



MORTAR BOARD FORUM

Fall 2008

Vol. 39

Issue No. 1

Chapters donate more than \$25,000 to promote “Reading is Leading”

Celebrating 90 years: the founding of Mortar Board

A look at Mortar Board’s generational gap

A storyteller is born: how one member left a career in technology to pursue his love of storytelling



MORTAR BOARD FORUM

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President's Message

Your experience with Mortar Board may have begun long ago with the initiation of a family member into the society. It may have begun early in college, when you became aware of this prestigious society and its outstanding members. Or, your association may have started when you were initiated in recognition of your commitment to the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. No matter when your relationship with Mortar Board began, you can choose to continue your involvement for a lifetime.

Once initiated, members are offered numerous benefits ranging from salary increases for government jobs to post-graduate fellowships specifically for Mortar Board members. Additionally, members have the unique opportunity to further their involvement by becoming a volunteer leader of the society. There are many opportunities for involvement, all of which directly impact the future success of Mortar Board. No matter your age, you can find an opportunity perfect for your level of commitment.

Undergraduate members are encouraged to join national committees, become conference assistants, or serve on the National Council as a student representative. Alumni members of the society have a wide array of opportunities for contribution. You can get involved locally by joining or starting an alumni chapter or serving as a collegiate chapter advisor. Nationally, you can join or chair a national committee, serve as a section coordinator, or run for election to the National Council. You may even be fortunate enough to be asked to serve as a trustee on the National Foundation.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage each and every member to make the most of your experience by continuing your Mortar Board involvement beyond your undergraduate career. Whether you are looking for a small or a large role in the society, Mortar Board can help you find the perfect fit.

Each Mortar Board member is important and every Mortar Board member has valuable talents to share. I hope that you will consider lending your expertise to Mortar Board as a national volunteer over the lifetime of your membership in this great society.



Sally Steadman, Ph.D.

National President

president@mortarboard.org

Editor's Note: Whether members would like to serve as a chapter officer or advisor, start or join an alumni chapter, serve as a regional section coordinator, join a national committee or run for a highly-regarded seat on the Mortar Board National Council, the talents and resources of Mortar Board members are always welcome. Members interested in running for the following National Council positions should submit a nomination by March 15, 2009: president-elect, vice president, secretary-treasurer and alumni representative. Learn more about getting involved at www.mortarboard.org/opp/involvement.



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Mortar Board publishes the *Forum* twice annually (fall and spring) in Columbus, Ohio for Mortar Board members and alumni. Issues are sent to the permanent addresses of collegiate members. For others wishing to receive the *Forum*, the subscription rate is \$5 per year. If you do not wish to receive the *Forum*, please notify the Mortar Board National Office.

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.

Mortar Board members recognized with Alumni Achievement Award

By Alicia Notestone

With their diverse talents and unmatched devotion, Mortar Board initiates are among the most successful people in the nation. Exceptional members contribute to their local, national and international communities, excel in their careers and help Mortar Board to grow each year. A few of these distinguished professionals are recognized annually with the Alumni Achievement Award at the national conference.

Jane Beyer, chair of the national alumni committee and National Council alumni representative, led the process to select the extraordinary members to honor. Beyer explained, "With members all over the world holding the Mortar Board ideals of scholarship, leadership and service in high regard, it is no surprise that the nominees are incredibly successful."

"I was, yet again, thrilled with the quality of our nominees and was honored to recognize three truly exceptional members as alumni award recipients at the 2008 Mortar Board National Conference," Beyer continued. This year, Mortar Board recognized Nancy Rogers, Kimberly Till and Marilyn Wirtz as Alumni Achievement Award recipients.

Nancy Rogers The University of Kansas Initiated in 1968

Nancy Rogers graduated from The University of Kansas in 1969 with a B.A. with highest distinction and obtained her J.D. from Yale Law School in 1972. She has since spent more than 30 years of teaching at The Ohio State University, rising to the top with a number of leadership and senior administrative positions, including vice provost for the entire university. Nancy stepped down from her position as dean of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law to serve as the interim Ohio attorney general for a period of approximately six months. In January 2009, she will return to a faculty position at the university.

With dozens of articles, books, chapters and book supplements to her name, Nancy has certainly left her mark on the legal world. For these amazing contributions throughout her distinguished career, Rogers has received numerous awards, honors and recognitions. Among her countless awards are those in the field of law, such as the Ohio State Bar Association's highest honor — the Ohio Bar Medal (2008) and the American Bar Association Section on Dispute Resolution's D'Alemberte Raven Award (2002); as well as honors for service, such as the Columbus YWCA Women of Achievement Award (2008) and The Ohio State



Nancy Rogers

University Council of Graduate Students Distinguished Service Award (2004).

Nancy's commitment to Mortar Board's key ideals of scholarship, leadership and service shines brightly with her ongoing devotion to academia and public service, being nominated by the Greater Columbus Mortar Board Alumni Chapter as the "epitome of achievement." The group went on to state that "She is living the commitment to scholarship through her teaching, writing and extensive work to diversify the composition of the student body in the college of law to better fit the needs of our society."

Kimberly Till The University of Alabama Initiated in 1976

Kimberly Till obtained her J.D. with distinction from Duke Law School in 1980, followed by her M.B.A. with second year honors from Harvard Graduate School of Business in 1983. Her success also includes remarkable experiences with the White House Fellowship and as a Henry Luce Scholar.

Kimberly has been a star in such organizations as Microsoft, AOL/Time Warner, Disney and SONY. After just eight months as president of the world's second largest market intelligence and research company, Taylor Nelson Sofres (TNS) North America, Kimberly was named the company's CEO. This phenomenal accomplishment is the latest stop in what nominator Cathy Randall calls "a meteoric rise through the corporate world."

Kimberly currently resides in New York, where she tirelessly works on women's issues as a member of the prestigious Women's Forum. She also serves by invitation on the Council on Foreign Relations and is a member of the New York Economic Club and The Advertising Council.

Throughout her life, she has maintained a devotion to scholarship, a commitment to service and displayed unmatched leadership. In short, she is a true role model to Mortar Board members, flawlessly representing the society's ideals.

Marilyn Wirtz The University of Iowa Initiated in 1977

While obtaining both her B.S. and M.A. from The University of Iowa,



Kimberly Till



Marilyn Wirtz

Marilyn Wirtz began her more than 30-year relationship with Mortar Board. This strong bond developed while Marilyn served as her collegiate chapter's treasurer from 1977 to 1978. Immediately after graduating, she continued her Mortar Board involvement by joining the area alumni chapter, serving as the collegiate chapter's advisor and beginning her nearly 10-year tenure as a section coordinator. She then moved on to the National Council, where she served as the national membership chair, followed by the position of vice president and finally topped with nine years as a National Foundation trustee.

Professionally, Marilyn has moved from several teaching positions to her most recent role as principal at Hoover Elementary School, from which she retired this year. Through her many years of devotion to education, she has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, held many professional memberships, taken part in task forces and given countless hours to community service. Specifically, her community and volunteer activities include serving on the Hancher Performing Arts Center Advisory Board; previously serving as president of the Hancher Performing Arts Center Guild; holding positions of both president and treasurer in the Altrusa Club of Iowa City; providing service and guidance as a lector and Eucharistic minister at St. Mary's Church; serving as president of the University Newcomers Club; serving as a leader for the Girl Scouts and giving back as a member of the Junior League.

Nominator Ruth Skelley, president of the Staff and Circle Alumni Chapter, explains that "not only does [Marilyn] personally present a living model to our actives and alumni, her record of service to our organization is a model of dedication."

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 member initiated as an undergraduate who is not currently a National Council member, a section coordinator, a National Foundation trustee, or 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 eligible to nominate an alumnus by filling out the form at www.mortarboard.org or calling the National Office at 800-989-6266.

Mortar Board member updates

Jered Davidson, a 2008 initiate from Oklahoma State University, was one of 51 college juniors in the nation selected to attend the inaugural Student Congress of the Henry Clay Center for Statesmanship this past summer. The purpose of the Student Congress is to help to educate a new generation in the skills and processes of statesmanship and to expose a top college junior from every state to a curriculum in diplomacy, dialogue, listening skills, negotiation and mediation. Davidson was nominated to represent Oklahoma at the week-long program on the recommendation of Oklahoma State University Director of Scholar Development Bob Graalman.

Ross Hedlund, a member at the University of Minnesota who will graduate in 2009, was featured on the cover of *Minnesota* magazine this fall. A National Guardsman who served nearly a year in Iraq in 2004, Hedlund was recently interviewed as a part of an oral history project conducted by the University of



Ross Hedlund
PHOTO: Mark Luinenburg,
Minnesota magazine

Minnesota's Center for Democracy and Citizenship at the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, in cooperation with the Minnesota National Guard. This project, related to the statewide Warrior to Citizen Campaign, helps veterans to reintegrate into their home communities and helps those communities tap into the skills returning veterans acquired during their military service. Hedlund enlisted prior to his senior year of high school and will remain active in the National Guard until next year. Hedlund is currently majoring in marketing and works full time for a security systems company in Roseville, Minn.

Dr. Barbara (Bertke) Holdcroft, a 1983 initiate of The University of Toledo, recently authored a nonfiction book about parenting a special needs child. The book, "I'm Katie's Mom," is intended to offer encouragement and advice to anyone who assists those with special needs while also offering help toward developing a balanced lifestyle. Chapters address specific situations and are often supplemented by her daughter's point of view. Dr. Holdcroft holds bachelor's and master's degrees in education and theology, and earned her doctorate in educational psychology from The University of Toledo.

Kelsey Jakupcin, a 2008 initiate from Bowling Green State University, was named to the 2008 Women's Tennis All-MAC Team and the 2008 Women's Tennis All-MAC Academic Team.

Alecia (Griffin) Lawyer, a 1989 initiate from Southern Methodist University, founded an innovative 40-member professional orchestra, the River Oaks Chamber Orchestra (www.rocohouston.org). The acclaimed orchestra, now in its fourth season, has audience members calling Alecia a "visionary."



Alecia (Griffin) Lawyer

Aaron Merkin, a 2008 initiate at the University of Wyoming, was named recipient of the National Education Association Jack Kinnaman Scholarship. Additionally, he was appointed to the influential nine-member National Education Association Student Program Advisory Committee.

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 Senior 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 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: _____

City: _____

State: _____ ZIP: _____

Primary e-mail: _____

Secondary e-mail: _____

I wish to make a gift of:

- ☐ \$500 ☐ \$50
☐ \$100 ☐ Other \$ _____
- ☐ Please contact me about remembering Mortar Board in my will or additional giving opportunities.
- ☐ Please provide me with information on how I can support local groups with the Chapter Endowment Program.

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 (to Mortar Board National Foundation)
- ☐ Credit Card
- ☐ VISA ☐ Mastercard
- ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Acct. #: _____

Expiration (Month/Year): _____

For more information, please contact Mortar Board by phone at 800-989-6266 or donate online at www.mortarboard.org/donate. The Mortar Board National Foundation is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization. Your contribution is fully deductible to the extent of the law. No goods or services were or will be exchanged for your contribution. Please mail donations to Mortar Board at 1200 Chambers Road, Suite 201, Columbus, Ohio 43212.



Ambrosia and Christopher
Ortiz y Prentice

Mortar Board members **Ambrosia Ortiz** and **Christopher Prentice**, both from the Maia chapter class of 2007 at the University of New Mexico, were married on July 5, 2008. The couple, now both named Ortiz y Prentice, have recently moved to Austin, Texas. There, Ambrosia works for a non-profit on women's reproductive health and rights and Christopher is attending The University of Texas as a graduate student in English literature.

Erika Perea, initiated in 2005 at the University of California, Los Angeles, was recently accepted into the selective RealAcad Venture Management Program in Singapore. Additionally, she was presented with the prestigious Lincoln Scholarship by the Global Realizer Group to fund her studies.

Dr. Karen Polenske, initiated in 1958 at Oregon State University, won the 2007-2008 Sloan Industry Studies Best Book Award competition for her book "The Technology-Energy-Environment-Health (TEEH) Chain in China." The award carries with it an honorarium of \$2,500 and is presented at the annual Sloan Industry Studies Conference in Boston.

Ann (Bernier) Sexton, a 1957 initiate from The University of Iowa, was recently honored for her service to the Ferguson Library in Stamford, Conn. with the prominent Lillian Moran Award for Library and Community Service. Sexton is the longest-serving member of the Friends of Ferguson Library's board of directors with a record 22 years of service, including three terms as president. Sexton received her M.L.S. in 1976 from Southern Connecticut State College and was selected for Beta Phi Mu, the library and information studies honor society.



Ann (Bernier) Sexton

Stephanie Swiger, a 2007 initiate from Bowling Green State University, was named recipient of BGSU's annual Outstanding Senior Award, selected to the 2007 Volleyball All-MAC Academic Team and received the 2008 Bob James Memorial Scholarship, presented by the Mid-American Conference to athletes who have maintained a 3.5 GPA and displayed good character, leadership and citizenship.

Vince Verbeke, a 1982 graduate of The Pennsylvania State University and an active member of the State College Mortar Board Alumni Group, has been elected to serve as president of the Mount Nittany Conservancy (MNC). The MNC is a non-profit organization whose mission is to acquire and conserve lands on and around Mount Nittany, a symbol of Penn State and the source of its legends. To benefit the public, MNC practices conservation, protection, and management of these lands as historic, scenic, recreational and environmental resources. **Patricia "Pat" Farrell**, a 1952 initiate of Mortar Board, is a former MNC President and is currently a director emeritus of the MNC board of directors.

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

Update Mortar Board with your achievements, contact information and life events by e-mailing mbforum@mortarboard.org or by visiting www.mortarboard.org/alumni! While you're there, don't forget to support Mortar Board with an Alumni Sustaining Membership for just \$25 annually.

Mortar Board awards \$60,000 in fellowships

Each year, the Mortar Board National Foundation awards fellowships to assist members in financing their graduate studies. During the 2008-2009 academic year, \$60,000 was awarded to 15 members selected for academic excellence, recommendation, promise, financial need and Mortar Board involvement. Since the establishment of the fellowship program in 1941, more than \$500,000 has been awarded to help members pursue graduate or professional school. Alumni support helped increase the current fellowship total from the previous year's by more than \$20,000.

Cindy Bethel, 2002 initiate

Fellowship: Washington State University classes of 1945-1950 Fellowship (\$3,000)

Undergraduate: University of South Florida

Graduate: University of South Florida

Kimberly Blezien, 2007 initiate

Fellowship: College Loan Market/Mortar Board Fellowship (\$3,000)

Undergraduate: Ohio Northern University

Graduate: Midwestern University

Melissa Elafros, 2006 initiate

Fellowship: Mary Elizabeth Ramier Fellowship (\$3,000)

Undergraduate: Michigan State University

Graduate: Michigan State University

Danielle English, 2007 initiate

Fellowship: GEICO Fellowship (\$5,000)

Undergraduate: Kansas State University

Graduate: University of Denver

Kirsten Freeman Fox, 1996 initiate

Fellowship: Barbara Cook Fellowship (\$2,000)

Undergraduate: The Ohio State University

Graduate: University of Maryland

Nicole Hannemann, 2006 initiate

Fellowship: Ellen North Dunlap Fellowship (\$6,000)

Undergraduate: Texas Tech University

Graduate: Baylor College of Medicine

Amanda Hong, 2006 initiate

Fellowship: United HealthCare StudentResources/Mortar Board Fellowship (\$3,000)

Undergraduate: Case Western Reserve University

Graduate: Johns Hopkins University

Donny Kakati, 2006 initiate

Fellowship: Zelma Patchin Fellowship (\$3,000)

Undergraduate: University of South Alabama

Graduate: University of Alabama

Chase Knowles, 2007 initiate

Fellowship: Mortar Board Fellowship in honor of Judith Lewis Logue (\$5,000)

Undergraduate: University of California, Los Angeles

Graduate: Claremont Graduate University

Eniola Mafe, 2006 initiate

Fellowship: Mortar Board Fellowship in honor of Martha Burns Anderson (\$3,000)

Undergraduate: Spelman College

Graduate: Georgetown University

Joan-Marie Manolakis, 2004 initiate

Fellowship: Mortar Board Fellowship in honor of Al Fisher (\$3,000)

Undergraduate: University of Alabama

Graduate: University of Alabama at Birmingham

Maureen Mork, 2006 initiate

Fellowship: Ruth Weimer Mount Fellowship (\$5,000)

Undergraduate: The Ohio State University

Graduate: The University of Michigan

Ian Neel, 2006 initiate

Fellowship: Mortar Board Diane Selby Fellowship (\$10,000)

Undergraduate: San Diego State University

Graduate: University of California, San Diego

Jeannie Nguyen, 2006 initiate

Fellowship: Katherine Wills Coleman Fellowship (\$3,000)

Undergraduate: University of Washington

Graduate: University of Washington

Laura Twilling, 2007 initiate

Fellowship: Mortar Board Fellowship (\$3,000)

Undergraduate: The Ohio State University

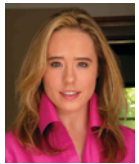
Graduate: University of Cincinnati

Apply for 2009-2010 fellowships by January 31, 2009 at www.mortarboard.org.

Bethel



Knowles



Blezien



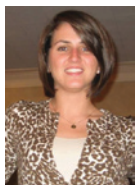
Mafe



Elafros



Manolakis



English



Mork



Freeman Fox



Neel



Hannemann



Nguyen



Hong



Twilling



Kakati



The founding of Mortar Board (1892-1920)

Celebrating our history

By Alicia Notestone

Mortar Board's rich history and time-honored traditions have shaped the organization over the years. Like a block of marble carved into a masterpiece, the trials and accomplishments of Mortar Board have helped its leaders and members mold it into the prestigious national honor society it is today. Unlike most masterpieces, it will continue to evolve, an ever-changing entity destined to serve its members as they so choose.

In 1892, Mortar Board's oldest chapter, Der Hexenkreis at Cornell University, was formed by six female students. The German-named society, which translates to "the witch's circle," was a highly secret society for senior college women complete with clandestine customs and rituals, similar to the secret Ivy League societies of men such as Skull and Bones.



A sketch of the symbol of Der Hexenkreis at Cornell University, Mortar Board's oldest chapter.

Members each received an ominous badge bearing a gold skull with red eyes and the number seven on its forehead, designed by Tiffany of New York. For years after its inception, members of the group were forbidden to refer to Der Hexenkreis or anything concerning it.

Over the next several years, numerous other societies popped up at campuses across the nation, honoring senior college women that strove to render service to other students and administrations. It wasn't until 1915, however, that these women realized their respective associations were part of a national phenomenon. Specifically, a brisk autumn afternoon on the campus of the University of Chicago that same year brought forth the birth of the organization that was later to be known as Mortar Board.

Eliza Ulrich Ullman, an alumna of Swarthmore College's Pi Sigma Chi society for women, remembered that fateful meeting well. "A titian haired coed from Ohio State University greeted me by saying, 'I see you're a Mortar Board.' I must have looked very blank for she pointed to my pin and repeated." Ullman's pin, Pi Sigma Chi's symbol of a mortarboard, was displayed prominently on her lapel. "Our pins were very similar, in fact almost identical, and our methods of election, ways of working, ideals and traditions seemed to be one," Ullman recalled.

Soon after, Ullman wrote to her Pi Sigma Chi classmates at Swarthmore regarding this interesting coincidence. She believed this may be much more than a coincidence, and that there may be similar societies out there. After much debate, the class of 1916 decided to send a letter and questionnaires to universities across the nation.

Societies from five universities were interested in unifying into a national group, and were able to meet on February 15, 1918 in Syracuse, N.Y. The meeting, referred to as the "Convention for Nationalization of Honorary Societies for Senior Women," brought together Carolyn Archbold of Eta Pi Upsilon of Syracuse University, Ernestine Becker

from Der Hexenkreis at Cornell University, Helen Hobart of Mortar Board at The Ohio State University, Ester T. Holmes of Pi Sigma Chi at Swarthmore College and Anita Kelley from Mortarboard at The University of Michigan.

Holmes, Swarthmore's delegate, was elected the first national president of the organization and oversaw the convention. The meeting went swimmingly, with the women deciding on a motto (taken from the Greek words meaning service, scholarship and leadership, to be represented by the Greek letters Pi Sigma Alpha - ΠΣΑ); a pin (a small black mortarboard with the motto); national dues (\$3 per chapter); an initiation service (that of The Ohio State University was used, as a result of its adaptability); and a constitution (adopted article by article from a tentative plan outlined by Swarthmore).

Conversely, when the time came to formalize a name for the society, a dilemma occurred. Throughout the two-day meeting, the five representatives debated whether to choose a Greek letter name or otherwise. Disparate points and fervent discussion lasted the duration of the convention. The final vote was formally left unresolved, but the minutes stated that "the sentiment of the convention go down as favoring a Greek letter name (3-2)."

After the close of the convention and returning to Swarthmore's campus, though, Ester Holmes changed her vote, choosing that the name of the organization should be Mortar Board. Her vote, the *deciding* vote, was cast by mail. Officially, the society's name was made "Mortar Board" at the second convention in 1919. Because of their strong opposition to a non-Greek letter name, Eta Pi Upsilon at Syracuse University chose not to affiliate with the national society. As a result, we today recognize four founding chapters instead of five. Eta Pi Upsilon still exists as a local society on the campus of Syracuse University.

Before the close of the first convention, the present delegates compiled a list of 22 universities that hosted societies with comparable ideals, and drafted a letter to invite these groups to petition to join the national society. By 1920, the national organization had grown to 11 chapters in a few states. Five years later, societies across the country had affiliated with Mortar Board, further nationalizing the organization. Today, 226 collegiate chapters have been granted charters.

To honor the 90th anniversary and look forward to the centennial celebration, Mortar Board has launched a historical series to be highlighted in each edition of the Mortar Board Forum magazine. Look for the next edition of the Mortar Board Forum to see the growth of the society throughout the 1920s.

The Historical Publication Committee is compiling a centennial Mortar Board history book. Please send any Mortar Board history, from personal memoirs to photos, to committee chair Martha Tykodi at:
4932 York Road SW, Pataskala, OH 43062
tykodi@columbus.rr.com

A storyteller is born

By Kunle Oguneke

There's something about the wonder of bringing a child into the world that focuses your attention, opening up the heart and the mind to new possibilities. You plan for the joys and the responsibilities that lie ahead, dreaming of a happy life for your child.

As my wife and I were expecting our first baby three years ago, we thought of the life that lay ahead for our child. Growing up in America, he would be half a world away from his grandparents in Nigeria. His childhood in the Seattle area would be so different from mine. Children growing up in today's world have many things competing for their attention, from television to computer games to cell phones. They're growing up technically savvy and getting a lot of their information electronically.

In my youth, times were simpler. We lacked many of the conveniences of today, but we were surrounded by a loving, extended family. Books and storytelling had an important place in our culture, and we learned our traditions and history from our grandparents.

I began to think about how my son would understand his place in the world — learning about his African heritage while embracing his American life. How would he fit in as a black child when most of his classmates were white? How could we provide cultural references that would resonate for him?

When my grandparents told us the tales of Africa, it brought the past to life, lighting a fire in me for more knowledge. I developed a passion for storytelling. But growing up in a third-world country, one needed to have a solid profession to move ahead in life. So, reluctantly, I pushed aside my passion to pursue an education in engineering.

As a young man, my studies brought me to America, where I graduated from Indiana's Valparaiso University. Armed with a Bachelor of Science and a bundle of enthusiasm, I entered the workforce as a software engineer, and spent the next several years climbing the ladder of high-tech corporations, working with ever-evolving technology that made it possible to communicate with people across the globe,

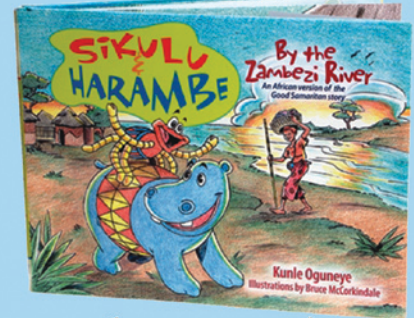
but all the while working more and more hours, and feeling less connected myself. There was little time for reading, or stories, or anything else. A career that had once brought me a sense of accomplishment was now draining me of energy.

My thoughts kept returning to my childhood love of storytelling, and I began to wonder if maybe I could do something with that. Where would I start? Could I make a living at it? The more I thought about it, the more excited I became, dreaming of the stories I could tell, the characters I could create, and the time it would free up to spend with my family. This dream became more persistent, and I decided to take a chance and leave my corporate career to devote myself to writing African folk tales for children.

It might seem like a radical change — in fact it was, but there's always been a storyteller inside me, and now was the time for him to emerge! I knew that there was a real shortage of educational materials on Africa, as well as a shortage generally of children's books aimed at minority children. I wanted to help to bridge that gap by providing cultural references that would resonate for my son and other minority children, or for children who had gone through international adoptions. I couldn't recreate the simple days of my childhood in Nigeria, but I could write stories that would teach my child and other children important values while exposing them to the sounds, colors and traditions of Africa.

For the first story, I chose a version of the Good Samaritan, with its universal lesson teaching kindness to others and helping those in need without asking for anything in return. Then, to create the magic of an exotic land, I set the story in Zambia, a country not known by many American children. Finally, I had to create characters that would appeal to young children, so Sikulu the spider and his friend Harambe the hippopotamus were born. The series will follow the adventures of these two characters as they travel throughout Africa, starting with first book, "Sikulu and Harambe by the Zambezi River."

SPECIAL OFFER! For all books purchased at www.sikulu.com using promotional code MB2008 at checkout, 50 percent of the proceeds will be donated to Mortar Board.



I've always been a believer in the power of books, and the interactive experience of reading together and talking about stories is an important part of learning and bonding with children. So, besides simply telling a story, I wanted to include an educational element with questions about the story, a glossary of words, names, places and interesting facts and figures about Zambia to engage their imaginations and to open up a dialogue between them and their parents or teachers.

Some people thought I was giving up so much when I left my software engineering career, but the truth is that I have gained much more by following my dream. The book has brought me into contact with my community in a wonderful way — meeting children and parents, teachers and librarians, folks at farmer's markets and festivals. It's taken me far from the confines of my cubicle, and given me a feeling of enrichment and renewed energy for the future.

My little boy is now two years old, and the dream that began before his birth is taking on a life of its own, with the next stories in the Sikulu and Harambe series in the planning stages. I'm excited about providing a fun learning experience for today's children, to help prepare them to live in an increasingly global world by developing a respect for other cultures, while recognizing the common threads of kindness and generosity that can unite all cultures.

Kunle Oguneke was initiated into Mortar Board in 1996 at Valparaiso University and currently resides in Washington with his family.



Mortar Board generations: How are they different?

By Virginia Gordon

Like many Mortar Board members before you, the “senior transition” is upon you. The day you receive the diploma that certifies you as a college graduate signals a new beginning. For almost 100 years six generations of Mortar Board seniors have entered post-college work or continued studies. Unless you are an older student member (or an older alumnus or other reader of the *Forum*), you have no doubt heard that you are a member of the “millennial generation.” How are you different (or the same?) from the five generations of Mortar Board members who preceded you? (National Mortar Board will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2018.) Awareness of the differences among past generations is important because it can affect your perceptions of how you communicate and interact in personal and campus contacts as well as in the workplace. It is also instructive to look at the contributions that members of different generations of Mortar Board have made to this enduring organization.

According to Strauss and Howe (1991), a new generation is born about every twenty years. Members of each generation perceive the world and their place in it based on the historical, cultural, economic and social events that took place during their formative years. Each generation assimilates distinctive values that influence its attitudes and behavior in economics, politics, sex roles, cultural areas (such as literature, music and the media), and how it values marriage, family and children. As each generation reaches maturity, it has a unique and singular affect on our country's history and culture.

Care should be taken when describing different generations' characteristics, since individuals don't always fit the qualities ascribed to them. A generational identity is a state of mind shaped by many events and influences (Lancaster & Stillman, 2002). Some individuals are born on the “cusp,” that is, they are born in the five year period between generations. (Barack Obama is a good example; he is a late baby boomer, but was born in the cusp of Generation X). “Cuspers” may take on the characteristics of both preceding and following generations but may feel more comfortable with one over the other.

As indicated earlier, each generation, according to Strauss and Howe, has its own “generational persona” that is defined by its common age and its beliefs and behavior. These authors also place generations into cohorts that are part of historical cycles. Mortar Board's founders, for example, were the last of the “lost generation” (some initiated into their local chapters starting in 1903 and later into Mortar Board from 1918 to 1920). This generation suffered through the Great Depression and experienced two world wars. They were known as “smooth, undereducated, daredevil kids.” On the other hand they were the “... most stunningly original generation of artists and writers in American history” (Strauss & Howe, 1991, p. 251). They were realists and did what needed to be done quickly and effectively. Mortar Board's founders (who were “cuspers,” by the way) realized the value in establishing an

honor society that would unite senior women from across the country.

The children of the “lost generation” became the “G.I. generation” (initiated into Mortar Board from 1921 to 1944). Tom Brokaw called them the “greatest generation” because of their endurance during the Great Depression and their sacrifices in World War II. Members of the G.I. generation are characterized as friendly, optimistic and rational problem-solvers. They were strong believers in public harmony and social discipline and displayed confidence in whatever they tackled. Howe and Strauss (2007) suggest that in many respects, the current generation, the millennials, are more like their G.I. grandparents than their parents. Both generations are described as “...up-beat, high achieving, team-playing and civic-minded” (p. 23).

Mortar Board members of the G.I. generation had a strong effect on the organization's early history. Mortar Board's first publication, the *Mortar Board Quarterly*, was established and the first graduate fellowship was given. During World War II, Mortar Board chapters (i.e., women) were fully engaged in service projects on campus such as rolling bandages for the Red Cross or entertaining troops for the United Service Organization (USO).

The “traditionalist generation” (initiated into Mortar Board from 1945 to 1962) was sandwiched between the G.I. and boomer generations. Its members entered college after World War II and shared classrooms with the wave of veterans who were educated under the G.I. Bill. Their “war” came later when they fought in Korea. They were the late 20th century facilitators and technocrats and many preferred to work in large corporations that offered job security rather than strike out on their own. They are known to value duty, discipline, thrift and a strong sense of honor. They have always had great respect for authority and value conformity. Although no American president came from this generation, it did produce three decades of top presidential aides and government leaders. Although many “traditionalists” are now retired, there are some remaining senior administrators and faculty still working on college campuses. Members of this generation voted to establish the Mortar Board National Foundation because they saw the need for an endowment to fund ongoing Mortar Board projects such as graduate fellowships.

The “baby boomers” (initiated into Mortar Board from 1963 to 1980) are different from their traditional parents in many ways. Their sheer numbers (80 million) have had a profound impact on American society. The boomers were raised in the years that followed World War II and they were the recipients of an economic boom that produced affluence and opportunity. They are the first generation to grow up with television. They are sometimes called the “me generation” because they were privileged to focus on themselves. At varying ages they experienced the upheaval of the late 1960s and early 1970s (e.g., the Vietnam War, race riots, Kent State).

Boomers are known to value personal fulfillment and individuality but most boomers have a collegial, consensual leadership style and prefer to work in teams. Work is often the center of their lives (they

have been called “workaholics”), but as they get older they appear to be looking for a more balanced personal and work life. Although the older boomers are starting to retire, (according to the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, every seven seconds a baby boomer turns age 50) they still make up a large proportion of the faculty, administrators and staff at the nation’s colleges.

One of the most significant events in Mortar Board history was its response to Title IX legislation. For 57 years Mortar Board was an honor society for women only, but in 1975 members voted to open its membership to male students. Around this same time, student members voted to establish a National Office that has had a profound effect on the growth of the organization. The Mortar Board students of this generation also voted to establish a National Citation Award to honor a national figure who has made an outstanding contribution to the status of women. It was also during this time that Mortar Board celebrated its 50th anniversary.

“Generation X” members (initiated into Mortar Board from 1981 to 2001) are known as the “latch-key” kids since many of their mothers either needed or were expected to work outside the home. Perhaps that is why Gen Xers are described as pragmatic and self-reliant. They are more skeptical and less optimistic than their boomer parents. They are known to be altruistic, fair and competent and for always asking “why.” Gen Xers seek a balance between work and their personal lives. They like informality and prefer to have fun in whatever they do. They are the first generation to truly grow up with technology. An increasing number of college administrators and faculty are now from Generation X.

Over the years Generation X student Mortar Board members have instigated many positive changes. They increased the number of National Foundation fellowships given for graduate or professional study, established a national project in which all Mortar Board chapters take part, and added students to the National Council as voting members. It was also during this period that Mortar Board celebrated its 75th anniversary.

The first wave of millennial Mortar Boards started at the turn of the twenty-first century. How is your generation — the millennial generation (initiated into Mortar Board beginning in 2002) — characterized? There is some consensus that most millennials are confident and optimistic about their personal futures. Some writers claim that they were sheltered and protected while growing up and told they are special (remember the “Baby on Board” signs?). They are known to be civic minded, adaptable, committed and innovative. They are also described as impatient, desensitized, disengaged and blunt (Chester, 2002). Millennials’ leadership style is described as involving everyone, being tolerant and keeping rules tight but light. Like the Gen Xers, the millennials have grown up with technology and quickly adapt to anything new. They are tenacious, tolerant, goal oriented and very good at multitasking. Some authors call them the “next great generation” since, as indicated earlier, as a group they display many of the characteristics of their G.I. generation grandparents. Like the generations before them, the millennials have brought many changes to national Mortar Board. They voted to make “Reading is Leading” the permanent national project for the organization.

The first male was voted national president of Mortar Board, the first male chair of the National Foundation was appointed, and the first male executive director of Mortar Board assumed his position.

The generation mix and the new workplace

Although Mortar Board chapters are made up mostly of traditional-age students, for many years older students from other generations have become members. The workplace, like college campuses, is composed of four different generations for the first time in American history. Anyone entering the workforce needs to understand how the workplace is constantly changing and how perceptions of work are different among generations. The traditional workplace that older generations remember provided long and steady employment; advancement and status were based on loyalty and relationships. Compensation was usually increased every year and control was in the hands of managers. The new workplace, however, does not guarantee tenure and there are limited opportunities for advancement. Rather than managerial control, peer pressure and self-control are expected. Much work is accomplished through team membership and individual assignments (Gardner, 1998).

Some of the issues that affect interpersonal relationships between generations involve authority, leadership style, work attitudes, management expectations, conflict resolution, rewards, communication preferences and even work hours and dress. Boomers’ perception of work, for example, is to see it as a career but Gen Xers view it as a job. Boomers are impressed with authority while Xers are mostly unimpressed. Work ethic issues are especially important to resolve since they include salary expectations, appropriate dress, punctuality and work schedules. Boomers have a driven work ethic but Xers are more apt to want a balance between work and life. Boomers focus more on relationships and results, while Xers are more focused on the task and results.

Millennials have not been in the job market as long as the generations before them, but so far they are known to have a more determined work ethic, relationships that are inclusive, a “pulling together” leadership style, and a “polite” view of authority (Zemke, Raines, & Filipczak, 2000). Forms of communication were not very different in the past but that is obviously changing. While some traditionalists still prefer the telephone over technology, boomers still prefer communication in person when possible. Gen Xers want it direct and immediate and like millennials prefer e-mail, text messaging, Web searches, BlackBerrys and other electronic forms where information is available to them in nanoseconds.

Navigating the generational mix

When individuals understand and accept how each generation perceives the world, a more open, compassionate and productive climate is created. Acknowledging the differences in values, perceptions and attitudes when working with a generation mix can eliminate misunderstandings and confrontations. Members of different generations bring different strengths, beliefs and attitudes to the workplace or classroom and this can have a positive impact on the quality of the work that is accomplished.

You will spend the rest of this senior year completing plans for those important days after graduation (unless you are on the five-year plan). Regardless of whether you intend to begin graduate work or enter the workplace after graduation, a working knowledge of how generations are different will enhance your relationships with fellow students, faculty, or co-workers. Here are a few thoughts to help bridge those generational gaps:

- Check your own age stereotypes and change those that are counterproductive;
- Be patient with those who have different generational beliefs and values from your own;
- Concentrate on the strengths of those with whom you are working;
- Value generational differences and work with what you have in common.

The most successful people in the twenty-first century, according to Martin and Tulgan (2002) will be true “gen mixers” who bring to work every day their enthusiasm, flexibility and voracious desire to learn. These are traits that can also be ascribed to many Mortar Board members who are leaders today and will be leaders tomorrow.

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Dr. Virginia N. Gordon is dean emeritus and adjunct associate professor at The Ohio State University. She has extensive experience in teaching, administration, advising and counseling in higher education settings. Her bibliography includes books, monographs, book chapters and journal articles on many topics associated with higher education. Dr. Gordon has received national acclaim and numerous awards, the most fitting of which is the National Academic Advising Association's (NACADA) naming of its award for outstanding contributions to the field of academic advising, the Virginia N. Gordon Award. Dr. Gordon has a long association with Mortar Board. She is a past National Council member, served as a Mortar Board National Foundation trustee, was national alumni chair, served as a section coordinator and was advisor to The Ohio State University chapter. In 2004, Dr. Gordon was awarded with Mortar Board's Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award.

Chapters donate more than \$25,000 to promote literacy

By Alicia Notestone

At the 2008 National Conference, Mortar Board posed an aggressive “Reading is Leading” challenge with the inception of a Virtual Book Drive. The drive, which gave chapters the opportunity to raise funds online for the designated recipient First Book, was an overwhelming success despite the short fundraising time frame of less than three months.

First Book, a non-profit organization with the mission of providing children from low-income families with the opportunity to read and own their very first new books, received the donations and in turn permitted chapters to distribute those funds to qualified organizations of their choice. These organizations could be preschool and after-school programs, Boys and Girls Clubs, soup kitchens, Head Start programs, shelters, day care facilities, Reading is Fundamental programs, schools that support disadvantaged youth and numerous other programs.

First Book already works with more than 18,000 deserving programs in communities across the nation. Furthermore, chapters could invite qualified organizations to sign up online to receive the chapter's donation. With the donation, a program or group is able to shop in the online First Book Marketplace for deeply discounted books of value to the organization's demographic data and mission.

As a whole, 46 collegiate chapters and their supporters raised \$25,586.24 for programs across the country, just shy of the \$30,000 goal. Fundraising techniques varied from group to group, with some chapters hosting large campus events and others encouraging friends and family to visit a Web site where they could contribute electronically on the chapter's behalf.

First Book Campus Advisory Board Manager Nicole Thompson explained, “Just \$2 funds a brand new, high-quality book for a child on the First Book Marketplace. When a book drive raises even \$100, that means 50 new books for kids who need them - that's enough to outfit a classroom or more.” With this formula in mind, Mortar Board was able to provide more than 12,000 new books to children from low-income families across the nation.

Indiana University of Pennsylvania (IUP) held a large fundraiser and donated a portion of their funds to Family Foundations Early Head Start in McKees Rocks, Penn. Head Start Program Coordinator Susan Stiffler explained, “The staff at FF/EHS are very excited with the possibility of receiving new quality books for the babies, toddlers and their families in our program. Advancing literacy and enhancing parent-child relationships are two of our goals, and providing appropriate books for our youngest



children is a perfect way to accomplish both."

Indiana County Head Start also received a large donation from IUP. Family Services Manager Linda Rudy was thrilled to be selected to receive the donated funds. "Head Start provides good literature to more than 360 low-income Indiana County families with preschool children," she said. "We have a program which provides a new book for every 10 titles parents read to their children. This (program) is not federally funded, so we depend upon the generosity of others to make this happen."

First Book awarded top fundraising chapters with a Borders gift card to use to purchase books for an eligible community organization at the chapters' discretion. Chapters with the highest contributions were as follows: first place - Hope College (\$4,716.65 raised, \$500 Borders gift card); second place - Kansas State University (\$3,402.86 raised, \$250 Borders gift card); third place - Indiana University of Pennsylvania (\$3,163.75 raised, \$100 Borders gift card); honorable mention - University of South Alabama (\$1,935 raised, \$100 Borders gift card).

Alexander Griffith, chapter president of top contributor Hope College explained, "While we didn't necessarily set out to be the top fundraiser, passion for the Virtual Book Drive grew out of the information our chapter received at the national conference this past July."

"We all felt extremely moved at the potential for First Book to not only accomplish a lot of good nationally but also in our college's community of Holland, Michigan," Griffith continued. "We were excited about the opportunity to partner with First Book and the Virtual Book Drive to provide children in Holland with the gift of the reading and owning their own book."

In addition to individual chapters being honored for their contributions, the geographical area with the highest total donation and participation rate was recognized and was able to choose two programs to each receive 500 books from First Book. The top fundraising region was Ohio.

Ohio's section coordinator, Rachel Kantosky, was thrilled with the book drive's success, "I was excited to see how much money the Ohio chapters raised during the Virtual Book Drive. They all approached the project in a different way, but with fantastic results!"

Mortar Board Assistant Executive Director Megan Stevens plans to expand Mortar Board's relationship with First Book. "We are absolutely thrilled with the amount of funds raised by our chapters through the Virtual Book Drive," she praised. "We were privileged to be able to work closely with First Book on this project and hope that we can continue to make an impact on the lives of children through this great partnership."

Likewise, First Book was thankful to join forces with Mortar Board to raise funds. "We appreciate Mortar Board's commitment to getting books into the hands of children who need them most," First Book's Nicole Thompson commended. "Since our founding in 1992, we've distributed more than 60 million books to children in need. With the help of groups like Mortar Board, we are able to reach many more children each day."

Bowling Green State University

During the 2007-2008 academic year, the Fayette Paulsen chapter participated in numerous service projects, devoting their time, money and effort to help a number of wonderful programs. Last October, members walked in the annual American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) Out of the Darkness Community Walk. Members also brightened the holiday season for children and families in need by participating in adopt-a-family projects, toy donation drives and a shoebox donation drive in which shoeboxes were filled with donations for children in need.

To start the 2008-2009 academic year, the group raised more than \$300 to support the First Book Virtual Book Drive. Plans are also in place for the chapter to host a Last Lecture, campus-wide book drive, chapter formal and living book presentation. The living book presentation will bring a well-known children's book to life by having members act out scenes from the book while allowing children to read along with words enlarged on projection screens. Coinciding with the ideals of the national "Reading is Leading" project, this will serve as an enjoyable activity for attendees of the university's Sibs N Kids Weekend with the hope of inspiring children to continue to enjoy the magic of reading throughout their lives.

Terry Streetman, President and Webmaster

Carnegie Mellon University

The Eta chapter kicked off the year by raising more than \$500 to contribute to the Mortar Board Virtual Book Drive. Specifically, funds raised will be made available to the Estelle S. Campbell Boys and Girls Club of Pittsburgh. In addition, the chapter has kept busy this fall by participating in Relay for Life and volunteering at Animal Friends, an area animal shelter. This year, the chapter will continue its beloved annual Turkey for a Day tradition, a fundraiser in which students bid on the professor they would most like to see wear a turkey costume for a day.



Carnegie Mellon University members participated in Relay for Life in October.

Proceeds from this event will be donated to Rainbow Kitchen in the Homestead section of Pittsburgh. Finally, the group will hold a winter textbook drive in conjunction with Better World Books.

Samantha Simmons, President

University of California, Santa Barbara

This fall, the Crown & Scepter chapter is working with the Family Literacy Program at the Santa Barbara Public Library, which allows families to experience the joy of reading together while offering numerous other benefits. Furthermore, the chapter will hold a canned food drive in the university's residence halls as the holiday season approaches.

Lindsey Storer, President

Chapman University

At Chapman University, there are numerous subjects to which students are either not exposed or for which they lack time in their selected

curriculum. To bridge this gap, the Schweitzer chapter is sponsoring the Professors Reaching Out for Students (PROFS) lecture series to serve as an outlet for professors to share their passions and further educate students in a fast-paced world of increased global interaction which requires education, tolerance, leadership and cooperation. With the PROFS program, the chapter plans to connect professors and students with increased interaction, presenting a broad range of subjects including but not limited to film, science, music, religion, history and economics.

Current potential professors and subject matters include Dr. Mark Maier on leadership; Dr. Nubar Hovsepian on the contemporary Middle East; and Dr. Smoller on the Orange Unified School District where an elected trustee disrupted meetings and slandered board members.

Karli McEntee, Director of Communications

University of Cincinnati, Xavier University

The University of Cincinnati chapter, in conjunction with the Xavier University chapter, will launch the second annual Mortar Board Crosstown Fundraiser to raise money for purchasing textbooks for Cincinnati Public Schools. The project aims to raise funds with community-wide awareness and a major letter-writing campaign to Mortar Board alumni.

Erin Kincaid, University of Cincinnati President

The Colorado College

The Colorado College chapter has set several new goals for the 2008-2009 academic year, the foremost of which is to increase campus visibility. The chapter will strive to increase awareness of Mortar Board by partnering with other organizations and creating chapter t-shirts to expose more students to the society.

The school year kicked off to a busy start with members volunteering with the Mighty Math Tutoring at Horace Mann Middle School in Colorado Springs. Despite the name, the tutoring program encompasses all subjects, and Mortar Board members are thrilled to help students in the community. Mortar Board also participated in the national Virtual Book

Drive, with all of the donations benefiting underprivileged children of Colorado Springs. The chapter also participated in the annual Section 22 service project in Colorado Springs. Chapters in the section worked together to contribute to the Fountain Creek Restoration Project in the Garden of the Gods.

Brenna Gomez, Director of Communications

Cornell College

The Torch chapter plans to support the Cedar Rapids Public Library (CRPL), the city's main library branch, throughout the year. The library was severely damaged by flooding in June 2008. The CRPL official Web site declares that "The destruction at the 85,000 square foot library, which occupies a square block in the city's central business district, is believed to be the largest public library disaster in U.S. history."

The Torch chapter has already raised \$810 for the library in the first two months of operation by collecting donations at home football games and selling t-shirts. Moreover, the group is working on details for other ways to help the library speed up recovery efforts, which are predicted to take two to three years. The chapter has set a preliminary fundraising goal of \$5,000 for the year. More details about CRPL and Mortar Board's continued support in its recovery will follow in the spring publication of the *Mortar Board Forum*.

Rebecca Sullens, Director of Communications
Editor's note: If you are interested in helping the Torch chapter support the CRPL, please e-mail cornellcollege@mortarboard.org.

Drury University

The Skiff chapter at Drury University held their annual fall blood drive this October in conjunction with the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks. The chapter exceeded their 75-unit goal with 87 total units blood donated. In fact, this is the group's second consecutive year to break their donation goal by more than 10 units! Each unit can save three lives. The chapter was very pleased with the turnout at this year's event and plans to request more donation beds for next year's drive to increase the amount of simultaneous donations.

Emily Manck, Secretary

Fort Hays State University

The Gold Cord chapter came up with a creative way to combine the national "Reading is Leading" initiative and the Fort Hays State University homecoming parade. In lieu of passing out candy to children along the parade route, the group distributed children's books. With the help of an exhaustive book drive, the chapter was able to collect 398 books to distribute at the parade — an excess of their goal of 100 books.

Additionally, the chapter again participated in the annual "Trick-or-Treat So Others Can Eat" event with several other student organizations. The food drive, in which students trick-or-treat for non-perishable food items, allowed Mortar Board members to collect enough goods to fill the back of a sport utility vehicle.

Finally, the chapter is currently working with a fundraising event for St. Jude's Children's Hospital known as "Up 'til Dawn," a student-led, student-run philanthropic program hosted by colleges and universities nationwide. The chapter participated in an evening of letter writing to solicit donations. In February, the university will host an all-night event where members will literally stay "Up 'til Dawn." Students will give up a night of sleep in honor of the patients of St. Jude who bravely fight cancer. They celebrate their efforts for St. Jude and, at dawn, find out how much their campus raised to advance the mission of finding cures and saving children.

Shayna Henry, President

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Members of the Hui Po'okela chapter volunteered at the re-opening festival of the Makiki Community Library: "Rediscover Makiki: Sunset in the Park." Founded in 1978, this non-profit recreational library was the subject of a two-day festival to reintroduce and excite patrons by building awareness of the library's wonderful programs and facilities while allowing community members to celebrate their shared vision. To prepare for this two-day event, chapter members organized books and dusted shelves. At the festival, members assisted in face painting, recreational activities, and rides for the children.

Leann Luahiwa, Director of Communications

Hope College

The Alcor chapter started another year of dedicated service toward the citizens of western Michigan and the Hope College community by raising nearly \$5,000 for the Van Raalte Elementary School during the annual Alumni Book Drive and national Virtual Book Drive. The book drive provided former Hope College Mortar Board members an opportunity to donate for a cause that will benefit the education of numerous elementary school students. Mortar Board Alumni Chair Chelsea Vandlen said, "I think that the book drive was a great success. This event has become somewhat of a tradition for our chapter in the past few years, and we are so fortunate to have such loyal and generous support from our Mortar Board alumni."

Members also participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life by creating its own team to raise money for cancer research and to celebrate the lives of all who have fought the disease. The 12-hour relay provided Hope students with an opportunity to raise awareness of the disease and honor friends and relatives who were affected by cancer. The chapter led all Hope College organizations in donations for Relay for Life during the past three years.

As the holiday season approaches, Hope College's Mortar Board members volunteered at the annual pumpkin carving with CASA (Children's After School Achievement), an organization that provides year-round tutoring sessions for at-risk first through fifth grade students. Meanwhile, Mortar Board students will also host its annual Thanksgiving Dinner for International Students. Hope College's international students will be invited to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal served



Mayor Mufi Hanneman (second from right) is pictured with University of Hawaii members (left to right) Sarah Yuen, Sharon Agacid and Angela Leung at Makiki Park.



Indiana University of Pennsylvania chapter members collected and sold books to raise funds for the Virtual Book Drive, for which they raised \$3,163.75.

by Mortar Board members. International students will learn more about the history of the Thanksgiving tradition, while enjoying the fellowship of fellow Hope students. This December, Mortar Board members will also participate in the annual Christmas stocking stuffing for CASA students. Members will stuff stockings that will provide holiday presents for numerous elementary school students. Members will also be spreading holiday cheer to local nursing home residents by caroling and visiting with the residents.

Hope College's Mortar Board members are anticipating the upcoming months of community-based service opportunities. Members will continue to work hard to ensure that the longstanding tradition of Mortar Board's dedicated service toward others will continue at Hope for years to come.

Chris Lewis, Director of Communications

Indiana University of Pennsylvania

The Sutton chapter joined forces with the Starbucks Corporation to collaborate for the national Virtual Book Drive. The campus-area location of Starbucks, which also boasts a national literacy initiative, came up with the idea for a book collection sale. Initially, fliers in the store and local media announcements encouraged students to donate books at the Starbucks location and later at a Pittsburgh branch as well.

Funds raised from the book sale were

contributed to the Virtual Book Drive and then passed on to the chapter's selected recipients, Indiana County Head Start (ICHS) in Indiana, Penn. and the Family Foundations Early Head Start (FF/EHS) in McKees Rocks, Penn. Unsold children's books were donated directly to ICHS and additional book contributions were donated to a campus sorority for their upcoming fundraiser.

In addition to the local support from Starbucks, financial support was provided via the company's corporate "Make Your Mark" grants, which provide a \$10 donation for each volunteer hour toward a service project. In full, the IUP chapter's donation to the Virtual Book Drive was \$3,163.75.

Darla Barie, President

Kansas State University

The XIX chapter recently hosted a campus-wide event known as "Free-4-All." This event, held at the student union, allowed Kansas State students to become more knowledgeable on the numerous available complimentary services at the university. Many campus offices and student services were present with booths and information.

Additionally, the XIX chapter was able to raise \$3,402.86 to donate to First Book in collaboration with the national Virtual Book Drive — the second highest amount of all chapters! Members collected money from friends, family, organizations and student

groups — they even sold lemonade in front of the student union! For being one of the top national donors, the chapter received a \$250 Borders gift card to be used to purchase books for a community organization of their choice.

Robby Flack, Director of Communications

University of North Dakota

The Quo Vadis chapter has been busy this fall fundraising for their 29th Annual Turkey Basket Drive — a project in which they collect food items and donations in order to create Thanksgiving food baskets for those in need throughout the Grand Forks, N.D. community and surrounding area. This year, the group anticipates more than 900 families to receive a turkey basket.

In order to raise the necessary funds to provide these generous donations, the chapter kicked off the academic year with a golf tournament. They have additionally held a bake sale, sold raffle tickets, held popcorn sales, picked up garbage and hosted numerous food drives. As of October, the group had raised more than half of the money necessary to provide the food. The chapter anticipates not only reaching, but exceeding their goal and having the most successful Turkey Basket Drive yet!

Vonnie Kryzsko, Director of Communications

University of Northern Colorado

The Gold Key chapter participated in the annual food drive held on their campus known as Cans to Candelaria. The event, held each October, collects non-perishable food items to benefit the Weld County Food Bank in Northern Colorado. This year, combined efforts brought more than 25,000 pounds of food — up 15,000 pounds from last year. The chapter contributed a total of 91 pounds for the event.

Additionally, the chapter continues their volunteer reading program in the community. They also participated in the annual service project for Section 22, a clean-up of the Garden of the Gods.

Lyn Parker, Director of Communications

Northern Illinois University

The Pleiades chapter and the NIU campus are continually growing forward together

following the tragic events of February 14, 2008. The chapter welcomed a record 62 new members in April and has since launched numerous fall events. Members trick-or-treated for canned goods, donating collected items to local food pantries. This was followed by a campus-wide blood drive in November and a December book drive to benefit the “Reading is Leading” national project. Plans are in place for both a stress-management program to help ease NIU students throughout the graduate school application process and the annual faculty recognition banquet.

Kevin Levy, Director of Communications

Northwestern University

The chapter is ambitiously beginning the inaugural year of their Mortar Board Mentors project. The project pairs a Mortar Board member as a mentor with a first-year student. The pair will volunteer each week at a local elementary school as reading buddies for schoolchildren. From time to time, mentors and participants will also volunteer as support staff at a charter middle school in Chicago. Finally, the mentorship program gives underclassmen the unique opportunity to get to know a senior on campus who can help to make their transition into Northwestern more comfortable. The project allows the chapter not only to help schoolchildren, but also new students at Northwestern. More information about the chapter and mentors project is available at www.nu-mb.org.

Mark Duric, President

Ohio Northern University

The Aurora chapter continues to exemplify the ideals of Mortar Board by serving campus and community. After a whirlwind spring quarter and the induction of 45 members, Aurora is back to work on a series of continuing service projects.

At the 2008 Mortar Board National Conference, the chapter was recognized with a Project Excellence Award for its dedication to reading to children at the Ada Public Library. These weekly trips to the library are part of Aurora’s outreach for the “Reading is Leading” national project. Additionally, members work with campus organization “ONU Recycles” to

help keep Ohio Northern beautiful. Each week, members collect recyclables from marked bins and take them to recycling facilities. Members made an additional effort to keep their community clean by giving up a Sunday afternoon to collect trash along a local highway as part of the adopt-a-highway program.

As part of the national First Book initiative, the chapter organized a campus-wide book drive. In addition to collecting donations online, the chapter set up donation tables in the student union and at football games. In anticipation of future support of First Book, the chapter has planned a sand volleyball tournament for spring 2009 to raise funds.

Autumn Steiner, Communications Chair

The Ohio State University

The Mabel G. Freeman chapter has had a busy start to the year, including participation in Make a Difference Day, the nation’s largest day of service. To honor this day and contribute to their community, Mortar Board members volunteered at the Good Neighbors Homelessness Picnic. Mortar Board volunteers rotated shifts for an entire day of service, passing out blankets, interacting with attendees, serving food and cleaning up after the event. One shift of volunteers focused on aiding transportation efforts, especially helping children and those with physical disabilities on and off of a bus which shuttled attendees to and from the event.

“It was a rewarding experience to [be] able to help those in need, especially when you saw families coming to the event and mothers being able to give toys to their children,” said Service Event Chair Caitlin McCurdy-Robinson.

In its 10th year of existence, the Good Neighbors Homelessness Picnic hosts hundreds of central Ohio’s homeless men, women and children, providing them with food, clothing, toys, blankets, arts and crafts activities and live music.

The chapter bonded with a fall leadership retreat at Summit Vision Center in central Ohio. Mortar Board members successfully went through a series of team-building activities, the finale of which was the challenge of helping each other climb over a 20-foot tall flat wall.

“At first I was a little skeptical that we could

do it, but in the end when everyone made it over, I really felt we had all come closer together as a group,” said Mortar Board member Kevin Johns. After each activity, Summit Vision Center guides led reflection sessions where participants could discuss the challenges of each task and how they were able to work together as a team to find success. The leadership retreat was funded through The Ohio State University by use of a Coke Leadership Retreat Grant.

Jin Schrattenecker, Communications Chair

The Pennsylvania State University

This year, the Archousai chapter is striving to build upon the foundation of service and leadership left behind by the class of 2008. Under the direction of an inventive and enthusiastic executive board, more than 50 chapter members are planning three service projects to be held throughout the year. To kick off the year, the group planned a unique fundraising event: a booth for making personalized tie-dyed t-shirts during homecoming weekend. Proceeds were donated to First Book as a part of the national Virtual Book Drive. Also coinciding with the national project, “Reading is Leading,” the chapter is pursuing the opportunity to read to children at local schools. Finally, the chapter hopes to enhance alumni relations by working closely with area alumni and the State College Alumni Chapter. Specifically, the group hosted a brunch social bringing past and present members together.

Kerry Bailey, Historian

Purdue University

The 83rd class of the Barbara Cook chapter kicked the year off by accepting the Best Web site and Golden Torch awards, while also being recognized as a finalist for the Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence Award, at the 2008 Mortar Board National Conference.

The chapter’s annual Mortar Board Volleyball Premier Tournament brought collegiate teams from Duke University, Tennessee State University, Kansas State University and Purdue University. Chapter members assisted with the events by hosting the coaches and players, sweeping the floors, decorating the locker rooms, and retrieving and rotating the balls during practices and games.

The Annual Horizons Dessert Reception celebrated its ninth year of recognizing and celebrating the achievements of outstanding sophomores in the Horizons Program. The Horizons Program encourages low-income, disabled or first-generation college students to strive for academic excellence. The reception recognizes Horizons students with a 3.0 GPA during their first year at Purdue.

Other exciting events include the Alumni Homecoming Tailgate, the annual Leadership Conference and the Women of Purdue Reception. The chapter is also working on a few new programs for the year, including a last lecture series and a mentoring program with freshmen students.

Mary Monardo, Director of Communications

University of Redlands

Last year, the Wisdom, Excellence, Belief and Service (W.E.B.S.) chapter donated \$100 to the Geography Kid Camp created by Catherine Walker of the University of Redlands. This one-day camp, held on the Redlands campus, was established three years ago to help inform children about the world at an early age. The camp helps make geography interesting and fun so that children can go home with a broader sense of the world around them.

Many Redlands professors and students are helping to keep this camp going through fundraising projects and events. A day at the Geography Kid Camp involves teaching children the concept of neighborhoods around their schools and homes. The chapter’s donation allowed children to attend the July 2008 camp for free, where they received knowledge, a lunch, an atlas, backpack and flash drive to continue their geographical interests at home. In the future, Walker plans to expand the camp into a multiple-day event made possible by the many donations from organizations like Mortar Board. For the 2008-2009 academic year, the W.E.B.S. chapter hopes to continue donating to and fundraising for similar organizations that make a difference in our community.

Jennifer Bielman, Director of Communications

Seattle Pacific University

Ivy Honorary, one of Mortar Board’s

youngest chapters, received its second consecutive Golden Torch Award at the 2008 Mortar Board National Conference and hopes to earn a third. To kick off their efforts, the chapter has planned a full schedule for fall and winter quarters.

Ivy members continue their dual traditions to welcoming new faculty members to campus with coffee and conversation while also welcoming new students to campus with a curriculum fair to help freshmen and sophomores navigate through classes, majors and the common curriculum. The curriculum fair will be followed by an ongoing “Ivy Coaches” program to connect Ivy members to younger students in need of academic mentoring.

Winter will bring recognition for both alumni and faculty. First, the chapter’s reception during homecoming weekend will serve as an alumni recognition event. Ivy Honorary will then honor a distinguished instructor in their second annual “Last Lecture.”

Finally, Ivy Honorary will continue to support the “Reading is Leading” national project through a intensive, campus-wide book drive to benefit libraries and schools in Kenya.

Alex Binz, Director of Communications

The University of Tennessee at Knoxville

This year, the Cap & Gown chapter’s first service project of the year has members serving as year-round pen pals to the third-grade students of Teach for America teachers Adam Brown and Kara Smith, both alumni of the Cap & Gown chapter. The goal of this important interaction is to help improve the children’s writing and communication skills.

To support the “Reading is Leading” national project, the chapter will be Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) throughout the year. This national non-profit volunteer organization creates audio books for students with disabilities, especially visual impairments and dyslexia. Mortar Board members will narrate books and describe accompanying visual elements including charts, graphs and pictures. Also in collaboration with “Reading is Leading,” the chapter contributed member donations to the Virtual Book Drive.

Kelly Johnson, Director of Communications

Tennessee Tech University

The Gold Circle chapter showed their enthusiasm for the Mortar Board Virtual Book Drive supporting First Book by hosting an ice cream social on the campus. Many students stopped by to enjoy homemade ice creams and sorbets in flavors ranging from double fudge chocolate to coconut. Not only did the Gold Circle members have an opportunity to provide a tasty relief from the afternoon heat, but they also had the opportunity to publicize both Mortar Board and the book drive. In less than two hours, nearly \$200 was raised to benefit the Virtual Book Drive.

Aileen Joanna Guerrero, President

Tulane University

The Alpha Sigma Sigma chapter members have been actively involved in multiple service projects, including Take Back the Night anti-violence rally; St. Jude's Up 'til Dawn philanthropic program; and Outreach Tulane, the university's one-day community service event at which the chapter had a paint rally.

The chapter's first service event was held at a local restaurant, Fresco's, which donated 20 percent of their dine-in and carry-out sales to Mortar Board on a specific date. The \$150 raised by the October 8 event was contributed to Tulane's Book Giving Tree, a program that gives a book to each student at local schools including Dwight D. Eisenhower Elementary School, Andrew H. Wilson Charter School and Gentilly Terrace Elementary School.

The chapter will continue their Last Lecture Series this year, giving Tulane professors an opportunity to present a lecture as if it were their last. Bruce Fleury, a professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, spoke in November.

Nea Moyer, Historian

University of San Diego

The Alcalá chapter spent a typical San Diego Saturday, sunny with a nice ocean breeze, at homecoming! There were a myriad of festivities on campus: barbecue, cheerleaders, dancing, live music, root beer pong and even a mechanical bull. As enjoyable as all those activities sound, the "Stump the Mortar Boarders at Trivial Pursuit" challenge at the Mortar Board booth was certainly a high point



Tennessee Tech University members held an ice cream social on their campus, using the opportunity to spread the word about Mortar Board as well as to collect contributions toward the Virtual Book Drive.

at the homecoming tailgate. The chapter didn't have balloons or catchy slogans, nor did they offer refreshing lemon-ice like the business club in the next booth, but they definitely provided delight and entertainment with fun-filled trivia that members *did not* know.

This event also gave a great start to their major fundraising project of the year: selling notebook binders for STRIVE — a scholarship fund for college-bound local high school students. Their biggest customers were Alcalá chapter alumni who all stopped by to say hello and reminisce about meetings, car washes and their extraordinarily hardworking chapter advisor, Judy Lewis Logue.

Csilla Kristof, Director of Communications



University of San Diego Mortar Board members Csilla Kristof and Caroline Charles greet Mortar Board alumni at the 2008 homecoming.

University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

As a "Reading is Leading" program, the Gold Caps chapter prepared a meal at The Community Table, Eau Claire's soup kitchen. The menu included homemade macaroni and

cheese, coleslaw, hotdogs, caramel apple slices, cookies, milk...and children's books! Clearly this last menu item is one not seen very often in The Community Table's kitchen. The chapter made more than 40 pounds of macaroni and cheese, about 130 hotdogs, and 12 pounds of coleslaw, but the best item on the menu was a book for each child that came through the line that night.

If you are wondering where the Gold Caps chapter acquired all of these books, the answer is simple. Prior to cooking, each member of the chapter was asked to donate a copy of their favorite children's book or one that they wish they had when they were young. With so much food and so many books, there were plenty of leftovers both for people to take home and for the Gold Caps members to properly store away. About 20 pounds of macaroni and cheese was refrigerated for the next day and the leftover books were sent to "chill" on a recently added children's bookshelf so children can continue to read new books when Mortar Board isn't cooking up something good.

Even if you aren't a good cook, the next time you have an extra children's book lying around and don't know what to do with it, please consider taking it to your local soup kitchen since "Feeding is Leading" too.

Joseph J. Glatczak, President

Exceptional chapters honored at conference

Congratulations to all the award recipients for the 2007-2008 academic year:

Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence Award

University of Wyoming**

Most Improved Chapter Award

Drury University
Oklahoma Baptist University

Golden Torch Award

The University of Alabama
Carnegie Mellon University
Carson-Newman College
Case Western Reserve University
Denison University
The University of Denver
Drury University
Hope College*
Kansas State University
University of Maryland
The University of Nebraska - Kearney*
The University of Nebraska - Lincoln
The University of New Mexico
University of North Dakota
Northern Arizona University
The University of Northern Colorado
The Ohio State University*
Oklahoma Baptist University
Oklahoma State University
Purdue University*
San Diego State University
Seattle Pacific University
University of South Alabama
University of South Florida
University of Tennessee at Knoxville
William Jewell College
University of Wyoming**

Silver Torch Award

Albion College
University of Arkansas
Ball State University
Birmingham-Southern College
Bowling Green State University
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Cincinnati

Coe College
University of Colorado
The Colorado College
Cornell College
University of Delaware
DePauw University
Duquesne University
Emory University
Endicott College
Florida State University
Fort Hays State University
Grinnell College
Grove City College
Hanover College
Indiana University of Pennsylvania
The University of Iowa
Kent State University
Lake Erie College
Lawrence University
Longwood University
University of Louisiana at Monroe
University of Louisville
Miami University
The University of Michigan
University of Missouri - Kansas City
Montana State University
North Dakota State University
Northern Michigan University
Ohio Northern University
Oregon State University
Queens University of Charlotte
Rhodes College
University of San Diego
University of South Carolina
The University of South Dakota
Southern Methodist University
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga
Tennessee Technological University
Troy University
Tulane University
Valparaiso University
Washburn University
University of Washington
Washington University
West Texas A & M University
West Virginia University
Western New England College
Wichita State University
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

Wittenberg University
Xavier University

Project Excellence Award

University of Arkansas
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
University of Cincinnati
Drury University
Hope College*
Kansas State University
Kent State University
Miami University
The University of Nebraska - Kearney*
University of North Dakota
Ohio Northern University
The Ohio State University*
Purdue University*
University of San Diego
San Diego State University
Section 22
University of South Alabama
University of South Florida
Tulane University
Washington University
William Jewell College
Wittenberg University
University of Wyoming**
Xavier University

Web site award

Best Overall — Purdue University*
Most Improved — Kansas State University

Excellence in Advising Award

Dr. Martha Anderson
University of Louisiana at Monroe
Kirsten Freeman Fox
University of Maryland
Charlotte Maheu
Tulane University

* Denotes a Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence Award Finalist

** Denotes the Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence Award recipient

SAVE THE DATE!

The 2009 Mortar Board National Conference will be held in Chicago, Ill. July 24 - 26. Registration will open at www.mortarboard.org on March 15.

Celebrate the season

with Mortar Board apparel, jewelry, furniture and more



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\$17



Black & White Mug
\$5



Hooded Sweatshirt
\$25



Junior Deluxe Padfolio
\$12



Tote Bag
\$6



Explorer Diver Watch
\$50



Key Fob
\$5



Color Block Letter Tee
\$10



Quartz Clock
\$20



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