

# Mortar Board

National College Senior Honor Society

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



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **MORTAR BOARD PRESENTS DISTINGUISHED LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD TO UNIVERSITY LEADER AND CHAPTER ADVISOR JAN WISSMAN**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society announced that Dr. Janice Wissman of Manhattan, Kan., is the recipient of its Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award. This honor was presented to Wissman at the Society's annual national conference, held last month in Atlanta.

The Mortar Board Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award is presented each year to exceptional Mortar Board alumni who have exemplified a lifelong devotion to Mortar Board's ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. Honorees have retained connections with Mortar Board and have demonstrated outstanding community or campus service with national or international impact.

Wissman was initiated in 1962 into the XIX chapter of Mortar Board at Kansas State University, where she earned a baccalaureate degree in home economics. She considered herself "blessed to be a member of a very active collegiate chapter at Kansas State University...As we served our university and community, we learned first-hand the importance of working together." She later returned to her alma mater as advisor of the XIX chapter at K-State, a role she held for 17 years and for which she received the Mortar Board Excellence in Advising Award in 1999.

Her professional career began as a high school home economics teacher in Anaheim, Calif. Returning to K-State in 1968 as an instructor of home economics education, Wissman earned a master's degree in home economics from K-State and a doctorate in higher education administration from the University of Kansas. She served as professor of secondary education and curriculum instruction at K-State, advising hundreds of undergraduate and graduate students during her tenure. In 1989 she founded the Summer Food Science Institute for Secondary Teachers and was facilitator and instructor for two decades, making the institute a model nationwide for preparing high school food science teachers. Wissman has been president of two national family and consumer science teacher organizations, and she was a member of the development panel for national Family and Consumer Sciences Standards. In 2011 she received the top honor for distinguished service from the American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.

Wissman retired in 2010 after 19 years as associate dean of the College of Education at K-State, but she continues to serve the university as president of the K-State Libraries and remains active as a volunteer in her local church, Phi Kappa Phi and Gamma Phi Beta. She is married to Dr. Donald Wissman, retired CEO of DPRA and honorary member of Mortar Board. They have two children and five grandchildren.

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 held the honor of being initiated at 230 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](http://www.mortarboard.org).

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