

# MORTAR BOARD FORUM

Fall 2009

Vol. 40

Issue No. 1



## Illinois Wesleyan University becomes home to 228th chapter

*IWU Chapter President  
Morgan Tarbutton  
receives his pin from  
Advisor Sue Stroyan*

**Also featuring:**  
**Alumni recognized with prestigious awards**  
**Mortar Board names executive director**  
**Fellowships awarded to 12 students**

**Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society**  
Scholars...Chosen for Leadership...United to Serve

# MORTAR BOARD FORUM

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## Comments about Mortar Board National Foundation fiscal year 2008 financial results

The financial results for the National Foundation reflected a substantial drop in market value of its long-term investments. Accounting principles require that for financial reporting purposes National Foundation unrestricted assets be used to bring permanently restricted and temporarily restricted assets (i.e., their endowment principal values) up to the levels of their original contributions. This requirement accounted for the most significant part of the reduction in unrestricted net assets for the year. While total assets of the National Foundation accurately reflect this market impact, during fiscal year 2009, the market recovery and the movement of unrestricted assets experienced in fiscal year 2008 have been reversed.

Details of fiscal year 2009 financial results will be reported in the Annual Report found in the Spring 2010 edition of the *Mortar Board Forum*.

### Mortar Board National Foundation Fund

Annual Financial Position (November 1, 2007 – October 31, 2008)

#### Revenue

Fees	\$14,107
Contributions/grants	\$72,099
Other	\$48,366
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$134,572</b>

#### Expenses

Programs	\$128,713*
Management	\$26,549
Fundraising	\$51,941
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$207,203</b>

#### Total assets

Unrestricted	\$(8,601)
Temporarily restricted	\$123,636
Restricted	\$561,860
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$676,895</b>

\*Includes investment losses

# President's Message

**MORTAR BOARD FORUM**

**WWW.MORTARBOARD.ORG**

**FALL 2009**

**VOLUME 40, NUMBER 1**



Mortar Board members,

It is truly an honor to be writing my first president's message in the *Mortar Board Forum*. I started my involvement with Mortar Board in the Pleiades chapter at Northern Illinois University in 1994. At the time I would never have guessed that I would still be involved in Mortar Board 15 years later on the National Council. Through my involvement with Mortar Board, I have gotten to know some of the most dedicated, talented and generous people I have ever met. The relationships I have built through my involvement during college and beyond have been amazing.



I am extremely excited about the opportunities and possibilities we have before us as an organization. I was able to preside over the installation of two new chapters: our 227th at the University of Minnesota Duluth on April 23 and our 228th at Illinois Wesleyan University on November 8. Our chapters are engaged in their communities and having tremendous impact. I recently had the privilege of participating in the annual section project for Section 22 at the Garden of the Gods Park in Colorado Springs. Six chapters from Colorado, Wyoming and Utah joined forces to make a physical impact on a park visited by millions of people each year.

The organization is continuing to grow and change in order to best support our members and alumni. For example, the Mortar Board National Foundation continues to build relationships and raise funds for fellowships to support graduate study of members, as well as to support leadership initiatives. The National Council is embarking on a strategic planning process that will guide Mortar Board toward our centennial in 2018. Perhaps most significantly, we have been able to select a new executive director, Jane Hamblin. Jane brings with her outstanding experience and understanding of higher education, nonprofit organizations, building relationships and Mortar Board. Jane is a Mortar Board member herself and advised the chapter at Purdue University for many years. She is a welcome addition to the National Office.

The theme of our National Conference this past July in Chicago was "Taking Mortar Board to New Heights." I believe we ARE taking Mortar Board to new heights at all levels of the organization. We rely greatly on the exceptional talent of our volunteer leadership, chapter advisors and collegiate members. Our alumni and donors continue to support Mortar Board's efforts in scholarship, leadership and service through their contributions of time and financial support. We all can make (and are making) a difference through our involvement and relationship with Mortar Board. I challenge you to continue to give back to your communities and support the ideals of Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society throughout your lives. With your help we can continue to take Mortar Board to new heights.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Turner

Mortar Board National President

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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 October 15 for the fall issue. Photographs will not be returned unless requested. Please contact the National Office for advertising rates.

## **MORTAR BOARD, INC. MISSION**

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](http://www.mortarboard.org).

## Mortar Board names Jane Hamblin as the Society's third executive director

By Alicia Notestone

National President Daniel J. Turner announced that Mortar Board has named Jane Hamblin to lead the Society as its third executive director.

Dan praised the work of the Executive Director Search Committee in securing a candidate with the right expertise for the position. He explained, "Jane has a rich understanding of higher education, nonprofit organizations, fundraising, team-building and Mortar Board. The National Council has the utmost confidence in her ability to provide leadership for Mortar Board and help us move to the next level."

Jane brings both higher education administration and nonprofit association experience to her role as Mortar Board's executive director. Her specialties include leadership program development, membership cultivation and service delivery, and development. Jane hails from Indiana and holds a B.S. from Purdue University (where she was a Mortar Board member) and a J.D. from Indiana University. She has complemented her background in student affairs and leadership program development with experience in writing, editing and publishing. Purdue University, Indiana University, the University of Maryland Baltimore County and Trinity Washington University are the higher education institutions where she has honed her expertise.

Jane brings to her new role a mix of practical experience in and joyful enthusiasm for Mortar Board. Jane fondly reminisces about her selection to the Society, something she only dreamed could happen. Tapped at her sorority house (she is a member of Alpha Omicron Pi), Jane was making announcements at formal dinner before a Monday evening chapter meeting. "Suddenly the doors flew open and three Mortar Boards strode purposefully into the dining room," Jane recalls. "I panicked, thinking, 'Oh, no! I've forgotten that we have speakers at dinner.' My housemother, who

had been in collusion with the Mortar Boards, told me just to sit down and be quiet. And, quite honestly, I remember very little after that, except for applause, hugs and floating on air. Only when I joined my new Mortar Board friends at a reception on campus late that evening did reality set in. Being in Mortar Board, however, continued to be a dream!"

Her love for Mortar Board did not stop there. Jane served as the senior advisor of the Barbara Cook chapter of Mortar Board at Purdue for 17 years and now joins the staff to lead the renowned Society as it marches toward its centennial. "Many years ago I used to tell people that being the executive director of Mortar Board was the perfect job," laughs Jane. "Now I get the chance to prove that it's true. Working with leaders whose intellect and passion know no limits – it's perfect!"

Search Committee Chair Jane Beyer explained, "We were fortunate to have a significant number of very qualified individuals express interest in the Mortar Board executive director opportunity. As we moved through the search process, however, Jane Hamblin's qualifications enabled her to emerge quickly to the forefront."

"Jane Hamblin brings to the executive director role a wealth of very relevant experience. Her many credentials include an extensive nonprofit background, a proven ability to successfully lead teams, as well as a working knowledge of Mortar Board," Beyer commended. "The Search Committee members and I believe that these attributes, along with Jane's positive attitude and vision for the organization, will enable her to most effectively take Mortar Board to the next level."

Jane has been on the staff of the Council of Graduate Schools and the American Association for Higher Education, where she developed systems for growing members and donors. At the American Dental Education Association, Jane led the team that managed conferences, membership operations, member



Jane A. Hamblin, J.D., CAE

services, media, marketing and publications. As "friendraiser-in-chief" for the Starke County Community Foundation, she further enhanced her skills in endowment building and grant making.

She is a member of the American Society of Association Executives and holds its coveted Certified Association Executive distinction. She is also a member of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

Jane hastens to point out that her sister-in-law Nancy (Indiana University) and nephew Jim (Wake Forest University) are members of Mortar Board. In her spare time, Jane, who is actively involved in her family's farming operations, also loves swimming and racquetball — but not at the same time! Her leadership bywords are, "People help support what they help create."

*Jane started as executive director on November 16. See "Words of my mentors" at right for her introductory greetings. Former executive directors include Jon Cook and Diane Selby, and former executive secretaries are Marjorie Lasko and Donna Walls.*

## Leaders rise!

By Jane Hamblin

“Having a title no more makes you a leader than standing in a garage makes you a car.” These words, rich with metaphor, have been rattling around in my brain as I contemplate my new responsibilities as executive director of Mortar Board. To bring them into some order, I shared them with our newest Mortar Board chapter — the EGAS chapter — at Illinois Wesleyan University during its installation on November 8 (see related story at right).

By becoming members of Mortar Board, the outstanding campus leaders of the EGAS chapter have joined one of the most stately, revered, forward-thinking, and service-minded organizations — and the preeminent college senior honor society. And I, why I get to be its executive director! How cool is this! We have arrived!

We could just “coast” from here on out, my new Mortar Board buddies at Illinois Wesleyan and I ... Well ... , on second thought, I can’t coast, if for no other reason than my paycheck depends on my being a driving force in my new role.

But what about these new Mortar Board members? They are not counting on drawing a paycheck, so couldn’t they just idle their way through their Mortar Board experience? After all, they have already earned the honor of becoming members of Mortar Board. What more is there?

And that’s what makes a true Mortar Board member: Mortar Board members don’t hide behind their titles, simply standing in the garage of leadership. And this, this is the one thing that distinguishes Mortar Board as the finest college senior honor society. It is the expectation that Mortar Board members will rise to leadership. For nearly 100 years Mortar Board has encouraged its members to serve their alma mater with the simple expectation that “leaders rise.” And so they do.

Just as the new Mortar Board members at Illinois Wesleyan committed themselves to beginning the EGAS chapter on a great, long-lasting road trip, so I too commit myself to a new level of leadership in Mortar Board. May all who serve Mortar Board be inspired by the Society’s ideals. Leaders, rise!

*“Words of my mentors” pays tribute to the scholars and servant-leaders who have influenced my life. I first heard this quote, which is unattributed, used by Dr. Stephen J. Akers, executive associate dean of students at Purdue University, a highly-regarded, effective administrator whose sense of fair play, concise thinking and compassion are inspirational.*

Words of my mentors

## Illinois Wesleyan is home to 228th chapter

By Alicia Notestone

An effort more than 60 years in the making was concluded on November 8 when National President Daniel J. Turner installed Mortar Board’s 228th chapter at Illinois Wesleyan University.

Immediately following its 1937 founding, the local EGAS society at Illinois Wesleyan University set a goal to be affiliated with Mortar Board. The group’s purpose was “to recognize and unite those women who have attained high scholastic standing, have shown qualities of leadership and cooperativeness, and have demonstrated ability to distinguish themselves in service to the university” — consistent with Mortar Board’s mission and ideals, especially since the Society was comprised entirely of women until 1975.

At the time, a local group must have been organized for at least five years in order to be considered to become a Mortar Board chapter. So, promptly five years after its founding, EGAS made contact with Mortar Board about affiliating. Its interest was referred to the National Council, who decided that EGAS should be visited when possible. In November of 1948, the group’s initial informal inspection was performed by Expansion Director Rosemary Lucas Ginn, who generally approved of the small campus, stating that “this college has the best relationship between the students and faculty I have ever seen on any campus, big or little.”

However, EGAS’ application was deferred without explanation, as it was commonplace for neither the National Council nor the expansion director to provide this information. A second informal inspection was performed nearly a decade later in 1957 by National President Jane Klein Moehle. Following this visit, it was recommended that the group be set up for special observation and consideration. The group officially petitioned in 1965, and was continually deferred for several years, and Mortar Board and EGAS eventually lost touch.

Now, in 2009, EGAS has finally achieved the goal it set in 1937 — to become a Mortar Board chapter. Though the local group has been inactive since selecting the class of 2006, the new Mortar Board chapter will commemorate its rich history by naming the chapter “EGAS” in its honor.

The National President, who presided over the installation ceremony, is thrilled to welcome the Society’s newest chapter. “With its rich history, unique curricula and outstanding student body, Illinois Wesleyan University is a perfect fit for Mortar Board,” Dan explained. “The EGAS chapter and its incoming active members are committed to developing creative chapter programming reflective of Mortar Board’s ideals. I am certain that the EGAS chapter will be incredibly successful as the university’s sole coeducational senior honor society developed to recognize outstanding students based on their commitment to the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service.”

Illinois Wesleyan University, founded in 1850, is a highly selective liberal arts university with a motto of *Scientia et Sapientia* — knowledge and wisdom. The university is located in Bloomington, Ill., and is known for its outstanding faculty, distinctive liberal arts curriculum and the personal attention it gives students. The university has 2,100 students enrolled in 50 majors and programs and boasts an intimate average class size of 17.

## Mortar Board awards \$39,500 in fellowships

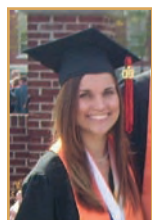
Mortar Board National Foundation Chair Sally Steadman announced that \$39,500 has been awarded to 12 exceptional members furthering their education during the 2009-2010 academic year. Sally commended these members, explaining that, "These individuals epitomize Mortar Board's ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. The National Foundation is thrilled to help them achieve their dreams by providing fellowships."

Each year, the Mortar Board National Foundation awards fellowships to assist members in financing their graduate studies. Since the establishment of the fellowship program in 1941, more than \$500,000 has been awarded to help members pursue graduate or professional school. Annually, members are chosen to receive these fellowships based on a history of academic excellence, strong recommendation, scholarly promise, financial need and Mortar Board involvement.



### Darla Barie

Fellowship: Barbara Cook Fellowship (\$2,000)  
Undergraduate: Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Initiation year: 2008  
Graduate: Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Degree sought/field: M.A., sociology



### Ashley (Dutridge) Ewearitt

Fellowship: Mortar Board Fellowship (\$5,000)  
Undergraduate: The University of Findlay  
Initiation year: 2008  
Graduate: Spalding University  
Degree sought/field: Psy.D., clinical psychology



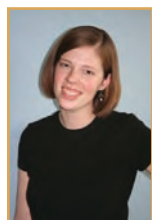
### Abraham Flores, Jr.

Fellowship: Washington State University classes of 1945-1950 Fellowship (\$2,000)  
Undergraduate: University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Initiation year: 2008  
Graduate: University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Degree sought/field: M.A., American studies



### Steven Hoffenson

Fellowship: Zelma Patchin Fellowship (\$2,500)  
Undergraduate: University of Maryland  
Initiation year: 2005  
Graduate: University of Michigan  
Degree sought/field: Ph.D., mechanical engineering



### Victoria Luhrs

Fellowship: GEICO Fellowship (\$5,000)  
Undergraduate: Kansas State University  
Initiation year: 2003  
Graduate: George Mason University  
Degree sought/field: M.Ed., initiatives in educational transformation



### Sarah Murphy

Fellowship: Ellen North Dunlap Fellowship (\$3,500)  
Undergraduate: Case Western Reserve University  
Initiation year: 2007  
Graduate: Case Western Reserve University  
Degree sought/field: M.D., medicine



### Ambrosia Ortiz y Prentice

Fellowship: Mary Elizabeth Ramier Fellowship (\$2,000)  
Undergraduate: The University of New Mexico  
Initiation year: 2006  
Graduate: University of Texas at Austin  
Degree sought/field: J.D., law



### Noah Pittman

Fellowship: Mortar Board Fellowship (\$5,000)  
Undergraduate: Rhodes College  
Initiation year: 2008  
Graduate: University of Arkansas  
Degree sought/field: M.Ed., higher education leadership



### Sonia Savani

Fellowship: Mortar Board Fellowship (\$2,500)  
Undergraduate: University of South Alabama  
Initiation year: 2007  
Graduate: University of South Alabama  
Degree sought/field: M.D., medicine



### Stan Wang

Fellowship: Mortar Board Diane Selby Fellowship (\$5,000)  
Undergraduate: The University of Akron  
Initiation year: 2008  
Graduate: Northeastern Ohio University Colleges of Medicine and Pharmacy (NEOUCOM)  
Degree sought/field: M.D., medicine



### Jared Wilkinson

Fellowship: Ruth Weimer Mount Fellowship (\$3,000)  
Undergraduate: Purdue University  
Initiation year: 2008  
Graduate: Washington University  
Degree sought/field: M.D., medicine



### Jaclyn Wray

Fellowship: Catherine Wills Coleman Fellowship \$2,000  
Undergraduate: University of Nebraska - Lincoln  
Initiation year: 2006  
Graduate: University of California, Berkeley  
Degree sought/field: O.D., optometry

*Apply for 2010-2011 fellowships by January 31 at [www.mortarboard.org](http://www.mortarboard.org)*

## Mortar Board recognizes alumni with prestigious national awards

By Alicia Notestone

Each year, Mortar Board recognizes a few admirable alumni who embody the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service with the Society's top individual awards: the Alumni Achievement Award and Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award.

National President Daniel J. Turner explained, "Across the globe, members hold Mortar Board's principles in high regard and accomplish outstanding feats. It is no surprise that we were, once again, faced with the challenge of selecting the best of the best from an unbelievable pool of nominees."

Following a thorough review of nominations, the Mortar Board National Council recognized four outstanding alumni during a special banquet held on Saturday, July 28 during the 2009 Mortar Board National Conference. At the ceremony, National Council Alumni Representative Jane Beyer presented Shontrai Irving and Dr. Jo Ann Rohyans with the Alumni Achievement Award and Sheila Castellarin and John Mount with the Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award.

"I continue to be amazed by the accomplishments of our alumni, both personal and professional," Jane said. "I was honored to be able to present these awards and get to know the recipients at the conference."

Each of the award recipients gave remarks, leaving a lasting impression upon those present at the awards ceremony. "The award winners shared personal stories, addressed adversities they had faced, and provided invaluable advice to banquet attendees," National Council Alumni Representative Bridget Williams Golden described. "The ceremony and remarks were so touching, in fact, that students and alumni gave an emotional standing ovation."

Recipients of the Alumni Achievement Award contribute to their local, national and international communities; excel in their careers; and help Mortar Board to grow each year by serving as exceptional role models.

The Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award was created to recognize remarkable alumni who devoted a lifetime of commitment to Mortar Board. These members have retained connections with Mortar Board in either collegiate or alumni areas and have demonstrated outstanding community and campus service.

### Alumni Achievement Award recipients

#### Shontrai DeVaughn Irving

Indiana University, Initiated in 1996

Shontrai Irving has lived his life with a commitment to the Mortar Board ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. His achievements, kindness and devotion are seemingly limitless.

His scholarship devotion includes his attainment of both a M.A. and J.D. from Indiana University in Bloomington in 2003 and an M.B.A. from Purdue University in 2009. His ultimate academic goal is to earn a Ph.D. in law and social sciences from Indiana University. He currently works in the legal profession as an attorney at State Farm Insurance.

He is a true leader who has used his experience and influence as a lawyer to make a difference in his community. His leadership shone as an undergraduate with his campus involvement as a student activist and leader. Upon his graduation from Indiana University, Shontrai was named "Most Valuable Graduate" by the *Indiana Daily Student*, presented with the Elvis J. Stahr Distinguished Senior Award, and was a winner of the Dr. Martin Luther King Public Speaking/Essay Contest.

When it comes to service, Shontrai's heart lies with the needs of children. While working as a prosecutor in Lake County, Indiana, he witnessed the horrible neglect and abuse that some children endure. He has since served as a single foster father to four children from ages 2 to 8 and been incredibly involved in the foster care system. In 2007, he was named Indiana's Foster Parent of the Year. An activist for children, he is a member of several foster care organizations, has spoken with local legislators about foster care and



Alumni award recipients are pictured at the 2009 Mortar Board National Conference in Chicago; from left to right: Dr. Jo Ann Rohyans (Alumni Achievement Award), John T. Mount (Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award), Shontrai DeVaughn Irving (Alumni Achievement Award) and Sheila Castellarin (Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award)

has even appeared on the Star Jones television show to make people aware of the needs of children.

Beyond his love for children, Shontrai also devotes a large portion of this time to making positive contributions by volunteering for community organizations and initiatives, donating to numerous charitable organizations, and encouraging students by serving as a public speaker at local schools.

Over the years, Shontrai has been presented with countless awards. His legal skills have been recognized with the both Outstanding Young Lawyer Award from the Defense Council of Indiana and the Up and Coming Lawyer Award from *Indiana Lawyer* in 2007. He is the first and only person to receive both of these awards. His leadership has been honored with the Honorable Viola J. Taliaferro Award, bestowed upon an attorney who exemplifies Judge Taliaferro's courageous, visionary leadership in addressing the unmet legal needs of children.



Shontrai DeV Vaughn Irving (left)  
pictured with family members

## Dr. Jo Ann Rohyans

### Miami University, Initiated in 1968

Dr. Jo Ann Rohyans is an exceptional role model for Mortar Board members of all ages. Since obtaining her medical degree from The Ohio State University in 1979, Jo Ann has excelled professionally and devoted herself to her community of Columbus, Ohio.

In addition to having her own medical practice as a pediatrician, Jo Ann regularly teaches, researches, serves patients and advises other physicians at Nationwide Children's Hospital in Columbus. Professionally, she has been honored with the 2007 Outstanding Pediatrician of the Year Award from the state of Ohio.

Jo Ann serves on the board of directors for the Central Ohio Pediatric Society, TAPP-PIUS, the New Directions Career Center, and Children's Practicing Pediatricians. Additionally, she is a longtime member of the Junior League, the Ohio chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the greater Columbus Mortar Board alumni chapter, as well as many other societies.



Dr. Jo Ann Rohyans

While Jo Ann volunteers tirelessly, she is particularly dedicated to the New Directions Career Center. This nonprofit organization, an affiliate of the United Way, works to improve the community by providing career counseling to help individuals, especially women, achieve financial stability. Licensed career counselors and a team of knowledgeable staff at the center deliver holistic programming addressing the needs of each individual.

She lives a very well-rounded life,

flawlessly combining a successful career and diligent volunteerism. For her numerous accomplishments, the Junior League of Columbus honored Jo Ann, holding a 2008 gala in her honor for being the organization's most outstanding sustaining member. Additionally, Jo Ann has been active in the greater Columbus Mortar Board alumni chapter, most recently serving as vice president for programming and hosting events at her home.

## Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award recipients

### Sheila Castellarin

#### The Ohio State University, Initiated in 1957

Immediately following her 1958 graduation with a B.S. in human ecology from The Ohio State University, Sheila Castellarin joined the greater Columbus Mortar Board alumni chapter and has since served in nearly every chapter office and attended almost every meeting. Other officers in the Mortar Board alumni chapter have described Sheila as a responsible, organized, efficient, thoughtful, and strong leader. While continually growing professionally at Columbia Gas to the position of vice president for communications and consumer affairs, she always made time for service to her community.



Sheila Castellarin

For the past 10 years, she has managed the greater Columbus Mortar Board alumni chapter's scholarship program, distributing approximately \$50,000 to deserving students each year and continually fostering growth of the scholarship endowment fund. In addition to the alumni chapter, Sheila has served two, three-year terms on The Ohio State University Mortar Board Alumni Council and is currently serving on a committee to celebrate the chapter's centennial in 2014.

Her devotion to Mortar Board and what she refers to as the "love of her life," The Ohio State University, is seemingly endless. Her limitless service to the university has consisted of countless memberships and roles, including membership on the university's Advisory Committee on Women, a five-year term on the OSU Alumni Association's board of directors as both an officer and committee chair, serving as president of the Alumnae Council, and a six-year term on the prestigious Alumni Advisory Council. For this service, she has been recognized by The Ohio State University with the Centennial Distinguished Alumni Award in 1970, the Distinguished Service Award in 1995, the John B. Gerlach Development Volunteer Award in 1997 and the Ralph Davenport Merzhon Award in 1999.

Many other central Ohio organizations have had the great privilege of receiving service from Sheila, including the Columbus Metropolitan Library, BalletMet, Columbus Day U.S.A. Association, WOSU board of

trustees, Riverside Methodist Hospital Foundation Development Council, Greater Columbus Arts Council and the Catholic Diocese of Columbus Foundation.

## John T. Mount

### The Ohio State University, Made honorary member in 1981

John was among the first men in The Ohio State University chapter, initiated as an honorary member in 1981. While many honorary members simply accept this honor and move on, John actively served alongside collegiate members. Both prior to and since his initiation, John has provided superior service at all of Mortar Board's levels.

John graduated from The Ohio State University in 1941, after which he served in World War II as a naval officer, obtained a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin and returned to OSU as an assistant professor in agricultural extension education. Beginning in 1960, he held four different vice presidency positions at OSU: for the university, for educational services, for student life and for regional campuses. Since his 1983 retirement, John still serves as vice president emeritus for regional campuses, dean emeritus for university college and senior volunteer associate for university development.

He has constantly been a voice of reason and encouragement, giving extraordinary service to Mortar Board. As a result of the influence of John and other Ohio State leaders, Mortar Board was able to call a campus building its National Office for three years beginning in 1970. After that time, he assisted with the search that resulted in Mortar Board's current office space. He was instrumental in both the 75th anniversary of the Ohio State chapter as well as the 75th anniversary of the national Society, helping to plan a memorable celebration that coincided with the national conference. John was even responsible for convincing former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to attend the 1983 Mortar Board National Conference to accept her National Citation Award.

John is the widower of former national president Ruth Weimer Mount, for whom Mortar Board's highest chapter award is named and an endowed fellowship is awarded annually (thanks to John).

His service is certainly not limited to Mortar Board. The Ohio State University has recognized John with the Distinguished Service Award, the John B. Gerlach Award, the Gordon Gee Spirit Award and the Ohio Staters Founders Award. He has been a vital player in Ohio 4-H, directing the first state 4-H leadership camps and helping to establish the Ohio 4-H Foundation. He has served as an outstanding role model to 4-H members and received numerous awards and honors, including induction in the Ohio 4-H Hall of Fame. With Ruth Weimer Mount, he received the first Volunteer Philanthropist of the Year Award from the Central Ohio chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals.



John T. Mount

## Mortar Board member updates

**Orion G. Callison, III**, initiated at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 1984, has opened The Callison Law Firm P.A. in Miami Lakes, Fla. He graduated from The University of Tennessee in 1985 and from Columbia University School of Law in 1988. His primary practice areas are business and commercial litigation, labor and employment law and education law.

**Megan Freeland**, initiated in 2008 at the University of Redlands, was chosen by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board to participate in a prestigious program designed to increase understanding between the U.S. and other countries. Her Fulbright Award will fund her studies in Germany, where she will be affiliated with the Albert-Ludwigs-Universitat in Freiburg, a noted European center for cancer research. She is interested in learning more about how protein can be used to treat leukemia. Following the completion of her Fulbright studies she will attend the Harvard University Medical School with a focus on cancer research as a Ph.D. candidate.

**Danielle Goodrich**, a 2008 initiate at the University of Southern California, was awarded the Order of the Laurel and Palm, which is presented to less than one percent of graduating seniors (equaling 24 students) for her outstanding scholarship and leadership. She was a leader in many campus organizations and within the community.

**Dr. Elizabeth Griego**, initiated in 1970 as Black Masque chapter vice president at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln, now serves as the vice president for student life and professor of education at the University of the Pacific. She was also recently elected to serve as president of the 12,000 member professional association NASPA – Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education. She is currently serving as president-elect for 2009-2010.

**Bethany Rubin Henderson**, a 1997 initiate from The University of Pennsylvania, was one of 14 social entrepreneurs selected from across the globe to receive a 2009 Echoing Green Fellowship. Echoing Green will provide Henderson with up to \$90,000 over two years for City Hall Fellows, of which she is the founder and executive director. The Echoing Green Fellowship will fuel City Hall Fellows' growth and success as a nonpartisan, nonprofit national service corps that empowers America's best and brightest to drive social change at the local level. The program is currently expanding to more sites across the country.

**Paul C. Quast**, a 2009 initiate from The Colorado College, has been awarded a 2009 Fund for Theological Education (FTE) Undergraduate Fellowship. FTE fellowships recognize students who have gifts for leadership and are exploring the possibility of ministry as a vocation. FTE Undergraduate Fellows are selected competitively from a pool of applicants from across the U.S. and Canada.

## Mortar Board's benevolent thirties

By Alicia Notestone

Following 1929's "Black Tuesday" stock market crash, the United States fell into the Great Depression, a state of economic turmoil wrought with high unemployment, poverty and deflation.

Despite fundraising problems, Mortar Board members were relentlessly positive and compassionate during the Depression. Chapters continually hosted teas for almost any imaginable occasion, mentored freshmen, held fireside discussion forums on a variety of topics, incorporated singing into anything they could, put on etiquette lectures, and held campus dances such as the "Ladies' Choice" or "Dames' Ball" where women invited men.

Throughout this dismal time, members were incredibly charitable, giving help and hope to those in their campuses and communities. Many chapters gave scholarships, held clothing drives for needy students, hosted holiday parties for disadvantaged children, and donated clothing and toys to nearby children's homes. Some chapters and alumnae groups also owned and operated cooperative homes for college women working their way through school, charging low rent and asking residents

to donate time for light housework.

During the 1930s, chapters also became remarkably involved in campus politics, diligently attempting to "clean them up." Goals varied from one campus to the next, including abolishing class officers, petitioning for women's privileges on campus, and encouraging valid and ethical elections to student governing boards. Alumnae were involved far beyond campus politics, as well – taking a stand against lynching in the South, traveling the world, winning Pulitzer fellowships and meeting international leaders, to name a few accomplishments.

In 1933, the U.S. unemployment rate rose to an unprecedented 25 percent. Articles in the Society's *Quarterly*, developed as a forum for discussion among Mortar Board women, predictably reflected career fears and coping strategies. The publication gave tips on getting work, provided advice on how to succeed, listed resources for finding vocational information, shared information on continuing education, and shone the spotlight on specific

career fields, allowing members in those fields to provide insight to students. Near the height of the depression in 1934, a guest editorial by the executive officer of the National Committee for Mental Hygiene offered some suggestions for preparing for the bleak postgraduate employment situation and provided tactics to make a candidate more employable such as participating in volunteer work during a period of unemployment. The *Quarterly* also began to delicately publish listings of popular avocations or leisure activities for women who chose marriage as a career or were unemployed. These included personal hobbies such as stamp collecting, reading, gardening and service-oriented activities such as storytelling to underprivileged children.

The decade was a period of great growth and influence for Mortar Board, rising from 45 chapters in 1929 to 70 chapters in 1939. Chapters maintained their social affairs and political aspirations, while also altering their traditional service activities to help those affected by the Great Depression. Nationally, this decade marks a notable accomplishment for Mortar Board. On February 27, 1937, Mortar Board was invited to join the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS), the first organization composed entirely of women to be recognized at the time.

*To honor the 91st 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. Look for the next edition of the Mortar Board Forum to see the growth of the Society throughout the 1940s.*



Indiana University Mortar Board members held a regular Thursday luncheon and tea in their campus Mortar Board Room, complete with a wooden replica of the pin on the wall. Left to right: Mary Janet Hamilton, Jane Fenn, Doris Seward, Elizabeth May, Jane Stout, Lois June Myer, Christine Carlson, Helen Van Vacter (standing), Margery Dudley, Dolores Emly and Dorothy Smith. Photo reprinted from a 1938 edition of the *Mortar Board Quarterly*.

### Share your memories

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  
history@mortarboard.org

Learn more at [www.mortarboard.org/history](http://www.mortarboard.org/history)

## Adrian College

The Golden Gavel chapter is committed to supporting the Adrian Community Preschool, a tuition-free, countywide education program. To help fund the preschool, chapter members participated in wreath sales and donated the proceeds. Additionally, the group supported the preschool's literacy program by collecting children's books from area alumni at the university's homecoming, as well as from community residents with an October Trick or Treat for Books event. In November, the chapter continued its service devotion beyond the preschool age group by helping elderly citizens do yard work with their participation in the annual Rake 'n' Run community event.

*Neal Mossing, Chapter President*

## Bradley University

This year, the Wakapa chapter is revitalizing in an effort to live up to the mission and values of Mortar Board. In an effort to assist with Bradley University's new alcohol awareness plan, Mortar Board hosted a November late night alternative event complete with tasty hot chocolate and toasty s'mores on the campus quad. The chapter also supports the national "Reading is Leading" project and held a December reading night for local elementary students.

*Jennifer Durham, Chapter Director of Communications*

## University of California, Los Angeles

As part of the Agathai chapter's endeavor to promote Mortar Board's national project, "Reading is Leading," the group is dedicated to working with organizations that encourage reading at the kindergarten through middle school levels. So far, the chapter has teamed up with Reading to Kids, a grassroots organization in the greater Los Angeles area dedicated to inspiring underserved children with a love of reading, thereby enriching their lives and opportunities for success in the future. In October, Mortar Board members joined approximately 80 other volunteers to read to more than 240 students at Magnolia Elementary School.

At the event, Mortar Board members were paired with volunteers from other campuses, as well as parents, to read to children and inspire them to pursue reading on their own. All volunteers discussed books with the children and engaged in craft activities. Later, volunteers and children enjoyed Halloween entertainment by magicians. Children received books to take home as prizes in an effort to expand personal libraries as well as to encourage students to participate in critical thinking skills when reading. The Agathai chapter is proud to have participated in this step toward literary excellence and looks forward to engaging in more reading activities.

*Negar Tehrani, Chapter President*

attend school well-prepared.

In October, the chapter continued its service efforts with a benefit concert, Music Mania, to support the Waikiki Health Center. The center provides high quality and affordable medical care, health education and social services. The concert, spearheaded by Mortar Board's Momi Sui Lan Ho Mahon, included an array of music, including Hawaiian, classical and cabaret. Momi, a current member and retired radiologist pursuing a second degree in music, combined her love for music and medicine by conceptualizing and chairing this event. She also performed, singing while her partner Jevon Gegg-Mitchell played the piano. Other performers included Associate Professor Dr. I-Bei Lin playing a thrilling cello rendition of "Flight of the Bumblebee," and a hula dance school performing with the melodious Popoki Hawaiian Quartet.

*Shere'e Young, Chapter Director of Communications*

## Hope College

The Alcor chapter kicked off the year with a pizza party and game night mixer as a way for members to get to know each other. Once members mingled and felt comfortable, they immediately set to planning this year's last lecture series on campus. The initiative, established by the 2008-2009 Mortar Board class, was received positively by students. Knowing the great potential for this event, members quickly began planning to ensure continued momentum and confirmed two presentations by Hope faculty for October and December, as well as two tentative dates for the upcoming semester.

Each year, the Alcor chapter provides students and alumni an opportunity to support a local struggling school by participating in their local Alumni Book Drive as a part of the national First Book Virtual Book Drive. This year, the students of Pine Creek Elementary School will be receiving the donations collected by the chapter. In addition to the money raised for Pine Creek, the chapter received three \$100 gift cards for being the leading monthly donor in the Virtual Book Drive for August, September and October, and these have been donated to Children's After School Achievement (CASA), a

## University of Hawaii at Manoa

The Hui Po'okela chapter strives to uphold the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service with various activities. One of the community service projects the chapter has implemented is a graffiti paint-out in the surrounding neighborhoods and schools, where members picked up garbage and removed stickers from walls and underpasses. Members also volunteered at Rediscover Makiki: Sunset on the Park, a two-day festival held in July that gave Manoa's Mortar Board members a chance to interact with children while celebrating the revitalization of Makiki District Park. The chapter has also raised money and gathered school supplies for children in need with Helping Hands of Hawaii, an organization that gives underprivileged children a chance to



University of Hawaii at Manoa chapter members raised money to help provide school supplies to children in need with Helping Hands of Hawaii.



Current members and alumni from the Hope College Alcor chapter support literacy by participating in the Alumni Book Drive held during the homecoming football game.

tutoring program for at-risk elementary students. Chapter members are grateful for the continued support of Hope students, faculty, staff and alumni in their contributions to this project.

The chapter's relationship with CASA is not limited to making financial donations. Each year, members orchestrate a pumpkin-carving event with children involved in the program, where each child is given a free pumpkin to carve and take home.

On campus, the Alcor chapter annually arranges an International Thanksgiving dinner so that international students can partake in a traditional Thanksgiving meal. Hope College's Mortar Board members are dedicated to upholding the longstanding tradition of service to others. Members are excited about the many service opportunities that the coming months will offer.

*Allison Hartley, Chapter Director of Communications*

## Illinois State University

On October 14, the Red Tassel chapter hosted its annual Faculty Appreciation Dinner. The event's organizer, Chapter Vice President Bria Noel explained, "The Faculty Appreciation Dinner is a chance to honor the faculty [members who have] helped us through our college career. The faculty at Illinois State University has honored us through the years, so we are returning the favor."

For the event, students invited faculty members who had influenced them during their college careers. At the event, Bria Noel and Chapter President Jay Berkes spoke about how their professors have helped them through mentoring. Dr. Shawn Hitchcock, an associate professor of organic chemistry and Mortar Board advisor, spoke about the importance of mentoring. Finally, at the dinner, each faculty member was given a personalized pen set and an award from the Red Tassel chapter.

This annual event continues to show the significance of Mortar Board on Illinois State University's campus while celebrating the faculty members who help build future Mortar Board members.

*Katie Dunmore, Chapter Historian*

## Indiana University of Pennsylvania

Members of the Sutton chapter kicked off the year by participating in the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) Day in the Oak Grove on September 23 to raise awareness of sexual assault on campus and support survivors.

RAINN reports that every two minutes someone in the United States is sexually assaulted, and college women are four times more likely to be victimized. To provide awareness, educate students and help to ensure a safe year for the university community, members "chalked" the sidewalks of campus, showing their support and displaying facts about sexual violence. Members also decorated an umbrella to hang with other decorated umbrellas showing support for RAINN, and teamed up with other organizations passing out cards with contact information to students.

The Sutton chapter continued its devotion to causes by supporting the fight to cure diabetes and participating in the local two-mile walk for the American Diabetes Association.

Members of the chapter spent six weeks raising money for the cause and urging the community to get involved prior to the event. In full, the chapter raised \$1,186 for the American Diabetes Association, earning the number one spot in organization donations.

"I'm very proud of our organization," said Chapter Vice President Eric Goodrich. "Diabetes is a horrible disease and we're excited to donate over \$1,000 toward education, prevention and possible cures for this disease." Goodrich says that success would not have been possible without the generous contributions from the IUP community and sponsors. "Most importantly, I would like to thank all of them."

The Sutton chapter continues to make its mark in the campus and community through scholarship, leadership and service. With passionate members and goals to achieve, the Sutton chapter of Mortar Board will continue to exceed expectations.

*Melissa Thompson, Chapter Director of Communications*



Indiana University of Pennsylvania chapter members participated in the two-mile Diabetes Walk on October 3 (above), decorated an umbrella to create awareness of Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN) Day (top left) and chalked their campus to create RAINN Day awareness (left).

## The University of Kansas

The Torch chapter shows its devotion to the national “Reading is Leading” initiative by working closely with the local Lawrence Public Library. This fall, chapter members spent two days volunteering with the library’s largest tradition: its annual book sale with more than 100,000 items for sale. The library was in need of a great amount of assistance for this large effort, and the chapter was happy to provide helping hands.

Current collegiate Mortar Board members and area alumni got to know each other at a delicious alumni dinner and meeting. The traditional event gave alumni the opportunity to learn about the various majors and hometowns of students, and members were thrilled to learn of the numerous careers and interesting lives of local alumni. Current members are thankful to have such terrific alumni in the area and were happy to participate in this successful Mortar Board tradition.

*Chelsea Mertz, Chapter President*

*Rebecca Lo, Chapter Historian and Communications Chair*

## Kent State University

The Laurels chapter started the year with a day-long retreat, at which the executive committee took part in goal setting, then got to know the remaining chapter members with a fun and informational day of activities and planning.

This fall, the chapter gained visibility by participating in the university’s homecoming parade. Autumn service efforts included making blankets for the Ravenna Women’s Shelter as well as a homeless shelter, collecting gently-used clothing for patients being discharged from a local hospital who may not have clothes, helping set up and run a farm at which autistic children and their families are able to take care of animals, participating in a campuswide food drive and more.

To raise funds for the national Virtual Book Drive, chapter members sold raffle tickets for a 50/50 drawing and were able to donate \$110.

In November, the chapter held its annual Faculty Brunch at a local restaurant. This event allows members to recognize and honor faculty and staff who have helped them during their time at Kent State and get where they are today.

*Dina Musaelyan, Chapter Vice President of Communications*

## University of Louisiana at Monroe

The Senior Board chapter recently recognized its top 10 faculty and staff members for 2009-2010, as determined by its student members. Honorees were introduced on the field during the ULM homecoming football game on October 3, and each recipient received a plaque to commemorate this recognition. Recipients included Linda Bryan, associate professor of speech-language pathology; Brian Fassett, professor of art; Deborah Golemon, instructor of risk management; Attapol Kuanliang, assistant professor of criminal justice; Ruthoe Kyles, custodian; Roslynn Pogue, student employee administrator; Bruce Walker, department head of management; Amy Weems, assistant dean of student life and leadership; Coralie White, associate professor of music; and Allison Wiedemeier, assistant professor of biology.

*Amy Weems, Chapter Advisor*

## University of Mary Washington

On September 25, several chapter members participated in a bake sale to raise money for upcoming events and service activities. Two days later, members prepared meals for a local Fredericksburg homeless shelter, the Thurman Brisben Center. Other chapter activities included sponsoring a blood drive and assisting with Haunted Helpers, a program that provides area children with a safe place to trick-or-treat in groups on campus and take part in fun holiday craft activities.

*Sarah Ball, Chapter Vice President*

## University of Maryland

The Adele H. Stamp chapter has numerous great ideas planned for the year. In connection with Mortar Board’s national literacy efforts, the chapter has planned two major events to help raise awareness and support for this issue on campus. The first event was a midnight “capture the flag” game requesting book donations or financial contributions from participants. The second event is a midwinter hot chocolate giveaway event held in the center of campus. Visitors will be educated about the chapter’s literacy goals and donations will be accepted.

The chapter also hopes to expand visibility for the group this year. Specifically, the group plans to purchase Mortar Board T-shirts for all current members to wear around the university and later to provide T-shirts to newly initiated members in the spring. The chapter hopes to make an impact and leave a mark at the University of Maryland.

*Kelly Proimos, Chapter Historian*

## Mississippi College

This year, the Cap & Gown chapter is made up of the “best of the best” students Mississippi College has to offer. Beginning with tapping week activities, newly selected candidates were thrilled with the honor and excited for their future participation in Mortar Board. With the beginning of the new academic year, these members kicked into high gear with many plans for success, including some annual traditions as well as a few new projects that will benefit the students of Mississippi College. The chapter strives to serve its faculty, staff and fellow students along with the surrounding community and children around the world.

The chapter’s first large annual event is Smorgasbord, during which every member submits three recipes (sweet, salty and family favorite) to the chapter historian to compile into a cookbook. In December, members will make the recipes they submit and Mortar Board will host a come-and-go luncheon for faculty and staff as a small way to thank these important players for their dedicated service to the university.

Next, members will send boxes filled with toys to children in underprivileged areas of the world with Operation Christmas Child. Spending time together to assemble these boxes is both a rewarding experience that contributes to society and a great way to socialize and interact with other members.

This fall brought a new chapter event to Mississippi College: a benefit concert to support a fellow student raising money to travel to Romania to work in an orphanage. The entire campus was able to support this student’s efforts and learn about Mortar Board and its charitable nature.

This spring, the chapter will support “Reading is Leading” by sponsoring a campus book drive, generously giving the donations to the library system at Clinton elementary schools. Members also make a personal effort by attending elementary classes and reading books to students often arriving to a room full of smiling, excited students with a large stack of books ready to be read. This effort allows Mortar Board to reach out beyond the campus and have a positive effect on the surrounding community.

*Ashley Winford, Chapter Reporter*

## University of Montana

The Penetralia chapter dove into community service projects to start off the new school year. Their biggest project is the group’s “Reading is Leading” initiative, a commitment of several chapter members to spend an hour each week to tutor children for America Reads with local programs and schools, including Head Start. Chapter members fully committed themselves to the national Virtual Book Drive in hope that they could raise funds to purchase books for these local programs and bring new books to children from low-income families and to get the children excited about education! Finally, the chapter hopes to donate used books collected in prominently placed bins at the university bookstore.

Another large focus is getting the word out about Mortar Board in the community. On campus, current members will distribute fliers and information about their chapter to current students during class registration. The goal is to motivate all students to work hard each semester in hope of joining when they are eligible. Members will also make themselves known and help students during a particularly stressful time of year – finals week – by handing out free candy to students.

The chapter is also reaching out to the surrounding community in Missoula. All members recognize how fortunate they are to be receiving an education and enjoying college and want to reach out to others. Specifically, members hope to lend a helping hand at the Missoula Homeless Shelter by serving food and engaging in conversation, in turn raising the morale of their community. The chapter also recognized the nation’s armed forces (both past and present) on Veterans Day. With projects like these, they are hoping to increase awareness of their Mortar Board chapter and importantly serve the community that is giving so much to them.

*Blake Fisher, Chapter Director of Communications*

## Northern Illinois University

The Pleiades chapter has been busy planning its year and is excited to bring a new event to the NIU campus: Turkey for a Day. Members nominated professors around campus to participate in this food and fund drive, which took place shortly before Thanksgiving. The two professors who collected the most canned goods and money from their students dressed up in turkey costumes for an entire day. The 1,000 food items collected were donated to a local food bank, while the \$700 raised supported the Mortar Board Virtual Book Drive.

For the month of October, the chapter pursued the national philanthropy of “Reading Is Leading” by reading to school children at



The Mabel G. Freeman chapter held its Sixth Annual World’s Largest Pillow Fight attempt this fall. Pictured above are chapter members as well as members of The Ohio State University basketball team.

Hope Haven, a local homeless shelter. Members also helped to distribute free books at the DeKalb County Public Library’s The Big Read event, promoting the reading of Edgar Allan Poe’s greatest works.

The chapter’s fall efforts don’t stop there. The group continues to host the Last Lecture Series, at which they were proud to present Dennis Barsema, a world-renowned businessman and NIU alumnus, for the fall lecture. They will conclude the semester with the biannual chapter fundraiser of selling flowers at the fall graduation ceremony.

*Kayla Kling, Chapter Director of Communications*

## Ohio Northern University

The Aurora chapter at Ohio Northern University spent much of the spring and summer planning for the 2009-2010 academic year, but was not too busy to take time out to recognize the campus’ outstanding administrative assistants in April by presenting them with bouquets of flowers. This year’s chapter goals are to uphold the values of Mortar Board through continual service to the community, to raise funds to support Mortar Board’s philanthropy of “Reading is Leading,” and to increase the visibility and awareness of Mortar Board on campus.

Plans to engage in service commitments include participation in the Adopt-a-Highway program and volunteering at reading sessions at the Ada Public Library. The Aurora chapter also plans to implement new fundraising events in support of “Reading is Leading.” Furthermore, the Aurora chapter intends to increase the input of individual members in an effort to augment the already outstanding value of membership.

The Aurora chapter will make a more concentrated attempt to keep in contact with alumni including compilation of a list of ONU Mortar Board alumni and their contact information. These alumni will be included in an e-mail distribution list so that they can keep up with the chapter’s activities and, ideally, participate in events. It is the chapter’s hope that these efforts will culminate with alumni involvement in Mortar Board Week and initiation.

April 20, 2010, will mark the Aurora chapter’s 35-year anniversary, and the chapter will host an event to recognize this landmark accomplishment.

*Natalyn Giverson, Chapter Communications Chair*

## The Ohio State University

The Mabel G. Freeman chapter held the Sixth Annual World's Largest Pillow Fight attempt during the first week of classes when freshmen move into the residence halls and upperclassmen return to campus.

This tradition began in 2004, when then-Vice President of Student Affairs William H. Hall learned of other universities attempting to break the Guinness world record for the Largest Pillow Fight. This event was created not only to attempt to get the university's name on a Guinness record, but also to unify students. Following Hall's death of pancreatic cancer, the event has continued and now memorializes his service to the university and creates awareness. Members of Mortar Board teamed up with the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network to help raise both awareness of this deadly disease and money to donate to the cause.

Despite extremely rainy and wet conditions, members of The Ohio State University basketball team joined members of Mortar Board and hundreds of students to battle for pancreatic cancer in a 60-second pillow fight honoring Vice President Hall and all of those who have been affected by cancer.

*Liane Longbottom, Chapter Communications Chair/Secretary*

## Oklahoma State University

The Achafoa chapter recently took part in Light on Stillwater, a campuswide event held to publicize college and community organizations that current students can join. Mortar Board was present with a "bang," as chapter representatives enthusiastically promoted the Society. The event was a success as the students were excited about Mortar Board. Additionally, many underclassmen learned about and then applied for the Top 10 Freshmen Award, a



Members of the chapter at Oklahoma State University promoted Mortar Board by sharing information at a campuswide event, Light on Stillwater.

recognition that the chapter sponsors for the most outstanding men and women based on their involvement during their freshman year.

The Top 10 Freshmen Award ceremony was highly appreciated by the students and their families, who were pleased that University President Burns Hargis came and spoke. Award recipients are selected based upon scholarship achievements, community service, campus involvement and outstanding leadership.

The work of the Achafoa chapter is well underway. Members have already had several amazing experiences, including riding tandem bikes in the homecoming parade, celebrating "Reading is Leading," working with a nursing home and more.

*Lauren Bugh, Chapter Director of Communications*

## Purdue University

Purdue University had an incredibly special homecoming this year. The chapter took part in traditional events including walking in the parade and hosting an annual alumni tailgate prior to the football game versus Northwestern University. Members were thrilled to welcome to the tailgate an alumna celebrating the 70th anniversary of her Mortar Board membership, Elizabeth "Betty" Dean from the class of 1939. Betty graciously shared her Mortar Board stories and shared memories of Amelia Earhart, who served as a counselor in the study of careers for women at Purdue University from 1935 until her final flight in 1937. Homecoming events were topped off with the recognition of the homecoming court. Nine of the 14 candidates on the court were Mortar Board members: two members tied for king and another member was crowned queen!

Chapter members, advisors and alumni swelled with pride at a ceremony marking the culmination of a nearly four-year long, \$28,000 project. The chapter commissioned three portraits in honor of three distinguished



Members at Purdue University had the opportunity to celebrate homecoming and bond with alumna Elizabeth "Betty" Dean at their annual homecoming tailgate.

leaders and former Purdue University deans of students, Beverley Stone, Barbara Cook (the chapter's namesake) and Betty Nelson, to commemorate their achievements and their combined 50 years of working with the chapter. The portraits, completed by Indianapolis artist Mark Dillman, were unveiled at a university President's Council breakfast on October 24. Proceeds from Mortar Board's annual calendar sales and generous sponsorships by the Reamer Club, Purdue Student Government and the Purdue Engineering Student Council helped to fund the project.

*Lindsay Van Houten, Chapter Director of Communications*



The chapter at Purdue University unveiled portraits in honor of three distinguished leaders and former Purdue University deans of students: Beverley Stone, Barbara Cook and Betty Nelson.

## University of Redlands

To start the year, members of the Wisdom, Excellence, Belief and Service (W.E.B.S.) chapter entertained children by handing out coloring books and reading with them before the first football game of the season. Continuing their legacy of service, the chapter

plans to continue their work with the local A.K. Smiley Library in Redlands. The group, headed by member Caitlin Clark, will tutor children in elementary and middle school in all subjects as a part of the library's after-school program. Members also participated in the Los Angeles AIDS Walk on October 18.

While W.E.B.S. hopes to carry on useful and rewarding legacies, this year's group does not shy away from change. In order to improve upon the usual information session in which old members tell potential new members about Mortar Board, the group hopes to invite eligible students to participate in a service day during the application process.

*Kristin Smith, Chapter Director of Communications*



Members from five chapters in Section 17 gathered for a section project in Kansas City, Missouri, at Harvesters Community Food Network.

## Section 17

Representatives from five chapters gathered together at Harvesters Community Food Network for a section project. Twenty-five students came from the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, the University of Missouri - Kansas City, Washburn University and Wichita State University. They were hosted by Mortar Board alumnae Barbara and Lauren Luhrs. Members sorted donations, went on a tour of the warehouse, and enjoyed the company of other Mortar Board members.

*Victoria Luhrs, Section Coordinator*

## Section 22

On October 18, 50 students from Section 22 participated in the 7th Annual Section Project at the Garden of the Gods Park in Colorado Springs.

This year, the group worked on three different projects during the day of work and

fun. In the morning, members moved 3,500 pounds of dirt up a hill to fill in an erosion gully. This gully will now be reseeded and erosion of the hillside will be significantly reduced. In the afternoon, volunteers spent time cutting Russian Thistle and the Great Mullen – two plants that are not indigenous to the park and, thus need to be removed. Finally, in order to assist in the reseeding effort, members picked seeds from the state grass of Colorado (grama grass) and sage. These seeds will be stored and used in other portions of the park when needed for reseeding.

Six chapters were represented for the day of service, including The Colorado College, Colorado State University, The University of Denver, University of Northern Colorado, University of Utah and the University of Wyoming.

*David Whitman, Section Coordinator*

## San Diego State University

The Jane K. Smith Cap and Gown chapter began the 2009-2010 academic year with its annual planner promotion, the chapter's official fundraising event that encompasses the sale of an academic planner designed to support SDSU students with resource information and a detailed campus event calendar. The chapter sells the planner at the university bookstore and plans exposure events where members sit at a table and promote the

planner sales to incoming freshmen, transfer students and returning students. Promotions Chair Brianna Bennett did an excellent job of organizing volunteer hours and sales events over the summer. Beginning in January, she will work closely with Planner Production Chair Stephanie Guarino to design next year's calendar.

The Mortar Board planner has become the official SDSU academic calendar used by students and staff, making it an incredibly successful annual fundraiser supported by the volunteerism of the chapter's members and advisors. Funds raised from this project allow the chapter to recognize faculty and staff with an appreciation dinner, host a Last Lecture Series event, participate in philanthropic projects, and provide chapter members with academic resources throughout the year.

Planner sale proceeds particularly help to supplement the Annual Emeritus Faculty, Staff and Administrator Outstanding Service Award. On October 31, Mortar Board hosted its 24th Annual Emeritus Administrator, Faculty and Staff Awards Ceremony. At this year's event, the chapter was pleased to honor its former administrative liaison and current advisor Dr. Jane K. Smith for more than 40 years of outstanding service in the field of education. Jane was recognized for her service with a bronze plaque placed at the base of a campus tree.



Representatives from six chapters in Section 22 moved 3,500 pounds of dirt up a hill to repair an erosion gully in the Garden of the Gods Park.

As the Jane K. Smith Cap and Gown chapter embarks on the 2009-2010 academic year, it is looking forward to an eventful and memorable Mortar Board experience, filled with scholarship, leadership and service!

*Breanna Hill, Chapter Communications*

*Chair*

*Natalia Van Stralen, Chapter President*



San Diego State University members raise money by selling a Mortar Board planner on campus and in bookstores.

## University of South Florida

The Athenaeum chapter kicked off the 2009-2010 academic year after a productive summer. At the 2009 Mortar Board National Conference in Chicago, the chapter was awarded a Golden Torch Award and a \$100 Chapter Project Grant. The grant was used to purchase school supplies, which were in turn donated to Metropolitan Ministries in downtown Tampa. The supplies were used for a community backpack drive to help children around the community get ready for the new school year.

The chapter started the fall semester by hosting "Breakfast Under the Oaks" during the University of South Florida's Week of Welcome event. During the breakfast, members and officers distributed free food to students while also sharing information about Mortar Board. Tarek's Café donated food and bottles of water for the event. A thank you card and a certificate of appreciation were presented to the café by Chapter President Melissa Hanna.

In September, the chapter volunteered with the Urban Scholars Outreach Program to tutor children ranging from kindergarten to the 12th grade. In October, members volunteered with the Animal Coalition of Tampa.

On November 5, the chapter hosted its first Charity Masquerade Ball to benefit low-income and minority children who attend school at the University Area Community Center. Not

only is this an event with a charitable cause, but members feel this is a great opportunity for chapter visibility, as close to 150 students, community members, faculty, staff and local media were in attendance.

The group is extremely excited about the year and has brainstormed many new and exciting ideas for community service projects, fundraising options and recruiting.

*Letha Allysun James, Chapter Historian*

## University of Southern California

The Torch and Tassel chapter kicked off the year with a dynamic retreat. Members spent two days in a beautiful cabin in California's stunning Big Bear, where they laid out plans for the Mortar Board year. This included their annual professor "tappings" as well as the group's Last Lecture Series.

The group was excited to bring back a popular campus education series conceived by the 2005-2006 chapter members, Mortar Board's Word of the Week. As a part of this initiative, members hang up different fliers on campus each week featuring a high-frequency GRE word along with its definition, humorous usage examples and a brief etymology. Their hope is to help the student body (especially those preparing for graduate school exams), as well as raise the profile and name recognition of Mortar Board on campus.

The chapter will also gain visibility with their freshly designed Torch and Tassel T-shirts featuring a clever "get tapped" slogan. The group has also made it a goal to launch a new Web site this semester to complement their publicity efforts.

The chapter has also collected applications for both their sophomore and junior recognition scholarships, performed their first professor "tapping" on Dr. Apollo Emeka, participated in the Los Angeles AIDS Walk and hosted a Last Lecture.

*Matthew Harkenrider, Chapter Public Relations Chair*

## University of Tennessee at Knoxville

Officers in the Cap and Gown chapter started the year off strongly by planning ways for members to get to know each other and to participate in service activities that benefit both

the university and surrounding community.

At the first meeting, Chapter President Caitlin Morris informed all the members of the expectations of each member to attend all meetings and fulfill a certain number of service participation hours, and Vice President Jessica Murphy got members excited and involved by promoting the chapter's service projects. The first project was helping with preparations for both the university's job fair and the logistics job fair. Members came the day before the university fair to help different businesses check in and set up the booths.

The chapter's main focus has been working with "Reading is Leading" to promote literacy. Locally, the group works with Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic. Members have enjoyed their time being recorded while reading textbooks and novels aloud.

The chapter is also involved in Knoxville's Fourth Annual Jazz for Justice, a concert to benefit art and music programs in Northern Uganda. Chapter Webmaster Justin Nepa developed an online sign-up form within the university's electronic Blackboard system so that members can easily volunteer to help with specific Jazz for Justice activities.

Other chapter members and officers are involved and engaged creating and joining committees for things such as T-shirts and social events. All chapter members have played a role in the group's success by fulfilling their duties and helping other members. This outstanding group of young adults exemplifies leadership and dedication to their university and is committed to making a difference.

*Maleah Hayes, Chapter Communications Chair*

## The University of Vermont

Each Sunday, members of the Akraia chapter travel to the Ronald McDonald House in Burlington to prepare a three-course meal for the current residents of the house. Students plan, purchase, cook and serve the meal from scratch.

The chapter is also involved in numerous other activities, including holding bake sales, cleaning up trash at Vermont's beautiful Lake Champlain, collecting donations for a Hike for Haiti, helping out at their local branch of the

Salvation Army, hosting food and book drives, assisting with numerous Thanksgiving activities and more. Members also plan to help with the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program and created a winter relay event.

*Alaina Galbraith, Vice President*

## Washburn University

The Ichabod chapter's main goals for the year are to spread the word about Mortar Board to more people on campus and to increase member involvement.

First, a visibility effort was created to encourage members to wear their pins on the day of their chapter meetings. This has resulted in numerous students asking members for more information about the organization.

The chapter continued its publicity efforts by creating a trifold display and getting to know students and faculty at the university's Activities and Majors Fair. To create awareness among younger students, the Mortar Board chapter held a joint meeting and dinner with freshman honor society Alpha Lambda Delta.

Members are also devoted to Mortar Board's ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. To promote scholarship, the chapter hosted a meeting about graduate schools and invited speakers to discuss the application process and selection of a school. The chapter's service efforts began with "Reading is Leading" efforts of tutoring students at a local library. Many chapter members are leaders on campus, with Mortar Board members representing five of the 10 homecoming king and queen candidates. Chapter President Angel Romero and member Nicole Perkuhn were named king and queen.

*Angel Romero, Chapter President*

## Western New England College

The 41 members of the Pyncheon chapter have been hard at work putting together and participating in programs for the year. First, members acted out Halloween stories to children while they trick-or-treat around a nearby residential area as a part of the Residence Hall Association Trick or Treat. To incorporate the "Reading is Leading" national project, the chapter gave away approximately 100 books to children in attendance.

The chapter's literacy efforts continued by planning a book drive held during Midnight Madness, an annual universitywide tradition. Books and proceeds collected during the drive were donated to a local organization.

Finally, the chapter participated in the national Virtual Book Drive, raising money (and campus visibility) by selling T-shirts.

*Katie Grogan, Chapter President*

## Wichita State University

This year, the Fairmount chapter is striving to increase the number and quality of projects with which the chapter is involved. In selecting students who most embody the qualities of scholarship, leadership and service, Mortar Board brings together the student leaders of the campus, allowing members to take advantage of their resources and further their efforts with an unparalleled efficacy. As a way of making the most of

this opportunity, current executive board members have looked to the members of Mortar Board for additional projects.

The chapter utilized the connection of the chapter secretary's involvement as president of the university's chapter of UNICEF to establish a mutually beneficial relationship. Members were able to volunteer to assist with the annual Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF campaign. Members helped in three ways: placing collection boxes by cash registers in local establishments, recruiting local elementary schools to involve their students in the campaign, and trick-or-treating on Halloween with collection boxes.

The chapter's current president also serves as the president of the campus Criminal Justice Society, allowing for another connection. Mortar Board members worked with the group by participating in its Graffiti Cleanup Project.

The chapter will also continue successful traditions, including its participation in the "Reading is Leading" national project. Members developed a unique way to incorporate literacy into a fun, interactive contest. Members plan to visit a local elementary school and first ask students to read books. After reading, the students will draw pictures that illustrate some aspect of the book, and will enter the illustrations in a contest. The student with the best picture from each class will win a Barnes & Noble gift card. Furthermore, the chapter will donate \$300 to the school library. In this way, the chapter furthers scholarship by encouraging students to read, establishes connections between reading and winning, and provides means for students to engage in scholarship.

In addition to increasing Mortar Board's involvement on campus, members are seeking to augment their campus visibility. Because basketball games attract more people than any other event on campus, the chapter has decided to announce their honorary members during halftime of one of the basketball games. Through improved visibility, the chapter hopes to ignite interest in potential Mortar Board members.

*Daniel Mettman, Chapter Secretary*

## University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

Five members of the Gold Caps chapter devoted 28 hours of service by building friendships at Special Olympics Indianhead's Southern Bowling Tournament, where more than 400 athletes competed at three bowling alleys in Eau Claire. Mortar Board members volunteered as lane assistants, helping the athletes to focus and have a good time.



University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire chapter members volunteered at a Special Olympics bowling tournament held in their community.

The Gold Caps chapter extended its service to The Community Table, a local soup kitchen, by assisting with a dinner during homecoming week. Members also cleaned and packaged leftover food following the dinner and interacted with community members. The chapter plans to return in February to cook, serve meals and distribute books.

*Debbie J. Ernie, Chapter Director of Communications*

## Outstanding chapters recognized at conference

### Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence Award

University of Washington

### Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence Award finalists

Hope College  
Purdue University  
San Diego State University  
Tulane University  
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

### Most Improved Chapter Award

Cornell College

### Golden Torch Award

The University of Akron  
Bowling Green State University  
Carson-Newman College  
Case Western Reserve University  
Cornell College  
University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Hood College  
Hope College  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
James Madison University  
Kansas State University  
Kent State University  
The University of Nebraska - Kearney  
The University of Nebraska - Lincoln  
The University of New Mexico  
University of North Dakota  
The Ohio State University  
Oklahoma State University  
Purdue University  
Rowan University  
San Diego State University  
University of San Diego  
University of South Alabama  
University of South Florida  
University of Tennessee at Chattanooga  
University of Tennessee at Knoxville  
Tulane University  
University of Washington  
William Jewell College  
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire  
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee  
University of Wyoming

### Silver Torch Award

University of Arkansas  
Augustana College  
Baylor University  
Beloit College  
Bucknell University  
Central Michigan University  
University of Central Oklahoma  
Chapman University  
Chatham University  
University of Cincinnati  
Coe College  
The Colorado College

Colorado State University  
Duquesne University  
Emory University  
Florida State University  
University of Florida  
Fort Hays State University  
Grinnell College  
Grove City College  
Hanover College  
Indiana State University  
The University of Iowa  
The University of Kansas  
Lake Erie College  
University of Louisiana at Monroe  
Louisiana State University  
MacMurray College  
University of Mary Washington  
Michigan State University  
Midwestern State University  
Mississippi College  
University of Mississippi  
University of Missouri - Columbia  
University of Montana  
North Dakota State University  
Northern Arizona University  
The University of Northern Colorado  
Northern Michigan University  
Ohio Northern University  
Ohio University  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
Oklahoma Baptist University  
Oregon State University  
University of Oregon  
Otterbein College  
University of Puget Sound  
Queens University of Charlotte  
University of Redlands  
Rhodes College  
Seattle Pacific University  
South Dakota State University  
Tennessee Technological University  
Texas Christian University  
Texas Tech University  
The University of Texas at El Paso  
The University of Texas at San Antonio  
The University of Toledo  
Troy University  
The University of Tulsa  
University of Utah  
Vanderbilt University  
The University of Vermont  
Washburn University  
Washington University  
Wesleyan College  
Wichita State University

### Project Excellence Award

University of Arkansas  
Bowling Green State University  
The Colorado College  
Cornell College  
Hood College

Hope College (8 awards)  
Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
Kent State University (2 awards)  
University of Nebraska - Kearney (2 awards)  
University of Nebraska - Lincoln  
University of North Dakota  
Ohio Northern University (2 awards)  
The Ohio State University (2 awards)  
Oklahoma Baptist University  
Oklahoma State University (2 awards)  
Oregon State University  
San Diego State University (7 awards)  
University of San Diego  
Section 17  
Section 22  
University of South Alabama  
University of South Florida  
Tulane University  
University of Tennessee at Knoxville  
University of Toledo  
University of Washington  
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee  
Washington University

### Excellence in Advising Award

Ms. Sally Cobb, University of South Alabama  
Dr. Jane K. Smith, San Diego State University  
Dr. David Whitman, University of Wyoming

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☐ National conference ☐ Fellowships

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☐ American Express ☐ Discover

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