Mortar Board supports alma maters

An artist’s depiction of Mortar Board Court at The Ohio State University
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Jean Curpen Dones, Miami University
Louise Henderson Dye, The Pennsylvania State University
Lois Jennings Guthrie, The Ohio State University
Ora Mae Welcher Harding, University of Illinois
Selma Bronston Harris, The University of Miami
Nancy Holz, The University of Miami
Eldora Green James, Oregon State University
Robert Knoll, The University of Nebraska - Lincoln
William Morgan, Colorado State University
Winifred Harrison Nelson, Knox College
Carol Rojan Pietsch, University of Idaho
Peggy Marchant Rutland, The University of Oklahoma
Mary Jean Brinton Swank, Ohio Wesleyan University
Ann York, Bucknell University

Congratulations
These chapters are celebrating anniversaries!

10th Anniversary
University of San Diego
The University of Texas at San Antonio
Western New England College

15th Anniversary
Northwest Missouri State University

25th Anniversary
Coe College
West Texas A & M University

50th Anniversary
University of Delaware
University of Florida

75th Anniversary
Birmingham-Southern College
The Pennsylvania State University
President’s Message

In January, the national leaders of Mortar Board came together for a leadership and development meeting. We shared stories about how we were tapped into Mortar Board, how this terrific Society has played a role in our lives, and how proud we are to call ourselves Mortar Board members for life.

The 30-or-so leaders in the room—of all ages and backgrounds and chapters—also shared something else—a creative experience like none other. We developed a five-year Strategic Plan full of goals to lead Mortar Board to its centennial in 2018. Participating in our national strategic planning process and seeing other leaders’ devotion to our Society got me thinking about how Mortar Board collegiate chapters can and should create their own strategic plans.

Nearly all collegiate chapter leaders serve one-year terms in their senior year. If they had a strategic plan built for a few years instead of just one, would it be better for the health of the chapter? I say yes. Is it a “cop out” for one chapter to follow the direction of the former? Well, no, not if that direction leads to successful implementation of the ideals of Mortar Board such as visibility on campus, doing something for your alma mater that makes a difference and makes a splash, increasing the number of nominations or applications for membership, and expanding the chapter’s size and diversity … all of these things are relevant to scholarship, leadership and service. So, I say to you, be strategic. Plan for several years and imbue new officers with the fundamentals of that strategy. Tactics may vary from year to year, but a comprehensive, long-term strategy will make your chapter grow and prosper.

Something else is on my mind, and that is recruitment. I urge chapters to set very solid goals regarding the way new members are recruited. Several chapters have asked me about this, and I always say, “It’s one of the most important things you can do: recognize the outstanding leadership of those who come after you.” Don’t put membership selection off as an afterthought!

Put a lot of energy into planning chapter recruitment efforts. Here are just a few things you can do: Make sure Mortar Board’s name is out on campus year round. Let the faculty know about Mortar Board by visiting with the heads of departments on campus. Make an appointment with the president of your campus at least once a year (I really like it when the outgoing president of the chapter introduces the incoming chapter president). Make sure that the chief student affairs officer on your campus has a visit from Mortar Board at least once a term. Host a roundtable each year for all major student organization leadership. In essence, showcase Mortar Board as the premier national senior honor society …

As we approach our next leadership landmark, the 2010 Mortar Board National Conference in Chicago, I hope that you will join me in talking about the strategy for making Mortar Board even greater than it is. I will be glad to talk with you about strategy, recruitment and more. I hope to see you there, July 23-25.

Sincerely,

Daniel J. Turner
Mortar Board, Inc. National President
president@mortarboard.org
danturner13@gmail.com

P.S. Remember, we have a brand new advisor certification program to help chapter advisors become the best they can be at advising. This is going to be a great experience. Advisors, please attend!

Editor's note: More information about attending the 2010 Mortar Board National Conference can be found at www.mortarboard.org/conference.
“One brick higher” was the stirring promise made by Purdue University president James Smart when he vowed that Heavilon Hall would be rebuilt. The brand new building had exploded and burned to the ground — just four days after its dedication in 1894. Dazed but undaunted the day after the tragedy, the entire community, inspired by the president’s ringing promise, squared its collective shoulders and began to rebuild.

“One brick higher” has come to mind often throughout my six months as executive director of our Society. Mortar Board members around the country, even when facing the nearly insurmountable, find ways to add, always going beyond the norm. There’s the chapter advisor who has provided funding to our “pay-it-forward” fund so that other advisors might attend our 2010 Mortar Board National Conference. There’s the president who cleverly pulled together the executive committee in a refreshing way to refocus the chapter mid year, the section coordinator who artfully helped a chapter create an upward trend in membership, and the alumna who called with her credit card number to pay the dues of a cash-strapped collegiate member. These leaders are expert at mixing the mortar of leadership to lay a course for our Society better, stronger, and, yes, higher than it was before.

Oh, and what about that new building … was it one brick higher? No. It was nine!

“Words of my mentors” pays tribute to the scholars and servant-leaders who have influenced my life. I was reminded of the relatability of the “one brick higher” story by Betty M. Nelson, Mortar Board honorary member, dean emerita of students at Purdue University and mentor extraordinaire.

Virtual Book Drive raised more than $25,000 in 2009

By Alicia Notestone

The second annual Virtual Book Drive, held in conjunction with national nonprofit First Book and Mortar Board’s “Reading is Leading” national project, successfully raised $25,478.85 to contribute to the battle against illiteracy. A total of 56 chapters participated in this fundraising challenge.

Illiteracy is linked to nearly every major socioeconomic crisis today. Children who cannot read are statistically more likely as adults to suffer poor health, struggle in the job market, rely on government assistance, and find themselves in the criminal justice system. Since 2002, Mortar Board has made a national commitment to combat illiteracy with the “Reading is Leading” initiative.

First Book provides new books to children in need, addressing one of the most important factors affecting literacy — access to books. Since its founding nearly 20 years ago, First Book has delivered more than 65 million books to programs serving children in need across the United States and Canada.

The Virtual Book Drive allows Mortar Board chapters, alumni and friends to join forces to provide funds to programs in their communities so that local children from low-income backgrounds can be presented with their first new book.

The chapters who raised the most in 2009 are:

- Hope College - raised $8,535.38
- Kansas State University - raised $3,060.04
- Western New England College - raised $2,157.00

Honorable mentions (listed in alphabetical order):

- Case Western Reserve University
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- University of Montana
- University of Northern Colorado
- Seattle Pacific University

Hope College not only received the top award for the overall chapter challenge, using their funds to support Pine Creek Elementary School, but also received each monthly top donor award during the drive for August, September, October and November. This made it possible for the chapter to donate their monthly prizes, $400 in Borders gift cards, to a second recipient, CASA (Children’s After School Achievement).

The 2010 Virtual Book Drive will launch on July 24 and last through November 12. For more information, please visit www.mortarboard.org/FirstBook.
Service-learning in higher education

By B. Lara Lee, Ph.D. (Salem College), member of the Mortar Board Communications Committee

Is service-learning new to higher education? With the seemingly more aggressive and visible implementation of service-learning in higher education, it may appear that this methodology is fairly new to the academic horizon of diverse pedagogies. In fact, service-learning in its various forms originated in the early 1900s, with groups such as the Cooperative Education Movement of 1903; and continued with the establishment of the Peace Corps in 1961. By 1971, what initially began as the National Student Volunteer Program was reestablished as the National Center for Service-Learning. From the 1970s, to the present, a number of programs have been founded which provide volunteerism, experiential learning, internships, field experiences and student teaching. The national outgrowth of these pioneering programs has resulted in the promotion of community partnerships, increased awareness of health and socioeconomic conditions, and heightened understanding of cultural diversity, multiculturalism and pluralism.

Service-learning palpably and uniquely extends the boundaries of the classroom experience by engaging students in the culture and spirit of service. The renowned progressive educator and pragmatist John Dewey addressed the fact that authentic learning occurs beyond the confines of the traditional classroom; whereby students experience greater democracy and freedom of thought and action. Ernest Boyer, distinguished educator, former commissioner of education, and past president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, was well recognized for the challenge he presented to institutions of higher learning when declaring that education should promote more responsible citizens and not merely prepare students for careers.

Service-learning in higher education awakens the mind to possibilities outside the concerns and rights of the individual alone. This pedagogical approach strives to put theory into practice through learning encounters. Indeed, educational objectives are met, appropriate evaluations received, and course credit earned. Crucial is the fact, however, that students are engaged in actual community-driven issues that test critical thinking, foment cognitive skills, and sharpen interpersonal communicative competency and decision making skills while honing leadership and sound ethics among other preferred qualities.

In brief, institutions of higher learning interested in the development and implementation of service-learning programs first identify the mission, goals and category of service-learning their institution hopes to establish and imprint. Course development and requisite information are then formalized. Close consideration is given to a specified template such as the Comprehensive-Action Plan for Service-learning (CAPSL) for implementing programs. The recruitment of community resources in which to partner begins, and continues to mature over time. The specific and careful training of faculty in service-learning methods and evaluation is pivotal to successful teaching and learning experiences and outcomes.

In sum, service-learning in its various forms has had a rather long history in the United States. The level of interest and participation has ebbed and flowed within the academia. The current invigoration is unparalleled. Research, faculty and institutional commitment, as well as increased student motivation, viably demonstrate a greater awareness and understanding of our highly interdependent global community. Service-learning programs are located in many countries around the world, further expanding service and learning partnerships for U.S. students. The relevance and application of service-learning, academic achievement, social benefits for students, and the contributions made to underrepresented communities all resoundingly emphasize the need and continued advocacy of service-oriented learning in developing student lives and knowledge within higher education while making a positive difference in the world.
Features

The idea of Mortar Board members and chapters supporting universities through fundraising and making generous contributions certainly isn’t new, although perhaps it has evolved during Mortar Board’s 92-year history. As time goes on, different needs present themselves on campus, and Mortar Board is always there to respond. Whether it is staying true to the Society’s roots as a women’s organization by creating housing for female students, commemorating the service of alumni, or simply filling the gap between the university’s needs and funding, the devotion of Mortar Board to its alma maters is indisputable.

A tradition of generosity

For decades, collegiate and alumni chapters have tirelessly raised funds in order to provide scholarships to members and non-members, and have donated artwork, rooms, buildings and materials to their universities. This history of giving dates as far back as the Society’s founding, with chapters incorporating benevolence into Mortar Board’s ideals of scholarship, leadership and service.

In the 1920s, Mortar Board at the University of Wisconsin – Madison (at the time the only “University of Wisconsin” and a precursor to the 13-campus system) was concerned with housing for women and established the first cooperative house for university women, known as MB Cottage. Similarly, the University of Texas Mortar Board members were concerned about the safety of women walking unlit paths on the Austin campus while returning from the library at night. The chapter spearheaded a $14,000 campus campaign that resulted in lighted walkways and a great sense of security on campus in 1926. In the 1940s, Bucknell University’s chapter sponsored a campus co-recreation center at the request of the university president. These are just a few examples of what 228 chapters have given to their campuses.

Dedicated groups of alumni have formed foundations and councils to raise funds to contribute to the collegiate chapter and the university. For example, the Mortar Board Alumni/Tolo Foundation, originally founded in 1925 to support the Tolo chapter at the University of Washington, has expanded its purpose to support the nearby Otlah chapter at the University of Puget Sound and Ivy Honorary chapter at Seattle Pacific University. Nearly every existing Mortar Board alumni chapter provides scholarships or fellowships, exceeding a combined $200,000 annually.
Features

**Significant impact**

Many chapters have made a tradition of university support, taking on the challenging and rewarding role of organizing major development projects.

The Barbara Cook chapter at Purdue University has a long history of promoting campuswide programs and events, especially leadership, such as the chapter’s popular annual Mortar Board Leadership Conference. Another hallmark of the chapter’s support for its alma mater over the years is the way that it has helped to change the face of campus with contributions of all sizes, which aren’t always glamorous. For instance, in the 1980s the chapter helped to beautify campus by providing outdoor trash receptacles in key campus locations, encouraging students to keep the campus beautiful. By forging a strong relationship with university officials, the chapter was able to become significantly involved in constructing a pond in Horticulture Park in the 1970s. Again with the cooperation and guidance of university planners in the late 1980s, the chapter built a marker at a major artery entering campus. The marker honored Dean of Students Barbara Cook (University of Arkansas), and the chapter simultaneously renamed itself in her honor. Most recently, the chapter commissioned portraits of Purdue’s first three deans of students, all women: M. Beverley Stone, Barbara Cook and Betty M. Nelson (Purdue University).

The Ohio State University Alumni Council, founded to support the Mabel G. Freeman chapter at The Ohio State University, recently raised roughly $300,000 to dedicate the Mortar Board Centennial Suite in the university’s newly renovated William Oxley Thompson Library. The three-year project, unveiled in the fall of 2009, serves as a cozy reading spot that will affect the lives of countless students for years to come.

Twenty years earlier, the OSU Alumni Council worked with former Mortar Board National President Ruth Weimer Mount (University of Illinois) to raise $150,000 for the dedication of Mortar Board Court, a courtyard outside of the university’s Wexner Center for the Arts—a desired but unfunded portion of the new building’s plan. Once completed in 1989, it commemorated the chapter’s 1914 founding with a 75th anniversary dedication at OSU. Similarly, the Barbara Cook chapter funded and built a lovely plaza in honor of Purdue Dean Emerita of Women Helen B. Schleman (Northwestern University) in the 1990s. Nestled outside of the Schleman Hall of Student Services, it currently serves as a popular gathering and study place for students—just like Mortar Board Court at OSU.

The OSU chapter has taken on numerous other projects—including the donation of a piano to the Kuhn Honors and Scholars House and recent dedication of an original sculpture resembling a mortarboard to be housed in the new Ohio Union. As former Mortar Board Executive Director and active alumna Diane Selby (The Ohio State University) explains, “There have been tons of committee meetings and individuals working to make all these things happen over the years. There is always one person with a vision that doesn’t let go until the project is completed.”

Perhaps the most recent chapter project to culminate is that of the $11 million School of Leadership Studies building at Kansas State University, which was dedicated on April 16, 2010. More than 100 Mortar Board donors helped to make this project possible, directing funding to the Mortar Board office housed within the two-story environmentally-friendly facility. The office has been named in honor of alumna Julie Hampl Davis (Kansas State University), who, with her husband Roger was the top contributor. During her time in Mortar Board, Julie said she most enjoyed the “memorable and meaningful experience with an elite group of individuals,” and commented that Mortar Board continues to value “consistent views and ethics shared by all members.”

Director of the School of Leadership Studies Mary Hale Tolar (Kansas State University) explained that “Mortar Board has always been an active participant and advocate for student leadership on this campus—and now they have a place where their contributions can continue to grow”—symbolic of Mortar Board on all campuses.
Many Mortar Board alumnae spent the latter part of the 1930s and early portion of the 1940s traveling the world to exotic locations such as Paris, London and the Congo. One member visiting Berlin in September of 1939 delicately discussed politics and German culture over rationed coffee with an old acquaintance — by then a Hitler Youth Boys leader. While they discussed the possibility of a war (he denied it would occur) and uncomfortably watched as Germans shouted “Heil Hitler” constantly almost as if saying “hello” to one another, nearby German troops marched into Poland — an invasion that is often cited as the official start of World War II.

Back home in the U.S., 1940 rang in ordinarily enough for nearly 800 collegiate Mortar Board members at 72 chapters across the nation. The United States didn’t want to be involved in the war and had remained neutral. Chapters diligently continued to work toward a place for women in student government and athletics, merrily held social events (often dances), and mentored freshman and transfer women as they entered the university. Tapping ceremonies continued to be one of the most notable traditions of Mortar Board, along with chapters finding new and creative ways to exemplify the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service.

Soon, Congress passed the nation’s first-ever peacetime draft legislation by way of the Selective Training and Service Act of 1940, gradually growing our forces and requiring that men ages 21 to 35 register with local draft boards. The 1941 National Convention (now known as a national conference) marked a landmark decision for Mortar Board, one that had long been a dream of many members and alumnae. Named for Mortar Board President Katherine Wills Coleman, the voting delegates of Mortar Board introduced a national Mortar Board Fellowship of $500 to help women study at the graduate level. Another important decision made at that convention was to establish a committee on national defense to communicate with members regularly with tangible information on the war and the role of members — one of the first student organizations with such a program.

Suddenly, on December 7, 1941, everything changed. Japanese aircraft attacked Pearl Harbor, killing 2,402 Americans and wounding another 1,282. Civilians were shocked and terrified, and the U.S. immediately entered the war. Congress extended the draft, widening the range of draftees to men aged 18 to 45 and nationalizing the draft lottery. If selected, a man would serve 12 months. Many others volunteered, increasing the size of the military by 10 million between 1940 and 1947.

With men leaving by the thousands, a bit of a “silver lining” existed for the women — an opportunity for women to finally prove themselves, both in education and in the workplace. When professors went to war, women stepped in, teaching college courses. When baseball players went to war, women played in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League founded by Phillip K. Wrigley. Like “Rosie the Riveter,” women stepped up to help their country while at war, working in ammunition factories and bursting into industries such as aviation. Roughly 350,000 women (including countless Mortar Board members) joined the armed forces, with the creation of women’s service units in the Army, Navy, and air force.

Members in service

Countless Mortar Board members, including those pictured below, served in and supported the military during and following World War II.

Helen Maddock, a member from Montana State University, spent two years as a Red Cross program director in India.

Mary E. Dixon of Cornell University (right) is pictured with Queen Elizabeth II of England while serving as the Women’s Army Corps (WAC) staff director. Mary served in Germany, the U.K. and France, and received a Bronze Star.

Margaret B. West, initiated at Oklahoma Agricultural and Mechanical College, was recognized for her distinguished service as an Army guidance officer.

Betty Ann Taylor, initiated at Florida State College for Women, served in the Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service)
Coast Guard, Marines and Air Force making it possible for them to serve their country. Honorary member Dorothy C. Stratton organized the Coast Guard’s women’s reserve, developed its name (SPARS - a contraction of the Coast Guard motto Semper Paratus and its English translation Always Ready) and served as its first director.

Mortar Board chapters in particular sprang to action. As a whole, the chapters taught extracurricular classes with topics such as nursing and knitting, helping more university women to volunteer for the Red Cross and knit bandages for wounded soldiers. Some chapters helped to establish recreation centers for servicemen, while others organized social events at military bases and provided reading materials to the troops. Chapters hosted insightful wartime roundtable discussions for women, while individual members volunteered in every needed position, from nurse to airplane spotter. Chapters sold defense stamps, worked at blood drives, knitted sweaters for soldiers and sewed blackout curtains for cities to use to prevent nighttime air raids.

The Mortar Board Quarterly provided tips for members on conserving food, textiles, metals and energy – all of which were rationed during the war. It promoted the purchase of defense bonds, listed numerous ways members could volunteer their services (broken down by educational field of study) and featured articles from qualified correspondents on the war.

During World War II, many popular traditions took a hit. The 1940 and 1944 Olympics were cancelled, with similar fates falling to other events – including the 1945 Mortar Board Convention. In the late 1930s, women had worn fashion-forward, feminine clothing. Synthetic nylon stockings were new and incredibly popular, and accessories such as gloves and hats were worn for nearly every occasion. As the nation delved deeper into the war, nylon was forbidden – the material was needed for parachutes. All textiles were rationed, so women often mended older clothing or modified unused men’s suits – since most men were in uniform – as the apparel of the time. One thing that continued was the stylish shoulder-length pin curl hairstyle, seen on nearly every Mortar Board member of the time.

Higher education saw change with the war as well. Universities expanded their coursework to include wartime classes on canteen cookery, news analysis, ambulance driving, aviation, Pan-American relations, first aid, explosives, typing, deciphering of messages and aerial mapping, among others. With men away, there were more spots for women across the nation sporting blazers, sweaters and scarves as gloves and hats were worn for nearly every occasion. As the nation delved deeper into the war, nylon was forbidden – the material was needed for parachutes. All textiles were rationed, so women often mended older clothing or modified unused men’s suits – since most men were in uniform – as the apparel of the time. One thing that continued was the stylish shoulder-length pin curl hairstyle, seen on nearly every Mortar Board member of the time.

Peacetime also meant that Mortar Board was able to end its policy of minimal expansion during wartime and regenerate growth, ending the decade with 83 chartered chapters. With textiles more readily available, Mortar Board “uniforms” returned to the height of their popularity, and women accepted men in uniform – as the apparel of the time. One thing that continued was the stylish shoulder-length pin curl hairstyle, seen on nearly every Mortar Board member of the time.

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By the time the war ended in 1945, the G.I. Bill of Rights had been passed, providing one year of unemployment compensation, a variety of loans, and most importantly to universities – up to four years of tuition, books and fees paid for veterans by Uncle Sam. Many institutions saw a record surge in applications following the war. Colorado State University switched from semesters to quarters to accommodate the sudden influx of students. Some women’s colleges even started to accept men, and others, such as Florida State College for Women (now Florida State University) officially transitioned to a coeducational status.

Following Victory in Europe Day on May 8, 1945, and the peace it brought, Mortar Board National President Coral Vanstrum Stevens wrote to members, “During the last four years practically every chapter has participated in some form of war work … . Now that the heaviest responsibility and need for that type of service has passed and you should be asking – what next?” She went on to offer the advice of evaluating pre-war programs and keeping those that were valuable, and those that were deemed unnecessary. She also encouraged chapters to look to pertinent, timely topics, such as working with the United Nations – and they did. In 1946, both Purdue University and the University of New Hampshire immediately started work by heading United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration (UNRRA) local clothing drives.

You are a part of Mortar Board’s history
The Historical Publication Committee is compiling a 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

To honor the 92nd 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 1950s.
Member News

Mortar Board member’s generosity featured on NBC

This article has been adapted from “Hospitality turns tragedy to opportunity for retired OSU staffer” by Martha Filipic, writer with The Ohio State University’s College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences.

Following the attacks on September 11, 2001, U.S. airspace was quickly closed and thousands of passengers on 239 U.S.-bound flights that day were diverted to, and welcomed by, Canada. Mortar Board member Shirley Brooks-Jones (initiated at The Ohio State University in 1991 while obtaining her baccalaureate degree in English following her retirement) was among the 6,600 passengers who landed at the crowded Gander International Airport in Newfoundland.

While passengers sat on the runway for 24 hours, not knowing whether they would make it home or what was going on in the U.S., kindhearted volunteers of all ages in the small nearby town of Lewisporte sprang to action. Community leaders and residents, knowing passengers would need food, shelter and comfort, gathered supplies to prepare for extraordinary circumstances.

Once Shirley and her fellow passengers on Delta Flight 15 were permitted to deplane with only their carry-on luggage, they joined passengers from three other flights and boarded school buses to Lewisporte, a tiny town of just 4,000 residents about 30 minutes from Gander Airport.

“About 100 of us were assigned to the Lewisporte Lion’s Club Center — others went to churches, schools, other service clubs, and a few — I remember one woman who was eight and a half months pregnant, stayed in people’s homes,” Shirley said. “But no matter where we were, we had everything we needed. People brought towels and blankets from their homes, they brought homemade food, we slept on cots or mats from the local school’s gym, and boxes and boxes of deodorant, shampoo, razors — anything we needed, they provided. At night, the ladies of the town would pick up used towels, take them home to wash them, and bring them back fresh the next day. It was incredible.”

The unexpected visit lasted three days, during which Shirley fell in love with the people of Lewisporte, an area especially affected by a poor economy. Neither the townspeople nor local businesses expected, nor accepted, anything for their goodwill and generosity. “They just said, ‘You would do the same for us.’”

On the flight back to the U.S., Shirley and other passengers started chatting about a way they could repay the community of Lewisporte for their generosity. The discussion began with helping one student with college expenses and ended with the idea of developing an endowed scholarship fund.

With the blessing (and first pledge) from the pilot, Shirley made an announcement about the scholarship fund over the plane’s intercom system. Hastily-made pledge forms torn from a notebook swiftly made their way across the plane, and more than $15,000 was instantly pledged.

Upon her return to Columbus, Ohio, Shirley set up the endowment with the Columbus Foundation. Today, the Lewisporte Area Flight 15 Scholarship Fund has grown to nearly $1 million and 111 scholarships have been awarded.

Because of her efforts, Shirley was inducted into the Order of Newfoundland and Labrador, the highest honor in the province, in 2007. In November 2009, the premier of Newfoundland and Labrador asked her to make a quick visit back to meet with some special guests — Prince Charles and Duchess of Cornwall Camilla Parker Bowles.

And now, the story that Shirley refers to as “the most extraordinary, the most beautiful experience I’ve ever had in my life” has been told to an international audience. NBC aired the story of this experience during its broadcast of the 21st Winter Olympic Games. The NBC crew did some filming with Shirley in Columbus this fall, and in September she spent 10 days with NBC in Newfoundland, being interviewed by former NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw and helping identify key players in the story.
Mortar Board members receive renowned scholarships

Kira C. Allmann, initiated at the College of William and Mary in 2009, has been named a 2010 Rhodes Scholar. The Rhodes Scholarships, one of the oldest international fellowships, bring outstanding students from many countries around the world to the University of Oxford.

Three Mortar Board members have been named recipients of the 2010 Marshall Scholarships. John Callhoun, a 2008 initiate from the University of Richmond; Matthew Clawson, a 2009 initiate from the University of California, Los Angeles; and Reynaldo Fuentes, a 2009 initiate from the University of Wyoming, will have the opportunity to study at the graduate level in the U.K. in any field of study. Marshall Scholarships finance young Americans of high ability to study for a degree in the United Kingdom. As future leaders, with a lasting understanding of British society, Marshall Scholars strengthen the enduring relationship between the British and American peoples, their governments and their institutions.

Katherine Whitehurst Glenn, initiated at Birmingham-Southern College in 2010, has been awarded a Truman Scholarship. The Truman Scholarship Foundation finds and recognizes college juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers in government, the nonprofit or advocacy sectors, education or elsewhere in public service and provides them with financial support for graduate study, leadership training and fellowship with other students who are committed to making a difference through public service.

Twelve Mortar Board members are recipients of the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship, presented to sophomores and juniors who intend to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences or engineering. The Mortar Board members honored include Kristen Marie Altenburger (Ohio University, initiated in 2010), Rachel Marie Barkley (Drake University, 2010), Stephanie Cheung (Grinnell College, 2010), Daniel Paul Cook (University of Missouri-Columbia, 2010), Caitlin Crimp (Oregon State University, 2009), Lorigeth Evertz (Montana State University, 2010), Anna Kathryn Hailey (University of Mississippi, 2009), Kaila Marie Mattson (University of South Alabama, 2009), Lydia Rebecca Meador (Oklahoma State University, 2010), Caitlin Powell (Case Western Reserve University, 2009), Ellen Marie Tworkoski (Carnegie Mellon University, 2010) and Zachary Robert Winkler (University of Tulsa, 2010).

Swati Varshney, initiated at Carnegie Mellon University in 2009, is a recipient of the Winston Churchill Foundation fellowship. Established in 1959, the Winston Churchill Foundation was founded by American friends of Churchill who wanted to fulfill his wish of always having young American graduate students at Churchill College at the University of Cambridge. The Foundation’s scholarship program offers American citizens of exceptional ability and outstanding achievement the opportunity to pursue graduate studies in engineering, mathematics, or the sciences at Cambridge.

Mortar Board member updates

Barbara (Gibbs) Doster, initiated in 1955 at The Ohio State University, was recently honored at the Purdue University Krannert School of Management Recognition Banquet. Following Barbara’s retirement as director of management programs for the school, a Barbara G. Doster Leadership Forum was introduced in 1999 as a way for students to focus on leadership development. At the banquet, Barbara had the pleasure of presenting 14 Barbara G. Doster Positive Attitude scholarships to management students. The night concluded with the unveiling of a portrait of Barbara, painted in secret by her artist daughter Susan at the request of university personnel. The portrait will hang in the new Barbara G. Doster Undergraduate Conference Room in the Krannert School of Management.

Mortality Board National Foundation Trustee Bonnie (Neuwald) Kennedy (initiated at the University of Oklahoma in 1977) joined the board of trustees of the University of Oklahoma Foundation in January. Bonnie, the Chief Financial Officer and managing director of Trident Capital, will serve on the University of Oklahoma Foundation’s investment and audit and finance committees.

Dr. Wendy B. (Trozzi) Libby, initiated in 1971 at Cornell University, was inaugurated as president of Stetson University during the university’s homecoming weekend, March 18 to 21. Dr. Libby became the ninth president of Stetson University, an independent university with four campuses located in Central Florida, in July 2009. Previously, she served as president of Stephens College in Columbia, Mo., the nation’s second-oldest women’s institution, from 2003 to 2009. Mortar Board sent greetings to mark her inauguration.

David Needs, current advisor for the Panathenees chapter at Carson-Newman College and a 1990 Mortar Board initiate of the chapter, has been named Division II Assistant Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA). Needs, the quarterbacks coach, recently completed his 14th season at Carson-Newman, and 17th season overall. He also played quarterback at Carson-Newman and was a part of the 1988 and ’89 national championships. He has been a part of 10 South Atlantic Conference titles and three national championship games while on the football coaching staff.

SEND MORTAR BOARD YOUR UPDATES

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


2009 ANNUAL REPORT

‘Tis the torch that the people follow...

This phrase from the concluding sentence of Mortar Board’s thought-provoking poem that is read aloud at initiation and other special times in Mortar Board chapters’ experiences seems appropriate as the lead-in to the annual report for the fiscal year 2008-2009. While I have the honor of being among the torchbearers now, my appointment to the post of executive director became effective only after the end of this reporting year. To the dedicated national leaders who upheld “the shining load” of the Society during this past year belongs all credit for the year’s outcomes.

The new members of the Society numbered 5,798 (a 1.4 percent decrease over last reporting year) in 193 active chapters (a 2.5 percent decrease in chapter numbers compared to the last reporting year). All of Mortar Board’s national leaders continue to monitor chapter strength and member numbers.

The Society’s 227th charter was issued on April 23, 2009, at the University of Minnesota Duluth. The chapter has taken the name Tau Delta.

There were 72 honorary members selected who have distinguished themselves as scholars, public servants and leaders in the higher education community at 40 campuses. There are 347 alumni sustaining members.

There were 291 delegates, national leaders, honorees, speakers and staff who attended the Mortar Board National Conference, held July 24-26 in a city new to recent Mortar Board meetings—Chicago. The site was reviewed favorably by official delegates and other participants, and the Society plans to return to Chicago for its National Conference through 2012.

Supporting the Society’s financial well-being

The initiation fee, increased by $15 at the National Conference in July has at last reached a par with peer associations. It is stunning how long (six years) Mortar Board, at its peril, managed to go without raising its fee. This decision by the official delegates voting as the National Conference governing body was a true example of how governance works to steward an organization’s health and provide services to its members. I applaud the determination of the delegates who recognized the importance of this initiation fee increase to Mortar Board’s future.

National Leadership of Mortar Board, Inc.

Also at the National Conference, Mortar Board again experienced the orderly transition of officers with the retirement from the National Council of President Sally Steadman (University of Wyoming) and Student Representative Katie Schirmer (Drury University). Daniel J. Turner (Northern Illinois University) was installed as president. Susan Herndon Caples (University of Alabama) was elected president-elect; she will be the first honorary member to serve as president of our Society. Abigail Diehl (The Pennsylvania State University) was re-elected vice president, and Angela Schrader (University of Wyoming) was elected secretary-treasurer in her first term on the National Council. Bridget Williams Golden (Purdue University) was re-elected to the position of alumni representative, joining midterm incumbent Jane Beyer (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee). Lindsey DePra (Indiana University of Pennsylvania) [see box on page 14] was elected as student representative to join midterm incumbent Joseph Rodriguez (University of Arizona).

Awards for Mortar Board members from Mortar Board

At the National Conference, Alumni Achievement Awards were presented to Shontrai DeVaughn Irving (Indiana University) and Jo Ann Rohyans (Miami University). Distinguished Lifetime Membership Awards were presented to Sheila Castellarin (The Ohio State University) and John Mount (The Ohio State University).

Excellence in Advising Awards went to Sally Cobb (University of South Alabama), retiring as advisor from the University of South Alabama’s chapter; Jane K. Smith (West Virginia University), who advises the chapter at San Diego State University; and David Whitman (University of Wyoming), advisor at the University of Wyoming.

The Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence Award was presented to the University of Washington Tolo chapter in Seattle. Wash. The Most Improved Chapter Award was bestowed upon Cornell College’s Torch chapter in Mount Vernon, Iowa.

See the Fall 2009 Mortar Board Forum (Vol. 40, Issue 1) for photos and a more extensive recap of the awards program as well as a complete listing of award winners.
There are countless examples of members throughout Mortar Board who have held high the torch of leadership throughout the reporting year. Section coordinators have shed light on chapter operations selflessly and creatively; committee chairs illuminate their specialty areas. Collegiate chapter presidents walk in the spotlight as “leaders of leaders.” Collegiate chapter advisors often find the lights in their offices or homes burning much later than usual thanks to late night Mortar Board meetings. Alumni chapter and club officers prove that the fire of Mortar Board leadership glows brightly well beyond college. Readers of fellowship applications, members who reviewed chapter project grants, donors to the Mortar Board National Foundation, volunteers who helped the National Office—the list of torchbearers is long. For these many enlightened leaders of our Society who guided Mortar Board with vigor and downright love this past year, I am grateful. Mortar Board is truly radiant because of their service.

Yours in carrying the torch

Jane A. Hamblin, J.D., CAE
Executive Director
ANNUAL FINANCIAL POSITION
November 1, 2008, through October 31, 2009

Mortar Board, Inc.

Revenue
Membership fees and dues $351,284
Conference fees $52,424
Grants $30,000
Merchandise sales 1 $51,713
Investment income $23,914
Miscellaneous $2,616
Total revenue $511,951

Expenses
Program services $444,689
Management and general $126,388
Total expenses $571,077

Net assets
Unrestricted $403,220

Mortar Board National Foundation Fund

Revenue
Fees $17,130
Contributions and grants $87,934
Other 1 $2,616
Total revenue $105,064

Expenses
Program services $88,899
Management and general $20,138
Fundraising $22,531
Total expenses $131,568

Net assets
Unrestricted $(2,009)
Temporarily restricted $164,609
Restricted $614,360
Total assets $776,960

1 The trustees of the Mortar Board National Foundation Fund and the members of the Mortar Board National Council agreed that beginning in this fiscal year, merchandise expenses and revenue would come to Mortar Board, Inc. Previously this line had been in the Mortar Board National Foundation Fund. Increased efforts in fundraising and improved budget management have been implemented for National Foundation operations going forward.

2 A donation was made by Mortar Board, Inc. to the General Fellowship Fund of the Mortar Board National Foundation in the amount of $50,000 during 2009. The use of these funds has been left to the discretion of the trustees of the Mortar Board National Foundation.

NATIONAL COUNCIL UPDATE
With regret, National Council President Dan Turner accepted the resignation of Student Representative Lindsey DePra (Indiana University of Pennsylvania) in April. The National Council, following Mortar Board’s Bylaws, appointed Jessica Heath (Kansas State University) to fill Lindsey’s unexpired term.

Jessica has been very active at K-State in the Academic Decathlon, which was run by the XIX Mortar Board chapter as well as Student Foundation, Kappa Kappa Gamma and the Christian Challenge Campus Ministry. She is currently working on her master’s degree in college student personnel at K-State and has remained active with the collegiate chapter.

Mortar Board extends thanks to Lindsey for her service to the Society, while at the same time welcoming Jessica to the national leadership team.

2008-2009 Mortar Board National Foundation
Chapter Project Grant recipients

May 2009 recipients
Hood College
University of Missouri - Columbia
Rhodes College
University of South Alabama
University of South Florida
University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

October 2008 recipients
The University of Akron
Albion College
Bowling Green State University
Carson-Newman College
Case Western Reserve University
University of Cincinnati
The Colorado College
Cornell College
Hood College
Hope College
University of Illinois
University of Iowa
James Madison University
The University of Kansas
Kansas State University
University of Maryland
Northern Arizona University
Northwestern University
Seattle Pacific University
The University of Texas at El Paso
Valparaiso University
The University of Vermont
Washington University
Western New England College
Wichita State University
William Jewell College
Xavier University

College of William and Mary
University of Wyoming

December 2008 recipients
University of Arizona
University of California, Los Angeles
Central Michigan University
University of Cincinnati
The Colorado College
Colorado State University
Hope College
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
Mississippi University for Women
Northwestern University
The Ohio State University
Oklahoma Baptist University
Rhodes College
University of South Florida
The University of Texas at El Paso
University of Utah
The University of Vermont
College of William and Mary
University of Wyoming

14 Mortar Board Forum | Spring 2010
Thank you, donors!

These members and friends have generously supported the Mortar Board National Foundation from January 1, 2009, through December 31, 2009.

**Key**

- * $500 - $999
- $1,000 - $4,999
- ~ $5,000 or more
University of Montana
Joan Gillespie
Hazel Sullivan

The University of Nebraska - Lincoln
Janet Beckmann
Judith Clark
Joan Kopf
Sue Ann Tempo

The University of New Mexico
Chris Ortiz y Prentice

University of North Texas
Alta Birdsong
Charldean Newell

Northern Arizona University
Laura Hauer

Northern Illinois University
Faith Clark
John H Kemnitz
Patricia E. MacWhorter
Denise Rode *
Daniel Turner

Northwestern University
Barbara Marsh
Mary Lee Meyer

Occidental College
Evelyn Glaser
Phyllis Lawrence
Edith Marshall

Ohio Northern University
Walter Schilling, Jr.

The Ohio State University
Kaye Bache-Snyder
Elaine Barnum
L. Ann Bish
Shirley Bowser
Shirley Brooks-Jones
Melissa Canowitz
Sheila Castelarín
Gail Harrison Corvette *
Ilse Edse
Mary Lou Fairall
Anne Foltz
Mabel G. Freeman
Virginia Gordon

Frank Hale Jr.
Charles Hermann
Mary Helen Hopkins
Dolores Jonas
David Keene
Valerie Kuhne
Marjorie Lasko
Mary Melick Meyers
Marilu Moye *
Alicia Notestone
Mary O'Shaughnesssey
Barbara Payson
Gloria Resnick
Beverly Rhodenbaugh
Marjorie Sayers
Diane Selby *
Megan Stevens
Idelle Wolf

Ohio University
Betsy Burke
Marilyn Paulsen

Ohio Wesleyan University
Sarah Timmons
Marilyn Wearda

The University of Oklahoma
Patricia Bynum Riggs
Doris Howard
Robert Jarman
Bonnie Kennedy *

Oregon State University
June Bashkin

The Pennsylvania State University
Barbara Arnold
Janet Blew
Carol Carberry Kalos
Kathryn Cochran
Marian Coppersmith
Abigail Diehl
David Schuler

Pomona College
Huey Merchant

Purdue University
Barbara Brenner
Marilyn Giolas
Phyllis Gladden
Bridget Williams Golden
Jane Hamblin *

University of Hellmich
Kristina Lamar
Patricia Mintz
Bob and Linda Sorensen *
Barbara Watts
Karen Wilson

University of Redlands
Adrianna Vermillion

University of Richmond
Elizabeth Cheyney
Betty Ann Dillon
Jean Proffitt

University of South Carolina
Donna E. Rice Hughes
Harry Turner, Jr.

University of South Dakota
Margaret Cash Wegner

Tennessee Technological University
Gilbert Fernandez

University of Tennessee at Knoxville
Cheryl Gunter

Texas Tech University
Joan Duke
Carolyn Norgaard
Brenda Peters
Dottie Phillips

The University of Texas at Austin
Susan Beisert

The University of Toledo
Virginia Black
Barbara Holdcroft
Dennis Klaustermeyer
Ruth Miller
Clinton Rataczak

Utah State University
Julie A. Robinson

Virginia Commonwealth University
Gayle F. York

University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire
Paula Stuettgen

University of Wisconsin - Madison
Nancy Bernstein Schultz
Jean Harlan
Caroline Laubenheimer

University of Vermont
Catherine Pollard
Lola Smith

Washington State University
Genevieve DeVleming
Susan Hinzel
Margit Jackson
Mary Jane Larimer
Betty Jo Sorensen
Eleanor Tesluk

Washington University in St. Louis
Yvette Dubinsky
Joan Sessel
Marilyn Stewart

Wayne State University
Judy Mongelluzzo
Avis White

West Virginia University
Clara Privett
Jane K. Smith *

Whitman College
Linda Nelson

Wichita State University
Thelma Ball

College of William and Mary
Barbara Borst
Elaine Diehm Guilfoyle
Cynthia Frye Howes

University of Wisconsin - Madison
Nancy Bernstein Schultz
Jean Harlan
Caroline Laubenheimer
University of Wyoming
Charlotte Davis
Angela Schrader
Sally Steadman

Mortar Board chapters
Chapman University, Schweitzer chapter
Greater Columbus Mortar Board Alumni Chapter
Purdue University, Barbara Cook chapter
Wichita State University, Fairmount chapter

Nonmembers
Answer Financial, Inc.
Bank of America —
Rita Barnum
Blossom Express Inc. *
Blue Brush Media Inc.
James Evans
GEICO —
JobTarget
Kellogg Foundation *
Mary Cay Kuder
Mortar Board, Inc. —
Darrell Mottley
Seymour Group
United HealthCare Student Resources *

In honor of Catherine Evans
James Evans

In honor of Kirsten Freeman Fox
Mabel G. Freeman

In honor of Mabel G. Freeman
Denise Rode

In honor of Martha Graham
Alta Birdsong

In honor of Jane Hamblin
William Niederer

In honor of Jay and Rob Herndon
Susan Caples

In honor of Dr. Henry L. Janssen
Jane K. Smith

In honor of Dr. Herschel Mann
Brenda Peters

In honor of Jeannie Nguyen
June Anderson

In honor of William Niederer
Denise Rode

In honor of Dottie Phillips
Denise Rode

In honor of Daniel Turner
Lane Nestman
William Niederer
Dottie Phillips

In honor of Grinnell College graduates
Eleanor Tyson

In honor of Idaho State University chapter leaders
Anne L. Christie

In honor of the Purdue University chapter
Bridget Williams Golden

In memory of Robert C. Hinkle, DDS
Margaret Murray Hinkle

In memory of Dr. William J. Holloway
Frank Hale Jr.

In memory of Eldora Green James
June Bashkin

In memory of Betty (Margaret) Patty Lowman
Mary Melick Meyers

In memory of Elizabeth Marsh
Barbara Marsh

In memory of Dr. T. B. Mastor
Doris Walters

In memory of Ellen Kopf Miller
Joan Kopf

In memory of Ruth Weimer Mount
Mary O'Shaughnessey
Ilseidue Edse
Denise Rode

In memory of Peggy Marchant Rutland
Patricia Bynum Riggs

In memory of Lynne Morgan Rumpf
Yraina L. Kopelman

In memory of M. Beverley Stone Aldred Hellmich

In memory of Josephine Williams Seymour Group

In memory of Mary Lou Enberg
Genevieve DeVleming
Mary Jane Larimer

In memory of Vivian Graber
Thelma Ball

KEY
* $500 - $999
* $1,000 - $4,999
~ ~ $5,000 or more
On Campus

Carnegie Mellon University

During the spring 2010 semester, the 43 members of the Eta chapter volunteered their time in various activities, ranging from the Turkey-for-a-Day fundraiser to reading to children.

In the Turkey-for-a-Day event, various professors collected donations from students, and the professor with the largest donation collection agreed to wear a turkey costume for a full day. The event was wildly successful, raising nearly $850 from both students and professors.

Some of the other numerous service projects included participation in the Fill-A-Bus project, during which members raised $130 to donate to Toys for Tots. Several members also spent time celebrating “Reading is Leading” by volunteering at the Children’s School on campus.

Mortar Board members are even more involved now that the chapter has gained momentum in the spring semester. Members spent time reading to students and completed a letter box project, which involved members buying objects and categorizing them based on the first letter of their name. Objects were then placed in their respectively labeled boxes to aid children in learning basic phonics.

Several members volunteered at the Pittsburgh Food Bank in honor of Mortar Board Week. In March, Mortar Board participated in 1000Plus, an event devoted to an entire day of serving and helping the community. The chapter conducted a food drive for the area women’s shelter and prepared gardens at the Children’s School. In April, Mortar Board members participated in planning and executing entertaining and educational activities for “Take Your Child to Work Day.” The members and children had an amazing time that day by teaching and performing cheerleading routines and having fun with chemistry.

The Mortar Board chapter at Carnegie Mellon has high ambitions for another productive semester, as members are excited to volunteer their time and effort and commit to helping the community around them.

Joseph Wang, Chapter Director of Communications

Carson-Newman College

The Panathenees chapter packed the spring with a number of recruitment, social and service events. The chapter transitioned into a new class by holding a tea party for new members, a member breakfast for both incoming and outgoing Mortar Board members, a memorable initiation ceremony, and successful officer election.

To cap off the year, the chapter held a fundraiser at an Amateur Athletic Union (AAU) basketball tournament and hosted a “Reading is Leading” education day with the local Boys and Girls Club.

Destry Cloud, Chapter Director of Communications

Colorado State University

The Tau Iota Omega chapter started this year small and uninformed with fewer than 10 incoming members. With the guidance of their “knight in shining armor,” Dr. David Gilkey, the fledgling chapter found motivation and determination and started to blossom along with the assistance of advisors Ms. Jan Rastall and Dr. Brian Jones.

After President Kristine “Ryan” Peters attended the 2009 Mortar Board National Conference and the chapter hosted a Challenge Course Retreat, the 2009-2010 class was off and running. The chapter increased its membership from fewer than 10 to more than 22 dedicated, professional, strong individuals who make a difference in the CSU and surrounding community every day!

The chapter found focus in planning monthly themes with community service activities, outreach and fundraising to include support to Victims of Violence, Homelessness Assistance, Holiday Help for non-traditional students and low-income families, Locks of Love Hair-raising, Trick-or-Treating for Books, Garden of the Gods section project, and much more! Admirably, the chapter honored the late Gladys Eddy, founder of Tau Iota Omega chapter of Mortar Board, at the annual Breakfast of the Brass.

Kristine “Ryan” Peters, Chapter President

Illinois Wesleyan University

The EGAS chapter wrapped up its inaugural academic year as a chapter with a popular event, the “Be the President for the Day” contest. This raffle fundraiser gave sophomore Scott Tesler the opportunity to switch roles with Illinois Wesleyan University President Dick Wilson.

First, Scott shadowed the university president, attending an educational four-hour board of trustees meeting and executive session. Then, on April 1, President Wilson attended class (Artificial Intelligence) and socialized during lunch in the cafeteria with Scott and his friends.

Morgan Tarbutton, Chapter President
James Madison University

After receiving a Mortar Board Foundation Chapter Project Grant to fund Dr. Seuss Week during the 2008-2009 academic year, the Percy H. Warren chapter continued the well-received tradition. With the help of local children and the college campus, Mortar Board launched a weekend celebration of literacy and children’s book author Dr. Seuss’s March 2 birthday.

Members, including newly-inducted ones, worked with the JMU’s Reading Road Show’s mobile literacy vehicle, Gus Bus, to visit neighborhoods, child care centers, family child care providers and schools to provide story time, activities and book checkout for children of all ages. Kids kept busy by making Cat in the Hat hats, reading Dr. Seuss books and munching on some healthy snacks with Mortar Board volunteers.

The following day, the Mortar Board members picked up right where they left off and did some Dr. Seuss themed arts and crafts at a “kids’ night” at a local Chick-fil-A. Children were thrilled with the surprise appearance of the Cat in the Hat, who led a story time session. The night was such a success that the restaurant asked the chapter back to work with the kids in April.

The week proceeded with reading at a local library, followed by JMU’s buffet-style dining hall being taken over by Mortar Board’s Dr. Seuss Week. The entire menu was rhymed, including a “One Fish, Two Fish, Red Fish, Catfish” entrée. The chapter helped serve the food while promoting the organization to hundreds of students.

After a successful week, the campus and community are looking forward to more Mortar Board sponsored events.

Katie Hudson, Chapter Secretary

University of Montana

The Penetralia chapter’s spring semester brought a flurry of activities. The chapter has built a strong name on campus by regularly tabling and providing information about Mortar Board’s purpose and activities. The chapter also diligently works to better their community through a variety of service projects. Most recently, members helped the Watson Children’s Shelter to raise funds and awareness for the purchase of new clothes and necessities as the shelter expands to a new building. Members also participated in one of the chapter’s largest projects, “Reading is Leading” tutoring elementary students in math and reading in the Missoula Community with the America Reads program.

The spring also brought the return of the chapter’s Last Lecture Series. The series’ first speaker was University of Montana President George M. Dennison, who recently announced his retirement. The Mortar Board chapter was thrilled and honored that his last speech as president was at Mortar Board’s Last Lecture Series.

As graduation neared, the chapter capped of the year with the Senior Recognition event, highlighting the achievements of faculty-nominated seniors from each department and program. Finally, a deserving class of new members has been selected, tapped and initiated to continue the Penetralia legacy.

Rebecca Smith, Chapter Director of Communications

Northern Illinois University

The Pleiades chapter is ringing in spring with a variety of events around the local community. Members celebrated Mortar Board Week by helping sort and pack canned goods at the Northern Illinois Food Bank; hosting a bake/book sale with proceeds going to Altrusa (a grant to buy books for local elementary schools); organizing books at the DeKalb County Public Library; and hosting a blood drive.

Upcoming events include the Faculty/Staff Recognition Reception and the Last Lecture Series. Mortar Board is partnering with PRISM, a support network for the LGBT community, and the LGBT Resource Center to host the Last Lecture Series with Craig Seymour as the speaker for the event. Dr. Seymour is known nationwide as the author of All I Could Bare: My Life in the Strip Clubs of Gay Washington, D.C., in addition to being a writer for mainstream media outlets such as The Washington Post, Entertainment Weekly and Vibe. Dr. Seymour is currently an associate professor of journalism at NIU.

Other events included members celebrating Earth Day by planting trees around the NIU campus and raising money/walking in the DeKalb Relay for Life. In April, the chapter held social including a formal and the Membership Initiation Brunch.

To carry on these and other Mortar Board traditions at NIU, the chapter welcomed 64 new members for the 2010-2011 academic year.

Kayla Kling, Chapter Director of Communications
On Campus

Ohio Northern University

The Aurora chapter spent the majority of the winter quarter continuing its community service program at the Ada Public Library. Through the library’s youth story time program, Mortar Board members are afforded the opportunity to connect with the citizens of Ada by reading to area children.

The chapter also held the annual Favorite Professors Dessert, during which Mortar Board members were able to honor their favorite professors who exemplify the foundations of scholarship, leadership and service. Each member wrote a personal note to his or her selected professor, which was then framed and presented as a gift. Professors were introduced by their host Mortar Board member and were recognized for their contributions to the campus community.

Most recently, the chapter carefully selected 50 well-qualified new members for Aurora chapter, who were tapped during Mortar Board Week on the day of Mortar Board’s founding, February 15. The chapter also selected three honorary members from ONU’s highly talented faculty. On February 18, the chapter joyfully initiated these new members and sadly retired the graduating seniors. Most of our new members’ families were able to surprise the initiates at the ceremony, which was held in ONU’s English Chapel, and afterward to attend a celebratory dinner in McIntosh Center. At dinner, new members introduced themselves and their family members in attendance. In coming weeks, the new class will vote on its incoming executive board and begin planning the 2010-2011 academic year. As this school year draws to a close, the Aurora chapter is looking to continue on its bright course in the capable hands of the next class of Mortar Board stars.

Natalyn Giverson, Chapter Director of Communications

Ohio State University

In celebration of Mortar Board Week, the Mabel G. Freeman chapter hosted a campuswide book drive to support the “Reading is Leading” national project. During the month of February, the chapter collected more than 400 books, half of which were donated to the local Boys and Girls Club, with the other half distributed to Better World Books and Operation Buckeye. The chapter chose these recipients due to previous member involvement. Working with the organizations members had worked with in the past made the book drive extremely meaningful and a great success, despite the fact that several other campuswide book drives were occurring at the same time.

Members also volunteered to help Operation Buckeye, an organization dedicated to sending care packages to soldiers overseas (including reading material to entertain those who keep us safe), earlier in the year. The organization’s founder, Jim Caronis, has given enormous service to the local and international community, and the chapter recognized this outstanding citizen with honorary Mortar Board membership.

During Mortar Board Week, the chapter held a Mortar Board Career Night in conjunction with the Greater Columbus Mortar Board Alumni Chapter with a panel of career and job search experts.

In March, the chapter also held a special “Conversation with Gordon Gee” in the Mortar Board Reading Room in the Thompson Library. Guests included Mortar Board alumni, members and, of course, University President Dr. E. Gordon Gee and Mortar Board Executive Director Jane A. Hamblin.

Liane Longbottom, Chapter Secretary
**Purdue University**

The Barbara Cook chapter kicked off its busy spring semester with the annual Women of Purdue awards ceremony and dessert banquet, at which six women from Purdue’s administration were honored for their leadership and accomplishments. The chapter also recognized outstanding freshman student athletes for earning a 3.5 or higher in their first semester at Purdue with the 13th Annual Freshman Scholar-Athlete Dessert.

During Mortar Board Week, the chapter celebrated the “Reading is Leading” national project by hosting an afternoon literacy event filled with books, a library scavenger hunt, storybook reading by Purdue athletes, prizes, and theater play reading for 50 local grade school children, all in the company of school mascot Purdue Pete. Mortar Board had a blast, and so did the kids! Other Mortar Board Week events included raising more than 200 books as a part of a book drive, raising funds for Haiti Relief, and having a Mortar Board display case on campus.

Finally, members are thrilled to offer ten $2,500 scholarships to undergraduate students who plan on attending graduate or professional school, as well as many other awards for faculty service, student community service and “unsung heroes.”

*Lindsay Van Houten, Chapter Director of Communications*

**University of Redlands**

Students from all over campus nominated their favorite professors to be presented with the W.E.B.S. chapter’s annual Professor of the Year Award. After much deliberation, Mortar Board members made their selection from the top five, honoring Professor Judith Tschann at a special ceremony on March 9.

Professor Tschann specializes in medieval literature, aided by her love of old English, old French and Latin. She has served as a leader at the institution by serving on the Women’s Faculty Caucus, Curriculum Committee, and the Academic Standards and Review Committee.

Professor Tschann is the 51st Professor of the Year to be honored by the W.E.B.S. chapter. Several winners from previous years attended the awards dinner to show their support for the long-term faculty member, who has taught at the University of Redlands for 32 years.

*Kristin Smith, Chapter Communications Director*

**San Diego State University**

The Jane K. Smith Cap and Gown chapter enjoyed a fun-filled fall semester that included old and new philanthropic activities as well as award ceremonies and fundraising successes. Now that the weather has changed – slightly, that is, being that San Diego’s spring is an average of 10 to 15 degrees cooler – a new season’s worth of events and plans have come to full fruition.

The chapter began the season in early February by celebrating Mortar Board Week. Members sported their Mortar Board apparel and spent time tabling in the common areas of campus to advertise to students the benefits of being a leader, scholar and service representative on campus and in the community as a member of Mortar Board. Members also encouraged classmates and students involved in other campus activities to consider applying to Mortar Board. Both word-of-mouth and classroom announcements were used to spread the word during Mortar Board Week.

February events continued with Mortar Board’s Eighth Annual Backpack Stuffing event. The afternoon philanthropy project not only benefits the community by providing local elementary students with much-needed school supplies, but also provides an excellent opportunity for Mortar Board members to get to know fellow active students at the nearby University of San Diego and alumni living in the area.

The Fourth Annual Dr. Henry L. Janssen Last Lecture Series presented by Mortar Board and Honors Council honored 2010 Distinguished Last Lecture Honoree Dr. Anne-Charlotte Harvey, Professor Emerita of theatre at San Diego State University. Dr. Harvey’s “Last Lecture” was titled *Trasmatta- Rag Rug: The Weave of Life*. The lecture welcomed a good turnout with members from the six honor societies on San Diego State’s campus, including numerous Mortar Board members.

Finally, the end-of-year luncheon for San Diego State and the University of San Diego was hosted by the alumni chapter at the home of the alumni chapter president in early May. Both collegiate chapters always look forward to this event, which wraps up a year’s worth of activities.

The Jane K. Smith Cap and Gown Mortar Board Chapter at San Diego State has enjoyed an eventful fall semester of activities and is planning on finishing the spring semester with more scholarship, leadership and service!

*Natalia Van Stralen, Chapter President*

**University of Tennessee - Knoxville**

The Cap and Gown chapter has been off to a great year, continuing service projects from the previous semester and launching new community initiatives. The chapter’s primary ongoing project is “Reading is Leading.” By working with Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, chapter members volunteer to create audio recordings of books. Another ongoing project that members help with is cleaning an area of campus through Adopt-a-Spot. New service initiatives during...
On Campus

the spring semester include providing clean-up for the campuswide Dance Marathon philanthropic event that raises money for Children’s Hospital, as well as volunteering at the Knoxville Marathon. Members pride themselves in giving back to their campus and community!

The chapter has also experienced an exciting period of recruiting 55 outstanding new members who exhibit superior achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. The current class transitioned their legacy at the traditional Torchbearer Ceremony, a midnight meeting at which graduating seniors pass on the ideals and responsibilities of Mortar Board to the incoming class, named “Torchbearer” for its location by the Torchbearer statue, an icon of the university. Alumni attend the ceremony and share their experiences as a member of Mortar Board. The ceremony is a great way to challenge and inspire the new members to carry on the history of Mortar Board.

The Knoxville chapter would not be the same without the dedication of its faculty advisor Jenny Wright Russell and the executive officers Caitlin Morris, Jessica Murphy, Chelsea Goodson, Justin Nepa, Shade King, Katie Downey, Whitney Bell, Jamil Price and me.

Maleah Hayes, Chapter Director of Communications

University of Utah

The Acorn chapter has a close relationship with the terminally ill patients at Primary Children’s Medical Center in Salt Lake City, regularly hosting entertaining events and donating gifts to the children as a part of a yearlong effort. On Halloween, Mortar Board members collected books to donate to these hopeful children. In December, the chapter bonded with patients with fun, wintry activities. Finally, in the spring, the chapter planned a Hollywood Hope Night. Complete with a Hollywood backdrop, dress-up costumes, celebrity-style photo ops and picture frame activities, the evening gave these children an opportunity to enjoy fun activities.

Lauren Gebrke, Chapter Advisor

University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

Members of the Gold Caps chapter spent the evening of Friday, February 19 building relationships with their community at The Community Table, a local soup kitchen in Eau Claire. Mortar Board volunteers prepared and served food to the community, ate with new friends, and cleaned the soup kitchen after dinner. To incorporate the “Reading is Leading” national project, the chapter brought children’s books to be given to children and parents to pick up at The Community Table.

The chapter is also dedicated to another one of Mortar Board’s ideals: leadership. Members hosted a new event dedicated to leadership: Leadership in Action Day on April 13 and 14. Through this event, students and administrators at the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire were paired together throughout one of the two days. The students participated in the daily activities of the administrator, learning and sharing with one another.

Debbie J. Ernie, Chapter Director of Communications

Western New England College

This has been an amazing year for the Pynchon chapter. With the help of the school’s annual pep rally event, members were able to raise more than $2,000 for the Virtual Book Drive (ranking as the third highest donor nationally) and received an additional 50 books that were donated to a local elementary school.

Chapter members also worked hard to become more visible during Mortar Board Week by painting a rock commonly used for campus publicity, selling t-shirts, hosting a Mortar Board Open House, having a “Fun-raiser at Friendly’s, and so much more. The Open House was used as a recruitment opportunity to invite potential inductees to learn more about the values of Mortar Board. This way, candidates could meet active members and gain a better understanding of the organization, its activities, and its membership when filling out the application.

Following new member initiation, the chapter has kicked off ideas for a few chapter projects including the “What I Wish I Knew” book to be handed out to freshman students on move-in day.

Katie Grogan, Chapter President
Are you in a Mortar Board family?

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Show your Mortar Board pride with Mortar Board apparel, jewelry, furniture and more

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