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Mu Chapter of Alpha Beta Alpha Newsletter, April 1957

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MU HAS A BIRTHDAY

As Mu chapter celebrates its first birthday as a part of the national fraternity, Alpha Beta Alpha, the members might find it worthwhile to remember some of the important facts about this organization. First, one might recall that it was just one year ago in February that the new chapter was installed by Susan Bush of Gamma chapter who was then national vice president. Previous to that time Mu chapter had been known as Milnerites, a local campus organization.

The first question that a new prospective member asks is: what is Alpha Beta Alpha? As members of this organization, we should be ready with the prompt reply that it is "the national undergraduate library science fraternity with chapters at colleges and universities in all sections of the United States." The fraternity was established May 3, 1950.

At that time, the members felt that there was a need for such a national organization to promote the interest of library science on the undergraduate level. Forming such an organization, the members designated the following purposes: "to encourage young men and women to become librarians, to promote fellowship, to further the professional knowledge of its members."

There are various types of memberships. Active members are those students who are taking library courses at a college or university which has a chapter. Faculty members may join with the status of professional member. Alumni are invited to become life members; such a membership is \$5.00, of which the chapter retains \$2.00.

There are many benefits to be gained from such an organization, the members have the privilege of attending national conventions where they meet members from all over the United States and share experiences and learn new ideas. As an additional benefit, each member receives the Fraternity's official quarterly publication, "The Alphabet."

In honor of Mu's first birthday, the Chapter had a very special program. "Behind Closed Doors in Milner" was the theme for this special meeting. The program was presented by three people who play an important, but rather unknown, part in the library program. Miss Beryl Gallaway described the cataloging procedures which she uses to process the books for the laboratory school libraries. Following this, the group was introduced to Mrs. Hazel Van Huss, who is in charge of the Carnegie Room. To climax the evening program, Mr. Will Johnson invited us to visit the Johnson Room.

We are looking forward to a bigger and better second year!

NEW MEMBERS IN 1956-57

Professional membership:
Miss Mary Charlotte Farris

Life memberships:
Miss Ruth Hundley
Miss Edith Stortz
Miss Esther McNutt
Mrs. Margaret McMullen
Mrs. Grace Brenner Smith
Mrs. Betty Eveland Cook
Mrs. Henrietta Padgett
Mrs. Helen Brangenburg Friedel
Mrs. Betty Ohm
Miss Olivia Chung

Active memberships:
Sheila Anderson
Donna Billeau
Eloise Cline
Eleanor Eastwood
Joan Kester
Mary Plager
Barbara Stungis

ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR

The program for 1956-57 consisted of a variety of activities. The September meeting was a general get-acquainted session. Using as his topic his recent trip to Europe, Peter Martin, an alumnus, was

the speaker for the evening.

At the October meeting held in the projection room in the library, the group viewed the film, "The Impressionable Years." This film illustrated the service which a library gives to a young child during his most impressionable years.

After meeting in the library classroom, the group made a trip to the Illinois Reading Circle in November. Mr. Roland McCannon, director of the Reading Circle, explained the work of the organization. He was assisted by Miss Dorothy Hinman, who serves on the selection committee for the reading circle.

The Christmas party was held at the home of our sponsor, Miss Eunice Speer. Miss Margaret Parret, instructor in speech, presented a Christmas reading and led the group in a number of choral readings of Christmas selections.

"Realms of the Unknown in Milner" was the title of Miss Eleanor Welch's talk at the January meeting. At this time, the group held a going-away party for the secretary treasurer, Thera Jackson, who graduated in January.

The high point of the year for the pledges was the February meeting. At this time, seven pledges became active members of Mu chapter at a most impressive ceremony held in the Faculty Lounge.

Other activities included the building of a float for the homecoming parade using the theme "It's in the Book." Following the homecoming game, the group enjoyed a very fine banquet at the Hotel Rogers in Bloomington. On October 27, the group conducted a very successful paper drive.

CONVENTION TIME

The national convention will be held at Terre Haute on April 26 and 27, 1957. Our delegate is Eleanor Eastwood and Lucy Ward is the alternate. Mu chapter will also be represented by Robert Abbott, District 3 councilman. The theme for the convention is "A Forward Look." There will be six general sessions which will include interesting addresses by speakers. A panel discussion will be held on "The Fraternity and its Future." The convention plans are very worthwhile so everyone attending will receive many benefits from it. At 7 p.m. April 27, the Alpha Beta Alpha convention will come to a close.

A FITTING CLIMAX

To climax the 1956-1957 school year, the members of Alpha Beta Alpha are planning a trip to the State Library at Springfield on Saturday, May 18, 1957, complete with a picnic lunch. Through a tour of the library, we hope to formulate a clearer conception of the State Library--what it is, how it operates, and the role that it plays in serving the state government, education, and especially school libraries. By first hand experience the library will achieve for us a living vitality and realness that cannot be gained even through the wonderful art of reading. May 18 will certainly be a red-letter day on the calendar for the members of Alpha Beta Alpha.

OUR WONDERFUL WORLD

Library Journal for February 15, 1957 has an evaluation of Our Wonderful World edited by Herbert S. Zim. Of the set Mary Gaver, Associate Professor of the Graduate School of Library Service, Rutgers University says: it "appears to be a very attractive readable set for browsing purposes, containing materials on topics of direct appeal to boys and girls of junior high school age..." Since it is an anthology rather than an encyclopedia, Miss Gaver recommends it for homes and schools only after they have secured good basic juvenile encyclopedias. If you are considering the purchase of this set, you will want to read this evaluation of it.

ALUMNI NEWS

With an interest in furthering their education in library science, some of the alums were busy doing additional work at the University of Illinois last summer. Included in this group were the following people: Donna Timm, Mary Roeder, Vera Huttenburg Wygell, Frances Douglas, and Virginia Followell. Both Mrs. Wygell and her husband were working on their master's degrees.

During the midwinter meeting of A. L. A. Virginia Followell was initiated into Beta Phi Mu, graduate library science fraternity.

Mrs. Charlene Edwards Druce is the mother of two children. One is two years old

and the other was born in June, 1956. She and her family live in Grays Lake where Ray, her husband, is cartographer for Rand McNally.

We understand that Donna Timm is planning to move into a new library building!

Margery Hinrichs was here for the homecoming dinner. She is now planning to work on her library degree at one of the library schools.

Another one of our alumni, Ruth Karloski also attended the homecoming dinner. She is now an assistant for Miss Hostetter and Miss Lohrer at the University of Illinois.

Colleen Robinson is planning to be married this summer. She will be living in Taylorville.

Wedding bells have already rung for Helen Bourgeois, who is now Mrs. Lomer J. Laney. She is living in Joliet.

News from Hawaii: Olivia Chung, one of A. B. A.'s charter members, is now at home at Kaunshakai, Molokai, in the Territory of Hawaii. Olivia graduated from I. S. N. U. in June, 1956, and from here she and her brother went on a tour of western United States. She is now teaching the first grade with thirty-two students. She is enjoying it immensely. Olivia is still planning to return to I. S. N. U. to do some graduate work. Olivia hopes that some of those good old A. B. A. pals will write to her. Her address is above.

HAVE YOU SEEN:

1. Basic Book Collection for Elementary Grades, 6th edition. A. L. A. 1956. \$2.00.

A book selection list of a thousand titles for kindergarten through eighth grade, prepared for use of "administrators, teachers and teacher-librarians" who want to provide a library for a small school. Librarians of larger schools can use it as a "nucleus" upon which to build their collections. It is an annotated classified list with an author and title index. An appendix includes annotations for "magazines for elementary grades."

2. Basic Book Collection for Junior High Schools, 2nd edition. A. L. A. 1956.

Similar to the above work but for an older age level. It contains an annotated list of magazines for Junior High Schools.

3. Lancour, Harold, ed. School Library Supervisor. A. L. A. 1956.

Discusses administrative problems growing out of multi-school library systems. Unit district librarians and school librarians who supervise several school libraries will want to see this work.

Help! Help! Help!

We are sure that our alumni are doing some very interesting things now. We hope that you will share these experiences with the rest of the members of Mu chapter. So why not sit down right now and drop us a little note telling us what you are doing now. Just address your little notes to: Gladys Jane Waren, Box 130, Barton Hall, Normal, Illinois. We'll be looking forward to hearing from you.

HOMECOMING BANQUET

We were certainly very happy to have some of our life members with us at the homecoming banquet. In addition to the professional and active members, the following life members and their guests attended: Miss Ruth Hundley, Mrs. Evelyn Botkin and her guest Janet Whitenburg, Mrs. Bernadine Meeker, Mrs. Margaret McMullen, Miss Ruth Karloski, and Miss Margery Hinrichs and her guest, Miss Ann Preston.

EXPERIENCE IS A GOOD TEACHER

The two articles which follow were written by two of our members who are gaining valuable experience in the field of library science by working at Withers Library in Bloomington.

Reference library work is a challenging field, for there are always new questions

to be answered and new facts to be learned at a library. Withers Library in Bloomington has proved to be a good sounding board for anyone really interested in library work. When any difficult questions come up the regular staff members are usually handy to help you solve your dilemma. About the hardest thing about the work is learning where all the different magazines are kept and even after several months, many of them still keep evading me.

The reference department, in addition to keeping track of the magazines and reference books, has a large collection of clippings, pamphlets, pictures, and telephone directories. They also write up a review of the new books added to the library for the local newspaper and type the reviews of the Bloomington and Normal movies for the week. These are posted inside the main door of the library.

In all, it is very interesting work in the company of very interesting and friendly people. By the way, in case you are ever asked, Spike Jones' real name is Lindley Armstrong Jones and the area of the Belgian Congo is 904,991 square miles.

By Lucy Ward

Withers Library is a wonderful place to work, for the staff are all wonderful people, and the library itself is gay, colorful, inviting, and has a friendly atmosphere.

At Withers you will find a complete new re-decorating job, making it seem like a new library and providing more space and an attractive setting for book displays.

There is a new gray tile floor, the walls and ceiling are fresh white and peacock

blue paint, the woodwork and furnishings have been refinished blond. There are lots of comfortable new chairs on which the patrons may relax.

At Withers you will find a book of any type or variety. Withers has an excellent Children's Room, Reference Library, Records, and even a bountiful supply of Illinois State Library books.

Withers has just celebrated its 100th anniversary.

Working at a library gives one a personal satisfaction that comes from helping someone who asks for and really wants your help.

By Robert Abbott

PROFESSIONAL NEWS

During this year our professional members have been quite active in activities to further interest in library science.

Miss Welch and Miss Speer, our sponsor, attended the midwinter meeting of A. L. A. in Chicago. Miss Welch chaired a meeting on Magazine indexing. Miss Speer worked on the Joint Committee for Library Work as a Career.

Miss Dorothy Hinman attended the November luncheon meeting of the Chicago Reading Round Table which was held at the Windemere Hotel near the University of Chicago. From there she went to the Museum of Science and Industry to the Miracle of Books.

Miss Beryl Gallaway is now serving as President of the McLean County Library Association.

STAFF

- Editor.....Gladys Jane Waren
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- Sheila Anderson
- Eloise Cline
- Mary Plager
- Lucy Ward
- Sponsor.....Miss Eunice Speer