

Mortar Board

National College Senior Honor Society



MEDIA RELEASE

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MORTAR BOARD CHAPTERS RECEIVE TOP NATIONAL AWARDS

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Six Mortar Board chapters were honored at the 2014 Mortar Board National Conference held this summer in Atlanta. Top national awards include Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence and the Most Improved Chapter Awards.

The Barbara Cook chapter at Purdue University is a second time winner of the Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence honor, having won the honor the first time it was presented in 2002. Of its many successes, this chapter worked with the university's grounds department and donated \$8,000 to replace three historical plaques at significant campus landmarks. Annually the chapter conducts a meaningful leadership conference for younger student-leaders and operates a leadership mentoring program. The chapter also sells more than 17,000 planning calendars each year to raise funds for programming and awards for other students and faculty and staff members.

An unprecedented tie in voting brought the Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence award also to the campus of the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Though a finalist for the award in the past, the Xi Phi chapter was a first-time recipient. Its most visible success was the founding of "game days" to foster school spirit and support for university athletics. To anyone wearing school colors on game days, chapter members gave raffle tickets that could be redeemed later that day. The chapter also coordinated an event for area Mortar Board chapters, called "A Million Thanks Letter Writing Campaign" and sent handwritten notes to active-duty service members for Veteran's Day.

Three chapters were finalists for the Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence Award, including the Alcor chapter at Hope College, the Jane K. Smith Cap & Gown chapter at San Diego State University and the Hypatia chapter at the University of Alabama. Finalists were chosen based on chapter operations, campus visibility, member participation, advising, communications and chapter projects.

The Most Improved Chapter award is presented annually to the chapter that has been most successful in reestablishing and reinvigorating its membership and programming. The most improved chapter demonstrates success in new member selection, membership orientation and transition, chapter operations, service to the alma mater, and chapter visibility.

Lawrence University's Kalon chapter was accorded the most-improved honor because of its strategic decision-making for chapter operations. The chapter improved selection by identifying potential impediments to the selection process, had better and well organized one-on-one transition sessions to ensure that the new executive board would be well prepared, excelled financially by securing funding and paying off a debt to the university, and increased visibility by conducting several projects that gave Mortar Board the sort of notice it deserved.

These six successful chapters also merited the Gold Torch Award, presented annually to the most successful chapters of Mortar Board. Recipients excel beyond minimum standards, accomplishing significant results in chapter management and contributing meaningful service to the alma mater.

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 selected for membership 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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