



Hope College ***Mortar Board Awareness Week***

Also known as “Blitz Week,” Mortar Board Awareness week is dedicated to showcasing Mortar Board at Hope College. Local businesses donated gift cards for prizes, flyers went up around campus, and members wore their Mortar Board t-shirts and sweatshirts throughout the week. The week started with giving out cookies, Bingo, and a dorm blitz and ended with an informational panel where current members shared their Mortar Board experiences.

Kansas State University ***Reading is Power (Reading is Leading Event)***

Dressed as their favorite superheroes, children from the Manhattan community spent the day completing literacy-based activities like creating their own superhero and looking for lost superpowers in the sand. Showing that reading is a superpower we all can possess, children read with Mortar Boards, Kansas State athletes and special guest, Willie the Wildcat, the K-State mascot.

Ohio Northern University ***Pie-a-Professor and Polar Bear Donation***

The university president; student council president; deans of the colleges of arts and science, engineering, and business; the director of student conduct; and two professors volunteered alongside the Mortar Board chapter president to have a whipped cream pie thrown at them during halftime of a women’s basketball game. Partnering with Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma, the chapter raised more than \$200 in one week. This money bought 60 stuffed polar bears to be donated to patients in the operation and emergency rooms at Hardin Memorial Hospital.

Oklahoma State University ***Top Ten Freshman Awards***

Receiving a Top Ten Freshman Award is a prestigious honor at Oklahoma State. The Achofoa chapter is responsible for publicizing the application, planning the Top Twenty dinner at the President’s house, finding faculty and staff to review the applications for the final ten, and honoring the Top Ten men and women selected at a recognition reception for them and their families. This year, the Top Ten Freshman were recognized during halftime at a football game and were invited to stay in one of the Student Government Association football suites.

Purdue University ***Mortar Board Leadership Conference***

The annual Mortar Board Leadership Conference is an opportunity for Purdue’s student leaders to develop their leadership abilities and network with peers. The theme was Thinking Inside the Box, a concept intended to push leaders to think about “the box” as something that encompasses their leadership abilities, strengths and attitudes. The opening keynote was Tim Elmore, president of Growing Leaders and the author of Habitudes. The closing keynote was given by Ann Marie Klotz, dean for campus life on the Manhattan campus of the New York Institute of Technology.

San Diego State University ***Mortar Board Planner***

“The Mortar Board Planner and Calendar of Events” book is a yearly partnership with the San Diego State University Bookstore. The Cap and Gown chapter provides all of the information about campus activities, programs and events, organizations, important campus phone numbers, the academic calendar and a campus map, and the bookstore prints and helps promote the book. This year, Cap and Gown added a booklet about San Diego’s Honors Council that provides information about all of the honors societies on campus, as well as the Weber Honors College. The chapter receives \$1.50 per book sold; this year the chapter raised \$11,826.

The University of Alabama ***Inaugural Gentleman’s Ball***

The Hypatia chapter partnered with the Grandeur Gentlemen’s Coterie to host a charity ball for the Exceptional Foundation – an organization that serves mentally and physically challenged individuals in Birmingham, Ala. The event was funded through university funding and University Programs, which allowed all ticket sales and general donations to go directly to the Exceptional Foundation. The keynote speaker was Stephen Black, the director of the Center for Ethics and Social Responsibility at the University of Alabama. University president and Mortar Board Judy Bonner was in attendance as a special guest. The event raised \$1,100 for the Exceptional Foundation. The Hypatia chapter spent a day on campus with students from the Exceptional Foundation providing a campus tour, lunch at a dining hall and a tour of Bryant-Denny Stadium.

University of North Dakota ***Turkey Basket Drive***

The 35th Annual Turkey Basket Drive raised enough money to feed over 4,500 members of the Grand Forks community. Starting in the summer, Quo Vadis chapter members promoted the event and secured donations of money and resources from the campus community and local businesses. The chapter's enthusiasm was contagious. For example, an eight-year-old girl in the community asked that her birthday party guests bring items to donate for the Thanksgiving Baskets instead of presents for her. It was the most successful year of the Turkey Basket Drive.

University at Buffalo ***"Roots to College"***

Wanting to do more than donate money, the UB Launch chapter visited Burgard High School seniors to assist them with completing their FASFA. From these interactions, UB Launch assisted the seniors in the creation of a video for Michelle Obama's Reach Higher Initiative, FASFA Competition Competition. They partnered with Buffalo's Say Yes! Foundation and city mayor Byron Brown. In addition, the seniors at Burgard were able to come to Buffalo's campus to experience a day in the life of a college student. Students were sent home with "college success bags" containing financial aid information, how to succeed in class, study methods, pens, pencils, stress balls and a t-shirt.

University of California, Los Angeles ***Midterms and Finals Care Packages***

Gathering bluebooks, pencils, scantrons, snacks and good luck notes, the Agathai chapter distributed midterms and finals packages to fellow Bruins. UCLA's Academic Affairs Commission partnered with the chapter to help provide funding, as well as a photo booth during the commission's No Stress November event. Students were able to interact with Mortar Boards while learning health fun facts and study tips.

The University of Nebraska at Kearney ***Last Lecture Series***

During Mortar Board Week, the Xi Phi chapter hosts their annual "Last Lecture." This year Mortar Board member Dr. Dennis Potthoff, associate dean of the College of Education and Mortar Board alumni (The University of Nebraska -Lincoln, 1978) delivered the lecture Life Lessons: What Teaching Teachers Taught Me. The event had a record number of attendees and a video recording was posted online for Xi Phi alumni and community members.

University of San Diego ***Linda Vista Outreach Program***

In a series of events through the year, the Alcalá chapter members increased their influence in the Linda Vista community. In the fall, the chapter arranged a "College Essay Day" in which Mortar Board members visited Kearny High many times to assist students in the development of their college essays. They also spent time with future Kearny High students and community residents during their Halloween "Reading is Leading" Project at the Bayside Community Center. Finally, they raised over \$1,000 for their STRIVE scholarship fund. This year, they were able to award scholarships to four Kearny High seniors who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, leadership and service.

University of South Alabama ***Fall Retreat***

Azalea chapter members, their section coordinator, and part of their advisor team gathered prior to the start of the academic year for a fall retreat. The retreat began with a recap of the 2014 conference, including teambuilding and icebreaker exercises. The chapter planned their activities for the year, selected meeting times and attendance policies, elected chair positions, and sent goals for the year. Snacks were provided with chapter funds and the members enjoyed canoeing, kayaking and fishing on the lake at Camp Grace.

University of Washington ***Circle of Honors***

Circle of Honors is a new tradition among the honor societies at the University of Washington to celebrate "the most positive elements of the student experience." Throughout the first week of spring semester, there were four main events, two of which were executed by the Tolo chapter. The first event was an honors reception for all faculty and student members of any honor society on campus were invited to gather. The second event was a community fair that where 20 community-based organizations could interact with students. The entire event was funded by a cupcake feed hosted by the Tolo chapter and Order of Omega in addition to the sale of discount cards and some university funding.