Beta Phi Mu International Honor Society, President, 2005-2007

Anna H. Perrault, University of South Florida

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Message from Our President

Greetings to Beta Phi Mu members and especially new Initiates!

Recently I attended the Association of College Honor Societies Council Meeting in Tampa as the delegate for Beta Phi Mu. There are sixty-six honor societies that are ACHS members.

The theme of the meeting was "Doing Honor: ACHS Honor Societies Facing the Future."

The Provost from the University of South Florida, Renu Khator, was the keynote speaker. She shared her vision of the future of higher education and honor societies. According to Khator, "In a global competitive environment higher education needs to concentrate on giving skills and knowledge that cannot be outsourced. Higher education has to change and needs to become an innovative environment. Higher education needs to set higher expectations for students.

Because honor societies celebrate achievement and success, build leadership, and set challenges they will continue to play a key role."

We can all participate in continuing to set high academic and professional standards through Beta Phi Mu chapters. Sponsorship of distinguished lectures as chapter programs is one avenue to emphasize scholarship and professional leadership. There is also a Beta Phi Mu grant that supports chapter programming.

The topic of establishing honor society chapters internationally arose at the ACHS meeting. The Beta Phi Mu board in the last several years has been seeking opportunities to establish chapters outside of the United States. From comments made at the meeting, the globalization of higher education may make it easier to accomplish this in the future.

We hope to see many of you at the Assembly meeting at ALA Annual in Washington DC.

Dr. Anna Ferrault