

Mortar Board

National College Senior Honor Society

Scholars...Chosen for Leadership...United to Serve



MEDIA RELEASE

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MORTAR BOARD FELLOWS NAMED FOR 2015-2016

COLUMBUS, Ohio – The Mortar Board National Foundation proudly announces that more than \$30,000 has been awarded to eight exceptional Mortar Board members to support their graduate education during the 2015-2016 academic year. Mortar Board National Foundation president, Denise Rode, Ed.D., observed, “The Mortar Board National Foundation is proud to contribute to the success of these eight outstanding members. We applaud their accomplishments, and look forward to the contributions they will make in the fields of medicine, law, dentistry, neuroscience, information science and technology, and structural engineering.”

Every year, the Mortar Board National Foundation awards fellowships to assist members in financing their graduate studies. Since 1942, \$750,000 has been granted to help members pursue their advanced degrees. Annually, members are chosen to receive these highly-competitive fellowships based on a demonstrated record of academic excellence, strong recommendation, scholarship promise and Mortar Board involvement.

This year’s Mortar Board Fellows:

Daniel Citron was inspired by philanthropic work with the homeless population and a study abroad experience in Costa Rica to pursue a career in dentistry. Citron says that these experiences “shaped my views on international health and inspired me to make a commitment to providing accessible dental and oral health care to the most marginalized members of society.” He is a 2014 summa cum laude graduate of San Diego State University, where he earned his baccalaureate degree in international security and conflict resolution, and served as a member of the award-winning Jane K. Smith Cap & Gown chapter of Mortar Board. A passionate musician and avid fitness enthusiast, Citron will attend the UCLA School of Dentistry in the fall as a Mortar Board Fellowship recipient.

Thanh Do Ngoc was born and raised in Vietnam, where a major bridge collapse in 2007 profoundly affected his desire to become a civil engineer. He felt “a great passion and responsibility to help improve the civil engineering system, not only in Vietnam, but also everywhere in the world.” To reach that goal, he obtained an undergraduate degree in civil engineering in 2012 from the University of the Pacific, which awarded him the Academic Excellence Award for highest departmental distinction. Do Ngoc served as leader of many student organizations, including the Knolens chapter of Mortar Board. He went on to graduate school at the University of California, Berkeley, where he earned a master’s degree and is pursuing his doctorate in civil (structural) engineering as the Zelma Patchin-Oklahoma State/Washington State Fellow.

Bryan Dosono aims to “address the social justice issue of bridging the digital divide for underserved communities” by enhancing the nation’s information technology infrastructure. A lack of access to technology in his own hometown drove him to pursue the field of information science at the University of Washington, where in 2013 he obtained an honors baccalaureate degree in informatics (human-computer interaction). In addition to his undergraduate membership in the Tolo chapter of Mortar Board, he served as president of the UW chapter of Lambda Phi Epsilon International Fraternity and chair of the Student Senate. Dosono is currently a Ph.D. student at Syracuse University studying information science and technology. The Mortar Board Fellowship will enable him to further his scholarly contributions as a teacher, researcher and author in his field.

Ben Hemmelgarn is interested in the intersection of science, business and law. As a future lawyer with a background in molecular genetics, he hopes to lead the field of medicine “down a path that is sensitive to individual privacy as well as conducive to life-saving research.” While an undergraduate at The Ohio State University, Hemmelgarn led the Mabel G. Freeman chapter of Mortar Board to earn the Ruth Weimer Mount Award, the Society’s highest honor for a collegiate chapter. He graduated in 2013 with a baccalaureate degree in molecular genetics, following which he joined the Peace Corps as an agricultural volunteer in rural Paraguay. Recently named the Ellen North Dunlap Fellow, Hemmelgarn will begin pursuit of his J.D. with a concentration in patent law and intellectual property at The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law.

Allison Montgomery is an aspiring doctor who is “passionate about healthcare” in her home state of Alabama. Influenced by devastating tornadoes in her community in 2011, she desires to practice family medicine and obstetrics in an underserved area of Alabama. Montgomery attended the University of Alabama and recently earned a B.S. in biology with a certificate of rural community health. While at Alabama, she served as president of the Hypatia chapter of Mortar Board in addition to roles as chief justice of the Academic Honor Council and student government vice-president. For her undergraduate accomplishments, she was awarded the Sullivan Award for the top senior female on campus. In the fall, Montgomery will begin her studies at the University of Alabama School of Medicine to obtain her M.D. as the Barbara Cook Fellow.

Sarah Royer plans an academic career in the field of neuroscience due to her “insatiable curiosity for the workings of the brain.” As an undergraduate at The Ohio State University, Royer worked in a research lab investigating Alzheimer’s disease, earning her authorship on five peer-reviewed publications and the opportunity to present her findings at two national conferences. She also volunteered for the Columbus Alzheimer’s Care Center to gain a personal understanding of the disease she was studying. Royer served as president of the Mabel G. Freeman chapter of Mortar Board at Ohio State and earned her baccalaureate degree in neuroscience in 2015. The recipient of the Ruth Weimer Mount Fellowship, Royer will attend The University of California, Irvine, to obtain her doctorate in neurobiology and behavior.

Jennifer Sedler wishes to dedicate her future to “a life serving others as a physician, giving them support and opportunities for healing.” She recently received her undergraduate degree in health sciences from the University of Arizona, where she was a member of the Pi Sigma Alpha chapter of Mortar Board. In 2011, Sedler was crowned Miss Arizona. In that role, she promoted her platform of supporting children with life-threatening illnesses by attending hundreds of community service events and leading multi-million dollar fundraisers for children’s health providers. She also volunteered as Goodwill Ambassador for the Children’s Miracle Network Hospital. Sedler will begin medical school in the fall at the University of Arizona College of Medicine as beneficiary of the Mortar Board Fellowship in honor of Diane Selby.

Anna Yuan believes that her experiences growing up as a Chinese immigrant and later volunteering in underserved areas of Central America “cemented [her] belief that healthcare is a basic human right.” Yuan was a member of the Mrs. Granville Wells chapter of Mortar Board at Indiana University, where she obtained a baccalaureate degree in international studies in 2007. Desiring to provide medical and dental care to marginalized populations, Yuan pursued a degree in dental medicine at the University of Pennsylvania in 2011 followed by a residence and fellowship in oral medicine at Harvard Medical School in 2014. Recently awarded the Ramier-Coleman Fellowship, Yuan is currently a clinician enrolled at the University of Tuebingen in Germany pursuing a Ph.D. in experimental medicine.

About Mortar Board

Mortar Board is the premier national honor society recognizing college seniors for outstanding achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. Since its founding in 1918, more than a quarter of a million members have been initiated at 231 chartered chapters across the nation. Mortar Board provides its members with opportunities for continued leadership development, promotes service to colleges and universities and encourages lifelong contributions to the global community. Some notable Mortar Board members include professional football player and philanthropist Drew Brees, former United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and award-winning actor Marion Ross. Learn more about Mortar Board at www.mortarboard.org.

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