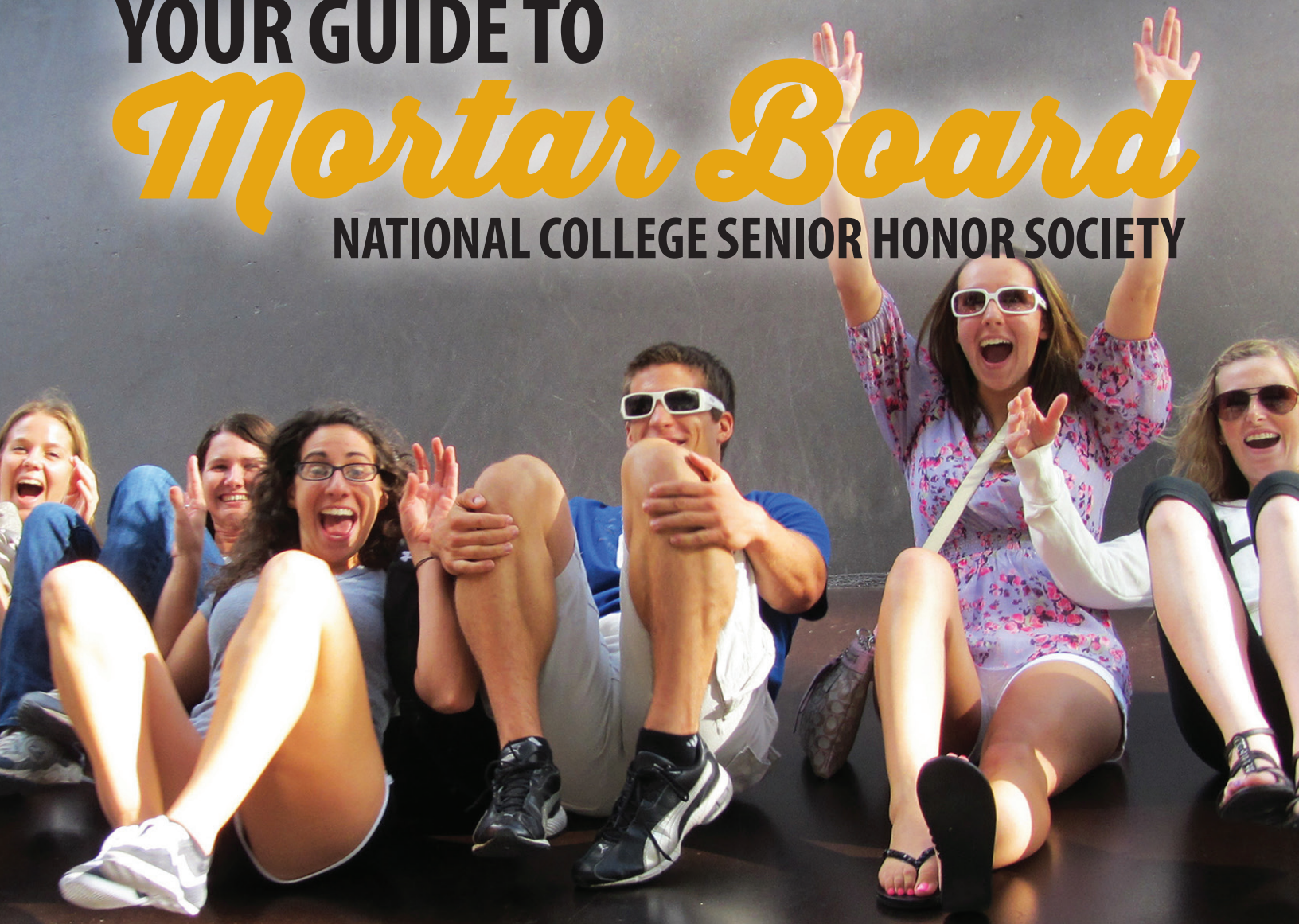


YOUR GUIDE TO

Mortar Board

NATIONAL COLLEGE SENIOR HONOR SOCIETY



**SCHOLARS
CHOSEN FOR
LEADERSHIP
UNITED TO
SERVE**



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WELCOME TO MORTAR BOARD!

We want to be among the first to welcome you to Mortar Board! Whether your selection is a long-hoped-for triumph or a wonderful surprise, we congratulate you on the tremendous honor of selection to our Society.

You are one of the few chosen from your institution to join this esteemed Society. We hope that you will appreciate how important you are to the life of your campus. And, how very insightful Mortar Board is for having chosen you!

You now have a rare chance to meld your talents with those of the other members of your Mortar Board class. Your new colleagues in leadership represent widely diverse student and community groups, study vastly different disciplines, and hold varying philosophies and beliefs. In a way that is unique to Mortar Board, you come together under Mortar Board's banner of scholarship, leadership and service. Prepare to be amazed at what you and Mortar Board can accomplish!

And, don't forget that Mortar Board is forever — while your collegiate chapter provides the foundation for your Mortar Board experience, there are many ways to continue your connection after you graduate.

Congratulations again on becoming a part of Mortar Board. We are excited about what you will bring to your chapter and to our Society!

Yours in leadership



David L. Whitman
University of Wyoming, 1998
National President



Jane A. Hamblin
Purdue University, 1973
Executive Director

YOU'RE IN GREAT COMPANY!

Mortar Boards make significant contributions to their colleges and universities, their professions, and their communities. Some of our more well-known members include:

- Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Year Drew Brees (Purdue University, 2001)
- Nationally-known speaker and author, "The Dating Doctor" David Coleman, (Bowling Green State University, 1982)
- Former Director of the National Science Foundation Rita Colwell (Purdue University, 1956)
- Golden Girls star Rue McClanahan (The University of Tulsa, 1956)
- U.S. Army Installation Management Command Executive Director John B. Nerger (Northwestern University, 1978)
- Author and subject of the film 127 Hours, Aron Ralston (Carnegie Mellon University, 1997)
- Astronaut on the Challenger Judith Resnick (Carnegie Mellon University, 1971)
- Politician and educator Condoleezza Rice (University of Denver, 1974)
- WNBA basketball star and coach Katie Smith (The Ohio State University, 1996)
- Janice Voss, astronaut and one of six women to fly at least five times on a space shuttle (Purdue University, 1974)

Mortar Board has awarded honorary membership to community and international leaders whose lives exemplify our ideals, including:

- Poet Maya Angelou
- President Jimmy Carter
- Senator Elizabeth Dole
- Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor
- TV host Fred Rogers

**MORE THAN
AN HONORARY,
MORTAR BOARD
IS AN HONOR
SOCIETY**

A UNIQUE HONOR

While many collegiate honoraries exist to recognize outstanding academic achievement, Mortar Board goes beyond that. Sure, our members are good students—but they are also leaders of other student groups and organizations from around campus and hold service to their campus in high regard.

Mortar Boards are the “movers and shakers” on campus. No other national student organization brings together the top leaders from all disciplines and backgrounds for the purpose of serving their campus community. Within your chapter is amazing diversity and talent, which you will use to enhance the experience of others on your campus. And then, you get the chance to select the next class of members to follow you!

Much of what makes a Mortar Board chapter is its action. For that reason, many chapters have participation policies. Your Mortar Board experience will be what you make of it—and for everything you put in, you will get much more in return!

A LIFETIME OF OPPORTUNITY

Mortar Board is a lifetime honor. The prestige and benefits of membership do not stop at your graduation! There are many ways to keep connected to Mortar Board as an alumna or alumnus.

Run for a chapter office. Get a head start on building a national network by running for a leadership position in your chapter. Chapter officers have unique access to their chapter’s alumni as well as opportunities to connect with other Mortar Boards from chapters around the country.

Alumni networking. Join the Mortar Board Alumni Association at www.mortarboard.org/alumni/mbaa membership to stay connected with Mortar Board and find Mortar Board alumni chapters online at www.mortarboard.org/alumni. If there is not one in your area, ask about starting one! Stay connected to your network through Mortar Board’s national social communities on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn, as well as publications from the National Office.

Support your chapter. Keep in touch with members of your class and chapter. There are many opportunities to become an advisor or a chapter volunteer either with your own chapter or, if you relocate after graduation, another local chapter.

FAST FACTS

Founding date

February 15, 1918

Founding chapters

Cornell University, The University of Michigan, The Ohio State University and Swarthmore College

Mission

Mortar Board, Inc., a national 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)

Motto

Pi Sigma Alpha (ΠΣΑ), letters that correspond to three Greek words representing the Ideals of Mortar Board: scholarship, service and leadership (That is what the Pi, the Sigma and the Alpha stand for in that order).

Symbol

A mortarboard, an ancient symbol of honor and distinction, represents the organization. Many early scholars also adopted clerical or monastic robes as a symbol, illustrating their devotion to the profession of learning.

Colors

Gold (representing achievement) and silver (symbolizing opportunity)

Official publications and media

The *Mortar Board Forum* is published quarterly. It is distributed in print and electronically to collegiate and alumni members across the nation. Members are linked via electronic newsletters and a vigorous presence on LinkedIn, Facebook and Twitter.

Pin

Shaped like a black mortarboard with the Greek letters representing the motto engraved in gold

Membership

More than a quarter of a million members have been initiated at 232 collegiate chapters.

National project

“Reading is Leading,” which strives to promote literacy across the world for people of all ages, is the permanent national project.

BENEFITS

Prestige. Selection to Mortar Board is the ultimate recognition of your achievement as a senior scholar-leader. You become part of an elite “insider” network on your campus.

Involvement. Active involvement with your chapter can give you practical leadership experience that will translate to your professional portfolio—think of it as the capstone experience of your collegiate career.

Networking. Mortar Board is a community of a quarter-of-a-million members, and you will have access to this vast and vibrant network of professionals and leaders from a wide range of disciplines and career fields.

Fellowships. Members are invited to apply for Mortar Board fellowships. Mortar Board has been giving fellowships since 1941. Applications must be submitted on or before March 1 annually.

Internships. As a member of an ACHS-accredited honor society, you get access to internships, scholarships and educational opportunities, as well as GS-7 level hiring.

Discounts. You can get special member-only discounts with Nationwide Insurance, Kaplan Test Preparation and more. Mortar Board’s corporate partners provide valuable services and discounts to members.

BUILD YOUR NETWORK

Your Mortar Board network will start in your own chapter. You are a talented and motivated group — what better place could there be to start building a professional network? But Mortar Boards are everywhere, and you can start connecting with them through our national social communities.

Facebook - @mortarboard

Instagram - @mortar_board

LinkedIn - Mortar Board

Twitter - @mortarboard

YouTube - NationalMortarBoard



OUR TRADITIONS

Mortar Board has many rich traditions that go back nearly 100 years. Each chapter has its own special projects and traditions specific to its campus, but every Mortar Board chapter places special emphasis on the selection and initiation of new members.

Being “tapped” for membership is an honor that many alumni remember for the rest of their lives. This tradition dates back to the 19th century. The term “tapping” refers to the literal act of tapping a new member on the head with a mortarboard.

Many chapters historically tapped candidates in the middle of the night. With members often dressed in robes or entirely in black, sometimes with hoods, they awakened the candidate at her residence by singing a song or speaking the invitation in unison.

Today, tapping varies significantly from one campus to the next. This meaningful tradition has shaped generations of members, and will continue to create profound memories for years to come.

MORTAR BOARD’S STRUCTURE

Mortar Board depends on the active participation of its student and alumni members. There are many ways to get involved in Mortar Board locally, regionally or nationally.

Student leadership. Student members play an active role in the governance of the Society. Official delegates (one from each active chapter) elect members of the National Council, vote on governance issues and help determine plans for the Society. Students can also run for the office of student representative on the National Council.

National Council. Comprised of alumni and student members, Mortar Board’s governing board is the National Council. The Council is charged with planning for the long-term future of the Society.

Section Coordinators. Volunteers appointed by the National Council to work in support of chapters, Section Coordinators are assigned to assist chapters within one of Mortar Board’s 21 geographic sections.

The Mortar Board National Foundation. Alumni members also serve on the Foundation’s Board of Trustees. The Foundation raises funds to support Mortar Board members and chapters in furthering the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service.

National Office. The National Office is located in Columbus, Ohio, and works to provide valuable programming and support to chapters and alumni. It is also the official archive for Mortar Board documents.

OUR HISTORY

From its inception as the first national organization honoring senior college women to its present-day pre-eminence, Mortar Board keeps pace with scholar-leaders on United States campuses. It was at the University of Chicago in the fall of 1915 when a member of Mortar Board from The Ohio State University met a member of Pi Sigma Chi from Swarthmore College. Both wore similar pins in the shape of a mortarboard. They realized each represented an honor society for women with similar election methods, operating procedures, ideals and traditions.

The founding meeting for the society took place in Syracuse, New York, on February 15, 1918. Representatives came from Cornell University, The University of Michigan, The Ohio State University and Swarthmore College. The group adopted the pin of The Ohio State University, a small black mortarboard. A motto was adopted, to be represented by three Greek letters, Pi representing scholarship; Sigma, representing service; and Alpha, representing leadership. Officially the Society remained nameless until the second convention when the name Mortar Board was officially chosen.

1915 A member of Mortar Board, a local honor society at The Ohio State University, met a member of Pi Sigma Chi from Swarthmore College. Each wore a small pin in the shape of a mortarboard. Through discussion, they realized each pin represented an honor society for women with similar values and procedures.

1918 Representatives from Cornell University, The University of Michigan, The Ohio State University, Swarthmore College and Syracuse University held the founding meeting on February 15 at Syracuse University. At this time the pin, motto and Bylaws were adopted. The organization remained nameless.

1919 The name Mortar Board became official at the second national convention, held at The University of Michigan. It was also decided that national officers would come from ranks of alumnae.

1923 Official delegates of each chapter in attendance at the national convention determined that districts in Mortar Board should be established to help facilitate the growing size of the organization, which consisted of 18 chapters.

1937 Mortar Board was invited to become a member of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) as the only organization composed entirely of women.

1955 Delegates from Mortar Board's chapters voted to establish the Mortar Board Foundation Fund as a means for contributions to advance the purpose.

1970 By decision of the delegates at the national conference, a National Office was established and located in Columbus, Ohio.

1973 Mortar Board instituted an award to honor women who had made outstanding contributions to the status of women, known as the National Citation.

1975 The ramifications of Title IX were taken into consideration and membership was opened to men. The purpose was amended to include "to promote and advance the status of women."

1976 The purpose was revisited "to emphasize the advancement of the status of women" as well as "to promote equal opportunities among all peoples."

1985 Mortar Board delegates initiated a national project to be selected biennially, with the first being organ donor awareness.

2002 Delegates voted to make a pro-literacy project, "Reading is Leading," the permanent national project for Mortar Board.

2018 Mortar Board celebrates its centennial!

THE MORTAR BOARD NATIONAL CONFERENCE

This is your invitation to experience the Mortar Board National Conference—your chance to connect with other Mortar Board leaders from around the country and to learn how to make Mortar Board the capstone experience of your collegiate career.

The conference includes workshops on leadership development, sessions on how to get the most out of your Mortar Board experience, and information on Mortar Board's national standards. You will leave with a national network of scholar-leaders—and all the tools you need to continue your chapter's legacy!

At the Mortar Board National Conference, you will be inspired, you will be motivated, and you will learn. Opportunities at the conference include:

Motivational sessions. Mortar Board alumnus and nationally-known speaker and author, "The Dating Doctor" David Coleman (Bowling Green State University, 1982), will give you advice and insight on how to develop positive relationships and how to provide leadership to a group of other leaders.

Networking. We can't over-emphasize the opportunity to connect with your national Mortar Board network. In a competitive education and job market, who you know is as important as what you know. And Mortar Boards are definitely people you want to know! So come and meet them.

Mortar Board 101. So, what does it mean to be a part of Mortar Board? On many campuses, Mortar Board members have inside connections to campus leadership—connections that will not only help your chapter meet its goals, but will help you achieve your own goals. Find out how to make sure your chapter is one of the most sought-out student organizations on campus!

Candlelight Banquet. The Candlelight Banquet is the signature event of the National Conference. Mortar Board's prestigious national awards—the Distinguished Lifetime Membership and Alumni Achievement awards, as well as the Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence, Most Improved Chapter, and Excellence in Advising awards—are presented at the banquet.

While chapters need to send one voting delegate to the conference (typically the chapter president), any and all chapter members are invited to join us.

So, grab a few of your new Mortar Board friends and plan a road trip (or air trip, or train trip...). No matter how you get there, it will be an experience you will never forget. Space is limited, so secure your spot as soon as possible!

CONTACT

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