nancy spoke about her serendipitous and circuitous career path—from her original dream of being a veterinarian ( a woman veterinarian? Unheard of!), to working at Merck in their labs, to teaching, to becoming a librarian, lecturer at SLIS, and ultimately helping to develop the library system in Malawi, an extremely poor country in southern Africa. Nancy was a favorite of many, teaching literature of the humanities and the challenging cataloging classes, among many subjects, at SLIS.

Margy Carter, Steve Harter, Nancy Lair, Eva Kiewitt, Lois Lehman, and Martha Woolery celebrate on April 30th.

$100 Scholarship Awarded

The 2003-2004 student scholarship award was presented to Charlotte Ford, for her dissertation, "An Exploratory Study of the Differences between
Face-To-Face and Computer-mediated Reference Interactions.” SLIS Interim Dean Debra Shaw spoke briefly about the significance of Charlotte’s dissertation, and Kathryn La Barre read a brief note from Charlotte and accepted the award on Charlotte’s behalf. Heather’s paper and other past Chi Chapter scholarship papers are available at: http://www.monroe.lib.in.us/~bpmchi/scholarship.html#list

2005 Scholarship Deadline
The deadline for submissions for the 2004-2005 Chi Chapter Student Scholarship Award is February 16, 2005. A web page summarizing the award is available at the following URL: http://rimbaud.monroe.lib.in.us/~bpmchi/scholarship.html

Chi Chapter Board Positions
If you would be willing to serve on next year’s Executive Board of Chi Chapter, please contact Sue Catt, Chi Chapter Vice President scatt@ivytech.edu

2004-2005 Dues
Steve Backs, Treasurer reported a balance of $1,029.92 as of 4/30/04.
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 any Chi Chapter event or send a check at any time to:
Steve Backs c/o Chi Chapter
Monroe County Public Library
303 E. Kirkwood Avenue
Bloomington, IN 47408

Change of Address
Address changes may be sent to Chi chapter, Steve Backs, or by using the Chi website at: http://rimbaud.monroe.lib.in.us/~bpmchi/members.html In addition, change of address notification should be sent to the National Society at Beta Phi Mu, School of Information Studies, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL 32306

BPM National Scholarships

Sarah Rebecca Reed $2,000
Frank B. Sessa - Continuing Education $1,250
Harold Lancour - Foreign Study $1,500
Blanche E. Woolls - School Media $1,500
Doctoral Dissertation $2,000
Eugene Garfield Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship $3,000

Officers: Beta Phi Mu Chi Chapter Executive Board 2004-2005

President: David Ross
dbross@scican.net
Vice-President: Sue Catt
scatt@ivytech.edu
Treasurer: Steve Backs
sbacks@monroe.lib.in.us
Secretary: Cindy Monnier
cmonnier@indianachamber.com
Membership Coordinator: Erika Dowell
edowell@indianachamber.com
At Large: Jo Burgess
jburgess@indiana.edu
At Large: Mary Krutulis
krutulis@insightbb.com
Past President: Steve Backs
sbacks@monroe.lib.in.us
Faculty Sponsor: Tom Nisonger
nisonge@indiana.edu
Steve Backs
Beta Phi Mu – Chi Chapter
School of Library and Information Science
1320 E. 10th Street
Indiana University
Bloomington, IN 47405-3907
http://www.monroe.lib.in.us/~bpmchi/bpmchi.html