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

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/

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).

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