



MORTAR BOARD FORUM

Fall 2007

Vol. 38

Issue No. 1



Featuring:

A student's perspective on the career search
Members making an impact with careers
Moving out and moving on

Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society

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

MORTAR BOARD FORUM

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President's Message

I am absolutely thrilled to be involved at the national level in Mortar Board. My Mortar Board experience began years ago at the University of Wyoming. I remember attending the Torchlight Laurels university honors assembly conducted by Mortar Board as a freshman, and being impressed with Mortar Board and its members. I decided then that I wanted to be part of this prestigious organization in my senior year.

It was truly an honor to be tapped for membership, and even more so to be selected as this great organization's national president. As I

begin to serve the two years of my presidency, I have many goals I would like to achieve with Mortar Board. I would like to significantly expand opportunities for collegiate members to participate in Mortar Board by establishing new chapters in campuses across the nation and by increasing the number of deserving members selected for membership in existing chapters.

I would like to challenge each and every member to maintain a lifelong relationship with Mortar Board and remember the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service in your daily life. There are countless ways to enhance your connection with Mortar Board, from as little as signing up to receive newsletters, to as monumental as becoming a national volunteer. Whether you choose to join an alumni chapter, assist an area collegiate chapter or simply update your address with the National Office, you are taking steps toward lifelong involvement in Mortar Board.

I hope that when you think of your future, Mortar Board will be there. As members encounter life changes, further their education with post-graduate study, or begin new careers, Mortar Board is here for you. Just like a university alumni association, Mortar Board lends a hand to alumni by providing members with fellowships for post-graduate study, a career database to search for jobs across the nation, and a network to connect with other Mortar Board members.

It is with great honor that I have built a strong relationship with Mortar Board over the years and hope that you will do the same.



Sally Steadman, Ph.D.
Mortar Board, Inc. National President
president@mortarboard.org

Do you know about a university that may be interested in having a Mortar Board chapter on their campus? Contact Executive Director Jon Cook at 800-989-6266 ext. 101 or jcook@mortarboard.org for more information.



MORTAR BOARD FORUM

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Articles and submissions to the editor are welcome and may be sent to the National Office. Deadlines are March 15 for the spring issue and Oct. 15 for the fall issue. Photographs will not be returned unless requested. Please contact the National Office for advertising rates.

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MISSION STATEMENT

Mortar Board, Inc., an honor society that recognizes college seniors for their achievements in scholarship, leadership and service, provides opportunities for continued leadership development, promotes service to colleges and universities and encourages lifelong contributions to the global community. (Adopted July 1994)

NATIONAL FOUNDATION MISSION

The mission of the Mortar Board National Foundation is to support Mortar Board, Inc. in furthering the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service.

To view Mortar Board's code of ethics and values statement (adopted in 2005), please visit our Web site at www.mortarboard.org.

Alumni honored for excellence

By Alicia Notestone

Nearly a quarter of a million initiates span the globe with careers and interests that vary significantly, each holding a distinct set of talents and devotion that help Mortar Board to grow and expand every year.

To honor some of these remarkable alumni, an annual luncheon and awards ceremony was held at the national conference. Exceptional members were presented with either the Alumni Achievement Award or the Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award.

The Alumni Achievement Award honors members who are outstanding in their professional lives or who have contributed to their local, national or international communities. This year, Steven Bishop, Dr. Susan Komives and Dr. Eileen Wilson-Oyalaran were the exceptional alumni recognized.

The Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award is presented annually to Mortar Board alumni who have retained connections or contact with Mortar Board in either collegiate or alumni areas and have demonstrated outstanding community or campus service. At the 2007 National Conference, recipients Audrey Finkelstein and Mimi Barash Coppersmith were honored.

Alumni Achievement Award

Steven Bishop Purdue University Initiated 1985

Steven Bishop graduated from Purdue University in 1986 with a degree in agricultural economics. At that time, Steve was recognized as the outstanding senior male student at Purdue, winning the G.A. Ross Award. He joined Proctor & Gamble in 1986, first working in purchasing for the foods division. From 1989 to 1994, he worked as an assistant brand manager and brand manager.

In 1994, Bishop briefly left P&G and worked as vice president of marketing for the Christian Music Group of Sparrow Records/EMI, in Nashville, Tennessee. He returned to P&G in 1995 in the position of U.S. marketing director, first for dish products, then home care products, followed by laundry products. Today, he serves as president of North America market operations.

Bishop serves on the Board of Directors of Junior Achievement of OKI Partners in Cincinnati and northern Kentucky. Additionally, he is active in Lakeside Christian Church in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky, where he has participated on various committees and teams including missions, decision counseling, hospitality and children's ministry.



Dr. Susan R. Komives Florida State University Initiated 1967

Dr. Susan R. Komives currently serves as professor and program director of the college student development graduate program at the University of Maryland. She is former president of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA) and former vice president for student development at Stephens College and the University of Tampa. She is president-elect of the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education – a 37 association member consortium advancing standards of practice and self-assessment.

She is co-editor of two editions of "Student Services," co-author of two editions of "Exploring Leadership: For College Students Who Want to Make a Difference" and "Management and Leadership Issues for a New Century," and co-editor of "Handbook of Student Leadership Programs," among others.

Komives is co-founder and research and publications editor for the National Clearinghouse for Leadership Programs and a senior scholar with the James MacGregor Burns Academy of Leadership. She is the recipient of both the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) Contribution of Scholarship and Literature Award and the ACPA Contribution to Knowledge Award. In 2006, she was also honored with the Outstanding Mentoring Award from the ACPA Committee for Graduate Students and New Professionals and the Excellence in Teaching Award from the College of Education at the University of Maryland. She has been honored as a NASPA "Pillar of the Profession" and was the 2004 recipient of the NASPA Robert H. Shaffer Award for Academic Excellence as a Graduate Faculty Member; and by ACPA with the Esther Lloyd Jones Professional Service award, is a Senior Scholar Diplomate, and as an ACPA Diamond Honoree.



Dr. Eileen Wilson-Oyalaran Pomona College Initiated 1968

Dr. Eileen Wilson-Oyalaran has an extensive background in higher education and has held teaching and administrative positions at Salem College, Winston-Salem State University and Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria. In July 2005, she became president of Kalamazoo College.



Dr. Oyelaran obtained a B.A. in sociology from Pomona College and an M.A. and Ph.D. in education from the Claremont Graduate University. Her primary areas of scholarly interest are child development and multicultural education, and she has written numerous articles on child growth and development in the Nigerian context. While in Nigeria, she also served as a consultant for UNICEF in the area of early childhood development. Recognized for her expertise in the area of cultural diversity, she has worked with faculty in higher education and K-12 to improve educational outcomes for women and students from underrepresented groups.

Dr. Wilson-Oyelaran is the recipient of many honors and fellowships, including the Kent Fellowship, the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship and the Claremont College's Black Studies Center Visionary Leadership Award. She has been honored with the Gender Equity Architect Award from the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education and the Strong, Smart, Bold Award from the Salvation Army in recognition of her work in leadership development and mentoring young women and girls. She serves on the Board of the Greater Kalamazoo United Way, the President's Council of the American Association of Governing Boards and the Michigan Community Service Commission. She also serves as a trustee of Pomona College.

Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award

Audrey Finkelstein The University of Miami Initiated 1937

Audrey Finkelstein is a volunteer, devoted philanthropist and community activist. As a pioneering woman that many describe as a "true suffragette," she has many credits to her name, including being the first female president of the American Jewish Committee, the first female chair of the Community Relations Board and the first female officer of the United Way.

Finkelstein has generously given her time, talents and resources to numerous local and national organizations, including the Girl Scouts, University of Miami Alumni Association, Miami-Dade Schools Quality Education Committee, University of Miami Women's Commission on the Status of Women, Council for Continuing Education for Women, YWCA, Rape Treatment Center, the fair housing group HOPE, and the Mental Health Association.

She has spent her time as a public radio broadcaster and created the Civil Rights Radio Series audio cassettes which are part of the Florida State Archives. She is known as the voice of "Straight Talk" and also hosted "Women's View," a television program that focused on women achievers in non-traditional fields. Finkelstein continues her volunteer service with Friends of WLRN, Inc. as a guest broadcaster on "Tropical Currents."



Mimi Barash Coppersmith The Pennsylvania State University Initiated 1953

Marian "Mimi" Barash Coppersmith graduated from The Pennsylvania State University with a B.A. in journalism in 1953, and has gone on to become publisher of *Town & Gown* magazine and chairman of The Barash Group, which oversees Barash Advertising, Barash Publications, Barash Promotions and Morgan Outdoor Media.

Her extensive experience in advertising, marketing and journalism has won her numerous awards and recognitions through the years, including Distinguished Alumna and Alumni Fellow of The Pennsylvania State University, Central Pennsylvania Entrepreneur of the Year in Marketing/Communications, Distinguished Daughter of Pennsylvania and many others.

Since 1976, Coppersmith has served as a trustee at The Pennsylvania State University in a variety of capacities, including as first female chairperson in 1991. Additionally, she has served on the board of directors for dozens of organizations and is active in numerous others, including Friends of the Palmer Museum of Art, American Association of University Women, League of Women Voters and Girl Scouts. Coppersmith truly exemplifies the ideals of Mortar Board, incorporating the principles of scholarship, leadership and service into her daily life by volunteering, teaching and excelling.



Do you know an outstanding alumnus?

Mortar Board and the Mortar Board National Foundation would love to hear about alumni who are models for collegiate members and are living illustrations of the meaning of Mortar Board. Alumni who demonstrate continued commitment to the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service should be nominated for an award.

Any Mortar Board alumnus initiated as an undergraduate who is currently neither a National Council member, a section coordinator, a National Foundation trustee, nor an advisor to a collegiate chapter is eligible. Honorary members are eligible five years after the date of their initiation. Previous recipients are not eligible to receive another award.

Collegiate chapters, alumni chapters and individual members are all eligible to nominate by filling out the form on www.mortarboard.org or calling the National Office at 800-989-6266.



Member News

You can lend a hand for scholarship, leadership and service:

The Mortar Board National Foundation was founded in 1955 to support and fund the purpose and ideals of Mortar Board National College Honor Society.

Through the generosity of members and friends, Mortar Board has been able to make a significant difference for college seniors across the country.

Gifts help Mortar Board by providing post-graduate fellowships for alumni and members, leadership development initiatives, and chapter service projects, to name a few.

All contributions, no matter the level, provide a source of support to encourage the best and the brightest scholars and leaders to work toward the common good.



Name: _____

Address: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Primary e-mail: _____

Secondary e-mail: _____

I wish to make a gift of:

☐ \$500

☐ \$100

☐ \$50

☐ Other \$ _____

☐ Please contact me about remembering Mortar Board in my will.

In honor of: _____

In memory of: _____

My gift is to support (please choose one):

☐ the greatest need within Mortar Board

☐ Mortar Board collegiate chapter service projects

☐ Mortar Board fellowships

☐ leadership initiatives by funding national conference programs and awards

Method of payment:

☐ Check (made payable to Mortar Board National Foundation)

☐ Credit Card

☐ VISA

☐ Mastercard

☐ American Express

☐ Discover

Acct. #: _____

Expiration (Month/Year): _____

For more information, please contact Mortar Board at 800-989-6266 or visit www.mortarboard.org/donate to give securely online.

Our history: life after graduation

By Alicia Notestone

Delving into the history of Mortar Board, founded in 1918 as a women's honor society, one won't find job search engines or career-networking tools. What is found is reflective of the feminist movements of the time.

As the world was starting to think outside of the box in the way of traditional women's roles (cooking, cleaning, child-rearing) in the early 20th century, so was

Mortar Board. Despite the fact that early in the organization's existence, programs were presented on how to be good wives and improve homemaking skills, they also encouraged lifelong learning. Mortar Board compiled reading lists from professors, featuring works vital to their particular field of study. Chapters encouraged members to read from these various lists both during and after graduation, for the purpose of broadening and continuing their education.

Along with the ideal of lifelong learning, chapters encouraged members to enter the workforce, further their education and explore vocational outlets. Specifically, many chapters brought speakers to discuss job opportunities after college. For example, some chapters welcomed women in particular fields of study to share their experiences and advice, while others created councils to investigate the vocations available to women. Many chapters encouraged post-graduate education by compiling lists of graduate schools exceptionally favorable to women, as well as collecting course catalogs and information to share with members.

As World War II began, Mortar Board members were faced with more pressing issues. Many women left school and married their military sweetheart before they left for war, while others joined women's military branches following graduation. Not only were Mortar Board members' personal lives affected, but their professional lives as well. While men went off to war, World War II opened doors to professions that were previously believed to be beyond a woman's capability. Chapter programs blossomed to focus on these diverse effects.

In the 50s, it was commonplace to marry immediately following graduation. This varies greatly from today, where many twentysomethings opt to defer marriage for several years after college. Following the war, many programs focused on the dual role of a woman as a wife/mother and breadwinner, later evolving from simply a wage earner to a driven career woman.

Today, Mortar Board continues to focus on career opportunities and post-graduate education. The creation and growth of the Mortar Board National Fellowship program proves the ideal of lifelong learning. Times will continue to change, but the quest for knowledge will never cease. Mortar Board will be there every step of the way.



Mortar Board was founded in 1918 as the nation's first college senior honor society for women. In 1975, the honor society was opened up to men. Today, nearly a quarter of a million members are a part of the tradition. Pictured here are Mortar Board women on the campus of The Ohio State University early in the organization's existence.

Information for this story was gathered from chapter research performed by the Historical Publication Committee. This committee is currently preparing a book about Mortar Board's history. Visit www.mortarboard.org/history or contact history@mortarboard.org with any information, stories, suggestions or pictures you would like to share.

National fellowships granted to 13 members

Each year, the Mortar Board National Foundation awards fellowships to members to assist in financing their graduate study. During the 2007-2008 academic year, a total of \$38,500 in fellowships was awarded to 13 Mortar Board members chosen based on academic excellence, recommendation, promise, financial need and Mortar Board involvement. Since the establishment of the Mortar Board fellowship program in 1941, more than \$500,000 has been awarded to assist members in pursuing further study in graduate or professional school.



Blakemore

James Blakemore, 2004 initiate

Fellowship: Washington State University classes of 1945-1950 Fellowship (\$2,000)
Undergraduate: Wichita State University (chemistry, Spanish)
Graduate: Yale University, Department of Chemistry



Cvetanovich

Brittany Cvetanovich, 2005 initiate

Fellowship: Ruth Weimer Mount Fellowship (\$2,500)
Undergraduate: Michigan State University (history, economics)
Graduate: Harvard Law School



Frazee

Erin Frazee, 2006 initiate

Fellowship: Zelma Patchin Fellowship (\$2,000)
Undergraduate: Drake University (pharmacy)
Graduate: Drake University College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences



Frederick

Rachel Frederick, 2006 initiate

Fellowship: Mary Elizabeth Ramier Fellowship (\$2,000)
Undergraduate: Texas Tech University (biology)
Graduate: Texas Tech University HSC School of Medicine



Gross

Jenna Gross, 2006 initiate

Fellowship: Katherine Wills Coleman Fellowship (\$2,000)
Undergraduate: Butler University (chemistry)
Graduate: Indiana University School of Medicine



Lamberg

James Lamberg, 2005 initiate

Fellowship: Ruth Pierle Trosset Fellowship (\$2,000)
Undergraduate: University of Minnesota (electrical engineering, computer engineering)
Graduate: Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine



Lambrecht

Rein Lambrecht, 2006 initiate

Fellowship: Mortar Board Fellowship in honor of William G. Niederer (\$3,000)
Undergraduate: Case Western Reserve University (biology)
Graduate: Ohio State University School of Medicine



Lang

Leslie Lang, 2005 initiate

Fellowship: Ellen North Dunlap Fellowship (\$3,000)
Undergraduate: University of California at Berkeley (rhetoric, business administration)
Graduate: Harvard Law School



Rombi

Lynn Rombi, 2006 initiate

Fellowship: Barbara Cook Fellowship (\$2,000)
Undergraduate: University of San Diego (theology, religious studies)
Graduate: University of San Francisco (Masters of Theology)



Sala

Emily Sala, 2006 initiate

Fellowship: Mortar Board Fellowship in honor of Elijah Peterson (\$3,000)
Undergraduate: University of Mary Washington, (Spanish, sociology)
Graduate: American University Washington College of Law



Scardino

Lori Scardino, 2006 initiate

Fellowship: GEICO Fellowship (\$5,000)
Undergraduate: University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire (chemistry, biology)
Graduate: University of Wisconsin- Madison Cellular & Molecular Pathology Program



Spilka

Samantha Spilka, 2006 initiate

Fellowship: Mortar Board Diane Selby Fellowship (\$5,000)
Undergraduate: San Diego State University (psychology)
Graduate: Columbia University, Teachers College



Witt

Anne-Kathrin Witt, 2006 initiate

Fellowship: Student Trust Fellowship (\$5,000)
Undergraduate: Wesleyan College (chemistry, economics, finance)
Graduate: International Max Planck Research Institute for Molecular and Cellular Life Sciences (Ludwig Maximilians University)

The deadline to apply for 2008-2009 fellowships is January 31, 2008. Applications are available at www.mortarboard.org.

Alumni chapter honored

The Mortar Board alumni chapter in Miami, Florida received the Outstanding Alumni Chapter Award at the 2007 National Conference in July. Founded in 1966, the chapter meets to enhance fellowship among members and support the local collegiate chapter at the University of Miami.

Two of the group's more successful events are the annual Homecoming Luncheon, a collective event for both collegiate and alumni members, held at the Coral Gables Country Club and the Senior Send-Off, an annual Mortar Board/Omicron Delta Kappa awards breakfast at the University of Miami. At the Senior Send-Off, the alumni chapter annually presents two awards to collegiate members: the Ruth and Henry King Stanford and Estelle Greene awards.



Member updates

Yassar Arain, a 2005 initiate at San Diego State University, received a Fulbright Grant to study at American University in Cairo, Egypt. The Fulbright program has a goal of building intercultural understanding and provides undergraduates, graduate students and alumni with the opportunity to spend an academic year in one of 150 countries. While in Egypt, Arain will study forced migration and refugee studies as a graduate student and will focus on the mental health status of refugees. In addition to his studies, he plans to volunteer for health clinics and a student refugee organization. When he returns to the U.S., Arain plans to attend medical school with an emphasis on international health.

Gladys Eddy, a 1937 initiate of the University of Denver and longtime Mortar Board devotee, recently retired after 70 years on the campus of Colorado State University. A former National Council member and national alumni award recipient, Eddy has exemplified the ideals of Mortar Board for many years. In fact, her efforts started the Colorado State University chapter of Mortar Board in 1961. Among her numerous awards and honors are being appointed by former President Reagan to the National Advisory Council on Vocational Education from 1981 to 1984. Eddy's retirement was honored with a special reception held on the Colorado State University campus.

Dana Erf, a 2006 initiate from The University of Michigan, spent her summer devoted to educational reform through an internship with the Domestic Corps and the Henry Ford Learning Institute (HFLI). Over the summer, Erf provided business consulting services to help develop a network of innovative small academies in communities where public education struggles to meet student needs as a part of a 10-week internship with HFLI locations in Dearborn, Detroit and Ann Arbor, Mich.

Archie Griffin, an honorary member from The Ohio State University and two-time Heisman Trophy winner, was recently named to ABC's list of the "25 Greatest Players in College Football." Griffin currently serves as president and CEO of The Ohio State University Alumni Association.

Kaetlin Hall, a 2007 initiate at Troy University, was recently named second runner-up in the Miss Troy University 2008 pageant on the platform of "CMN: Love, Laugh, Save Lives." Last year, 2006 initiate **Laura McDonald** was named Miss Troy University 2007 and competed for the title of Miss Alabama with the platform of "Reading is Leading," coinciding with Mortar Board's own national project.

Rev. Judy Long O'Neal, a 1973 initiate from The University of Kansas, was recently featured in the *Lawrence Journal-World* after being formally ordained and making the move from a small 175-member church in North Lawrence, Kansas to the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection in Leawood with more than 14,000 members. There, she serves as the associate pastor for congregational care. O'Neal completed her master's of theology in 1997 and master's of divinity in 2002, both at St. Paul's School of Theology.

Virginia Patterson, a 1946 initiate from the University of Colorado, recently added another honor to her name. Not only is the former advisor the namesake of the chapter today, but she has been immortalized with a Boulder, Colo. street name. As a tribute to her numerous contributions to the community, a street near the site of the Printed Page bookstore she ran for 25 years was renamed in her honor during a surprise ceremony in July: Patterson Place.

Kristin Strobel, a 2006 initiate from Ohio University, is currently working to better the environment through a recycling program she developed in 2005. As a sophomore member of Delta Gamma sorority on campus, she created the "Greeks for the Globe" recycling program to tackle the lack of recycling activities in the Greek community. The program quickly got off the ground and now has six Greek houses participating. As a result of the program, the cost of trash pick-ups has been cut in half. Now a political science graduate student at Ohio University, Strobel continues to actively monitor Greeks for the Globe.

Kent Sampson, an honorary member of Mortar Board from Oklahoma State University, was recently named to the 2008 American College Personnel Association (ACPA) Diamond Honorees list. He is among 15 to be given this top honor for outstanding and sustained contributions to higher education and student affairs.

Ashley Routson, a 2005 initiate from The Ohio State University, is currently employed as a knowledge planner with Young Isaac Inc., a full-sized advertising agency located in Columbus, Ohio. Young Isaac is an alliance of talents crafting messages to change behaviors.

What are you up to? Update Mortar Board by e-mailing mbforum@mortarboard.org or using a form available online! Don't forget to support Mortar Board with an Alumni Sustaining Membership for just \$25 annually at www.mortarboard.org/alumni.

Recent grad travels the U.S. to make an impact

By Alicia Notestone

After wrapping up their undergraduate studies, recent grads take a variety of paths. Some start the job they lined up months prior to actually graduating. Others go to graduate or professional school. Some take time to travel, and others move back home. James Ambrose, a 2007 graduate, chose a career that makes a difference.

While a freshman studying business administration and psychology at The College of William and Mary, Ambrose participated in a sexual assault education program known as "The Men's Program," authored by William and Mary professor Dr. John Foubert. The program is presented by One in Four, Inc. (previously known as NO MORE, founded by Dr. Foubert), a national non-profit organization named for the startling statistic that one in four college women will be victims of rape or sexual assault in their lifetime.

The all-male presentation, a frank one-hour workshop titled "How to help a sexual assault survivor: what men can do," is taught by young men. This peer-education program defines rape and sexual assault, addresses ways to help a survivor, and introduces methods for putting an end to rape.

To psychologically connect to the experiences a survivor may encounter and to foster victim empathy, a short video describing a male-on-male rape situation is presented, and truly yields results. A January 2000 article in the *Journal of American College Health* showed that the program significantly decreases men's belief in rape myths and lowers their self-reported likelihood of raping for the entire academic year. Among "high risk" men viewing the program, 75 percent report a lower likelihood of raping after the program wraps up.

Not only realizing the importance of the issue, but also that the men presenting the program were the campus leaders he aspired to be, Ambrose's interest in the organization grew. "For a young freshman, [One in Four] showed me a side of leadership that I think is often glossed over – a leader is anyone willing to take a stand and be proactive about

something they consider important."

Now, a few years later, Ambrose is living in an RV with three other devoted individuals, traveling to campuses across the U.S. to spread the word about One in Four. The RV Tour, now in its fourth year, has extended its audience beyond the male gender with the inception of "The Women's Program." Ambrose is joined by fellow William and Mary grad J.T. Newberry, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign alumnus Dan Mollison, and University of North Carolina - Wilmington graduate Jor-El Caraballo.

"We hope to hit at least 60 schools, and will probably present to about 10,000 people. Not bad for four guys in one RV," Ambrose said of their journey.

With his help, the organization hopes to achieve their mission: to eventually end rape and sexual assault in the U.S. through groundbreaking research and superior educational programming.

Despite his admiration for One in Four, Ambrose didn't expect to jump into an RV and travel across the U.S. for ten months after graduation. He is looking forward to the stability of corporate America and ultimately aspires to become a successful sports agent. To achieve this goal, he'll hone his skills now by working with One in Four, then take some time to get practical business experience, and finally continue his education by obtaining both a J.D. and M.B.A.

"Surprisingly enough, the tour will help me to develop many of the skills that I will

"I can say, personally, that it was awesome to see how a campus culture could truly be changed, for the better, just by having a few people think critically about these issues..."

need to be successful in business," Ambrose explained. "When you really get to the root of any business, it is about people connecting with other people to accomplish a common goal."

Specifically, it will enhance his public speaking and presentation skills. "When I finish the tour, I will have spent ten months presenting to people all across the country, bringing a message that many still feel uncomfortable talking about. While presenting in the business world is tough, I think my experience talking to people about how important it is to end sexual assault, and furthermore, encouraging some people to change some of their behaviors, is similarly difficult."

Ambrose has gained invaluable experience in working with a team, a result of spending every moment with his fellow RV mates. "In business, very little is done by single people – large, complex transactions are just too much for one person to handle alone. I will have many strategies and techniques that will help me to operate effectively in the team-oriented world of business."

As for his time spent with One in Four, Ambrose hopes his contact with thousands will truly make an impact. "I can say, personally, that it was awesome to see how a campus culture could truly be changed, for the better, just by having a few people think critically about these issues and then engage their peers in conversations. I hope it is a model that will be replicated on campuses across the nation and eventually we will see a national shift that will support the ending of sexual assault."

One in Four is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit, tax-deductible organization that is always looking for financial support. Support the project online or apply to become a part of the 2008-2009 RV Tour at www.oneinfourusa.org.



Ambrose (third from left) pictured with fellow One in Four RV Tour travelers Jor-El Caraballo, J.T. Newberry and Dan Mollison.



Making a difference - with a job?

By Alicia Notestone

Many Mortar Board members are making career choices that make a difference. With numerous volunteer organizations, non-profit organizations and research opportunities, a job has become much more than a nine-to-five.

According to the National Center for Charitable Statistics (NCCS), there are currently nearly 1.4 million non-profit organizations in the U.S. representing countless causes. Organizations like AmeriCorps and the Peace Corps place individuals to serve communities of all walks of life and provide volunteers with a modest living allowance during their time served. Additionally, many of these programs offer individuals the opportunity to finance education or combine their experience with post-graduate study.

One example of such an organization is Teach for America, a program through AmeriCorps that places qualified college graduates at schools in low-income areas for a two-year period. Corps members make the same salary as other teachers paid directly by the schools, and are eligible for the AmeriCorps education award to help repay student loans.

Jennifer Vandever, a 2005 graduate of Ohio Northern University, applied for Teach for America during her senior year of college. Although she had always considered teaching, she was not state-certified. Her love of English



and interest in students led her to Teach for America, and she was placed at Jane Long Middle School in Houston, Texas during her two-year commitment as a member.

“Teach for America led me to my career. I was never certain that I wanted a career in education; now I am. I love teaching and working with kids,” Vandever explained. “I’m still a middle school English teacher, but I left my [Teach for America] school and work for a charter school in Houston called KIPP Academy Middle School. Our school was recently featured on ABC World News Tonight for its success in helping low-income students achieve the goal of being prepared for college by extending the school day, week and year by placing higher demands on students.”

Many other Mortar Board members have chosen careers or opportunities that allow them to make a difference. Anne Merrill (The Ohio State University, initiated in 1993) volunteered with the United Nations as a community development specialist in Chernobyl, Ukraine. Sarra Nazem (The University of Michigan, 2004) is researching Parkinson’s disease. Elizabeth Andre (Iowa State University, 1997) developed educational K-12 programming for Global Warming 101. Thousands of other Mortar Board members have chosen to make a significant impact in our world with their careers, exemplifying the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service for which Mortar Board stands.

Interested in learning more about the organizations mentioned in this article?

Here are some fast facts about a few of the organizations that place members in the position to make a difference.

Organization (Web site)	All-time volunteers	Location	Length of service	Salary/Living allowance	Full-time	Education assistance	Combine with post-graduate education
AmeriCorps (www.americorps.org)	400,000	U.S.	10 - 12 months	Living allowance	Full and part-time	✓	
Peace Corps (www.peacecorps.gov)	190,000	74 countries	27 months	Living allowance	Full-time	Certain federal loans may be eligible for partial cancellation	✓
Teach for America (www.teachforamerica.org)	17,000	U.S. (26 regions)	24 months	Salary	Full-time	✓	
United Nations volunteer (www.unv.org)	30,000	128 countries	6 - 24 months	Living allowance	Full-time		

Moving out and moving on

By Susan R. Komives and Kirsten Freeman Fox

So what will you be doing next year at this time? Are you starting graduate school? A new job? As adults we face transitions throughout our lives; some theorists assert that adult development can be defined through these transitions. Our whole lives are spent moving into new situations, moving through them, and moving out of them. We graduate and take a new job or go on to professional education. We enter a new relationship and it lasts a long time or it ends and new relationships are needed. Sometimes we have to adjust to things that do not happen -- things that we hope might happen but do not -- like you do not get into the grad school you hoped for, or the person you love does not love you back, or you want children but cannot have a baby. Psychologist Nancy Schlossberg (Schlossberg & Robinson, 1996) calls these *non-events* in her book, *Going to Plan B*. Think back to your transition into college. How easy or difficult was this transition for you? Look back and examine what you did to make that transition work that brought you to now successfully graduating from college.

Graduating from college is a major life event -- congratulations! You are now facing a major transition. Schlossberg and her colleagues (Schlossberg, Waters, & Goodman, 1995) encourage us, as adults, to examine our readiness for transition and thoughtfully to assess dimensions of the transition to be successful. Schlossberg (1984) states that there are four major factors that influence one's effectiveness to cope with transitions. Known as the 4 S's, the transition process can be examined by considering transition aspects of

- self,
- situation,
- strategies, and
- supports.

Examining the *self* means understanding both your personal and demographic characteristics along with your psychological resources. Considering the *situation* raises dimensions such as what is happening, including any role changes, the length of the transition, the timing, and whether or not there has been a previous experience with the transition. Reviewing *strategies* means examining previous ways of coping in times of adjustment and seeing if those strategies continue to work in the new situation. Finally, *support* acknowledges the types of support, functions of support, and measures of social support that the person undergoing the transition has at their disposal, including the role of relationships, intimacy, and love; not to mention other sources of support including financial resources.

Looking at transition in various stages of life, Schlossberg (2003) found interesting patterns of retirement that can also be useful for understanding transitions for recent college graduates.

- *Continuers* continue to use existing skills and interests;
- *Adventurers* start entirely new endeavors;
- *Searchers* explore new options through trial and error;
- *Easy Gliders* enjoy unscheduled time letting each day unfold;
- *Involved Spectators* care deeply about the world, but engage in less active ways;

- *Retreaters* take time out or disengage from life.

Can you relate to any of the following scenarios? Are you a business major moving into an apartment with some college friends while starting a job at the company you interned with last summer (*Continuer*) or are you starting a brand new job half-way across the country while living with a roommate you found on Craigslist (*Adventurer*)? Perhaps you are not sure what you want to do or you just need a break. Some of you will work temporarily as a waitress while figuring out what you really want to do (*Searcher*); while others are planning on moving back home with mom and dad to take a break before going back to law school next year (*Retreater*). Some of you are thinking about how you will continue to perform community service while taking that corporate job in New York (*Involved Spectator*). And yes, some of you are waiting for your passports looking forward to your backpacking trip through Europe with friends (*Easy Gliders*).

There is no "right" pattern for life after graduation. Keep in mind that everyone reacts to similar transitions (like graduation) in very different ways. Your roommates and friends are not going to have the same transition experience as you. The ability to cope successfully during a transition depends on how you understand the context of the situation and the degree to which the transition alters your daily life.

So, as you embark on graduation and the transition from college, think about what type of graduate you want to be. Take time to clarify your personal values and beliefs (your *self*); think about the role you are about to take on -- such as work, graduate school, travel (*situation*); reflect on successes and challenges of past transitions and times of adjustment (*strategies*), and take into account the relationships -- partner, family, friends and resources - educational preparation, technology skills, finances, that you will need as you transition from graduation to life after college. Best wishes!

Susan R. Komives is professor of college student personnel and former president of the American College Personnel Association (ACPA); Kirsten Freeman Fox is a doctoral student in college student personnel and Mortar Board chapter advisor at the University of Maryland. Susan was tapped into Mortar Board at Florida State University (1967) and Kirsten at The Ohio State University (1996).

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College: the turning point

By Jin Schrattenecker

By their junior year, students are veterans of the college scene. One knows the best campus spots to study, to hang out and to eat. Consequently, one also knows the worst campus spots to study, to hang out and to eat. What is not always so clear is what will happen after graduation.

I came into college knowing, in a general sense, what I wanted to do. I bucked the odds and decided to be a communication major. It's surely a broad major, but one that I felt would give me a good chance at distinguishing myself in preparation for what lay ahead.

I've found that it's never too early in your college career to begin to prepare for the transition out of college and into the infamous real world. I certainly realize the value of graduate school, and the fact that I will go back to school at some point in the future. I also recognize the fact that I do want to start earning money sooner rather than later. The transition from college into the work force can be daunting, but the prospect of it is, at least for now, exciting.

I can definitely say that gaining full financial independence will be a nice, if not hard-earned, benefit of the transition out of college. Graduation day will be a good day for pictures and for coming to the conclusion that all those nights of cramming were well worth it. On the other hand, graduation should signify the beginning of a new chapter more than the closing of an old one.

I hear stories about the fact that more and more young people are graduating these days and that many find no jobs and are forced to go back and live with mom and dad. I love mom and dad as much or more than the next guy, but I also love them enough to spare them from having me move back into my old room.

So, what have I done to prepare for an ideal transition out of college? For one, I joined several organizations on campus, including the Public Relations Student Society of America (PRSSA). Professional organizations are a great way to catch a glimpse of successful transitioning out of college. Not all groups are equal in their benefits, but as a whole,

professional groups grant exposure to the real world with comparatively little effort on the student's part. Getting to hear professionals in a desired career field speak about their experiences is invaluable, if not only for the things you learn not to do.

I also have delved into other extracurricular activities, including human rights and racial awareness organizations. My time with Hope NK, a student group working for human rights in North Korea, has given me an uncommon look at the crisis there. My work with my university's Asian American Association has allowed me to learn more about my heritage, although admittedly it was more of a social group, but a good one at that. While I don't necessarily see my career paralleling my college volunteer work, I do feel that there is some real value in community service, if not for on my resumé, at least in my life experience.

My good friend Jon just finished a summer internship in Spain. He is an international business major and was able to land a business internship in Madrid. He wasn't paid, but when he returned it was easy to see the experience helped confirm, for him, that he knew what he wanted to do after college. Internships and study abroad opportunities should not be passed up, as they are the closest a college student can get to the real thing.

I personally feel fortunate for my recent summer internship opportunity at the Mortar Board National Office. I got a firsthand look at how a national honor society works and I gained a wealth of experience in student affairs and communications. Moreover, I know without a doubt which honor society I will be hoping to join later this academic year.

All of this thinking about the future can make everyday class seem even more mundane and trying. Still, when a college career is broken down to its core, it is the courses themselves that are the requirements for graduation. I have begun to view classes in the same way I view my extra-curricular activities: major courses are like your professional organizations, and general education requirements are, at best, like your other interests. Philosophy, sociology



and linguistics courses have been more interesting than I would have at first imagined. Consequently, major courses have been useful in gaining an understanding of what a future career will entail, even if they don't always provide applicable career skills.

Trying different things is key; half the battle of knowing what you want to do is knowing what you don't want to do. That is why I think I will work in a field related to my major. Whether it is public relations, marketing or some mixture of the two, I feel confident in the wide-ranged preparation I have had prior to the transition that will soon be before me.

Life is full of transitions, even for someone who has only lived 21 years of it so far. Some of us are looking to broaden our horizons, others are looking to be transformed into moneymaking machines, and many of us are somewhere in between. We all have our hopes and dreams, and we all eventually have to face certain realities. Truly, we all have different stories, but for those four, five or more years, we are living or have lived through many of the same chapters. Here's to happy endings and exciting new beginnings for us all.

Jin Schrattenecker served as a summer intern at the Mortar Board National Office during the summer of 2007. He is currently a junior at The Ohio State University, majoring in international relations and diplomacy as well as strategic communication. Jin was asked to share his perspective on the career search and college as a steppingstone into the professional world with Forum readers.

Albion College

The Albion College Chevron chapter has been busy this fall! "Share Your Story" was this year's Albion College Homecoming theme, centered on none other than Mortar Board's national literacy initiative, Reading is Leading. Throughout the month of September, the Chevron chapter volunteered and actively contributed to the Albion College Homecoming Book Drive by engaging alumni, students, faculty and staff in this endeavor. The chapter helped collect nearly 1,000 children's books and monetary donations. Twelve of Albion's reunion classes (1947-2002) contributed to the drive, along with several of the college's administrative offices, academic departments/buildings and other student groups. The donated books were then distributed to the Albion District Library and Albion's two elementary schools for use in their libraries and classrooms. Common donated titles and authors included Maurice Sendak's "Where the Wild Things Are," Frances Hodgson Burnett's "The Secret Garden," and various children's books by the well-known Dr. Seuss. The Chevron chapter's involvement in this philanthropic event increased alumni, campus and community awareness and involvement of Mortar Board. The chapter is looking forward to their spring activities that aim to buttress this great fall success: the Albion Reads Initiative and the statewide Mortar Board Michigan Reads Initiative. Stay tuned!

Chelsea L. Mason, Alumni Relations Officer

Berea College

This year, the Alpha Sigma Chi chapter has already conducted two successful events and has begun organizing at least two more. Their annual ice cream social, held in front of the college president's house, was a huge success with many attending students. The event served as a friendly and sweet welcome to the incoming freshmen at Berea College. Students from all classes had lively discussions over their sundaes, served by Mortar Board executive officers. College President Larry Shinn and Mrs. Shinn actively engaged in these discussions and got to know many students.

The chapter's second event of the semester was a formal initiation of the new officers at the

beginning of the year. The group did not have a previous tradition of Mortar Board's usual style of initiation, so they decided to bring out the candles and walk from their meeting all the way to the quad, where each member was presented with their certificate and pin. After this formal gesture, music, food and celebration ensued.

Another project is the group's Halloween-themed Reading is Leading event, where members collect books from Berea residents to pass out to area children and incorporate a story time and open reading event. To go along with the reading theme, the chapter is in the process of planning a Books for Africa campaign, an activity that involves setting up various drop-off spots on and around campus where people can leave books to donate to children and schools in Africa. The group looks forward to new ideas and opportunities to create change and serve the community.

Seirisse Baker, Historian

Carnegie Mellon

On September 29, Carnegie Mellon University's Mortar Board chapter helped to raise campus awareness about Banned Books Week. Created by the American Library Association, Banned Books Week challenges the government and school curricula that censor books read in schools or available at libraries.

"Lord of the Flies," "Beloved," "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn," and a

number of other classics are currently on the banned books list.

Mortar Board member Emily Newman said, "Some of the reasons for banning those good books were ridiculous. They greatly discourage reading for fun and diversity. As college students, we should be concerned with the education of future generations, and literature is an influential part of our development."

Across the nation, books are banned through the efforts of religious organizations, school boards and parents. These prohibited books often challenge social and cultural norms, raising issues such as homosexuality, racism, sex, violence and the occult.

Nationally, Mortar Board believes strongly in community and campus literacy. The Eta chapter of Mortar Board made available valuable resources to the Carnegie Mellon community about the top 100 banned books. Students were able to sign up for a book raffle and many were encouraged by the event to begin reading banned books.

Reflecting on the weeklong events, Newman said, "I'm not sure if we will be able to save books from being banned right away, but perhaps we can work to bring many of them back into libraries and curricula."

Abiola Fasehun, Visibility Chair

To learn more about Banned Books Week visit, www.ala.org/ala/oif/bannedbooksweek/bannedbooksweek.htm



The Alpha Sigma Chi chapter at Berea College held an ice cream social this fall.

Cornell University

On Friday, October 12, the nation's oldest Mortar Board chapter produced a campus-changing event on the campus of Cornell University. A Cappella United brought together 11 of Cornell's best a cappella groups under one roof in the hopes of bringing the Cornell community together in support of the United Way. All proceeds raised through the astounding sale of 800 tickets were given to the United Way. The Der Hexenkreis chapter was thrilled with the success of this event, especially considering they were pressed for time due to the event being held early in the academic year. All of the members were proud to be a part of such a meaningful project, helping the group to build momentum as members continue their work to promote the principles of scholarship, leadership and service on Cornell's campus.

Jason Beekman, President

Emory University

The Mortar Board chapter at Emory University is in the process of planning some exciting events for the fall and spring semesters. Some of the fun activities include selling exam care packages during final exam week (an event targeted mainly at students) and selling flowers during graduation for all graduating students (an event targeted mainly at parents). Both of these events will help to raise money for local elementary and junior high schools to purchase much-needed books for their students. At each of these events, the chapter will also hold a "mini" book drive in order to begin collecting books for students.

As the chapter strives to excel and make improvements on traditions, they are most excited about their final service project – Reading Day with elementary school children. This event will take place in April of next year and will now include both incoming and outgoing members. In order to accommodate this goal, the chapter will select the new group of Mortar Board members earlier than has been done in previous years, and consequently, they will all take part in Reading Day. This event will be a great way for past and future Mortar Board members to get to know each other and to unite members from year to year.

Finally, during Mortar Board Week, the

chapter plans on setting up an informational table in their student commons to collect books for the book drive, as well as to raise awareness of Mortar Board on campus. The chapter hopes to raise additional funds during Mortar Board Week by asking students to dine at specified restaurants on February 15, when a percentage of the proceeds made by these restaurants will be donated to their chapter. The group is very excited to get started on all of their service and philanthropy events, and is especially looking forward to Mortar Board Week!

Jessica Karwowski, Director of Communications

Each year, Mortar Board Week is held to commemorate Mortar Board's February 15, 1918 founding. Mortar Board Week will be held February 10-16, 2008. Learn more at www.mortarboard.org/mbweek.

University of Hawaii - Manoa

In the Hawaiian Islands, selling Huli Huli Chicken has become a highly popular fundraising event, of which many non-profit organizations have taken advantage. Over the last 10 years, Koala Moa, the Huli Huli Chicken Company, has helped non-profit organizations fundraise over one million dollars total. This year, the Hui Po'okela chapter joined in this tradition, selling 730 tickets for the chicken.

In addition to selling Huli Huli Chicken tickets locally, the chapter extended the invitation to participate to all of Mortar Board's chapters, deeming it the "National Mortar Board Challenge." This challenge, publicized via e-mail and at the 2007 National Conference in July, would reward the chapter which sold the most chicken with an Aloha Care Package, a \$1 donation per ticket sold to the charity of the winning chapter's choice, and recognition in the Hawaii chapter's widely distributed newsletter. Since it is

nearly impossible for these chapters to actually receive the chicken purchased, the tickets purchased by other chapters would provide meals to the Institute for Human Services (IHS), an organization established over 20 years ago to help provide food, clothing and shelter for homeless individuals and families in Hawaii.

Hope College was the winning chapter, purchasing a whopping 330 tickets for charity, with second place awarded to Kent State University. Chapter contributions to this event really helped increase its success, helping to donate more than 400 chickens to the IHS, which translates into 1,600 meals. The IHS was incredibly appreciative of the donation and hopes to see other student organizations in the future do their part in helping others.

David Pesquira, President

University of Illinois at Urbana - Champaign

The Phi Delta Psi chapter of Mortar Board has been gearing up for weeks in anticipation of the plethora of planned events. Recently, a number of members participated in the University of Illinois' program entitled "I-Help," a university-sanctioned event that allows students from more than 40 different student organizations to come together to help out the community. Participation in this event not only promoted Mortar Board around campus, but allowed members to bond with one another. After this very successful first event, the chapter



The Hui Po'okela chapter at the University of Hawaii - Manoa tempted passersby with signs promoting their Huli Huli chicken sale.

looks forward to all they have planned for the rest of the semester. On October 29, a selection of our members volunteered at the Champaign Park District Halloween Party. As has been done in previous years, the group trick-or-treated throughout the community, collecting canned goods and other items for donation. The newest fundraising idea that has come forward is to make t-shirts to sell to all campus seniors, detailing our experiences here at the university. Although there is much still to be accomplished, the Phi Delta Psi chapter of Mortar Board is excited for everything that is yet to come!

Sarah Priven, Director of Communications

Iowa State University

There are many new and exciting events happening for the Iowa State Mortar Board Torch chapter. A new community service activity this year is the "Trick or Treating for Canned Goods" initiative. On October 30, club members went door-to-door throughout the Ames area to collect non-perishable food items to donate to the Mid-Iowa Community Action Group. Mortar Board members were very excited for this opportunity to trick-or-treat, but the true purpose of this project is two-fold: they hope to collect food for local citizens in need, but they also hope to raise awareness of the hunger problem in their own back yard.

Mortar Board is also beginning to make plans for second semester. The honor society is starting to plan for the annual book drive at which they will collect new and gently used books to donate to the Head Start Day Care program. This fundraiser was started several years ago, and members are continuing to carry it out, in order to increase the availability of books for children in the Head Start program, as well as to promote reading and learning within the community. The organization is also currently in the process of brainstorming fundraising ideas and ideas to promote visibility across the Iowa State University campus.

Donna Leff, Communications Chair

Lake Erie College

The Laurel chapter at Lake Erie College recently worked in cooperation with Tomorrow's Teachers to hold the fall



This fall, the Laurel chapter at Lake Erie College worked with Tomorrow's Teachers to put on the Storytelling Harvest.

Storytelling Harvest. The event was a two-hour, community-wide affair during which literature was brought to life through acting, crafts and games. At the event, children had the chance to watch stories come to life as members of Mortar Board and Tomorrow's Teachers acted out the roles of characters. After each reading, the children were able to create fall ornaments, color pictures, or get their faces painted to match their Halloween costumes. In the spirit of the fall, each princess, superhero and little animal had a turn in pumpkin bowling. Each child who participated in the day's activities was given a book of their choice, provided by the C.A.R.E.S. reading organization.

Shaina Vanderpool, President

Lawrence University

The year is just beginning for the Iota chapter of Mortar Board, and while the chapter is small, the commitment and ideas for this year are big. The group plans to continue traditions from past classes and also hopes to start new and bigger traditions.

The chapter plans to become dedicated to the national project, Reading is Leading. Members will do this by starting and leading a monthly community book club, reading stories

and planning activities with local elementary school children, sponsoring a book drive, and increasing the campus' knowledge of illiteracy through awareness events.

One of the chapter's underlying themes for ideas and goals of the first academic trimester is to increase the visibility and recognition of Mortar Board on campus. A further plan for the first trimester of the year is continuing the "First Chance/Last Chance Lecture Series," where professors in their first or last year at Lawrence give a lecture about their academic passions. Finally, in order to facilitate recognition of staff members, Mortar Board will select a "Staff Member of the Month" and honor them publicly through a banquet, plaque and an honorarium.

Liz Corey, Vice President

Louisiana State University

The Blazer chapter at Louisiana State University recently conducted a flower sale to raise funds, and executed a search for Mortar Board Top Ten Freshmen from the 2006-2007 school year. Selections were based upon the ideals for which Mortar Board stands: scholarship, leadership and service. Applicants will be honored with the university provost

being the keynote speaker. The Blazer chapter hopes to one day induct these fine freshmen into Mortar Board.

Matthew Giglia, President

University of Missouri - Kansas City

On September 29, the Delta Alpha chapter of Mortar Board Honor Society at the University of Missouri - Kansas City volunteered at the Heartland Book Bank. The book bank is filled with thousands of books that are available for use by the Kansas City area community. During their time of service, the Mortar Board members counted and sorted a large shipment of books that were donated to the Heartland Book Bank. The volunteers were happy to help an organization that works to promote literacy to the community.

Leila Simmons, President



Members of the Delta Alpha chapter Abdul Hagi-Omar and Hsiao Wang sort books at the Heartland Book Bank.

University of Nebraska- Lincoln

The Black Masque chapter of Mortar Board has had a busy and exciting beginning. On October 6, chapter members traveled to Missouri for the traditional gavel exchange at the football game. The Missouri Mortar Board chapter was more than welcoming and invited members to tailgate with them prior to the game. Next year, they will have the opportunity to come to Lincoln and bring back the gavel.

The chapter actively participated in numerous Homecoming Week events at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. This year's theme was "Welcome home Johnny" in memory of alumnus Johnny Carson. There were various activities each day, starting on Sunday with a pizza and pop party at the

student union. "Monday Night Live" was held at a local theater and was a competition of skits and dance performances. Each Greek house or student organization could enter the contest, and despite some technical difficulties, Mortar Board won in the category of student organizations!

During Homecoming Week, a three-day, campus-wide blood drive was organized with the local blood bank. Members ended up with some sore arms, but the pain was worthwhile.

Many students and onlookers, as well as some of Carson's family members, lined the streets for the campus homecoming parade. The Black Masque chapter float centered around Johnny Carson and his magician character, "The Great Carsoni." The chapter again dominated, winning the best float among student organizations.

Although a disappointing loss to Oklahoma State was the low point of the week, the fact that the chapter had four members in the homecoming royalty was a great plus. Members were thrilled to see them on the field at halftime representing Mortar Board.

Betsy Miller, President

Northern Illinois University

Mortar Board is a national honor society recognizing college seniors for their exemplary scholarship, leadership and service. At NIU, Mortar Board extends far beyond that to its members. To the current chapter's advantage, last year's chapter selected a group of outstanding, passionate and dedicated students to come together and represent Northern Illinois' senior honor society. With 37 members and three advisors, the group has managed to form a close bond in a very short amount of time. Considering that the full chapter is so close-knit, one can only imagine the bond within the executive board. According to members, working with driven and talented fellow students is very motivational and inviting. However, what their executive board strives toward most is to make the entire Pleiades chapter feel like a team. General meetings usually consist of the entire chapter sitting in chairs or on the floor in a circle, with the executive board members scattered. Often, they have refreshments, ice breakers and

announcements. Ice breakers quickly jumped from name games to sharing stories, bonding activities and trust games. An important part of the meeting is when committees meet to discuss and plan upcoming events. So far, the chapter has attended a Cubs game, participated in an AIDS walk, brought in a speaker from career services, designed t-shirts, and engaged in a "seniors to seniors" panel. Current projects include our committee organizing a blood drive, a Reading is Leading program, and bringing in motivational speakers, to name a few. As a whole, members are anxious to engage in future endeavors and continue the unity of the chapter.

Jane Kaykov, Director of Communications

The Ohio State University

September 19 on the South Oval at The Ohio State University, the Mortar Board chapter, in conjunction with the Ohio Union Activities Board and the Welcome Week Committee, broke the Ohio State record for largest pillow fight while attempting to break the Guinness World Record. The fourth annual event has become a tradition at OSU and gathered 2,505 students and faculty this year. In attendance were recently appointed President E. Gordon Gee and the Big Ten championship Ohio State basketball team. Additionally, the event raised \$1,100 for pancreatic cancer in memory of former Vice President of Student Affairs William H. Hall and 2007 Mortar Board member Joshua Topy.

Alysse Shabeen, Communications Chair

Penn State University

The 2007-2008 Archousai Mortar Board chapter is looking forward to an exciting year packed with service and social activities. They have already had an ice cream social and a pizza party, and have also held an informational booth at the PSU involvement fair. Their first service event of the year, coinciding with Halloween, was a service project called "reverse trick-or-treat." This is Mortar Board's second year of the event, which aims to gather food items for the State College Area Food Bank. Members dressed in costumes and set up booths in the university's dining commons, and handed out candy to students who donate

non-perishables.

In addition to reverse trick-or-treat, the Archousai Mortar Board chapter is planning several Reading is Leading events and nursing home visits, as well as an alumni luncheon. The chapter has a dedicated group of individuals who are looking forward to a great year filled with scholarship, leadership and service!

Kristin Kern, Historian

University of Puget Sound

The University of Puget Sound's Otlah chapter is busy planning their 2007-2008 service events. Members are tutoring students at Tacoma's Lowell Elementary School on a weekly basis. Students are also working with community members in an effort to provide food for the homeless and poverty-stricken in an event called Friday Night Feed. This December, the chapter plans to contribute to Kids Can Do, a University of Puget Sound mentoring program. In addition to service events, the group has organized this year's Last Lecture Series. This program serves as a way for the chapter to honor extraordinary faculty members by asking them to give a lecture as if it were their last.

Allison Beller, Director of Communications

Purdue University

The 82nd class of the Barbara Cook chapter of Mortar Board at Purdue University got off to a great start over the summer by accepting a few awards at the Mortar Board National Conference in July. The Barbara Cook chapter received the Golden Torch Award, Project Excellence Award, Web site Award and Alumni Achievement Award.

The annual Mortar Board Volleyball Premier Tournament opened this year's events schedule on August 31 and Mortar Board members helped by decorating locker rooms, retrieving



The Barbara Cook chapter at Purdue University takes a quick break from the Mortar Board Volleyball Premier Tournament.

balls, managing the ball rotations and hosting the visiting teams. Throughout the tournament, Mortar Board also recognized players from each team for their outstanding community service and scholastic achievements.

On October 13, the chapter hosted a tailgate party at the Westminster Village retirement community. The residents had a great time and enjoyed meeting and interacting with the Mortar Board members. Games were also played during the tailgate party and helped to make the event a memorable community service experience.

The 8th annual Horizons Dessert Reception was held on October 14 and celebrated the academic achievements of outstanding sophomores in the Horizons Program. Horizons is a TRIO program that supports students who are first generation college students, from low-income households, or who have disabilities to achieve academic excellence. The reception honored the students who earned at least a 3.2 during their first year at Purdue and featured a special keynote speaker, Shavonne Holton, who served as the 2005-2006 Mortar Board president and a successful student of the Horizons Program. Shavonne served as a positive role model for the Horizons students and motivated them to continue their quest for academic excellence, leadership and service.

The Barbara Cook chapter has many more exciting events planned for this year, including the annual Alumni Homecoming Tailgate, the annual Leadership Conference, and Women of Purdue Reception. Community service events include a Thanksgiving event at the YWCA women's shelter, a food drive and holiday caroling.

Finally, the Barbara Cook chapter is continuing its endowment fundraiser. The group has pledged to match gifts up to \$50,000, and anyone still interested in contributing can visit their Web site at www.purdue.edu/mortarboard for more information.

Vanessa Reyes, Director of Communications

San Diego State University

The Cap and Gown chapter of Mortar Board at San Diego State University participated in "Pennies for Peace," and was successful in raising \$6,000 (600,000 pennies). These funds

will pay for half of the cost to build a much needed school in a village in Afghanistan.

Members organized the 22nd annual Emeritus Administrator, Faculty and Staff Outstanding Service Awards Ceremony and Brunch held on October 6. This event honored Former Associate General Manager of SDSU Foundation Davene Gibson and Emeritus Professor of English and comparative literature Dr. Peter Neumeyer, who developed the children's literature program at SDSU. The children's literature program at SDSU is scheduled to become the first joint doctoral program offered by the California State University system in English and comparative literature. SDSU's partnering institution for this program is the University of California - Riverside.

A November Faculty and Staff Appreciation Dinner hosted by the chapter gave members the opportunity to honor outstanding teachers, regardless of class level, from kindergarten to college.

Leslie Hernandez, Director of Communications



Mortar Board Trees Chair Jeffrey Underwood, SDSU President Weber, awardee Davene Gibson, Former SDSU President Day, awardee's wife Helen and son Lantz Neumeyer are pictured at the Emeritus Administrator, Faculty and Staff Outstanding Service Awards Ceremony.

Seattle Pacific University

The Ivy Honorary chapter at Seattle Pacific University, one of Mortar Board's youngest chapters, has prepared a full lineup of events and projects for this fall. In addition to its annual curriculum fair, providing important registration information to freshmen and sophomores, Ivy Honorary is teaming with university officials for its new "Ivy Coaches" program: members will individually volunteer to guide students through the graduation requirements. In addition, Ivy Honorary will launch two other projects in coming months. Ivy officers will organize a "Last Lectures" series for professors to deliver a farewell address to their students, while still in their prime. This

January, Ivy Honorary will also host a reception for chapter alumni (the first of many) during the homecoming ceremonies. Though only in its 12th year, this chapter has already established itself and hopes these programs will increase its campus presence even further.

Alex Binz, Communications Director

University of South Florida

The USF Athenaeum chapter of Mortar Board Honor Society supported the nationally recognized Reach Out and Read child literacy program on August 4 by volunteering their time at a local annual health fair. Members distributed materials and read to children at the fair to demonstrate that reading is fun. Mortar Board presented the first 100 children's books of their anticipated 2,000 children's literary donation this year. In October, the group held their second pro-literacy event: Mortar Board's Annual Storybook Forest event. There, they donated more than 350 children's books to children at the community center, as well as more than \$2,000 worth of school supplies.

Susan Rodman, President



University of South Florida Mortar Board members Maria Brachowicz, Marianne Fatica, Susan Rodman, Nathalia Barbosa, and Meenu Varghese present the first 100 children's books to Reach Out and Read Coordinator Ellen Kent M.P.H. (center).

Valparaiso University

The Gown & Gavel chapter has planned many activities this fall. Among these are a "Bag Events Tournament" to raise money for the Reading is Leading initiative and tutoring individuals who plan to take the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) at a local community center. One of the chapter's large-scale goals this year is extending awareness and visibility of Mortar Board in the campus community through a better recruiting process and outstanding volunteer projects.

Kathryn Patrick, Director of Communications

Western Illinois University

This fall, the Mortar Board Arista chapter at WIU planned a book drive collection for the WIU community called "Trick-or-Treat for Books." The program consisted of distributing bags and informational fliers to neighbors, then picking up the books from the neighbor's doorsteps the following weekend. Executing this project in previous years had been greatly successful, and the current chapter was eager to start this service project. The chapter hoped to collect nearly 3,000 books to be distributed to local libraries and possibly overseas. To extend the scope of the drive this year, the chapter opened the project to the local high school and other campus honor societies. Beyond this event, the chapter is excited to plan a president's breakfast for each organization's president at WIU. The chapter is working extremely hard and is wishing the best of luck for those who are graduating at the end of the semester!

Robert P. Dulski, President

William Jewell College

At William Jewell College, the Panaegis chapter of Mortar Board is using chess to help students at local elementary schools to build critical thinking and concentration skills. Panaegis has partnered with William Jewell's Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) team in ChessMates, a program which pairs together students from William Jewell and local elementary schools to play chess once a week.

Organizers say the program benefits both William Jewell students and their ChessMates. Elementary participants demonstrate a significant increase in critical and analytical thinking skills, while William Jewell students get the opportunity to build a mentor relationship with local youth.

"ChessMates began with a need to help improve elementary students' strategic and analytical thinking skills to prepare them for life success," said Melissa Herschlag, who helped start ChessMates in October 2006 as a member of SIFE before being selected for Mortar Board last spring. "SIFE and Mortar Board then paired to write the grant for Missouri Campus Compact to start the project by purchasing chess boards for the program."

According to Panaegis Service Chairwoman

Rachel Vig, members jumped at the opportunity to partner with SIFE in ChessMates.

"We saw ChessMates as a great way that we could get involved in the local community to help kids build their concentration and logic skills," she said. "ChessMates also offers a more substantial relational component than a lot of volunteer projects in that Mortar Board members really get to know the kids and vice versa. The program really allows for a great type of mentoring to occur."

"ChessMates provides a positive role model and mentor for the elementary students," Herschlag said. According to Herschlag, assessments performed on the elementary participants before and after the program showed strong increases in four areas of strategic and analytical thinking skills.

Both Herschlag and Vig noted the enthusiasm of both Mortar Board students and their ChessMates.

"I was very impressed [last year], as a junior Jewell student, working with the Mortar Board students and watching their work ethic when attending this program," Herschlag said. "It wasn't just a requirement they were filling, they were actively participating in the project, engaged in what their ChessMates were doing and saying."

The ChessMates program is already experiencing significant growth. "Mortar Board members are excited to get involved in the project," Vig said. "We had a lot of interest right away, and I think that is because students have heard good things from people that have participated in the program in the past." Panaegis participation in ChessMates has increased this fall from 11 Mortar Board participants to 14.

As participation by Mortar Board has grown, opportunities for elementary student involvement have grown as well. This fall ChessMates is expanding from one elementary school to two, and the program is changing from a year-long program with a tournament in May to a semester-long program with tournaments in December and May.

Nathan Weinert, Chapter Member

Exceptional chapters honored at conference

Congratulations to all the award recipients for the 2006-2007 academic year:

Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence Award

University of Nebraska - Lincoln*

Most Improved Chapter Award

University of Colorado at Boulder

Golden Torch Award

Colorado State University
University of Cincinnati
Hood College
Hope College*
Kansas State University
Kent State University*
Lake Erie College
University of Mary Washington
University of Nebraska at Kearney
University of Nebraska - Lincoln*
University of New Mexico*
University of North Dakota
University of Northern Colorado
Northern Michigan University
Oklahoma State University
Penn State University
University of Puget Sound
Purdue University
University of Redlands
San Diego State University
Seattle Pacific University
University of South Alabama
University of South Florida
University of Utah
University of Washington
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
University of Wyoming*
William Jewell College

Silver Torch Award

Albion College
University of Arkansas
Augustana College
University of Arizona
Bucknell University
University at Buffalo - State University of New York

University of California - Los Angeles
Carleton College
Carnegie Mellon University
Carson-Newman College
Case Western Reserve University
Central Michigan University
University of Central Oklahoma
Clemson University
Denison University
Drury University
Duquesne University
Eastern Illinois University
Emory University
Endicott College
University of Evansville
University of Florida
Fort Hays State University
Grove City College
University of Hawaii
University of Illinois
Indiana State University
The University of Iowa
James Madison University
Longwood University
Louisiana State University
Lyon College
The University of Michigan
Michigan State University
The University of Mississippi
University of Missouri - Columbia
Northern Illinois University
Ohio Northern University
Oklahoma Baptist University
University of the Pacific
University of San Diego
University of Texas at San Antonio
Texas Tech University
Troy University
Utah State University
Vanderbilt University
Washburn University
Washington State University
Wesleyan College
Wichita State University
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

Project Excellence Award

Albion College
University of Arkansas
Carnegie Mellon University
University of Central Oklahoma
Colorado State University
University of Denver
University of Hawaii
Hood College
Hope College*
Kent State University*
University of Nebraska - Kearney
University of Nebraska - Lincoln*
University of North Dakota
University of Northern Colorado
Oklahoma State University
Purdue University
University of San Diego
San Diego State University
University of South Alabama
University of South Florida
University of Utah
William Jewell College
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
University of Wyoming*

Web site award

Best Overall – Purdue University
Most Improved – Kent State University*
Best New – Washburn University

Excellence in Advising Award

Dr. Dianne Portfleet
*Hope College**
Dr. Jason Vogel
*University of Nebraska - Lincoln**
Amy Wilms
University of Redlands

Save the date!

The 2008 National Conference will be held in Columbus, Ohio from July 25-27. Registration will open at www.mortarboard.org on March 15 for those interested in attending.

**Denotes Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence Award finalist*

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