

MORTAR BOARD FORUM

Spring 2007

Vol. 37

Issue No. 2

MB: the gender evolution

OnCampus



GPA's on the rise



One Mortar Board member's passion for a cause takes her on an Arctic expedition with Global Warming 101



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

MORTAR BOARD FORUM

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President's Message

It is said that the only constant in life is change. We go through our lives coping with or thriving on changes in circumstance, employment, location and persons with whom we have contact. Mortar Board is no different in this.

In my nearly 20 years of working with Mortar Board as a national organization, there have been many changes – the advent of the National Office's fax machine, toll-free telephone number, first computer, the establishment of the Web site and National Office e-mail, the restructuring of the national leadership positions and the National Office staff, and of course all of the exciting new faces in our chapters, all of whom (except for the newest class – welcome!) are now alumni members of the Society. We've all made new friends in the world of Mortar Board, people we probably otherwise would not have met.

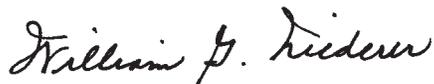
Just in the past academic year many changes have occurred in the world of Mortar Board. These include welcoming three new staff members at the National Office and seeing the retirement of our longtime executive director, as well as the increase in business partnerships with the Mortar Board National Foundation. The additional funding from the partnerships in turn allow for more fellowships to assist members to fund graduate study.

It has been interesting to watch the changing perspectives of our student members over the years. At the first national conference I attended in 1991, the delegates voted overwhelmingly to reject the idea of companies being able to solicit their business via mail marketing. Our current partners, with permission from a later conference's delegate body, have the opportunity to utilize not only postal mail but also e-mail to contact students and alumni, albeit on a limited basis. This is simply part of today's world and part of an ongoing campaign to increase the receipts of the Mortar Board National Foundation, which will in turn increase the quantity and the size of fellowships awarded to our members pursuing graduate education.

As I leave the office of Mortar Board, Inc. national president, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to lead and also would like to challenge each person reading this to continue to support the ideals upon which Mortar Board was founded – through time, talents or treasure.

As Mortar Board continues to evolve and change with the times, our ideals of scholarship, leadership and service remain constant. Our membership is still a shining star in the academic and honor society world. Collegiate members and alumni continue to set a high standard of conduct, academic and career success, and of giving back – to their college/community, workplace, avocations, and to Mortar Board itself. Let us all continue to adapt and change while retaining the common bond of Mortar Board.

Sincerely,



William G. Niederer
National President, Mortar Board, Inc.



William G. Niederer



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

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

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

NATIONAL FOUNDATION MISSION

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

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

Meet Mortar Board's new executive director

Mortar Board opened its doors to a new executive director, Jon Cook, in January. Cook holds a bachelor's degree from Viterbo University and a master's from Virginia Commonwealth University, where he graduated Phi Kappa Phi. His diverse administrative, financial and development experience spans the nation including employment at Ballet Metropolitan, Inc. in Columbus, Ohio; Rauch, Inc. in New Albany, Indiana; and the Houston Center for Contemporary Craft in Houston, Texas. Learn about



Jon's background and see what he's got planned for the organization in this glance at the life of our executive director.

Q **Were you involved in any honor societies or student organizations when you were an undergrad?**

A No, I wasn't. I confess, my first year at a large university was a bit off the mark. The first semester report card did not have a cumulative GPA that registered two digits. My parents were in higher education, and I had to work very hard to get back in the groove of things. I took a brief hiatus, then finished my B.A. degree in three years at a very small liberal arts institution called Viterbo. I convinced them to let me carry 20+ credits per semester, and took summer courses, all while working two part-time jobs and doing theatre. They instilled leadership and service values in all of their students. Viterbo has grown exponentially since graduation, and are a prime candidate for a Mortar Board chapter, as they have a very strong service learning model.

Q **There isn't a Mortar Board chapter there or at Virginia Commonwealth University, where you did your graduate work, but you have been made an honorary member by our National Council. How is it that you exemplify the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service?**

A First, I will say that after getting back on track after my first year GPA debacle, I did have a 4.0 GPA through grad school at VCU. I am a lifelong learner and really believe in the post-graduate educational experience. I taught as an

adjunct while at VCU and really admired the non-traditional students – the passion they had for improving their own knowledge and the energy they devoted to their own aspirations – while most have some significant barriers they are trying to overcome. I believe that one can be both a natural and trained leader, and that leadership can take many different forms. I believe that service is inherent in the non-profit model. Having been employed in the non-profit sector for almost 20 years, service is part of that model.

Q **Do you have a vision for Mortar Board?**

A I would be remiss if I didn't first refer to the mission of Mortar Board, "...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."

I think the HUGE vision that is in direct support of the mission, is that Mortar Board will be the preeminent senior honor society in the universe due to the success of their global leaders.

That's a tough order to fill. In order to get there, I believe Mortar Board really needs to build on the expertise of shaping and encouraging the development of leaders within their late academic years. Through the leveraging of technology and communication initiatives, now is the time to really accelerate that opportunity. Technology can be the vehicle through which we can increase the ease and frequency of sharing information with current members, advisors, alumni and partners in order to build on the capacity of what the society is already valued for – actively involved people. In return for participation, Mortar Board should also provide an opportunity for the best benefits possible, both tangible and intangible.

Q **You mentioned technology and communications – why are these issues so important to Mortar Board?**

A I think technology has really opened the door for true globalization and opened the channels for ongoing conversations. Not only has it become an accepted mode of communication in the last decade, but technology has the ability to build networks and capacity for an organization such as Mortar Board, with a gradual investment in both capital and human resources. Mortar Board is and will continue to be about and for people. That will never change. With close to a quarter of a million lifelong members, it is hopeful the size of this valuable resource will increase exponentially in the coming years. As an organization of people, our task is to provide

for the flexibility to make that happen and then provide for the ongoing support of that initiative. There is something to be said about the “it takes a village” theory.

Q

You started at Mortar Board in January – are there any goals you’ve already worked toward or achieved?

A

Just this month, you will start to notice new e-mails in your inbox, asking you to commit to receiving information about Mortar Board. I encourage you to visit the new Web site, and sign up for our e-mail list on the front page. This will be the mode of communication from the National Office on a regular basis for those who wish to do so. We are transitioning to a new look, organizing information on the Web to make it easier to navigate and are identifying new “tag lines.” We have two new partners who offer extremely valuable benefits and services to our members and alumni, GEICO and Student Trust. Also, there has been a new chapter installed on the Chapman University campus in Orange, California. Lastly, the Mortar Board National Foundation is the vehicle used to fund the gap in programming initiatives, fellowships and chapter grants, which membership dues do not cover. Without increased support, some of these new initiatives will be dead in the water.

Q

Do you have anything you want to say to Mortar Board members?

A

Over the past few months, I have met and heard from some very dedicated, talented and passionate collegiate members and alumni of Mortar Board. To those people - thank you for your life long commitment to the ideals of Mortar Board. To the future members of Mortar Board and those who strive to live the Mortar Board society ideals, may you learn and build on the successes of the quarter of a million that came before you.

-Alicia Notestone

Mortar Board welcomes 223rd chapter

Chapman University has become the 223rd institution to have a chartered collegiate chapter of Mortar Board. The chapter was officially installed at a ceremony held on May 4, attended by National President William Niederer. At this time, the 10 founding seniors and 17 incoming junior members were inducted.

On the Chapman campus, Mortar Board is the first honor society for all academic fields, as well as the first honor society for college seniors.

Originally organized in 1861 as Hesperian College, Chapman University has steadily evolved from a small traditional church-related liberal arts school into a vibrant midsize and nationally recognized university with renowned programs in film and television production, business and economics, music, teacher education, communication arts, and the natural and applied sciences.

The university, located in Orange, California, offers 45 majors with more than 60 areas of study and has a current enrollment of 5,732. Programs and services offered include more than 60 clubs and organizations, career development, community outreach, multicultural programs, student health and counseling, international student services and more. Five national fraternities and five national sororities are active and all include special programming directed toward stewardship and community service activities.

The local group has decided to name their chapter the “Schweitzer Chapter,” to honor Albert Schweitzer, as he symbolized Chapman’s institutional commitments and core values.

“Chapman University is a great fit for a new Mortar Board chapter,” Mortar Board Executive Director Jon Cook explained. “I know the Schweitzer Chapter will be doing some great things for the university and the surrounding community. Chapman has such a great scholastic and leadership record. I am certain Mortar Board will soon become a sought after recognition for students.”

-Alicia Notestone



Chapman University's Memorial Hall
(Photo courtesy of Chapman University public relations department)

Member takes on the Arctic for a cause

When Elizabeth Andre started studying global warming as a part of her environmental education doctoral studies at the University of Minnesota, she realized just how serious the current environmental crisis is, and knew she had to get involved.

Not one to sit back and watch instead of acting, she has become a part of Global Warming 101, where she has been able to join educators and explorers Will Steger, John Stetson, Abby Fenton and four Inuit hunters on a 1,200-mile, four-month-long dogsled expedition. The expedition takes them across the Canadian Arctic's Baffin Island and allows them to create awareness about global warming.

Groomed for environmentalism

Since childhood, Andre has grown to embrace nature. For twelve years, her mother took her to sleep-away summer camp; an experience that Andre said helped her grow to love the outdoors and the environment.

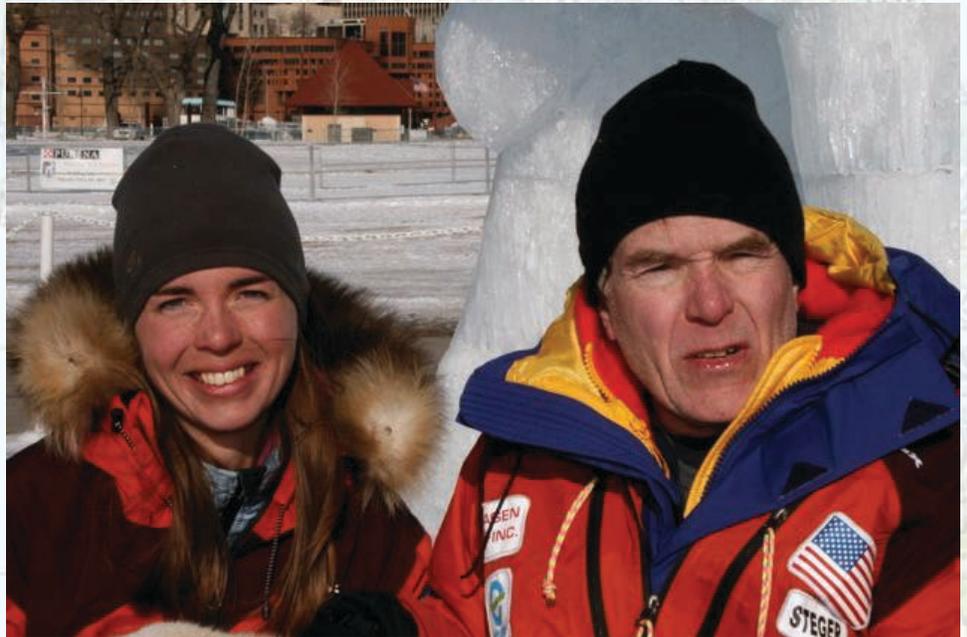
As she got older, Andre's passion for nature continued to grow. In 2001, she became an instructor for the Wild Rockies Field Institute (WRFI), an organization that combines academia with wilderness expeditions so students can experience nature first-hand while gaining college credit. That same year, Andre got involved with Outward Bound, where she lead wilderness trips and directed courses on a variety of topics including dog sledding, mountaineering, cross-country skiing, whitewater paddling and rock-climbing.

Getting involved with Global Warming 101

While working with Outward Bound in November 2005, Andre caught wind of a planned Arctic dog sled expedition headed by Will Steger, a renowned educator, polar explorer, photographer, writer and lecturer. She immediately thought, "Hey! He should take me!"

Steger was conveniently holding a book signing the next day in Minneapolis, the city where Andre lives, so she prepared a resume and cover letter. At the signing, she walked right up to him, handed him the materials and said she hoped he would consider taking her on his next expedition.

The next day, Steger called to invite Andre out for coffee, where the two chatted about global warming and how to spread the word about it. As it turns out, Steger was in the early stages of devising a vision for the Global Warming 101 project, and he and Andre had



Elizabeth Andre, a Mortar Board member initiated at Iowa State University in 1997, stands with renowned educator and explorer Will Steger as they prepare for their Global Warming 101 expedition.

a lot of the same ideas. After a few hours, Andre was invited to join the expedition as an education coordinator.

Educating the world

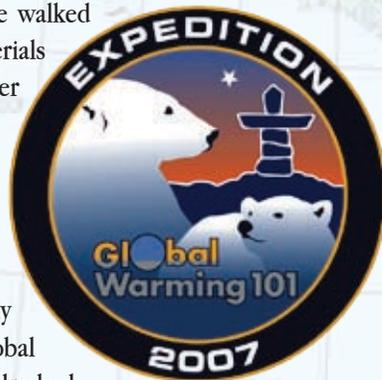
Her position as education coordinator fits Andre like a glove. Because she knew she had to get involved, she explained "I wanted to put my creativity and energy into slowing it through the only way I know – education."

According to Andre, "If current emission trends continue, we could see large sea-level rises, disrupted weather patterns, increased droughts, floods, pests, disease, famine and loss of biodiversity. I truly believe that slowing global warming is the biggest challenge facing humankind."

She is educating others about global warming not only by visiting villages and spreading the word, but by developing K-12 programming, available free of charge on www.globalwarming101.com. Features include lesson plans approved by National Geographic and the Union of Concerned Scientists, discussion starters, classroom activities, an interactive Web forum, ways to get involved and much more.

Will Steger agrees that education is a key part of solving the climate problem. According to Steger, "Global warming is going to dominate the future lives of young people. We have a responsibility to teach them what causes it and where the solutions lie."

Nicole Rom, executive director of the Will Steger Foundation, continues by explaining, "The Will Steger Foundation is dedicated to slowing global warming through education and advocacy. By using Will Steger's eyewitness account and expeditions, we are not only raising awareness about this complex issue but ultimately inspiring and motivating youth, educators, business leaders, elected officials and the general public to take action to alleviate the impact."



The harsh journey

A dog sledding expedition can truly push a person's body to the limit. "Mushing" dogs, or the use of one or more dogs to pull a sled on snow, takes an enormous amount of physical strength. The dogs themselves are 80-90 pounds of muscle, and all they want to do is pull. Steering the sleds is incredibly difficult as well. Andre explains the strenuous process, "I compare it to steering a heavily-loaded shopping cart with broken wheels over gravel."

To add to the strenuous physical drama their bodies go through, the harsh temperatures frequently remain below zero. Unfortunately, these unsympathetic temperatures temporarily forced Andre to leave the expedition due to frostbitten fingers.

Teammate Abby Fenton explained, "She rewarmed them aggressively as soon as she could, but the damage had already been done. An assessment in the morning finalized the decision to evacuate her to base camp." Fortunately, the group was camped close to town and was easily accessible by snowmobile.

Although Andre was disappointed to miss out on a portion of the expedition, it was the only solution to protect her fingers from any more damage. She rejoined the expedition in the next town, Pangnirtung and continued to the village of Qikitarjuag, where she remained at base camp to build the Web site and educational program for the next leg to Clyde River. For the Clyde River leg, Andre will again join the team and complete the expedition with her teammates.

-Alicia Notestone

Elizabeth Andre was initiated as an undergraduate at Iowa State University in 1997. She received a B.A. with honors and distinction in Spanish and international studies from Iowa State University, an M.A. with distinction in outdoor education from Griffith University and is a doctor of philosophy candidate in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in environmental education at the University of Minnesota with an expected graduation date of December 2007. For more information on Global Warming 101, please visit www.globalwarming101.com.



Elizabeth Andre is pictured with one of the 44 dogs that went on the expedition.

What is global warming?

Generally speaking, the term "global warming" refers to an average increase in the temperature of the Earth's atmosphere, which can contribute to changes in global climate patterns. It also often refers to the warming that can occur as a result of increased emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities. However, the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) reports that "the phrase 'climate change' is growing in preferred use to 'global warming' because it helps convey that there are [other] changes in addition to rising temperatures."

The Natural Resources Defense Center (NRDC) reports that carbon dioxide and pollutants are charged with gradually increasing the Earth's temperature by collecting in the atmosphere like a coagulating blanket, trapping the sun's heat and causing the planet to warm. This complex climate change phenomenon is what is known as global warming.

According to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, deforestation and the burning of fossil fuels have caused concentrated amounts of heat-trapping greenhouse gases in our atmosphere to increase significantly over the past 200 years. Despite the necessary nature of greenhouse gases, since they assist in keeping the planet's surface warmer than it would otherwise be, climate models yield predictions that could affect people, plants and animals.

To date, scientists have already observed some changes including sea level rise, shrinking glaciers, changes in the range and distribution of plants and animals, ice on rivers and lakes freezing later and breaking up earlier, lengthening of growing seasons, and trees blooming earlier. It is predicted that if current emission trends continue at this rate, we could see severe droughts, rising sea levels that could lead to coastal flooding on the Eastern seaboard, an increase in pests and potential for more mosquito-borne diseases, and habitat disruption that could lead multiple plant and animal species to extinction.

-Alicia Notestone

Visit www.globalwarming101.com for more information on global warming, common myths about global warming, lesson plans and more.

2006

Annual Report

Overview

The 2006 annual report highlights Mortar Board activities from the period of November 1, 2005 through October 31, 2006. During the year, members and alumni across the nation were able to carry forward the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service:

- 6,398 members were initiated into 214 active, collegiate chapters
- There as a 93 percent acceptance rate of new Mortar Board members
- 55 honorary members were inducted
- 61 gift memberships were granted for those in financial need
- 221 seniors continued membership for a second year
- Alumni chapters numbered 41, with a combined effort of more than 10,000 volunteer hours in communities across the country
- 470 alumni members committed to support Mortar Board through sustaining dues
- To date, there are more than 145 Lifetime Alumni members

The 2006 annual report serves as an affirmation of the founding of Mortar Board in 1918. The ideals of scholarship, leadership and service continue as the common thread through which each member and chapter are able to establish their own unique service projects and develop their own leadership programs and partners, tailored to meet the needs of their own communities.

Executive Director's Message

What a great ride 2005-2006 was. After 20 years of exhaustive work and a lifetime of dedication and commitment to Mortar Board, it was time for the formal retirement of executive director, Diane Selby. As the longest serving paid staff person in the history of Mortar Board, Diane will continue her passion for the organization both in front, as well as behind the scenes, in the strongest sense of the word. I can't tell you how many Mortar Board friends I have spoken to that respond to her retirement with "you certainly have some big shoes to fill." My mother taught me to never ask the shoe size of a lady, but I am curious to see if Diane's shoe size is listed in the Guinness Book of World Records.

Notable organizational changes

Two new full-time staff members were hired in the National Office during 2006 - Megan McGough, assistant executive director for chapter development and Alicia Notestone, communications coordinator. Rachel Kantosky, a National Council student representative, also served as a summer intern.

The Mortar Board National Council wishes to thank Joan Wall and Carrie Eichenberger for their service as devoted members, and welcomed Martha Burns Anderson and Al Fisher as new members of the national leadership team at the 2006 Mortar Board National Conference.

Completion of service for the Mortar Board National Foundation included Jane Merrill as chair and Marilyn Wirtz as a trustee. The National Foundation selected two new trustees, Anne Foltz and Kent Hattery, during the 2005-2006 academic year.

Some programmatic highlights

The "A Matter of Ethics" project continued into the third year, with chapters across the country participating in creating awareness of ethics on campus and throughout their various activities.

Mortar Board chapters completed another successful year of service with the national focus of Reading is Leading. There was a total of almost 50,000 service hours logged by all chapters throughout the year, an increase of 30 percent from the year before.

The Mortar Board National Foundation Fund awarded 12 fellowships in amounts ranging from \$1,500 to \$5,000 to members pursuing graduate or professional degrees (listed below in alphabetical order):

- Sejal Amin, the Ruth Pierle Trosset Fellowship
- Amelia Boone, Zelma Patchin Fellowship
- Yuriy Bronshteyn, the Mortar Board National Foundation Diane Selby Fellowship
- Steven Cohen, Mortar Board National Foundation Fellowship, in honor of Jane Merrill
- Carly Duvall, the Washington State University Mortar Board classes of 1945-1950 Fellowship
- Lindsay (Bailey) Harshman, the Purdue Barbara Cook Fellowship
- Kyle Jones, the Ruth Weimer Mount Fellowship
- Jessica McHugh, the Mary Elizabeth Ramier Fellowship

- Katherina Nikzad, the Katherine Wills Coleman Fellowship
- Daniel Silbiger, the Ellen North Dunlap Fellowship
- Namrita Singh, the Rosemary Ginn Fellowship
- Lauren Weigand, the Mortar Board National Foundation Fellowship in honor of Marilyn Wirtz

The Foundation also granted 20 chapter project grants, totaling \$2,500 to the following (listed in alphabetical order):

- University of Alabama, sponsorship for Teach for America
- University of California - Los Angeles, Honor Society Fair
- Cornell University, Last Lecture series
- Endicott College, calendar sale for HAWC
- Fort Hays State University, sponsorship of an author for Young Readers Conference
- Grinnell College, 5K run benefiting multiple organizations
- University of Hawaii at Manoa, sophomore recognition ceremony
- Illinois State University, hurricane relief book drive
- Kansas State University, scholarship workshop
- Lyon College, LEAP Conference
- University of Minnesota, Africa book drive
- University of Minnesota, dinner for the Ronald McDonald House
- Northern Arizona University, holiday tree lighting and book handout
- Queens University of Charlotte, freshman recognition at honors convocation
- University of Richmond, hurricane relief book drive
- South Dakota State University, hurricane relief book drive
- University of South Florida, Storybook Forest
- University of Texas - El Paso, Adopt A Border Clinic
- University of Vermont, dinner for Ronald McDonald House
- University of Washington, fundraising for endowed campus scholarship

One new chapter was added to the Mortar Board family – Washburn University. By October 31, 2006, Mortar Board had installed 222 chapters.

Merchandise sales and distribution of branded products continue to climb.

Diane Selby served her final term as the Mortar Board representative and president of the Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS).

The Historical Publication Committee continued to work throughout the year, researching and planning for the anticipated printing of the first published history of Mortar Board.

Here is looking forward to an even more successful year!



Jon Cook
Executive Director

Wish List

The Mortar Board National Office operates very efficiently with a minimal amount allocated to administrative resources and overhead. If you can assist with making any of wishes come true, please let us know.

Mortar Board National Office wish list:

- Expertise and knowledge in the following areas (both of which do not have to work on site)
 - Web programming and database assistance, including the development of new online forms and integration into the current database
 - Development and grant-writing skills and assistance with research and writing of proposals for priority projects within the organization
- One new laptop computer
- Digital projector
- Incentive items to be given away on the Web site for e-mail list sign-ups, such as trips, MP3 players, auto leases, backpack/bags, etc.
- Paper stock
- Microwave
- Small refrigerator with freezer
- Surplus airline miles - to be used for chapter visits, alumni events and staff travel
- Generous hosts/hostess and meeting space for alumni and chapter gatherings in areas such as the West coast, Midwest and East
- Office furniture
 - Occasional (meeting) chairs
 - Coffee tables
 - Lamps

Enhanced Member Benefits

Mortar Board is pleased to announce two new benefits of membership: GEICO discount auto insurance program and the Student Trust loan consolidation program.

Both partners offer an excellent opportunity for members and alumni to obtain discounted products and services. They have also afforded the Mortar Board National Foundation to significantly impact the quantity and the size of fellowships awarded to our members, as well as provide generous support for programming. Visit the member benefits page at www.mortarboard.org for more information.

Annual Financial Position

November 1, 2005 - October 31, 2006

Mortar Board, Inc.

Revenue

Membership Dues	\$382,404
Contributions/Grants	\$2,600
Other	\$6,150
Investment Income	\$46,174
Subtotal	\$492,986

Expenses

Programs	\$360,951
Management	\$59,812
Fundraising	\$31,899
Subtotal	\$420,763

Total Assets

Unrestricted	\$680,421
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Mortar Board, Inc. was founded in 1918. It is incorporated in the state of Indiana and is a recognized non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

Mortar Board National Foundation Fund

Revenue

Fees	\$45,658
Contributions/Grants	\$70,252
Other	\$58,296
Investment Income	\$99,948
Subtotal	\$228,496

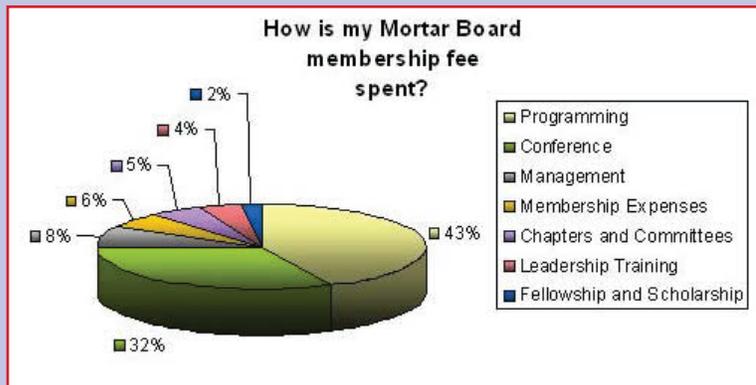
Expenses

Programs	\$67,984
Management	\$29,190
Fundraising	\$31,899
Subtotal	\$129,073

Total Assets

Unrestricted	\$115,583
Temporarily Restricted	\$253,128
Restricted	\$525,345

The Mortar Board National Foundation Fund was established in 1955 to award graduate fellowships and university chapter grants and to support the programmatic mission of Mortar Board, Inc.



Permanently Endowed Funds (minimum of \$30,000):

- Washington State University Classes of 1945-1950
- Ruth Weimer Mount
- Katherine Wills Coleman
- Mary Elizabeth Ramier
- Mortar Board Inc.
- Gail Harrison Corvette Leadership Fund
- Ellen North Dunlap
- Zelma Patchin

Other fellowships governed by agreement:

- Mortar Board, Inc. (2 percent of new membership fees)
- Purdue Chapter Fellowship in honor of Barbara Cook

Temporarily restricted funds:

Tolo Foundation

Mortar Board, Inc., 4 percent of dues to leadership initiatives

Thank you, donors!

Thank you to those who generously supported Mortar Board from the period January 1, 2006 - December 31, 2006.

Auburn University

Elizabeth Godbold
Ruby Pierce
Nancy Williams

Agnes Scott College

Ellen Brumfield

The University of Alabama

Lane Nestman

University of Arkansas

Barbara Cook °

Arizona State University

Jeanne Herberger *

Augustana College

Judith Kuhagen

University of Arizona

Kathleen Curley

Beloit College

Gary Cox

Birmingham-Southern College

Marlene Taylor

Bradley University

Kristin Ladewig

Bucknell University

Julie Anne Grow Denton

California Polytechnic State University

Jonathan Savage

University of California - Los Angeles

Michelle Benham
Bonnie Nidever
Margaret Rosato

University of California - Santa Barbara

Angela West

Case Western Reserve University

Elijah Petersen *

University of Cincinnati

Suzanne Gerstl
Laura Nusekabel
Esther Vontz

Colorado State University

Barbara Joyce
Ann Yates

The University of Connecticut

Margaret Murray Hinkle

Cornell University

Mary Jo Coe °
Sandra Fromm
Doris Oniskey
Kathryn Shaw

Denison University

Ruth Decker
Angela Seaworth
Jo Anne Trow

DePauw University

Phyllis Nicholas

The University of Denver

Doris Finnie
Verna Goral
Andrea Richardson

Eastern Kentucky University

Kent Hattery

Georgia State University

Lisa Anne Sowell

Hope College

Kathleen M Hurld

University of Idaho

Clarice Rainey
Cherrie Tankersley

Idaho State University

Anne L. Christie

University of Illinois

Rochelle Elliott
Phyllis LeMar

Indiana State University

William Niederer °

The University of Iowa

Duane Spriesterbach
Marilyn Wirtz °

Kansas State University

Emily Meissen
Martha Starling *

The University of Kansas

Betty Van Der Smissen

University of Kentucky

Helen McBride

University of Mary Washington

Dawn Sinka
Brian Vaccaro

University of Maryland

Jane Degrafft
Andrea Lev
Shauna Paylor

The University of Miami

Marc O'Connor

Michigan State University

Doris Ponitz
Nelda Stuck

Mississippi College

Tammy Bennett

University of Mississippi

Mary Lynn Kotz

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WAIT! Don't forget to take a moment and tell Mortar Board about yourself! On a separate sheet of paper, let us know what you do for a living, what you do for fun and any other information that might help us get reacquainted.

Donations may be also be made by phone at 1-800-989-6266

Your help is treasured



Donations made to Mortar Board make it possible for members to receive fellowships to help offset the cost of a post-graduate education, assist in keeping conference fees low, create funding for chapter projects and more. Please continue to help Mortar Board grow by donating today.

Thank you.

Rising GPAs: is this grade inflation?

According to recent studies, grade point averages across the nation are on the rise. A 2002 study by Stuart Rojstaczer analyzed grades at approximately 80 private and public institutions, showing that the average undergraduate GPA rose between .06 and .3 points per decade, with an average rate of .146 points per decade. In fact, institutions have come forward and are working to make a change. Leading universities, including Harvard and Princeton, have publicly stated that grades are on the rise and have begun efforts to distinguish the truly exceptional student from the masses.

The facts

Although grades have risen, the rise has not been all-encompassing. Some disciplines or schools grade more stringently, putting some students at a disadvantage as they graduate, look for jobs and apply for post-graduate programs. For example, increasing grades that are considered to be “inflated” by some are more pronounced in humanities than mathematical sciences. Some believe this makes it easier to get an A in humanities than in mathematical sciences, which can lead to students choosing to take fewer classes in the mathematical field that could prove to be beneficial to them in the future.

Some researchers claim that there isn't actually a legitimate rise in the overall GPA. Department of Education analyst Clifford Adelman, a cultural historian and former college instructor, claims that critics of grading are essentially “reading tarot cards.” His studies examined grades from 3,000 institutions from two time periods: 1972 through

1984 and 1982 to 1993. He found that when increasing enrollment is taken into consideration, it appears that grades actually went down. For the second time period he analyzed, 35 percent more students entered the higher education system, resulting in what he compares to a marathon – when fewer elite runners and more average runners are involved, the average time decreased.

A 2002 study shows grades are rising approximately .146 points per decade.

Mortar Board staff recently contacted universities where there are chapters and found interesting results. Although there are no old GPAs to which we can compare present statistics, the organization's GPA standard, set in 1918, is a good reference point. At that time, the founding members decided to set a standard of the top 35 percent of the junior class, or a “straight ‘B’ average,” whichever is higher.

Today, a “B” average is typically a 3.0. Results obtained from 61 universities showed that the most recent overall undergraduate GPA was 3.0208, higher than a B average. Even higher was the top 35 percent of the GPA cut-off point at 3.4382, averaged among the 52 universities providing this data. Mortar Board chapters, however, are setting their GPA standard between the two, averaging 3.26.

Why?

There has been much debate as to the reason for the increasing grades – are students better prepared for college? Are the grades unjustly inflated? Is it because students are taking fewer general



Spotlight on scholarship

courses and more courses in their major area, their “comfort zone,” or are they simply more motivated?

It has been argued that grade inflation, the increasing shift in GPAs without reflecting a rise in actual achievement, is to blame. Advocates of this belief cite the 1960s as the problem child, when failing students were at risk of being drafted into the Vietnam War. Professors who used to give out low grades like candy suddenly became sympathetic and got more lenient, as low grades literally could be a life or death matter.

However, there are numerous alternatives that could also be the culprit. For example, alternative theories explain that more schools offer pass/fail options, leading to a higher overall GPA. Additionally, career-driven students focus their efforts on classes that match their talents, in which they are more likely to perform better.

Yet another theory is that computers and Internet use have made both research and revising work simpler, which can lead to higher grades. There are many potential causes in the land of rising GPAs, which some have deemed the leading higher education scandal of our time.

Is it a problem?

If students are simply getting better grades, what is the problem? The problem lies in the fact that it has become more and more difficult to differentiate between the average student and the extraordinary student, a responsibility that continually lies on the professors. When students apply for jobs, graduate or professional schools, specialists look to those grades to determine the quality of the candidate. Unfortunately, if all the candidates have the same high grade, it becomes increasingly complicated to tell who is truly outstanding.

Some say that grades looking the way they do is good, because the point of an education is to learn and understand all the material. If the grades look “normal,” like a Bell curve, at the end of a term, that could actually be construed as a sign of failure to teach well.



Is there a solution?

Solutions to help separate the students vary. For example, students could be required to take more general coursework that can benefit them and take them out of their cozy major classes.

Another solution is devising detailed “master” syllabi and an explicit curriculum to be used for grading in multi-section courses to make it easier to assign a student a grade. Additionally, post-graduate testing such as the MCAT, LSAT, GMAT and GRE can be examined to measure a student’s undergraduate success.

Some schools have attempted to “deflate” their grades, by methods such as limiting the number of certain grades that can be distributed, such as at Princeton, or adjusting the GPA calculation to narrow the A-/B+ gap, like at Harvard.

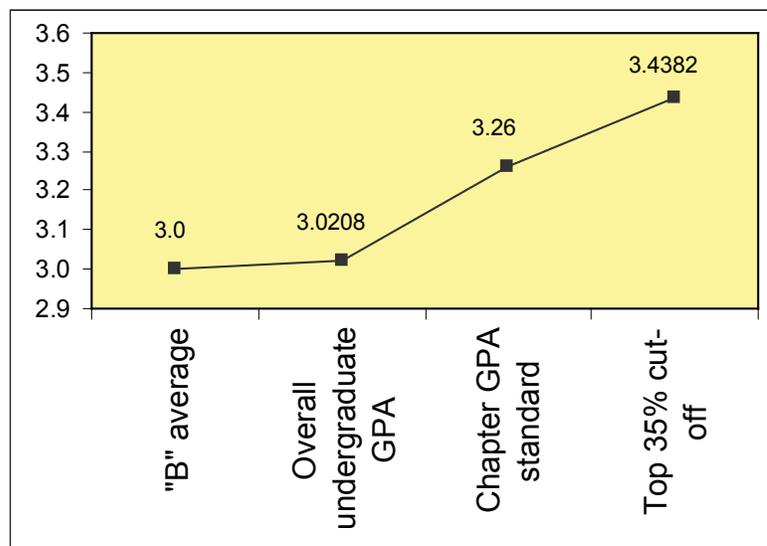
Stephen Forrest, an administrator at the Division of Enrollment Services at Southern Methodist University thinks that GPAs are rising due to one of three reasons – easier curricula, lenient grading or harder-working students. His solution? “You set a curriculum. You grade fairly and with consistency. You continually audit classes and instructors. If every student learns all that they were asked to learn in a class, then why can’t every student receive an ‘A’?”

Other solutions are slightly more unconventional, including abolishing grades altogether. The New College of Florida (NCF) in Sarasota has sent grades by the wayside, instead opting for a one- to three-page evaluation students receive from their instructors at the end of the semester. Evergreen State College in Washington takes a similar approach, giving students evaluations for each piece of work rather than grades.

The bottom line is that even if it is a result of more students being enrolled, the average GPA is rising. Whether they are inflated or students actually deserve the grades they are getting, it does pose a problem for those hiring recent graduates or selecting them for graduate programs.

-Alicia Notestone

Got an opinion on grade inflation? Send us a letter to the editor or post your thoughts at www.mbtalk.org.



Mortar Board observed grades at universities where chapters are hosted. Results shown above average 61 university overall undergraduate GPAs, 114 chapter GPA standards and 52 cut-off points for the top 35% of the junior class.

Mortar Board: the gender evolution

As the story goes, Mortar Board's history began when two women – one from Swarthmore College and the other from The Ohio State University – crossed paths on the campus of the University of Chicago. It was 1915, a time when men drastically outnumbered women in college enrollment and women weren't yet permitted to vote.

These two women wore similar pins in the shape of a mortarboard. Through discussion, they realized that each pin represented an honor society for women. These societies had similar election methods, operating procedures, ideals and traditions. The only difference was their names. An idea was born.

A few years later, in 1918, a founding meeting was held. Representatives from Cornell University, The University of Michigan, The Ohio State University and Swarthmore College all decided to join to form a national honor society for senior college women - the representative from Syracuse University chose not to become a part of the organization. At this time, the organization officially went unnamed.

As time passed, members began to refer to the organization as "Mortar Board," the same name as the local organization at Ohio State, in memos and informal notes. At the second national convention in 1919, "Mortar Board" was voted on to become the official name. After, in 1937, Mortar Board became the first organization of its kind to be recognized by the prestigious Association of College Honor Societies. It was the first organization entirely composed of women to be invited to become a member at this time.

Women were selected into the society based on their achievements in scholarship, leadership and service – just like today. Another similarity to today's chapters is that their projects and ideas focused more on issues of the current times. For instance, in the late '50s, common discussions and projects centered on women as leaders on the campus and community, as well as concerns women had with higher education. In the early '60s,

some common themes were communism, women in the armed forces and women in politics.

Along with the inception of Title IX in the '70s, an equal rights measure for higher education, Mortar Board revisited the gender standard that had been decided years ago. Upon their first vote in 1973, they chose to continue to be an organization strictly for women. However, in 1975, the members decided to open up membership to men. A similar organization, Omicron Delta Kappa, previously a society strictly for men, opened its membership to women in 1974.

Since that decision, men have held some of the highest governing positions and honors in Mortar Board, including National Council president, National Foundation chair and executive director. Additionally, Mortar Board has awarded honorary membership to several distinguished men, including former President Jimmy Carter, Vice President Dick Cheney, former mayor of New York City Rudolph Giuliani, and professional cyclist and philanthropist Lance Armstrong, among numerous others.

Today, both men and women are vital to the success of Mortar Board.

-Alicia Notestone

Contribute your MB history

The first written history of Mortar Board is in the initial research stages, and once finalized will tell the story of the organization as a whole. The hardcover book will feature the history of individual collegiate chapters, the national organization, alumni chapters and exemplary members.

The Historical Publication Committee is trying to get their hands on every bit of Mortar Board history they can find, from personal memoirs to reminiscent photos. Members can help by sharing any memories they have about their experiences or chapters with the committee.

Additionally, the committee is now accepting suggestions for the name of this commemorative book.

Please send any information you have to committee chair Martha Tykodi at:
4932 York Road SW
Pataskala, OH 43062
tykodi@columbus.rr.com



Representatives from Cornell University, The University of Michigan, The Ohio State University, Swarthmore College and Syracuse University stand together before entering the founding meeting of Mortar Board on February 15, 1918.

Hypatia chapter collects books for Africa

This fall, the University of Alabama Hypatia chapter partnered with Better World Books to run a textbook drive on campus to benefit Books for Africa. The project was broken into two phases. Phase one targeted the faculty and staff of the university. Deans of all 13 academic programs were contacted to help with the program. Enthusiastically, the deans responded and were eager to help in any way possible. The project was sent into motion. Throughout the month of November, collection bins were placed in departmental offices around campus to collect the textbooks. Hypatia chapter members were assigned collections bins to monitor for each week. At the end of each week, the bins were collected and sent to Better World Books. At the end of phase one, 26 boxes of books had been sent to support literacy efforts across the African continent.



A member prepares for the book drive.

After the successful completion of phase one, the Mortar Board members kicked their project into high gear with the second phase of the project, targeting the university's largest population: students. The month of December was dedicated to collecting textbooks from them. The Hypatia chapter worked closely with the university supply store in making the book drive a success. The members filled box after box with books; each one supporting the cause.

Overall, the book drive was a success for the Hypatia chapter. The Mortar Board name was heard loud and clear across campus. The administration was impressed by the efforts that the members put into their project. Even greater was the impact the chapter had on literacy efforts in Africa. Each book donated and every box sent ultimately has a greater impact that the chapter may never see.

Submitted by Robert Boylan (Vice President, Hypatia chapter)

EDITOR'S NOTE: Did you know Mortar Board is currently a partner of Better World Books? We are excited to announce this new literacy partnership. In just the past four years, drives for Better World Books on campuses across the country have raised over \$2 million for global literacy, saved over 8 million pounds of books from landfills, and directly sent over 460,000 books to literacy partners.

Drury University hosts successful book drive

The Drury University chapter hosted an amazing children's book drive to benefit a crisis intervention home located locally in Springfield. The turnout for the book drive was great. In order to gain visibility, the chapter placed posters at the same high traffic locations that our donation boxes were placed. This accomplished thanking everyone for their donations and raising awareness of future Mortar Board activities on campus.

Submitted by the Drury University chapter

Imaginative treats for membership at Oklahoma State

At Oklahoma State University this year, the chapter decided to go with the "You were 'mint' to be in Mortar Board" idea, using Junior Mints. They distributed small boxes of Junior Mints, each with a small flier attached including information about what Mortar Board is and the Web site where the membership applications can be found. In addition to the Junior Mints, the chapter decided to hand out lollipops. Using a custom candy Web site, the chapter purchased 1,000 red lollipops with a heart printed on the candy and "I love Mortar Board" printed on the stick.

Submitted by Natalie Trent (Vice President, Achfoa chapter)

University of Denver chapter participates in continuing Garden of the Gods tradition

The University of Denver Mortar Board Kedros chapter in Section 22 is committed to scholarship, leadership and service. Members demonstrate these Mortar Board principles throughout the school year with their varied community projects. On "Make a Difference Day" (October 28, 2006), the DU Kedros chapter volunteered at Garden of the Gods in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Along with Mortar Board chapters from around the state that make up Section 22, DU students worked to maintain the trails and overall ecosystem of this national park. Garden of the Gods welcomes about 1.7 million visitors every year with its spectacular views and fascinating history. The DU chapter assisted non-profit environmental groups and the city of Colorado Springs to keep this park in excellent condition.



Two members from DU work to beautify the Garden of the Gods.

Submitted by Monica Everhart (Historian, Kedros chapter)

University of Pittsburgh chapter creatively gains visibility

The University of Pittsburgh's Mortar Board chapter held a Finals Week Care Package fundraiser during December. Several members of the honor society created small packages with snacks, school supplies, and toys to help students get through the stress of preparing for finals. Packages were sold throughout the entire week inside freshman dorms. The chapter chose this fundraiser as a means of increasing Mortar Board's recognition as member selection time was approaching, as well as assisting students through the hardest week of the semester. Proceeds from this fundraiser will assist the University of Pittsburgh's 2007-2008 Mortar Board chapter in increasing its presence on Pittsburgh's campus.

Submitted by Jessica Vastyan (Director of Communications, Alpha Lambda Nu chapter)

Last Lecture Time at Puget Sound

The Otlah Chapter recently honored retiring professor Suzanne Barnett, who had been on the history department faculty for 34 years, by inviting her to participate in the Last Lecture program. Last Lecture is designed to honor outstanding faculty by giving them an opportunity to give a lecture as if it were their last. Professor Barnett did just that, speaking to an audience of about seventy friends, Mortar Board members, and students for well over an hour about the professor's role in creating independently motivated students, then staying to answer questions from her audience.

Submitted by Matthew Franke (Communications Chair, Otlah chapter)

It's a busy year at the University of South Alabama

The USA chapter of Mortar Board held several successful philanthropic events during the summer and fall semesters of 2006. The first event was a blood drive co-sponsored by the Red Cross that took place in July. The majority of events, however, were held during the fall semester.

The biggest fall semester event was a book drive in which all Mortar Board members trick-or-treated for children's books close to Halloween. In addition to trick-or-treating, members spent a Saturday morning collecting books outside Books-A-Million at a local mall. Overall, more than 1,100 books were collected and donated to area schools damaged by Hurricane Katrina, including Tanner Williams School, St. Mary's Home, and to the Boys and Girls Club.

The chapter also held a canned food drive outside of a local Winn-Dixie supermarket. More than 200 cans were donated and dropped off at the Bay Area Food Bank. The canned food drive got media attention as the local Channel 15 news did a short story on it in which Brandi Criscione, our president, appeared.

We finished off the fall semester by throwing a Christmas party at St. Mary's Home. The children got Christmas presents donated by the members, ate pizza, took pictures with Santa, and made ornaments.

Additionally, two of our chapter's members ran for homecoming queen and king in the University of South Alabama's 2007 homecoming events. The members, Holly Peek (the chapter's vice president), and Brandon Taylor (the social chairman), campaigned independently and were crowned queen and king, respectively.



Holly Peek and Brandon Taylor, homecoming king and queen at USA.

Submitted by (Satiar Shirazi, Director of Communications, Gold Key chapter)

Wake Forest chapter supports Reading is Leading initiative

The Tassels chapter of Mortar Board at Wake Forest University hosted a book drive on campus and in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, and collected more than 400 books to donate to our local elementary schools.

Submitted by Kendra Goodson (President, Tassels chapter)

CMU sweetens Valentine's Day for Big Brothers/Big Sisters

Cookies and frosting, face paint and hearts, games and prizes. All of these things and more could be found at the Valentine's Day party that Central Michigan University's chapter of Mortar Board put on for their local chapter of Big Brothers/Big Sisters. Together with the school's Family Relations Council, the group put on a fun-filled hour of activities, games and most of all, fun for the kids.

Upon arrival, the children began decorating heart-shaped cookies with frosting and sprinkles and even letters! What was more fun than creating these cookies? Eating them! When some finished decorating sooner than others, they stepped in line for face painting! Having quite the artist among the troops, the children were able to choose from a variety of fun pictures beyond a basic heart. Staying with the spirit, there was a heart with an arrow, a heart with shoes, but other choices such as a soccer ball, a snake or even a crown were some of the items! Upon getting settled in their seats again, the children participated in many rounds of BINGO! The unique bingo cards had the word HEART spelled out across the top instead of the usual BINGO to add to the theme. And the prize? The COMPLETE set of Harry Potter books! Everyone had a chance to win at least once, getting the prize of a sparkly pencil along with a cool eraser! But even that's not all! As everyone was exiting, they picked up a red-heart decorated goodie bag. These bags included candy (of course), small valentine games, a valentine signed by both Mortar Board and the Family Relations Council, a cupcake, stickers, a cute and cuddly stuffed animal and a balloon! In each bag, there was also a book, going along with our national philanthropy, "Reading is Leading." There was nothing but smiles leaving the room, as a little boy shared with his mother that this was his best Valentine's Day ever. I think everyone agreed.

Submitted by Samantha Pleva (Historian, Aurum et Argentum chapter)

SDSU launches new project: Pennies for Peace

The San Diego State University Chapter of Mortar Board is collecting pennies to help build elementary schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan.



All donations will go to the Central Asia Institute (CAI) whose sole mission is: "To promote and provide community-based education and literacy programs, especially for girls, in remote mountain regions of Central Asia."

The Pennies for Peace project has been inspired by the book by

Greg Mortenson and David Relin, "Three Cups of Tea." It is available in a paperback edition issued January 30, 2007. Samantha Spilka, president of the Cap & Gown chapter, wants the students of San Diego State to collaborate in a venture to establish a school in a village in Pakistan or Afghanistan that would give children (both boys and girls) a chance for an education which does not presently exist.

According to Samantha, "If students, faculty, and staff at San Diego State, can raise a total of 600,000 pennies (\$6,000), we can pay half the cost of one of these village schools. Assuming a donor base of around thirty-four thousand students, this amounts to no more than eighteen cents each."

The Mortar Board chapter believes this is a valuable project for the students at SDSU since they are going to live in a global society. One of the ways for students to learn what that means is to engage in activities that are global in their consequences. Classroom exposure to what is required as appropriate behavior in a global society is supplemented by action programs. This can be a step that builds on the base already existing at San Diego State for international study.

Pennies for Peace is directly related to furthering education wherever it is needed. A continuing expansion of education throughout the world is surely the last best hope of the species. In participating in this project, the chapter is instilling strong values into all of the students who will hopefully be inspired upon leaving SDSU to go out and make their own contribution in the world. For more information, please visit: www.penniesforpeace.org.

Submitted by Jane Smith (Advisor, Cap & Gown chapter)

University of Redlands helps create soothing garden

The W.E.B.S. chapter, which stands for "Wisdom, Excellence, Belief and Service," lent its support to a university-wide project to build a community garden on campus.

Redlands students helped the Office of Community Service Learning design a garden space behind the university administration building. The garden is complete with a 45-foot stream and a koi pond.



A man relaxes on a bench at the garden dedication ceremony.

The Mortar Board chapter and the Will J. Reid Foundation donated curbing and plants. The garden site was dedicated in October 2006 as the LaFourcade Community Garden. It took hundreds of hours from student and community volunteers to realize this space and our chapter members are proud to be a part of its success. The garden is an ideal gathering point for classes, student meetings, concerts, and reflection time for the University community.

Submitted by Michelle-Marie Gilkeson (Director of Communications, W.E.B.S. chapter)

Highlights from Ohio State University

It has been a busy quarter for The Ohio State University chapter of Mortar Board, and here are just two event highlights:

Helping Hamilton

Exercising our dedication to the "Reading is Leading" project, at least 20 Mortar Board members volunteered three to five hours per week as tutors at Hamilton Elementary School.

"Tutoring at Hamilton is one of the highlights of our week – it gets us off campus and away from the stress of school and work for a few hours," says Amanda Marquardt, Mortar Board-Hamilton liaison. "It may not always be easy, but it is always, always rewarding."

Amanda schedules Mortar Board members with tutoring times at the school where teachers are always requesting more helpers - a sign of program success.

"It's amazing how much progress a child can make in ten weeks, even if it's only for an hour or so for two afternoons a week," said Marquardt.

Recognizing Faculty

On February 27, Mortar Board and Sphinx, both senior honor societies, hosted their 18th Annual Faculty and Staff Reception, honoring faculty dedication to enhancing the student experience.

"The reception was a big hit this year," said Mortar Board President Evan Terry. "It was a wonderful opportunity to mingle and show appreciation for our mentors outside the academic setting."



The Mabel G. Freeman chapter President Evan Terry and Ohio State President Karen Holbrook at the faculty reception.

University President Karen Holbrook and Provost Barbara Snyder made a special appearance at the event, and Mr. John Mount presented the John T. and Ruth Weimer Mount Award to our very own Rich Hollingsworth! Rich's dedication to students through his position as Vice President of Student Affairs and as a faculty advisor to our chapter of Mortar Board is exemplary, and we congratulate him for this well-deserved honor.

Submitted by Amanda Williams (Communications Director, Mabel G. Freeman chapter)

Mortar Board: a university tradition

The University of Missouri - Columbia (Mizzou) held its 80th Annual Tap Day on April 20, 2007, the historic ceremony where six secret societies reveal their new taps to the public. The Friars Chapter of Mortar Board is one such society, and one of two co-ed undergraduate societies that accept members by application.

The ceremony begins as members of all societies process from the campus's main academic building onto the quad, where family members notified in advance of the tap await the announcements. An orchestra plays music as the taps walk down in parallel lines toward the center of the quad, dressed in full academic regalia, hooded to

conceal their identities. Because they cannot see, they walk hands over shoulders, led by marshals selected by each group.

As the parallel processions reach the center of the quad, they each turn ninety degrees and file into their respective societies, facing the audience, with their backs to five historic columns – the remnants of Mizzou’s original Academic Hall.

After speeches by the chancellor and the president of the university, members accomplishments are recited, and one by one, their identities are revealed as each new member’s hood is removed by a member of the previous class. Mizzou’s Tap Day ceremony not only makes Mortar Board more special for its members, but makes it an integral component of one of our university’s finest traditions.

Submitted by Jack Soltysik (Director of Communications, Friars chapter)

Tulane swaps administration and students

The Tulane University chapter conjured up a way to create visibility and have fun with their first Mortar Board Administrative Super Swap. The concept was easy: students are invited to purchase \$2 raffle tickets and enter to win the chance to switch places with one of three Tulane administrators for a day. The winning students were able to swap roles and serve as administrators for the day, while administrators attended some of their classes.

This successful event was spearheaded by senior twin sisters Leslie and Lisa Frankel. Leslie learned about the idea of “Super Swaps” at last year’s national conference, and hopes it will become an annual tradition at Tulane. This Super Swap was held to raise funds for Cafe Reconcile, an organization that provides restaurant training for at-risk teens and young adults in New Orleans.

Submitted by Lisa Frankel (Treasurer/Philanthropy Chair, Alpha Sigma Sigma chapter)



Raffle winner sophomore April Lyn Pitts, left, takes her spot behind Tulane University President Scott Cowen’s desk. (Photo courtesy of Kathryn Hobgood, Tulane University communications department)

Purdue executes a year packed with great events

The Barbara Cook chapter at Purdue University celebrated their 80th anniversary with numerous successful events.

The annual Women of Purdue Reception honored Dean of the College of Engineering Leah Jamieson and women’s basketball coach Sharon Versyp, and was a huge honor for the distinguished women as well as the chapter members.

The chapter continued a long-standing tradition with their 18th Annual Mortar Board Leadership Conference in January, headed up by conference co-chairs Amy Penner and Ben Leu. More than 400 Purdue students were invited to spend the day together learning about the importance of a variety of topics and enjoying keynote speeches from university President Martin C. Jischke, Agilent Technologies, Inc. Vice President and Chief Learning Officer Teresa Roche, and the CEO of SNOCAP, Inc. Rusty Rueff, a 1984 alumni of the Purdue Mortar Board chapter.

Additionally, the chapter held the Freshman Scholar Athlete Banquet to recognize freshman athletes who have shown great academic achievements. Chapter member Eric Hodgman, captain of the Purdue men’s tennis team, gave a very inspirational speech at the ceremony.

At the March Reading Extravaganza, 682 first and second grade students attended – the most this time-honored event has ever hosted! The event, chaired by Amanda Kavanaugh, featured drama lessons, science experiments and read-alouds with guest readers including Purdue quarterback Curtis Painter and West Lafayette Mayor Jan Mills, among others.

Submitted by the Purdue University Barbara Cook chapter

Congratulations to our chapters celebrating anniversaries!

5th Anniversary
The Colorado College chapter of Mortar Board

10th Anniversary
Indiana University of Pennsylvania Sutton chapter

25th Anniversary
Indiana State University Pamarista chapter

50th Anniversary
Chatham College Hood & Tassel chapter
Texas Tech University Forum chapter

75th Anniversary
University of Cincinnati Mystic Thirteen chapter
University of North Dakota Quo Vadis chapter
Southern Methodist University Decima chapter

Roberta Loufek (Northern Arizona University, initiated 2005) was selected to be on the Board of Directors for the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) as a director and chair of the Community Health Committee. Loufek served as both chapter president and membership chairperson in her two years as a member of the Northern Arizona University chapter.

Peter Rizzo (State University of New York at Buffalo, 2006) was the first student at his university, and only one of 80 students in the U.S., to receive a prestigious Morris K. Udall Undergraduate Scholarship. Rizzo, an English major and environmental design minor, also founded the Partnership for Progress – an initiative created to increase student involvement in local government. Rizzo is the youngest appointed official on both the Town of Tonawanda Commission for Conservation of the Environment and the board of directors of the New York State Association of Conservation Commissions.

Julye Johns (University of South Carolina, 1995) was named partner of Huff, Powell & Bailey, LLC. Johns joined the firm as an associate in July 2004 and largely focuses her practice on health care litigation and the defense of professional liability lawsuits. Members of the legal community recognized Johns' talent and selected her as a "Rising Star" in the 2005 and 2006 Georgia Super Lawyers listing published by *Atlanta Magazine*. Johns dedicates her time to several professional and community organizations, including the American Bar Association, the State Bar of Georgia, the Atlanta Bar Association, the Defense Research Institute and the Lawyers Club of Atlanta. She also served as a barrister in the Lumpkin American Inn of Court. For the past six years she has served as a Guardian ad Litem with the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation. Additionally, Johns is a member of the Junior League of Atlanta and also serves on the Judicial Citizen Review Panel for the Fulton County Juvenile Court.



Ann Merrill (The Ohio State University, 1993) is now a United Nations volunteer. She is able to work as a community development specialist in Chernobyl, site of the 1986 explosion at a nuclear power plant that contaminated the surrounding area. She recently visited The Ohio State University, where she received both her bachelor's and master's degrees, to speak to students about careers in international volunteerism.

Gary Cox (Beloit College, 1988) recently graduated from Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. He has since began working at a Hispanic church, Iglesia Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, and has been ordained as a priest in the Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Chicago.

Liz Lehmann (Purdue University, 2007) was the first female to ever win first place at the 50th Purdue Grand Prix go-kart race.

Laura Simic (University of Oregon, 1985), associate vice chancellor of development and secretary of the University of North Carolina Charlotte Foundation, was honored with the Outstanding Professional Fundraising Executive of the Year Award. The award was presented by the Charlotte chapter of the Association of Fundraising Professionals (AFP) on the association's National Philanthropy Day. This award is reserved for organizations and individuals whose charitable leadership has changed and inspired the community.

Eulalee Anderson (The University of Oklahoma, 1939) was awarded an International Friendship award at Eastern Illinois University. Additionally, the Eulalee Anderson Fund for International Students has been developed in her honor, with scholarships available for full-time undergraduate and graduate students at EIU. Additionally, Anderson was granted an honorary PhD for her volunteer service from EIU in 2001.

Numerous Mortar Board members have recently been named recipients of distinguished and prestigious scholarships and awards:

2007 Truman Scholars

Phillip Adam Harbison (University of Alabama, 2007)
Shadrack Tucker White (University of Mississippi, 2007)

2007 USA TODAY Academic All-Stars

First team

Yoonhee Patricia Ha (The Ohio State University, 2005)
Lori Scardino (University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, 2006)

Second team

Charles (Will) Carspecken (University of Denver, 2005)
Jennifer Phillips (University of Alabama, 2006)
Sarah Smith (Colorado State University, 2005)

Third team

Stacia Berry (University of Wyoming, 2007)
Emily Rasmussen (Occidental College, 2006)

Honorable mention

Katie Boyd (University of Alabama, 2006)
Pegah Javidpour (University of Texas at Austin, 2006)
Emily Snodgrass (University of Nebraska - Lincoln, 2005)
John Stephen Gosnell (Clemson University, 2005)
Anastasia Tolos (Vanderbilt University, 2006)
Kristi Wilcox (University of Alabama, 2006)

2007 Marshall Scholars

William Clarke (University of California - Los Angeles, 2005)
Aaron Eske (University of Nebraska - Lincoln, 2004)
Yoonhee Patricia Ha (The Ohio State University, 2005)
Colin Koproske (University of Southern California, 2006)

2007 Rhodes Scholars

Shaan-Chirag C. Gandhi (Case Western Reserve University, 2005)
Michelle M. Sikes (Wake Forest University, 2006)

Merchandise can make a great gift

Mortar Board merchandise can make a wonderful graduation or initiation gift for a friend or loved one, and can be used to show appreciation for chapter officers or advisors. Check out all of the amazing merchandise Mortar Board has to offer at www.mortarboard.org.

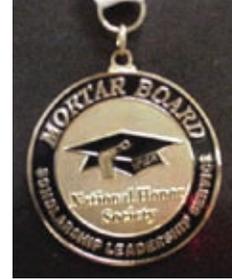


Embroidered navy t-shirt

100% cotton; navy with embroidered green and white logo

Sizes: S, M, L, XL

\$15



Medallion

\$15



Cords

Available in single-strand or interlaced gold and silver

\$15



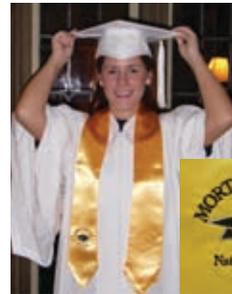
Classic tee

50% cotton, 50% polyester shirt with Mortar Board logo on front

Colors: Gray, Stonewash Blue

Sizes: S, M, L, XL

\$11



Stole

\$20



Embroidered navy sweatshirt

80% cotton, 20% polyester, navy with embroidery in white, gold and green;

Sizes: S, M, L, XL

\$40

Clearance

Polo shirt

Forest green pique cotton polo shirt with cream, navy and maroon embroidered logo

Size: XL

~~\$30~~ Now only \$18!



Tote bag

Carry books, gym clothes and more in this large 15 1/2" by 15" black cotton Mortar Board tote.

\$6

Gray sweatshirt

88% cotton, 12% polyester; crew neck; black and red logo on gray shirt

Size: XL

~~\$30~~ Now only \$15!



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