



BETA PHI MU **OMICRON CHAPTER**

International Library and Information Science Honor Society

Happy spring, Omicron members! We had an active and successful season, thanks to your participation and support! This issue of the newsletter includes your annual renewal form and scholarship donation request.

2012 OMICRON ANNUAL MEETING

On Tuesday, April 24th, members, initiates, scholarship recipients, faculty members, and special guests will gather for the 2012 Omicron annual meeting at the Rutgers Club. **Larry Milliken**, Drexel University Librarian for Humanities/Social Sciences, and **Jay Bhatt** Drexel University Librarian for Engineering, will offer the after dinner talk, “**Fast and Furious: Using Web Conferencing and Other Tools for Virtual Reference and Instruction.**”



Drexel University Librarians Larry Milliken and Jay Bhatt will address BΦM members and guests at the Annual Meeting

Jay Bhatt, MSEE, MLIS, is the Liaison Librarian for Engineering at Drexel University. His major interests areas include: outreach, teaching engineering information research skills to faculty and students, and in learning whether web

2.0 can be used in scholarly communication and increasing information awareness and if so, how. In 2010, he received the Homer I. Bernhardt Distinguished Service Award from the Engineering Libraries Division of the American Society for Engineering Education. He is the 2003 recipient of Drexel University's Harold Myers Distinguished Service Award. Jay has published and presented papers in the area of information literacy for engineering students.

Larry Milliken is the Liaison Librarian for the Humanities and Social Sciences at Drexel University. He received his MLIS in 2002 from Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey. Prior to becoming a librarian he earned a MA in Medieval Studies from Fordham University and was a doctoral student in Medieval European History at the City University of New York's Graduate School and University Center.

Before coming to Drexel, he was Assistant Professor and Coordinator for Information Literacy at Neumann College (now Neumann University) and had been Assistant Librarian for the Sciences at St. Peter's College. His research interests alternate between Library and Information Science and History and include: librarian involvement with digital humanities projects, collaborations with History faculty in the education of Engineering undergraduates, medieval visual culture, and early contacts between the medieval West and the Mongol Empire.

With Rebekah Kilzer, also of the Drexel University Libraries, Larry Milliken and Jay Bhatt have just published a chapter “Fast and Furious: Using Web Conferencing and Other Tools for Virtual Reference and Instruction” in the book, *Leading the Reference Renaissance: Today’s Ideas for Tomorrow’s Cutting-Edge Services*, edited by Omicron’s faculty advisor, Marie L. Radford and published by Neal-Schuman (2012).

BΦM: POWERED BY VOLUNTEERS!

Beta Phi Mu is a volunteer organization. Members offer to serve as officers, with responsibilities increasing each successive year. Last year it was suggested—and accepted by the membership—that officers serve for two-year terms rather than one year. It was hoped that this would increase efficiency in learning and fulfilling duties. (Below are listed the current officers.) If you are considering volunteering as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer next year, please speak with any officer during the Annual Meeting! Or, contact Maureen Smyth at maureen.smyth@gmail.com.

2012-2012 OFFICERS

President:	Melissa A. Hofmann
Vice President:	Maureen Smyth
Sec./Treasurer:	Kristen Fitzpatrick
Asst. Sec./Treasurer:	Katherine Wiggins
Past President:	Susan Quinn
Faculty Advisor:	Dr. Marie Radford

SHOW YOUR BETA PHI MU PRIDE!

Show your pride in being a part of Beta Phi Mu. We will have **BΦM braided honor cords** and **insignia pins** available for purchase at the annual meeting. Graduates walking in May 13, 2012 graduation: you may wear the honor cord on your gown as you get your diploma. School faculty members can wear the cords

with regalia when marching in commencements.



Honor cords and insignia pin, via the BΦM national Web site

The brass-toned pins are painted with enamel to display the BΦM colors and the dolphin and anchor insignia. They are each \$15. Both items are also available for purchase at the national BΦM Web site (www.beta-phi-mu.org/merchandise.php).

SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

The Omicron Chapter of Beta Phi Mu is especially proud of its mission to provide **scholarships** each for current Rutgers School of Communication and Information (SC&I) students who are pursuing the master’s degree in library and information science. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to increase the number of recipients once again.

In 2011 we provided \$1,000 scholarships to four worthy recipients, **Natalia Ermolaev, Shanna Hollich, Miraida Morales, and Anna Raya Rivera**, selected from an impressive pool of applicants. In September 2011, BΦM officers were on hand to celebrate the achievements of our scholarship recipients and to recognize the generosity of fund supporters at the School of Communication and Information’s third annual Scholarship Donor Recognition Reception held in (see <http://comminfo.rutgers.edu/news/scholarship-reception-aresoundingsuccess.html>).



BPM President Melissa Hofmann, Dean Jorge Schement, Anna Raya Rivera, Marie Radford, & Shanna Hollich at SC&I's third annual Scholarship Donor Recognition

The deadline for **2012 scholarship** applications is **March 23, 2012**. Scholarships will be awarded at the annual meeting on April 24th.

If you know a current Rutgers SC&I student who is studying for a Master of Library and Information Science, please tell him/her about this opportunity. **The scholarship form may be found on our web site** <http://betaphimuomicron.wordpress.com>, or by contacting Maureen Smyth, Vice President, via email at maureen.smyth@gmail.com.

Please consider supporting this worthy effort with a donation when you receive the spring membership renewal.

FALL LECTURE

Although we don't yet have a date, the Annual Lecture will be scheduled in the fall of 2012, sponsored by BΦM, the Department of Library and Information Science, the SC&I Alumni Association, and the New Jersey Center for the Book, and hosted by the Scholarly Communications Center at Alexander Library, Rutgers. Keep an eye on our website for details and plan to join us for this exciting celebration of librarianship!

GET UPDATES FROM US!

The Omicron chapter's website (<http://betaphimuomicron.wordpress.com>) allows you to sign up for email updates or RSS feeds when new information is posted. It's easy. And don't worry—we are low traffic! Remember: **All news, photos, bios, newsletters, and scholarship applications** can be found on our website.

If you would like to be a **contributing author** to our **blog**, please email maureen.smyth@gmail.com so that we can add you. Anyone may submit comments to posts—we encourage you!

For those of you on **Facebook**, we also have a “Beta Phi Mu, Omicron Chapter” page. **Hope to see you there!**

MEMBER NEWS

Please send us your career updates and news to publish in the next newsletter and/or on our website/blog. Email maureen.smyth@gmail.com with updates on your career, professional activities, and family news. We have not received any news lately. Please, don't be shy! Remember, updates provide a valuable networking tool for members and foster chapter pride!

ARE YOU MOVING?

Please remember to let us know if your address changes. Virtual Move? Please let us know your preferred email address. We want to keep our members as informed as possible as efficiently as possible!

Please notify Kristen Fitzpatrick at K.Fitzpatrick@ieee.org.

