

Mortar Board

National College Senior Honor Society

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



MEDIA RELEASE

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MORTAR BOARD PRESENTS EXCELLENCE IN ADVISING AWARD TO UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON ADVISOR MARGOT NILSEN SMITH

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society announced that Margot Nilsen Smith, M.B.A., of Bellevue, Wash., is the recipient of the 2013 Excellence in Advising Award.

The Mortar Board Excellence in Advising Award is presented annually to an advisor who has provided exceptional support to help a Mortar Board chapter achieve its goals. The recipient has served as a role model to chapter members by demonstrating constant leadership, professionalism and spirit of service. Smith's award was given to her personally by Mortar Board national representative Lexie Beer in a program specially-arranged by the collegiate chapter and held at Parrington Hall Forum on the University of Washington campus. Speakers included past chapter presidents Doug McManaway of Seattle and Katherine Forsythe of Boise, Idaho. Moderating the program was current chapter president Yasaman Azodi of Covington, Wash.

Smith has served as advisor to the Tolo chapter at the University of Washington for more than two decades, and her steady direction has positively impacted the lives of thousands of students. As explained by Forsythe, "Margot is a representation of what it means to be a Mortar Board. Her passion ... is apparent and inspiring. Through her guidance we have been able to realize our potentials and abilities as Mortar Boards. We seek out her opinions in all that we do. This and much more has allowed us to achieve what we have as a chapter."

Initiated into the Jane K. Smith Cap & Gown chapter of Mortar Board at San Diego State University in 1965, Smith cites her Mortar Board experience as the impetus for her interest in higher education. She was hired as assistant dean of students for student activities at San Diego State during the 1960s, addressing key issues of turbulence occurring during that era, and she later worked as marketing director for the University of Washington Student Unions. As her professional career expanded in additional directions, Smith was principal of Seattle's The Marketing Consortium, where for 17 years she conceived and guided successful implementation of strategic marketing plans for professional firms and not-for-profit organizations.

Smith's dedication to Mortar Board is far-reaching. She advised her chapter at San Diego State University and was president of the San Diego Mortar Board Alumni Chapter. She also served terms as vice president of the Mortar Board National Council and as a trustee of the Mortar Board National Foundation. As current president of Seattle's Mortar Board Alumni/Tolo Foundation, Smith has cultivated donors and raised substantial funding to provide \$35,000 annually in scholarship awards for University of Washington students.

Smith earned a baccalaureate degree in education from San Diego State and obtained her M.B.A. from the University of Washington.

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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