

Mortar Board

National College Senior Honor Society

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



MEDIA RELEASE

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MORTAR BOARD PRESENTS EMERGING LEADER AWARD TO ALTRUISTIC MEDICAL STUDENT JOSEPH B. LEE

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society announced that Joseph B. Lee, M.A.T., of Chicago, is the recipient of its inaugural Emerging Leader Award. This distinction was presented to Lee at the Society's national conference, held last month in Atlanta.

The Mortar Board Emerging Leader Award was created this year to recognize extraordinary Mortar Board alumni who are within 20 years of their graduation, have demonstrated exceptional achievement in their careers and are noted for outstanding community service. Honorees serve as remarkable role models and represent Mortar Board's commitment to the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service.

Lee was initiated into Mortar Board in 2008 at Northwestern University, where he earned a baccalaureate degree with a double major in pre-medicine and psychology and a minor in Asian American studies. Following graduation, he taught middle-school science as a participant in the Teach For America program at Parkside Community Academy in Chicago. In addition to leading the science department as chair, Lee created and directed a renowned after-school mentoring program while also achieving a master's degree in teaching at Dominican University. Lee is currently in his third year of medical school pursuing his interest in pediatric medicine at Rush Medical College. As founder of the "Strength in Diversity" organization, he leads a coalition of student groups, staff members and hospital administrators in increasing minority enrollment at the institution. Lee was recognized nationally in 2012 as a Korean American Medical Association Scholar.

A devoted community volunteer, Lee was featured recently by CNN and the Chicago Tribune for his brainchild, the Road Less Traveled Fund, a nonprofit organization that provides vehicles to young people to assist them in bettering their lives and their community. Additionally, he led his undergraduate Habitat for Humanity chapter to the highest status, tutored elementary students for America Reads and volunteered overseas in both Haiti and Rwanda. The boards of the Northside College Prep Alumni Association, Teach For America Minority Alumni Association and the newly-formed Chicago Alumni chapter of Mortar Board have all benefitted from Lee's guidance. Passionate about basketball, Lee has participated as a player in the Chicago Korean Basketball Association and as a coach for B.E.S.T. Basketball Chicago.

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.

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