

# Leading LEADERS

Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society   
a resource for chapters and advisors

## FEBRUARY 2015

### MORTAR BOARD IS 97!

Mortar Board celebrates its 97th birthday on February 15, 2015. Ninety-seven years ago, women representing our four founding chapters met on a cold morning in Syracuse, New York, to create a national honor society for college senior women. Little did they know that their legacy, nearly a century later, would be a Society more than a quarter-of-a-million members strong. From the beginning, Mortar Board was more than a means of recognizing academic achievement. The Society brought together women leaders from all parts of campus, honoring them for their dedication to the Ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. While the years have brought both growth and change to Mortar Board, the commitment to our Ideals remains as strong today as it was in 1918.

### NEWS

#### SPECIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE VOTING OPEN

Thank you to the 117 chapters who participated in the Special National Conference calls! Voting opened on January 25 and will remain open until 11:59 p.m. Eastern on Saturday, February 14. Vote online here.

If you are unsure whether your chapter is able to vote, please contact the National Office at [mortarboard@mortarboard.org](mailto:mortarboard@mortarboard.org). Chapters with 2014 cleared accounts by noon on February 13, 2015, are eligible to vote.

#### CELEBRATE YOUR OUTSTANDING ADVISOR

Good advisors are a critical to the success of a Mortar Board chapter. Recognize the hard work and dedication of your advisor by nominating her or him for our national Excellence in Advising Award!

Awarded annually at the national conference, the Excellence in Advising Award honors advisors who have provided outstanding service, guidance and support to a collegiate chapter. Nominations are due on or before March 15. Nominate your advisor here.

Excellence in Advising award recipients from the past five years are ineligible to receive the award this year. A complete list of previous recipients is on our website.

### UPCOMING DUE DATES

#### FEBRUARY 15-21

**Mortar Board Week** - Mortar Board Week is the annual national celebration of Mortar Board's founding in 1918. It is a great time to plan visibility events and projects that make an impact on your campus! Visit the Mortar Board website for resources and ideas.

## **DUE BETWEEN SELECTION AND TAPPING**

**Official Membership Report (OMR)** - A complete list of the candidates your chapter has selected for membership must be provided to the National Office at least two weeks before the candidates are tapped. Once the candidates are approved, they may be tapped by your chapter.

### **DUE MARCH 1**

**Fellowship application** - Mortar Board members of any age or distance from their baccalaureate degree who are furthering their education by pursuing a postgraduate degree are eligible to apply for funding from Mortar Board. Chapter officers are encouraged to promote the fellowship application to their chapter.

### **DUE MARCH 15**

**Excellence in Advising Award nominations** - Excellence in Advising Awards are given annually at the National Conference to deserving advisors who have been nominated by their chapters and chosen by a selection committee.

### **MARCH 15**

**National Conference registration** - Registration for the 2015 Mortar Board National Conference opens March 15. Please ensure your delegate gets registered by May 15, but the sooner the better! Read more about the conference on our website and in upcoming issues of LeadingLeaders.

## **CHAPTER RESOURCES**

### **ELECTION 101**

Election of new chapter officers is a critical end of year activity for both the outgoing and incoming class. It is essential that before leaving campus for the summer, you have elected and held a thorough training for new chapter officers. Here are some FAQs to help you conduct a successful officer election:

#### **Who is involved with officer elections?**

All outgoing chapter officers and current chapter advisors should assist the newly-initiated members with their officer election process.

#### **When should elections take place?**

Officer elections must take place well before the end of the school year and should be held in advance of May 15 so that the new president can register for the national conference prior to the deadline. We recommend allowing time between initiation and election for new members to get to know each other prior to elections. The outgoing chapter should host meetings and social events during this time for the new chapter members. Set this date early to ensure that outgoing officers and the advisors can attend the election. Also announce the date of officer training well in advance.

#### **How do we tell new members about elections?**

Give information about officer elections to new members either at tapping or initiation.

Talk about elections at all your new member orientation events. Be sure to include a listing of positions and responsibilities, as well as the date and time of officer elections (and any other events to be hosted in between initiation and officer elections!). Make sure current office-holders are available to answer questions of potential replacements.

### What offices should we elect?

Refer to the Officer and Advisor Handbook for a listing of recommended leadership positions and responsibilities.

### How do we train new officers?

Hold an old-new officer training session with your advisor present. You can help new officers carry your momentum with a simple, meaningful training that passes the torch of leadership.

### How do we report the new officers to the National Office?

Submit the New Officer Report Form to the National Office immediately and no later than May 15.

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**Going to graduate school?**  
Apply for a Mortar Board  
National Foundation  
*fellowship*

Applications are  
due on or before  
**MARCH 1**  
Find out more online at  
[www.mortarboard.org](http://www.mortarboard.org)



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**SALE!**

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