



MORTAR BOARD FORUM

Spring 2008

Vol. 38

Issue No. 2



Mortar Board chapters in full bloom

Two new chapters welcomed

Updates from across the nation

Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society

Scholars...Chosen for Leadership...United to Serve

MORTAR BOARD FORUM

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**Stay in touch with
Mortar Board regularly**

Visit www.mortarboard.org to sign up for Mortar Board's e-newsletters, delivered via e-mail straight to your inbox — paper-free and ready to read at your convenience! Whether you want to receive Collegiate News, Alumni News, periodic merchandise offers, or messages from our partners is up to you!



Over the past 90 years, Mortar Board has evolved from a chance encounter in 1915 into the prestigious national honor society it is today.

In the time that I have been involved in Mortar Board, I have witnessed some dramatic changes. When I was a collegiate member, Mortar Board was not yet a coeducational organization. In fact, there was no National Office, no toll-free phone number to call for assistance, no annual conference and certainly no Web site or e-mail address.



Since my memorable 1968 initiation at the University of Wyoming, Mortar Board elected both its first male national president and executive director. A National Office was established and expanded to support growing membership and accommodate the budding organization. In the past decade, conservation initiatives such as the creation of paperless e-newsletters and online report forms have been implemented to better our environment.

I embrace a changing Mortar Board. Each time I meet with our national leaders, I see the diversity of the past, present and future of Mortar Board. As national president, I look not only to these esteemed leaders, but to all of Mortar Board's members for ways to improve member services. I encourage you to let me know if your needs as members are being met and how we as national leaders can further build on the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. By addressing these needs, be they related to finance, support, development or programming, Mortar Board becomes a better organization.

With alumni and collegiate members in mind, Mortar Board continues to develop programs to build a beneficial lifelong relationship for each and every member. To name a few of these initiatives, the National Foundation has expanded the post-graduate fellowship program to exceed \$60,000 in awards this year; we have introduced a career search engine to put members in touch with jobs across the nation; and we have developed corporate partnerships to support programming while simultaneously providing additional benefits and services.

As we turn the corner on 90 years, I know that Mortar Board, Inc. and the Mortar Board National Foundation will continue to evolve, working strategically to best serve the needs of our members while maintaining our strength as an honor society. I urge members to celebrate our past and embrace our future as we collaboratively create the Mortar Board of tomorrow.

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

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

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MISSION STATEMENT

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

NATIONAL FOUNDATION MISSION

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

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

Mortar Board welcomes two new chapters

Mortar Board now has 226 chartered chapters, with The University of Findlay installed in March and Lenoir-Rhyne College installed in April.

The University of Findlay, founded in 1882 as Findlay College, is steeped in tradition and committed to providing the best education possible to its students. Home to more than 3,300 undergraduate students in over 60 fields of study, The University of Findlay initiated 25 new members at their recent installation ceremony.

Lenoir-Rhyne College is a coeducational, private liberal arts institution founded in 1891. With more than 1,600 students, the intimate setting offers a rich foundation in the arts, humanities, social sciences, language, religion and natural sciences. At their installation ceremony, Lenoir-Rhyne College welcomed 24 honored initiates.

Both chapters have selected excellent groups of students committed to the Mortar Board ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. The chapters plan to develop traditions and participate in service activities unique to their communities: Findlay, Ohio for The University of Findlay and Hickory, N.C. for Lenoir-Rhyne College.

In order to be granted a Mortar Board charter, an institution must be accredited, award baccalaureate degrees, have support of the university administration, host an official visit by a national representative of Mortar Board, and be voted upon by the organization's board of directors, the National Council. Additionally, the group agrees to serve as an active honor society that continues to make significant contributions to college and community life.

Mortar Board Executive Director Jon Cook, who presided over both installation ceremonies, is thrilled to welcome the society's newest chapters. "Both universities have the dual motivation and dedication

that is necessary to begin a future of excellence with Mortar Board," Cook explained.

The University of Findlay chapter is looking forward to active participation in a campus-clean up and a recycling program. The Arktos chapter at Lenoir-Rhyne College has already committed to promoting literacy as a part of the national Mortar Board Reading is Leading initiative and plans to volunteer with the local humane society. Both chapters are looking

forward to a meaningful future of scholarship, leadership and service as a part of their affiliation with Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society.

Do you know about a university that may be interested in having a Mortar Board chapter on their campus? Please contact Executive Director Jon Cook at 800-989-6266 ext. 101 or jcook@mortarboard.org.



Lenoir-Rhyne College initiates and advisors pose after the installation and initiation ceremony held April 27, 2008.



Initiates and supporters are a part of The University of Findlay installation ceremony held March 25, 2008. Photo courtesy Ann Risser Lee.

Members win prestigious awards

Barry M. Goldwater Scholarships

This scholarship program is designed to provide opportunities for undergraduate students with excellent academic records and outstanding potential. Goldwater Scholarships support study in the fields of mathematics, engineering and the natural sciences as preparation for careers in these areas.

- Megan Bagley, University of Wyoming
- Felicia Barnes, University of South Dakota
- Shannon Edd, Clemson University
- Brian Goh, Louisiana State University
- Thomas Heineman, The University of Iowa
- Maria Holland, The University of Tulsa
- Miles Johnson, University of Richmond
- George Khoury, The Pennsylvania State University
- Jessica McCoury, Texas Tech University
- Jonathan Moerdyk, Hope College
- Stephanie Moquin, The University of New Mexico
- Jennifer Olson, Seattle Pacific University

Honorable mention:

- Nathan Brooks, The University of Tulsa
- Hannah Dietterich, Pomona College
- Rachel Mutnick, James Madison University

Marshall Scholarships

Marshall Scholarships finance young Americans of high ability to study for a degree in the United Kingdom. The awards, named in honor of former U.S. Secretary of State George C. Marshall, are held for two years and provide full financing.

- Jeffrey Eaton, University of Washington - Seattle
- Judd Kennedy, College of William and Mary

Harry S. Truman Scholarships

The mission of the Truman Scholarship Foundation is to find and recognize college juniors with exceptional leadership potential who are committed to careers in government, the non-profit or advocacy sectors, education or elsewhere in public service; and to provide them with financial support for graduate study, leadership training and fellowship with other students who are committed to making a difference through public service.

- Katherine Blaisdell, Chapman University
- Jennifer Kimball, University of Missouri - Columbia
- Laura Merritt, University of Missouri - Columbia
- Sarah Ray, Tulane University

USA TODAY's 19th annual All-USA College Academic Team program

Each year, USA TODAY honors undergraduate juniors and seniors nominated by their institutions for this well-deserved recognition. Students recognized excel in scholarship as well as extend their intellectual abilities beyond the classroom to benefit society.

First Team:

- Renee Rivas, University of Alabama

Second Team:

- Michelle McGaha, University of Alabama
- Jackson Switzer, University of Alabama
- Tari Tan, Oregon State University

Third Team:

- Phillip Adam Harbison, University of Alabama
- Kerri Phillips, West Virginia University
- James Dylan Whisenhunt, University of Alabama
- Shandrack White, University of Mississippi

Honorable mention:

- Maria Prom, Carleton College
- Taylor Barnes, Middle Tennessee State University

Member Updates

Caroline Bass, a 2003 initiate from the University of Connecticut, was recently recognized as one of five highly successful Manhattan residents under age 25 an article entitled "Wunderkids" in "Page Six" of the *New York Post*. A distinguished real estate broker since 2006, she was named "Rookie of the Year" in 2007 and twice won the coveted Outstanding Customer Service Award for her office.



Lawyer **Adam Bourne**, a 2001 initiate of the University of South Carolina and a graduate of the University of Alabama School of Law, was recently appointed to the Chickasaw Commercial Development Board by the City Council of Chickasaw, Ala.

Royd Buchele, a 1986 initiate from Eastern Michigan University, recently got his first article published in London College of Spirituality's April newsletter. He has been helping leaders to reach their unlimited potential for more than 20 years, and is currently in the process of writing a book entitled "The Positive Darkside of Leadership."

Susan E. Mitchell, a 1973 initiate from San Diego State University, recently retired as associate vice president for student academic support services with administrator emeritus status after serving 32 years in the California State University system. During her professional tenure, she served in various positions in student affairs at San Diego State University and California State University - San Marcos, and was also active in professional organizations in higher education. She currently lives in Escondido and does part-time consulting in leadership and management in higher education.



Eve Montavon, a 1987 initiate of Colorado State University and 2005 Mortar Board National Foundation fellowship recipient, has been selected as a Rotary International Cultural Ambassador and will be going to Mexico this summer to study Spanish. Additionally, she is the recipient of the Presidential Lifetime of Service Award for committing more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service.

2007 Annual Report



Mortar Board at a glance

The following are Mortar Board activities for the period of Nov. 1, 2006 through Oct. 31, 2007:

- 6305 members were initiated into 198 active collegiate chapters
- 94 percent of those tapped accepted the honor of becoming a member of Mortar Board
- 58 honorary members were inducted by chapters
- 58 gift memberships were granted for those in financial need
- 199 seniors continued their membership and involvement for a second year
- 25 active alumni chapters provided a combined excess of 5,000 volunteer hours in communities across the country
- 415 alumni members committed to support Mortar Board through sustaining dues, 156 of those as lifetime members

The 2007 annual report serves as a progress report of the Society over the past year. Since 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.

From the Executive Director

The 2006-2007 year brought about some significant change in the operating profile of both Mortar Board, Inc. and the Mortar Board National Foundation. Members and alumni experienced the new E-Mortar Board with the addition of electronic newsletters, online resources available to chapters, new registration forms and the ability to shop for Mortar Board merchandise online at any time, day or night. A brand new Web site was launched, sharing the laurels of scholarship, leadership and service globally with other online communities.

Although not monumental in the eyes of the rest of the world, the first male executive director was hired in January 2007 and the first male national president completed his two-year term in July 2007. The Mortar Board National Council wishes to recognize the efforts of the tireless President William G. Niederer, Rachel Kantosky, Glenda Guyton and Elijah Petersen, thanking them for their service as devoted leaders and National Council members during the 2006-2007 year. The National Council also welcomed Bridget Williams Golden, Katie

Schirmer and Susan Caples as new members of the national leadership team at the 2007 Mortar Board National Conference held in Columbus, Ohio.

The Mortar Board National Foundation was just shy of reaching their goal of \$1 million in net assets through shifting long-term investment strategies and developing new partnerships with GEICO, Student Trust and UnitedHealthcare StudentResources. This spike in activity will be reflected in a 60 percent increase in fellowships granted to members during 2007-2008. There will be double the amount of chapter grants distributed by the National Foundation to assist in supporting the great things happening through Mortar Board chapters on campuses across the country. The increased assets of the National Foundation will also provide for additional leadership support for the Mortar Board annual conference. The National Foundation continues to solicit funds and will develop new funding opportunities for donors in 2008. Martha Tack completed her term as trustee, with the newly appointed Bonnie Kennedy agreeing to serve.

The Mortar Board National Foundation also granted 19 chapter project grants during 2006-2007, totaling \$3,000, to the following collegiate chapters:

- University of Arkansas
- Carleton College
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Hood College
- University of Louisiana at Monroe
- University of Missouri - Columbia
- University of Mary Washington
- University of Maryland - College Park
- Salem College
- University of South Florida
- State University of New York at Buffalo
- University of Texas at El Paso
- Tulane University
- Utah State University
- University of Washington
- Western Carolina University
- Wichita State University
- University of Wyoming

Fellowships ranging in amounts from \$2,000 to \$5,000 were distributed to 13 members by the Mortar Board National Foundation Fund to those pursuing graduate or professional degrees:

- James Blakemore, the Washington State University Mortar Board classes of 1945-1950 Fellowship
- Brittany Cvetanovich, the Ruth Weimer Mount Fellowship
- Erin Frazee, the Zelma Patchin Fellowship
- Rachel Frederick, the Mary Elizabeth Ramier Fellowship
- Jenna Gross, the Katherine Wills Coleman Fellowship
- James Lamberg, the Ruth Pierle Trosset Fellowship
- Rein Lambrecht, the Mortar Board Fellowship in honor of William G. Niederer
- Leslie Lang, the Ellen North Dunlap Fellowship
- Lynn Rombi, the Purdue Barbara Cook Fellowship
- Emily Sala, the Mortar Board Fellowship in honor of Elijah Petersen
- Lori Scardino, the GEICO Fellowship
- Samantha Spilka, the Mortar Board, Inc. Diane Selby Fellowship
- Ann-Kathrin Witt, the Student Trust Fellowship

The national project, Reading is Leading, has been embraced by Mortar Board, with chapters clocking an estimated total of 15,000 service hours toward this important initiative during the 2006-2007 academic year. Chapters executed Reading is Leading projects ranging from reading carnivals to tutoring, all of which made a significant literary difference in the lives of thousands of people across the country.

One chapter was added to the Mortar Board roster during 2006-2007, the Schweitzer chapter at Chapman University, making 224 installed chapters of Mortar Board.

Onward to another benchmark year!



Jon Cook
Executive Director

Annual wish list

The National Office continues to operate prudently, 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 -

- Development and grant-writing skills and assistance with research and writing of proposals for priority projects within the organization
- One new computer capable of running graphic design software
- One new server for small business
- Incentive items to be given away on the Web site for e-mail list sign-ups, such as trips, MP3 players, auto leases or services
- Copy paper stock
- Small microwave
- Small refrigerator with freezer
- Surplus airline miles - to be used for chapter visits, alumni events, chapter installations
- Generous hosts/hostesses and meeting space for both alumni and chapter gatherings in regional areas such as the West Coast, Midwest and East
- Office furniture
 - Occasional (meeting) chairs
 - Coffee tables
 - Lamps

Become one of Mortar Board's valued donors today

Donations may be also be made by phone at 1-800-989-6266 or online at www.mortarboard.org/donate

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State ZIP: _____

Primary e-mail address: _____

Secondary e-mail address: _____

I wish to make a gift of: \$500 \$150 \$50 Other \$ _____

Method of payment

Check (Please make payable to Mortar Board National Foundation)

Credit Card: VISA Mastercard American Express Discover

Card number: _____ Expiration (Month/Year): _____

In memory of: _____

In honor of: _____

My gift is to support (choose one of the following):

Leadership initiatives through national conference programs and awards

Collegiate chapter community service through Chapter Project Grants

The greatest need within Mortar Board

Mortar Board Fellowships

WAIT!

Don't forget to tell Mortar Board about yourself! On a separate sheet of paper, let us know what you do for a living, any accomplishments, life changes, or interest in getting involved.

Annual Financial Position

Nov. 1, 2006 - Oct. 31, 2007

Mortar Board, Inc.

Revenue

Membership Dues	\$340,413
Fees	\$40,084
Contributions/Grants	\$35,000
Other	\$6,300
Investment Income	\$62,360
Subtotal	\$484,157

Expenses

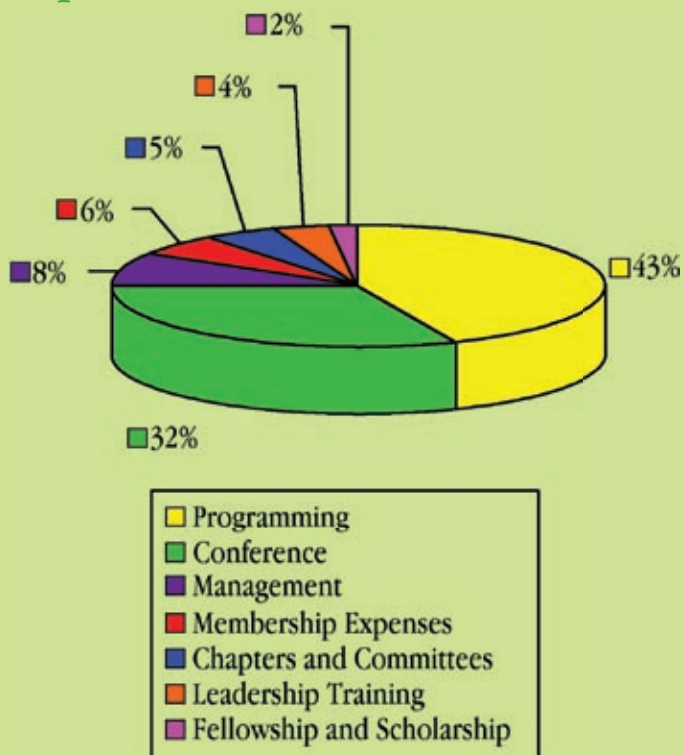
Programs	\$341,663
Management	\$101,188
Subtotal	\$442,851

Total Assets

Unrestricted	\$721,727
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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.

How is my Mortar Board membership fee spent?



Mortar Board National Foundation Fund

Revenue

Fees	\$10,176
Contributions/Grants	\$97,630
Other	\$56,857
Investment Income	\$110,168
Subtotal	\$274,831

Expenses

Programs	\$108,477
Management	\$33,000
Fundraising	\$31,870
Subtotal	\$173,347

Total Assets

Unrestricted	\$120,479
Temporarily Restricted	\$325,295
Restricted	\$549,766

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. It is incorporated in the state of Ohio and is a recognized non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization.

Mortar Board Foundation Fund permanently endowed funds:

- Ellen North Dunlap
- Gail Harrison Corvette Leadership Fund
- Katherine Wills Coleman
- Mary Elizabeth Ramier
- Mortar Board General Fellowship
- Mortar Board, Inc. Diane Selby Fellowship Fund
- Ruth Weimer Mount
- Washington State University Classes of 1945-1950
- 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!

The following are those individuals who have generously supported the ideals of Mortar Board from Jan. 1, 2007 through Dec. 31, 2007.

Agnes Scott College

Holly Henderson
Mary Rae Phelps
Elizabeth Witt

The University of Alabama

Margaret King
Lane Nestman
Catherine J. Randall ^o
Frances Schwemmer

The American University

Patricia Cerny

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Hope College

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- * \$1,000 - \$4,999
- ✕ \$5,000 or more

In honor of Eleanor Buzby Acker
Marjorie Felsburg

In honor of June McManus Alford
Florence Ashby

In honor of Jane Wade Anderson
Marilyn Nielsen

In honor of Barbara Arnold
Diane M. Selby

In honor of Florence Ashby
Josephine Williams

In honor of Louise Bankey
Helen Black

In honor of Barbara Cook
Susan Fowler
Marilyn Giolas
Nancy Gump
Patricia Mintz
Diane M. Selby

In honor of Bob DeVleming
Diane M. Selby

In honor of Genevieve DeVleming
Susan Hinz

In honor of Abigail Diehl
William Niederer

In honor of Gladys Eddy
Diane M. Selby
Ann Yates

In honor of Anna May Evans
Nancy Evans-Freed

In honor of Catherine Evans
Diane M. Selby

In honor of Karin Fleegal
Donna Mosbaugh Bogard

In honor of Mabel Freeman
Diane M. Selby

In honor of Virginia Gordon
Diane M. Selby

In honor of Analine Hicks
Ann Bish

In honor of Kay MacKenzie
Diane M. Selby

In honor of Dottie Moser
Diane M. Selby

In honor of William G. Niederer
Dottie Phillips
Diane M. Selby
Daniel Turner

In honor of Dottie Phillips
William Niederer
Diane M. Selby

In honor of Catherine J. Randall
Diane M. Selby

In honor of Nathalie Reinke
Lisa Reinke

In honor of Ashley Renz
Amy Button-Renz

In honor of Josephine Williams Rice
Kay Harris Kriegsman

In honor of Denise Rode
Diane M. Selby

In honor of Dolores Rogers
William Niederer

In honor of Laura Runkle
Susan Runkle

In honor of Diane M. Selby
Pamela Workman
Catherine Evans
Gilbert Fernandez
Betty Jo Hudson
Dottie Phillips
Doris Ponitz
Dolores Rogers
Carolyn Smith
Marilyn Wirtz

In honor of Laura Simic
Diane M. Selby

In honor of Samantha Spilka
Henry Janssen

In honor of Sally Steadman
Charlotte Davis

In honor of Bette Swilley
Diane M. Selby

In honor of University of California, Los Angeles
Bonnie Nidever

In honor of Betsy Vardaman
William Hillis

In honor of Kathy Venema
Diane M. Selby

In honor of Marilyn Wirtz
Diane M. Selby

In memory of Roberta Trimmer Breymaier
Elizabeth Devereaux

In memory of Valena H. Burke
Paula Stuetgen

In memory of Gene Cook
Mortar Board, Inc.

In memory of Evan Francis Evans
Nancy Evans-Freed

In memory of Jean Hunt Gaines
Bonnie Nidever

In memory of Susan Ziegler Green
Dan Green

In memory of Brenda Hood
Jean Fukuji

In memory of Margaret Blue Howell
Miami Mortar Board alumni chapter

In memory of Mary Hudzikiewicz
Denise Rode
Diane M. Selby
Marilyn Wirtz

In memory of Joan Ikle
Donald Ikle

In memory of Natalie Schroeder Kloehn
Mary Ladd Loots

In memory of Ilene Lawson
John Lawson

In memory of Muriel Smith Marshall
Miami Mortar Board alumni chapter

In memory of Mary Rieman Maurer
Mary Janet Renaud

In memory of Ruth Mount
Barbara Payson

In memory of Emma Norris
Gregory Ziebell

In memory of Jeannette Lueders Romey
Mary Ellen Betz

In memory of Colleen Ryan
Betty Alderson

In memory of Frances Witham Smith
Ruth Propst

In memory of Suzanne Swanson
Helen Black

In memory of Karol Porter Thomar
Betty Jean Begeal

In memory of Mary C. Wiley
Thomas Lamar Wiley Jr.

KEY

- \$500 - \$999
- * \$1,000 - \$4,999
- ✕ \$5,000 or more

University of Arizona

Not to be outdone by the conspicuous presence of the Super Bowl 100 miles north of Tucson, the University of Arizona's Mortar Board chapter entered the spring semester in a dead sprint that would make any NFL player jealous. What began as a crazy suggestion to spearhead one of Tucson's largest-ever student-led neighborhood clean-up projects — aptly advertised as “The Crew” — quickly became a reality. All Mortar Board members and much of the university community soon learned the profound verity in Victor Hugo's famous quote, “There is nothing more powerful than an idea whose time has come.” With this powerful idea, members Laurel Cox and Kelley Stanko visited local community leaders from government and business to spread the chapter's vision and acquire the requisite well-wishers and sponsors to make this idea come to fruition. The response was a resounding “yes,” as city officials and neighborhoods were delighted to see a coterie of students give back to their community and cleanse the oft-sullied image that some neighbors have of the student body.

So, on a cold morning in February the local media, government officials, university staff and 600 volunteers, armed with shovels

and trash bags, descended upon the streets of Tucson. The inaugural clean-up was an overwhelming success, prompting UA President Robert Shelton and numerous neighborhood residents to commend Mortar Board for their munificence. This is sure to be the harbinger of a strong bond between Mortar Board and the surrounding community for years to come.

Even as the heat turns up in the Old Pueblo, Mortar Board isn't stopping its tireless advocacy of scholarship, leadership and service. In April, the Pi Sigma Alpha chapter hosted a very special evening of awards to recognize the often-overlooked largesse of staff and students in service and leadership that makes the UA such a great community. Finally, Mortar Board organized an afternoon of fun and education on the UA campus for Tucson's significant refugee population under the auspices of the International Rescue Committee. In the meantime, the group continued to make biweekly visits to a local elementary school, reading with students under a program called “Read-n-Eats.” In short, recently-inducted members of the 2008-09 cohort will undoubtedly have some large shoes to fill.

Eric Reichenbacher, Philanthropy Chair

University of Arkansas

The University of Arkansas Octagon chapter was very excited to receive a \$197 Mortar Board Visibility Grant. The chapter has a proud tradition on the campus, and wanted to make all students aware of their accomplishments — both past and present. To increase awareness, the group ran a large ad in their college newspaper, *The Arkansas Traveler*.

Of what are they really proud? Miss Cecelia Russell, a Mortar Board member and advisor, was the first woman to give the Honors Day address in 1948, and in 1964 Mortar Board was the only campus group to issue a resolution opposing segregation. What probably made the biggest impression on the student body was that the chapter was instrumental in creating “Dead Day,” a free day between the end of classes and before the beginning of finals. The chapter found out that originally Dead Day was Dead Week — although the “week” was only two days long. The chapter thinks maybe they should investigate this a bit more to determine what happened to their extra day (let alone the week)!

In recent history, the Octagon chapter is most proud of their 2007 Project Excellence Award because their program focused on helping disadvantaged and racially diverse children to set goals in the framework of the Reading is Leading national project. This also represents a reemergence for their chapter.

Carole Shook, Advisor

Carson-Newman College

Excited and energized, the new 2007-2008 Mortar Board members took a three-day retreat in the mountains to bond as a team and plan a year of service! This time served to unite their team and narrow the focus for how they would serve on their campus and in their community.

The group began the year by hosting the 2nd annual Cereal Bowl, during which a team of faculty and staff took on the Carson-Newman redshirt team in a game of flag football. Boxes of cereal were collected as admission to benefit the Appalachian Outreach



University of Arizona chapter members take a quick break from their largest-ever student-led neighborhood clean-up project, “The Crew.”

food pantry. In full, Mortar Board collected 248 boxes, more than tripling the previous year's 80 box total. Additionally, Morristown Hyundai agreed to donate 50 cents for each box of cereal collected, raising an extra \$168 for Appalachian Outreach.

The Panathenees chapter brought the semester to a close with a bear-a-thon. Members of the campus and greater community were asked to donate new teddy bears during a three-week period. The response was overwhelming, and the Carson-Newman Mortar Board team had the privilege of personally delivering more than 350 teddy bears to Children's Hospital in Knoxville, Tenn. The children and their families were overjoyed to receive the gifts.

Spring has brought with it new and exciting opportunities to serve! An item drive was held to gather household items such as cleaning supplies and toiletries for the Holston Home, a facility that provides hope and healing for children and families struggling with life's challenges. Mortar Board members then delivered the items raised.

This spring, the group worked to build and stock a small library in their local Boys and Girls Club. With the help of a grant from the Mortar Board National Foundation and the generosity of Carson-Newman students, they constructed bookshelves, purchased beanbags and chairs, and donated a myriad of classic books for the children to read and enjoy.

Additionally, the group had the privilege of tapping new members for the 2008-2009 year. Although there is sadness as the reality of graduation and leaving the wonderful Mortar Board experience sets in, members are all excited about the new team and the service they will contribute to their campus, community and world in the upcoming year!

Alisha Watson, Director of Communications

Case Western Reserve University

The Lux chapter of Mortar Board at Case Western Reserve University has had a busy and fruitful year with two large service events in addition to various monthly activities. CWRU kicked off its fall semester with a Reading is Leading children's book drive in conjunction with local libraries, book stores, churches and the campus community. Their efforts brought

in more than 2,400 children's books that were donated to the Cleveland Metropolitan School District and the University Hospitals in order to promote literacy in an under-served population.

In addition, the CWRU chapter held their first ever Turkey-for-a-Day fundraiser, a competition between several popular professors to raise funds to purchase magazine subscriptions for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. The winning professor, Dr. Michael Kenney, wore a full-body turkey costume for a day during the week of Thanksgiving.

CWRU's spring semester featured a large campus-wide event, Rock for Doc, held in memory of a beloved chemistry professor who passed away in May 2005. Dr. Ignacio Ocasio, more commonly known as Doc Oc, was an invaluable member of the CWRU community, not only as a teacher and advisor but also as a friend. As a tribute to Doc Oc's love for music, Rock for Doc featured performances from some of the most talented students at CWRU. In addition, the event included a free buffet lunch, great raffle prizes, an opportunity to share a personal memory of Doc Oc, a tribute video of Doc Oc's greatest moments, and a vote for a "Top Prof" award in Doc Oc's honor. More than 300 people attended the event and more than \$800 was collected to benefit both the Doc Oc Memorial Fund, a scholarship endowment for talented students; and the Doc Oc Statue Fund, a student initiative to erect a statue of Doc Oc on the CWRU campus.

Furthermore, CWRU Mortar Board members have been busy with monthly service activities at the Shaker Lakes Nature Center, the Cleveland Food Bank, and the East End Neighborhood House where they tutor underprivileged children.

Amanda Hong, President

University of Cincinnati, Xavier University

The Xavier University and University of Cincinnati Mortar Board chapters collaborated



Carson-Newman College chapter members collected cereal as a part of their 2nd annual Cereal Bowl flag football tournament.

on the first-ever Mortar Board Crosstown Fundraiser. Since the schools are less than five miles apart, the two chapters decided to join forces to make a difference in their local community.

The Cincinnati Public School District recently updated its curriculum in order to promote progress in the fields of math and science. The chapters felt these steps toward academic excellence are ideally matched with Mortar Board's founding principles and made a goal to raise money to help to purchase mathematics textbooks for grades 9-12 in the Cincinnati Public Schools. XU and UC sent letters to Mortar Board alumni in the area, hosting a friendly competition to see which school could raise the most money. The fundraiser continued throughout April, and the schools presented Cincinnati Public Schools with a check to purchase the textbooks at the drive's conclusion.

Jaime Meyer, University of Cincinnati Chapter President

Cornell College

The Torch chapter recently held their 2008 Mortar Board Auction resulting in great success. The group gathered donations from approximately 30 local restaurants, shops and business, auctioning them off to a crowd of about 50 people for between \$5 and \$110. This event was made possible thanks to countless hours worked by many members of the Torch chapter. In total, the chapter raised \$1,006, half of which was donated to their community and college library.

Pete Lehr, Director of Communications

Denison University

Throughout the 2007-2008 academic year, Denison University's Cap and Gown chapter of Mortar Board has been active not only in the campus life and in the local Newark, Ohio area, but also in the international community. Notable acts of service for the year have included organizing and hosting a Halloween party for an after-school clubhouse for children in the Newark area; collecting holiday gift bags provided by Denison students to low-income children and struggling mothers in Newark; and contributing to the Better World Books charity organization, which supplies reused books to developing countries. At the end of the year, chapter members are planning to share a Denison baseball game and cookout with the children of the Newark clubhouse. Current President Stephanie Rozman and Vice President Becky Weber have been especially instrumental in enacting these activities.

The Cap and Gown chapter is proud to have initiated 41 new Mortar Board members for the upcoming academic year. Next year, the chapter looks forward to continuing the community service in Newark as well as becoming more connected with local alumni groups in the Columbus area.

Anne Barngrover, Alumni Relations Chair

DePauw University

DePauw's Mortar Board chapter took a study break before winter finals and visited the Asbury Towers Retirement Home in Greencastle, Ind. Chapter members spent an afternoon with the residents socializing and writing Christmas cards for those residents who were unable to put together their own.

Laura McOsker, Director of Communications

Drury University

The Skiff chapter of Mortar Board at Drury University in Springfield, Mo. celebrated Mortar Board Week with a Spelling Bee to raise books for a local elementary school library. The chapter recruited four-person teams from around campus, instructing them to collect books which could be turned in for "cheats" to help during the Bee. The cheats included: look it up, ask the audience, and try again; each at the cost of 10 books. Prizes for first, second and

third place, as well as best cheering section, were awarded. Overall, the Spelling Bee raised more than 150 books for the Boyd Elementary School library and was considered to be a great accomplishment.

Chapter President Katie Schirmer said, "The Bee was such a great success! I was really thrilled with the turn-out and the participation from groups on campus."

This turn-out consisted of a total of 12 teams, each entered from a different campus organization or group. The Bee even had a surprising start. As Katie recalls, "The funniest moment of the Bee was when Charles Neiss, our host, came out dressed like a bee. Everyone was surprised; it was hysterical!" The lighthearted event was held on Tuesday night of Mortar Board Week and organizers hope that this event will become a spring tradition at Drury.

Logan Peterson, Communications Chair



The Drury University chapter hosted a Mortar Board spelling bee, complete with a host dressed as a bumblebee.

Hope College

The Alcor chapter of Mortar Board has had a service-packed year. Last fall, students raised money for La Casa Hogar (The Orphanage House) in Chiapas, Mexico. This organization is run by a missionary family that has helped to get 13 children off the streets, in addition to caring for three of their own children. All of the children are home-schooled by the missionaries, who barely have enough money to pay for basic necessities, let alone schooling. Working with the theme of Reading is Leading, Hope sent \$2,300 to the family, to be used for school supplies and other needs of the children.

Hope students also helped to make the holiday season special for local children in the



Hope College chapter members stuff stockings for local children associated with the Court-Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program.

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program. Members donated time to paint pumpkins with the children for Halloween and to stuff stockings to give to them for Christmas. Each stocking was personalized with the child's name and contained a coloring book, crayons, a toy and candy. Lindsay Ellsworth, a member who helped with the event, explained the excited reaction, "The kids loved searching through all of the Christmas stockings to find the one made just for them. Passing out the stockings was the highlight of the entire event!"

Most recently, Hope held a prom for developmentally disabled members of their community. Students volunteered time to send invitations, decorate facilities and attend the prom with their guests. The night was filled with laughter and dancing, as the students reached out to get to know their neighborhood a little better. As Event Chair Katie Ester said, "The prom was such a great way to give back to the community in a fun way."

Holly Bekius, Director of Communications

Kansas State University

A strong and respected player in the Kansas State community since 1928, the XIX chapter of Mortar Board brings together 32 of the university's finest leaders. The dynamic group was honored at the 2007 conference with the Golden Torch Award for chapter excellence, designating it among the nation's top chapters. In 2004, the chapter received Mortar Board's highest collegiate award, the Ruth Weimer Mount Award, naming them the Society's top chapter.

Although the chapter has numerous long standing traditions and participates in many valuable service projects, one unique activity stands out from the others. As a part of the selections process, each candidate is asked to write a short essay giving advice to incoming freshmen about the college experience. A collection of these essays, known as the Advice Booklet, is then distributed to first-year students at orientation programs by New Student Services. The firsthand knowledge and expertise that go into these essays make the book a crucial guidebook, as well as an honor for Mortar Board members.

In conjunction with the national Reading is Leading initiative, the group works diligently to promote literacy in their community. Volunteering at both a local day care center and elementary school has been a favorite of members. Additionally, the K-State chapter is the only group of its kind to coordinate a state-level Academic Decathlon for high school students, illustrating the chapter's commitment to the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. Chapter Membership Chair Suzie Suozzo explains, "The day offers members a chance to get to know one another on a more personal level because we are combining our efforts to help future scholars from our communities."

There is always advice to give to incoming Mortar Board members. One thing the K-State chapter encourages is getting to know as many people within the organization as possible. The diverse group is made up of individuals who participate in different activities and come from a variety of backgrounds, with each member bringing something special to the table. Mortar Board is a wonderful organization that enables campus leaders to come together to serve their communities on a weekly basis.

Jacinda Mein, Communications Chair

University of Mary Washington

Recently, the National Education Association announced the University of Mary Washington's Mortar Board chapter as a recipient of one of the organization's \$500 Read Across America grants to promote literacy. More than 200 groups competed for the grants, but only 30 were awarded.

The UMW chapter used the money to fund a variety of innovative service projects, among them: pen-pal projects with underprivileged children in Honduras and men and women in the military, costumed read-aloud events at local elementary schools, read-aloud events at hospice care centers, and an ongoing book drive.

Caitlin Gembol, President

University of Missouri - Kansas City

On Saturday, March 15, the Delta Alpha chapter initiated its new members. For the first time, the ceremony took place at the beautiful Diastole on the Hospital Hill Campus. All but one of the new members were in attendance at the initiation ceremony. Chapter President Leila Simmons followed the national initiation ceremony to conduct a memorable experience. The initiation concluded with giving out awards to the chapter's most outstanding officer, Abdul Hagi-Omar, and most outstanding member, Liz Pollock. A reception followed, which allowed the new and current Mortar Board members to get to know each other better and discuss their Mortar Board experiences. It was a memorable event for all those involved, and was a great way to initiate our new members.

Leila Simmons, President

University of New Mexico

The University of New Mexico Mortar Board chapter made children smile this year. Members collected and distributed 3,000 donated books to places in need throughout New Mexico, such as children's hospitals and rural libraries. One such place in dire need of books was Kit Carson Elementary School, located in the South Valley of Albuquerque.

To both commemorate the 90th anniversary celebration of the founding of Mortar Board and to promote the Reading is Leading project, the UNM chapter delivered 600 books to the school. Theresa Charley, a UNM alumna and teacher

at Kit Carson, was ecstatic to receive such a large number of books, and is already looking forward to giving the books to the children. She plans to use them as rewards to students who exemplify good study habits or perform good deeds throughout the school year.

*Jessica Jaramillo, Historian
Flannery Merideth, Alumni Relations Chair*

University of North Dakota

In November 2007, the Quo Vadis chapter of Mortar Board completed its 28th annual Turkey Basket Drive. After spending the majority of their fall semester raising funds to purchase the food needed for the project, the chapter's project once again resulted in success. In all, the chapter had a record year, raising more than \$12,000 and serving more than 800 families in need in the greater Grand Forks, N.D. area. The Turkey Basket Drive would not have been a success had it not been for the generosity of local business and community members.

An additional Turkey Basket contributor was the joint participation with a local high school in a trick-or-treat for canned goods drive. On Halloween, Mortar Board members dressed in their best costumes and went from door to door asking for canned food donations. In turn, the high school donated contributions to the chapter to assist with the Turkey Basket Drive.

The weekend before Thanksgiving, the chapter assembled their turkey baskets, which consisted of potatoes, pie crust, pie filling,



University of North Dakota chapter members sort canned goods to package as a part of their charitable turkey basket program, which fed more than 800 families on Thanksgiving in 2007.

stuffing, a turkey, canned vegetables and cranberries. The next day, people that had signed up to receive one of these baskets came to pick them up from the university ROTC building.

The chapter keeps busy with many other projects throughout the year. Whether it is fundraising, supporting Reading is Leading by reading to children, preparing meals for the homeless or participating in a community clean-up, the group participates in an amazing number of activities. One of those projects was the 4th annual Mortar Board Golf Scramble, at which the top three teams received prizes that were donated from local business. Another project is the group's first-time Mortar Board Art Auction, featuring the work of local artists and some donated pieces by campus art students. Selling a variety of inventive items ranging from paintings and screen art to jewelry and pottery, the group raised nearly \$1,000.

Alex Kelsch, Public Relations Officer

Northern Illinois University

Northern Illinois University (NIU) became the focus of the world, in light of the tragic shooting which claimed the lives of five students and injured many others on Feb. 14, 2008. The NIU family is still healing, and those whose lives were cut short that day will never be forgotten. The amount of passion, love and caring from communities everywhere has been breathtaking, and the community at NIU has become immensely closer. Truly, the Mortar Board principles of scholarship, leadership and service have been in abundance throughout the NIU campus more than ever. Although schedules and events at NIU have changed, the Mortar Board chapter has persevered and is continuing forward.

Many changes have occurred and are in the near future for Mortar Board at NIU. The selection process was modified and has resulted in increased effectiveness and improved time management. An initiation brunch was planned for the spring semester induction of new members, as well as for recognizing the senior graduating members. Another event, designed for bonding of new and old members alike, is Relay for Life. This event is another excellent opportunity to give back to the community

in honor of those who have been affected by cancer. A faculty recognition banquet will occur this semester to recognize outstanding faculty. Other plans include the formal dance for all Mortar Board members, and the largest fundraiser of the year for the chapter — the Graduation Day flower sale. The NIU chapter is anxiously awaiting these and other events as another exciting semester unfolds.

Jane Kaykov, Director of Communications

University of Northern Colorado

One cold and snowy Colorado morning, the Mortar Board members of the Gold Key chapter at the University of Northern Colorado awoke. They were about to embark on their regional service project, the Garden of the Gods. With steady winds from the north to help lead them south, from Fort Collins to Colorado Springs, the Mortar Board members were determined to arrive. After the two and a half hour drive, they arrived to the smiling faces of two park rangers and other Mortar Board groups from across the state. Past Mortar Board teams have reconstructed worn paths and other vital park renovations. Today's briefing informed the groups that overgrown shrubs were starting to create hazardous fire conditions around the park. Their job as volunteers was to utilize a variety of saws, trimmers, tarps, rope and manpower to remove as many dead plants as they could in a designated area. This area would then serve as a natural fire block in the event of a fire. The teams began to tug, pull and push their way through the dense shrubs in order to locate and determine which area to overhaul. The hard manual labor seemed to be in the forefront of their minds as the scenery of the Garden of the Gods overwhelmed the teams. This 480-acre public park is home to breathtaking towers of natural sandstone formations, hiking paths and wonderful views of Pikes Peak. After a half day of work



Members of the University of Northern Colorado chapter pose with their tools at the Garden of the Gods section project.

in the rain, the teams were informed of their successful work, so they packed up and headed home. Next year, the new members will carry the torch of service back to the Garden of the Gods.

Kevin Collins, Director of Communications

Editor's Note: Under the management of Section Coordinator Dave Whitman, Section 22 annually participates in the Garden of the Gods Section Project. Several chapters were on hand to help at the Oct. 14, 2007 event: Colorado College, Colorado State University, University of Colorado at Boulder, the University of Denver, the University of Northern Colorado and the University of Wyoming.



Section 22 annually volunteers their time at the Garden of the Gods park in Colorado Springs. In 2007, nearly 40 members from six chapters worked together to beautify the park.

Northwestern University

The chapter hopes to work with Chicago-based Open Books, a local charitable bookstore that accepts book donations and sells them for a nominal price to raise funds for literacy charities. This organization will work with the chapter as a part of the Reading is Leading initiative, serving as the group's primary philanthropy project this year. To support Open Books, the chapter will hold a campus book drive and participate in reading programs.

A sizeable goal for this year's executive board is to leave next year's group with a good charity partnership and concept to build upon, a healthy system of communication to facilitate information and opportunities, and a good example of leadership to be built upon and improved. These goals are all under way, with the Open Books venture, the inception of multiple e-mail listservs, and the construction of a chapter Web site. Overall, the group hopes to make Mortar Board's on-campus presence much greater over the next few years!

Christopher D'Angelo, Director of Communications

The Ohio State University

The Mabel Freeman chapter recently honored faculty members and staff during the 19th annual Faculty Recognition Reception in conjunction with Sphinx senior honorary. Each member of Mortar Board nominated and honored a faculty or staff member that had an influential impact on the member's academic, career or personal life, and acknowledged their extraordinary efforts and contributions to The Ohio State University. Mortar Board also presented the John T. and Ruth Weimer Mount Award to a faculty or staff member for exemplifying the commitment to leadership, scholarship and service and dedication to students. This year's recipient was Kathy Krajnak, director of the Mount Leadership Scholars program.

Alyse Shabeen, Director of Communications

University of Oregon

It has been an eventful year for Mortar Board at the University of Oregon! Beyond the customary community service events and chapter meetings, the chapter's Web site underwent a complete makeover and a special election was held mid-winter to select a new community service chair. With a strong membership bond, the chapter has worked hard throughout the year to exemplify Mortar Board's three key ideals.

The chapter participates in numerous community service events, including food drives, literacy projects and much more. For example, the group worked with the charitable Food for Lane County group by volunteering at their community garden and assisting in repackaging food for distribution. Their fall book drive consisted of members going door to door in Eugene, Ore., collecting more than 500 new and used children's books, which were donated to Adam's Elementary School and the public library. The group volunteered at the annual Truffle Shuffle 5K Run, an event drawing more than 1,600 runners. In collaboration with other university honor societies, the chapter put on the first-ever St. Patrick's Day Book Hunt, hiding a thousand eggs filled with candy and certificates redeemable for children's books.

The chapter maintains strong involvement



University of Oregon chapter members volunteered at Food for Lane County's community garden to help feed those in need.

with the university's Junior Scholars Award Night, a program which honors the top 100 juniors, to promote scholarship. Additionally, they host the "Professor of the Term" contest, allowing all students to vote for their favorite professor to be recognized with a plaque during one of his or her classes. The chapter wishes to congratulate fall recipient Prof. Dennis Galvan of the international studies department and winter recipient Prof. Glen R. Waddell of the economics department for receiving the award this year!

Willow Baumann, Communications Chair

University of the Pacific

The Knolens chapter of Mortar Board has been busy this year! Their seniors took off running and hosted their fall service project, "Trick-or-Book!" on Halloween night! Following the national project, Reading is Leading, members fanned out over campus, its adjacent neighborhoods, and even a few members' residential neighborhoods. They all agreed that if they could put a single book into a child's hands they would be happy. However, they were completely unprepared for the mountain of books accumulated! Their advisor was very pleased with their success, yet seemed somewhat displeased by the sudden overflow

of his office, and his near displacement. (The chapter is, however, eternally grateful to him for the temporary use of his office!)

In the end, the chapter isn't quite sure who was more pleased with the book donation. Their best guess is that it is a three-way tie between the children at Stockton Children's Home, who mostly received books at second through eighth grade reading levels; the chapter members, who congratulated each other mightily for a job well done; or their advisor, who after nearly a month, once again had the full use of his office. (Some students claim to have seen him dancing a jig in the hallway, but these reports have yet to be confirmed.)

Spring semester brought about recruitment, and in honor of the well-deserving juniors considering applying for membership, the chapter co-hosted an Informational Dessert Night with Phi Kappa Phi. The conversation and the chocolate flowed, resulting in a most informative, yet delectable evening!

The chapter's spring service project, held in conjunction with the Center for Community Involvement, gives lucky children the opportunity to have the run of the University of the Pacific for a day. A few collegiate activities these children were able to get a taste of on April 26 included eating at the dining hall, creating

arts and crafts, and playing sports. With the event, the chapter hopes to send children the message that college is for everyone who desires it enough!

As the year wound down, 29 new members were initiated into the Knolens chapter. The outgoing chapter hopes that the incoming members will take advantage of their senior year and fill it full of not only memories, but of the importance of Mortar Board's ideals: scholarship, leadership and service.

Dorothy Mayfield-Bunn, Vice President

University of Puget Sound

The Otlah chapter has been very busy this spring preparing for new members and working on continuing projects. The group is proud to welcome two new advisors to the club this semester - Chaplain Dave Wright and Assistant Dean of Students Sara Dorer.

Chapter members have volunteered with environmental conservation at Puget Creek in North Tacoma, Wash. In early March the club conducted a "Change Wars" fundraiser in which the campus community was encouraged to donate their pocket change in order to vote for their favorite aspect of the University of Puget Sound. Options included the university president, trees on campus, campus radio station KUPS 90.1 FM The Sound, a whale skeleton in the new science building, campus coffee shops, and university mascot Grizz, among others. Proceeds went to sustain club activities and benefit the United Way of Pierce County.

Members continue to donate their time tutoring students at Lowell Elementary. In addition to service events, the group has organized the spring Last Lecture Series. This program serves as a way for the chapter to honor extraordinary faculty members by asking them to give a lecture as if it were their last. As this year's service projects wrap up, the club is working to prepare next year's members in order to maintain continuity and ensure the future success of the Otlah chapter.

Allison Beller, Director of Communications

Purdue University

The 82nd class of the Barbara Cook chapter is continuing to work hard this semester, having hosted and enjoyed many of their traditional Mortar Board spring events. The annual Mortar Board Leadership Conference was held on Jan. 26 and was a huge success. This event targets rising leaders at Purdue, with excellent students being nominated to attend. This year's theme was "Exceed All Expectations" and speakers included professors and faculty from Purdue University: U.S. Public Service Academy Founder Chris Myers Asch, Mitre Group Inc. President/CEO Mitre Kutanovski, and Purdue University President Dr. France Cordova. Attendees also had the opportunity to participate in several break-out sessions aimed at strengthening their leadership skills, including "Women in Leadership," "Conducting Effective Meetings," and "Managing Change for Student Organizations," among others.

Mortar Board Week was a lot of fun and the chapter hosted daily events related to the three pillars of scholarship, leadership and service. Monday, they hosted a booth to promote Mortar Board awareness; Tuesday, students who were "Caught Studying," in several campus locations were given Mortar Board bookmarks and Smarties candy; Wednesday, students who chose to take part in "Show off Your Mortar Board Calendar" were rewarded

for buying the Mortar Board calendar to help fund scholarships and fellowships; Thursday, Valentine's Day cards were sent to student leaders for "Student Leadership Appreciation Day;" Friday, Mortar Board paraphernalia was worn around campus; and Saturday, the chapter participated in the Boiler Volunteer Network "Share the Love" Community Service Day.

The Freshman Scholar Athlete Dessert was held Feb. 17, honoring freshman athletes who earned a 3.0 GPA or higher during their first semester. The event had a great turnout, with coaches and athletic faculty joining to celebrate the athletes' accomplishments. The Women of Purdue Reception followed on Feb. 21, and was one of the most enjoyable events of the year. The chapter welcomed and honored distinguished female faculty and administrators of Purdue who have either recently been hired or promoted into positions of associate dean or higher.

The Reading Extravaganza was another successful event and the children had a lot of fun listening to the event's celebrity readers. Purdue administration, faculty, staff, athletes and other local and state celebrities hosted reading sessions throughout the day for more than 350 students. The students also enjoyed several activity sessions with Alpha Psi Omega National Theatre Honor Fraternity.



The Women of Purdue honorees with the Purdue Mortar Board class of 2007-2008

Selection was another memorable event, bringing the class closer as they spent considerable time together and realized how soon their collegiate experience would be over. The chapter also recently finished selecting the recipients of the prestigious awards and scholarships they sponsor to recognize the countless organizations and individuals that make a difference in the Purdue community.

Vanessa Reyes, Director of Communications



University of San Diego Chapter President Annie O'Brien, Lauren Gyllenborg, Dr. Alana Cordy-Collins, Dr. Susan Lord, and Jennifer Harding at the University of San Diego Mortar Board Faculty Appreciation Dinner.

University of San Diego

The Alcala chapter surprised two of their faculty advisors at the annual Faculty Appreciation Dinner by tapping them for honorary membership. Dr. Alana Cordy-Collins and Dr. Susan Lord have served as faculty advisors to the Mortar Board chapter since it was installed at USD in October 2000. Lauren Gyllenborg and Jennifer Harding were co-chairs of the memorable event. The USD Mortar Board Chapter received the Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence Award in 2006.

Judith Lewis Logue, Advisor

San Diego State University

Mortar Board, as a member of the SDSU Honors Council, co-sponsored the 2nd annual Last Lecture Series. The distinguished last lecture honoree was Dr. E. Nicholas Genovese, both a professor emeritus of classics and humanities as well as a former Mortar Board advisor. Chapter President Olivera Plamenac served as co-chair of the event. The Cap and Gown chapter handled the invitations, publicity, printing of the program, and hosting of the reception. More than 200 people were in attendance to hear Dr. Genovese's lecture,

entitled: "Fate and fortune, love and death: our classical heritage."

Provost Nancy Marlin welcomed guests at the event, followed by an introduction of the honoree by College of the Arts and Letters Dean Dr. Paul Wong. The last lecture series was established in 2007 to provide retired faculty one final opportunity to speak publicly on things that matter most to them.

Dr. Genovese was nominated by students and colleagues as a result of his numerous accomplishments, the intellectual energy he brought to his teaching, his commitment to the academic community, and his willingness to engage pressing issues that face everyone in the campus community. This was a wonderful honor and a testament to his distinguished career as a scholar and teacher but also to his dedication to students and the academic honor societies on campus. His service as an advisor to Mortar Board, Eta Sigma Phi, and Golden Key; and president of Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Beta Kappa, is evidence of his effort to promote academic excellence on our campus. Mortar Board was pleased to host this event for the campus.

Leslie Hernandez, Director of Communications

University of South Alabama

Throughout Mortar Board Week, the Azalea chapter of Mortar Board at the University of South Alabama used the national Mortar Board Week Visibility Grant money provided by the Mortar Board National Foundation to support several campus activities. These activities promoted Mortar Board's visibility on campus by focusing on membership recruitment, teacher appreciation and supporting school athletics.

Coincidentally, Mortar Board Week also fell during University of South Alabama's homecoming week. The Azalea chapter participated in a campus wide "sheet sign" contest in order to support the basketball team.

The chapter also focused on recruiting membership on campus. A table was set up at the student center, which proved to be a great location that received remarkable foot traffic throughout the day. Mortar Board members manned the table and spoke to interested students about the benefits of joining Mortar Board, explaining the steps to apply for membership.

Faculty appreciation events were also a major focus of the Azalea chapter's Mortar Board Week events. In order to show their appreciation, chapter members delivered Krispy Kreme



University of South Alabama chapter members and honorees mingle at the group's annual "Top Prof" Banquet.

donuts to every department on campus. These were thoroughly enjoyed by both professors and staff. Additionally, the group hosted the annual "Top Prof" banquet, at which members were able to invite their favorite professor to be honored and enjoy a nice dinner. The deans of all of the schools were invited to the dinner as well. At the banquet, each student gave a short speech on why they were honoring their favorite professor, and each professor received a certificate of appreciation.

Holly Peek, Director of Communications

South Dakota State University

The South Dakota State University Sigma Lambda Sigma chapter of Mortar Board had a primary goal during the 2007-2008 academic year: to increase visibility of their Mortar Board chapter. To accomplish their goal, the chapter participated in a variety of university-recognized and community activities. Mortar Board members participated as a team in the SDSU Hobo Day (homecoming) Bum Olympics. Volunteers also helped with the Hobo Day parade. To celebrate Halloween, members hit the streets by trick-or-treating for books and cans to donate to the local food pantry. They received a trunk full of donations. The group also went to Brookview Manor, a local nursing home, and played games with the residents for a few hours. The residents were thrilled to have Mortar Board members there, and



Members of the Washington University - St. Louis chapter celebrate Reading is Leading by volunteering their valuable time at University City Library.

invited them back to organize future activities. The chapter's latest endeavor was rallying for Hurricane Katrina victims by collecting socks from the community. Through hard work and dedication, they achieved their goal of increased visibility, evident in the record number of applications received for the 2008-2009 Mortar Board chapter.

Christee Staufer, Director of Communications

Southern Methodist University

The Decima chapter of Mortar Board has had a busy year. In October, members held their Top Ten Sophomore reception and invited a number of Dallas area Mortar Board alumni to attend. Parents and professors were also witnesses to the amazing students honored at the reception. This semester, the chapter hosted a book drive to help support the national philanthropy of Reading is Leading. Members collected more than 100 books that were sent to Greater Dallas Ministries to help with their after-school program for inner city children. Mortar Board members and new initiates brought books to their initiation to help out the great cause. The SMU chapter continues to be a great presence on the SMU campus.

Casey Swaim, Director of Communications

Texas Tech University

On April 11, the Forum chapter of Mortar Board at Texas Tech University donated new

hardcover copies of Dr. Seuss' "The Cat in the Hat" books to children at the Guadalupe-Parkway Sommerville Centers, after-school centers in East Lubbock that mainly serve low-income minority children. This event, held in conjunction with a Dr. Seuss-themed end-of-the-year party, was hosted at the Parkway Center. During the fall semester, the chapter began volunteering an hour every other Wednesday at the center by reading to the pre-school and first-grade students. Their desire to read not only promotes the national service initiative, Reading is Leading, but members have also begun building relationships with the children that they hope will encourage them to enjoy reading for a lifetime. Nearly three-fourths of the 50 members of the 2007-2008 class have been able to attend at least one of the readings, and the project's success has pushed the group to continue volunteering their time in the future.

Sandra Hon, Community Service Chair



Texas Tech University chapter members get to know children who attended the Dr. Seuss-themed literacy event at the Parkway Center.

Washington University

The members of the Keod chapter at Washington University in St. Louis were searching for a way to reach out to community children and create an event that exemplified the national mission of Reading is Leading. In conjunction with University City Library, they were able to sponsor a library event with a Valentine's Day-inspired theme. The event, which was held in February to commemorate Mortar Board Week, was geared toward elementary children by creating five stations that represented how "We H.E.A.R.T. Reading." Children rotated through all of the stations, which followed these themes: Holiday - Valentine Day card making; Eating - cookie decorating; Art - bookmark making; Reading - a table set up with books for children to read, as

well as one of the librarians who engaged the children with her animated storytelling; and Text - Valentine's Day-themed word searches and crossword puzzles.

Upon arrival, each of the 50 children in attendance received a goody bag filled with candy, pencils and a card wishing them a Happy Valentine's Day from the Keod chapter of Mortar Board. The highlight of the day was a generous donation from Build-A-Bear Workshop™, which allowed each child to take home a bear complete with its own outfit and accessories. Needless to say, the children were ecstatic to leave with presents that will remind them of their fun times at the literacy event.

The chapter members enjoyed bonding with each other and the families with whom they spent the day. The library staff was so enthusiastic about the event that they have expressed their desire to turn it into an annual event. The chapter also hopes the event will become a fun and annual tradition.

Tammi Cooks, President

Jenny Raja, Director of Marketing and Publicity

William Jewell College

The Panaegis chapter celebrated its 30th year as a nationally-affiliated chapter this academic year. Commemorations included the creation of a new private tapping ceremony, an update of the public tapping ceremony, and a celebration of the chapter's history during the spring initiation ceremony. During the spring semester, Panaegis selected outstanding new members that will continue the chapter's tradition of excellence in service and leadership.

"This has been one of the most memorable years in Panaegis history," Chapter President Morgan Romine said. "We were able to celebrate our chapter's history while creating new traditions which have helped to lay the foundation for continued excellence in Panaegis."

On Feb. 24, 18 juniors were selected for membership in Panaegis. "We're really excited about the new members we've selected this year," chapter Membership Chair Rebekah Bouas said. "There are some great leaders in the junior class that will be able to take Mortar

Board far next year."

On March 7, new members currently studying on campus were the first to be tapped under a new private tapping ceremony which Panaegis created this year. The private tapping ceremony was created after a year of study which included consultation with Mortar Board chapters throughout the country. New on-campus members were publicly tapped in front of historic Jewell Hall on March 10 using Panaegis' distinctive public tapping ceremony, which was updated this spring.

"We felt like revising our tapping ceremonies would be an excellent way to commemorate Panaegis' 30th year as a Mortar Board chapter and we were really happy to see how well they turned out after a year of working on them," Romine said. "The revised tapping ceremonies were very successful and an exciting addition to our chapter traditions."

Panaegis officially celebrated its 30th year as an affiliate of Mortar Board during its spring initiation ceremony on March 30. The ceremony included an address from children's book author Sue Wright, a 1965 initiate into Panaegis and a 1978 initiate into Mortar Board. The ceremony also remembered former chapter advisor and longtime English professor Dr. Ann Marie Shannon, who died in January. A giant of William Jewell's history, Shannon oversaw Panaegis' transition from a local honor society to membership in the national Mortar Board organization.

"We were pleased to be able to celebrate Panaegis' 30th anniversary this spring," Romine said. "While the celebrations took on a bittersweet tone with the passing of Dr. Shannon, it was still an exciting time for the chapter."

Panaegis also continued service projects. Numerous chapter members continued participation in ChessMates - the chapter's nationally recognized youth mentoring partnership with Liberty Public Schools and the William Jewell Students in Free Enterprise (SIFE) chapter. ChessMates concluded its year with a tournament in March for all participants. The spring semester also included a fundraiser, during which chapter members visited local businesses to solicit donations

of gift cards and other products. These gift cards were raffled off in February during Mortar Board Week, during which Panaegis sought to raise awareness of Mortar Board at William Jewell. The William Jewell community also celebrated Panaegis' 30th anniversary and other achievements March 28 during the college's weekly Community Time festivities.

Members of the chapter continue to be leaders in the William Jewell community. All five finalists for the 2008 Faculty Award — the highest award presented to a graduating William Jewell College senior — are members of Panaegis. Chapter members were also recognized with the Colonel Alexander Doniphan and L.E. Kresse Awards, awarded to the senior man and woman voted most likely to succeed by the senior class. New members are poised to continue the chapter's tradition of leadership on campus, as several have been recipients of or finalists for prestigious national fellowships.

Nathan Weinert, Chapter Member

University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

The Gold Caps Chapter of the University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire has demonstrated the Mortar Board principles of scholarship, leadership and service throughout this academic year by taking part in multiple university- and community-based projects.

Members came together with other students and faculty leaders to discuss campus-wide issues and helped represent the student body. The chapter aided in the decision making process on budgeting issues, new admission requirements, study abroad programs and the majors offered at Eau Claire. Members also sell roses at each graduation ceremony to help fund



University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire Mortar Board members cleaned up the community as a part of the "Tidy up the Town" project.

chapter service activities and projects, provide membership fee grants for new initiates, and support chapter operating costs.

In serving their community, the chapter was a part of a community project called "Tidy up the Town," which assists the elderly with their fall lawn clean up. Each year, the chapter holds a book drive and sorts books to be distributed to the Eau Claire Area School District. Members also volunteered to prepare and serve a meal at the Hope Gospel Mission and show off their athletic ability by running in the "Shamrock Shuffle" to raise money for the National Youth Sports Program (NYSP). The NYSP program goal is to teach lifelong sports skills and competition alongside education in math and science, health and nutrition, careers and the importance of education.

Katelyn Parker, Communications Director

University of Wyoming

Mortar Board Week at the University of Wyoming consisted of a week-long children's book drive and iPod raffle; a mixer for Mortar Board members, alumni and community members; a tutoring night; and a Knowledge Quest. Funding for the week was provided by a national Mortar Board Week Visibility Grant and the Associated Students of the University of Wyoming Student Government. A total of \$700 was raised and spent on the week.

On Sunday of Mortar Board Week, members decorated a case in the Wyoming Union, a well-traveled area of campus, to promote Mortar Board and its activities. The case included a bag from the chapter's Top Prof awards, a mug for the Tip of the Cap awards, a torch from Torchlight Laurels, a mortarboard, two t-shirts, a copy of the plaque recently placed in the Honors Court, the chapter's Golden Torch Award, and a copy of "The Torch" poem.

Monday through Friday, Mortar Board members sat at a table in the Wyoming Union to advertise Mortar Board Week. Students passing by were offered the opportunity to take a verbal Mortar Board quiz comprised of three questions. Participants were given candy and were allowed to enter a raffle for an iPod. Boxes were placed by the table to collect children's books. Several books were collected throughout the week, and these books will be

donated to the Reading is Leading initiative by the chapter's 2008-2009 president at the upcoming Mortar Board National Conference. Fliers advertising the week's events were also distributed. On Friday, at an event known as UW Idol, Mortar Board members announced the iPod raffle winner.

On Monday night, the chapter held a mixer for current Mortar Board members, alumni and the university community. Attending alumni included Charlotte Hearne Davis and Margaret "Peg" Tobin. Members and alumni visited with each other, providing cookies and soda. Attendees also participated in a "speed meeting" activity, a twist on speed dating, where they met with each other for two minutes for a one-on-one conversation. This allowed members to connect with alumni, and also for the community members in attendance to learn more about Mortar Board.

Tuesday night, after a regular chapter meeting, Mortar Board members held a tutoring and board game night. Many students came for tutoring help, and others came to study on their own or in groups. Members and students played several different board games throughout the night. Sub sandwiches were provided to everyone in attendance.

Thursday afternoon, Mortar Board held its first Knowledge Quest. The chapter hopes that this will become a tradition on the University of Wyoming campus. Twenty-five questions concerning the University of Wyoming and its history were prepared for the event, and students were given the opportunity to answer as many of the questions as possible, either in pairs or as individuals. Teams and individuals were scored on the number of questions answered correctly. The first and second place finishers received \$50 and \$30 gift certificates, respectively, to Altitude Chophouse and Brewery in Laramie, Wyo. The third place finisher received a Giant Sub from Subway. All



A University of Wyoming Mortar Board member helps students with their homework at their tutoring and game night held during Mortar Board Week.

participants were provided with food by the chapter.

On Friday night, those students who donated books gathered at Friday Night Fever, a popular student organization and university program which provides free, fun entertainment on Friday nights, to participate in the iPod raffle. Chapter members challenged students to answer trivia questions about the University of Wyoming Cap and Gown chapter of Mortar Board, and the university in general. Correct responses earned small door prizes and chocolates. At the end of this quiz session, the chapter awarded the iPod to one lucky student. That student then took the stage and publicly thanked Mortar Board for all the events we hosted throughout the week.

Battuya Bayarmagnai and Matthew Scarborough, Mortar Board Week Co-Chairs

Congratulations to our chapters celebrating anniversaries!

5th Anniversary

Embry-Riddle Aeronautical Alpha Lambda Omega chapter
Endicott College Triumph chapter

10th Anniversary

Lakeland College Gold Key Society chapter

25th Anniversary

Eastern Kentucky University Collegiate Pentacle chapter
The University of Toledo Peppers Honor Society chapter
Western Carolina University Cap & Gown chapter

50th Anniversary

Tulane University Alpha Sigma Sigma chapter
Willamette University Cap & Gown chapter

75th Anniversary

Oregon State University Cap & Gown chapter
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