



MORTAR BOARD FORUM

Spring 2009

Vol. 39

Issue No. 2

Standing out from the crowd: building your personal brand



Also featuring:

The newest chapter of Mortar Board

Mortar Board's roaring twenties

How one member helps parents of disabled children

Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society

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

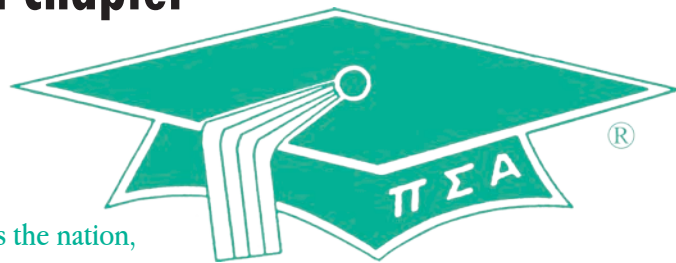
MORTAR BOARD FORUM

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From the editor

Former Executive Director Jon Cook left Mortar Board in April to serve as executive director of the McConnell Arts Center in Worthington, Ohio. The Mortar Board National Council and National Foundation wish him luck in his future endeavors, and have launched a search for the society's next executive director. Megan Stevens will serve as interim executive director during this period of transition. More information regarding the search, including a detailed position description, will be posted online at www.mortarboard.org/EDsearch. If you are interested in the position or know someone who may be, please contact Mortar Board National President Sally Steadman at president@mortarboard.org.

President's Message

Mortar Board members,

At this time of economic turmoil, it is increasingly important to invest in yourself and your future. Involvement in honor societies can help you to grow personally and professionally. Whether you network, volunteer, donate or take advantage of resources, membership in these organizations is instrumental toward empowering yourself.

Being an active part of an honor society such as Mortar Board, either while a student or after graduation, is a modest investment that will yield returns for years to come. The memories, leadership experience, networking opportunities and more are just a few ways that the Mortar Board experience can affect your career and life. In many cases, membership in this prominent society can even help with job placement. During my many years as a chapter advisor, I have seen major consulting firms seek to hire employees with qualifications matching the Mortar Board values of scholarship, leadership and service. It is not surprising to find a large number of Mortar Board members working for these firms. The federal government rewards Mortar Board members with higher starting salaries; some medical schools use Mortar Board as a sample extracurricular activity in their applications.

No matter where you turn, it seems that networking is a way to promote your career development and growth. Membership in Mortar Board's group on LinkedIn, a professional networking Web site, has grown exponentially in the past few months. Not only are members proud to note that they were involved in this esteemed society, but they are also eager to interact with each other, posting job leads and needs.

Mortar Board networking goes far beyond LinkedIn. Members are invited to participate in the Mortar Board Career & Graduate School Network, where they can be put in touch with other Mortar Board professionals in specific fields, schools and/or geographic regions. The connection gets even more personal with membership in local alumni chapters and participation in regional alumni events.

Personally, I am involved at the national level in Mortar Board, Tau Beta Pi engineering honor society, and the American Society for Engineering Education professional society. Being a member and giving to these societies has rewarded me greatly for more than 20 years. I am able to help to guide the future of these organizations, network with members and alumni, take advantage of resources and much more.

By supporting Mortar Board with an alumni sustaining membership, you can show your pride for Mortar Board and help the future of the society. You will allow members to continue their successes for years to come and preserve the strength of the chapter at your alma mater. Additionally, you may decide to volunteer at the local or national level, plan regional alumni events, or become a regular attendee at alumni or collegiate chapter events. Your level of involvement is up to you!



Sally Steadman, Ph.D.

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MORTAR BOARD FORUM

WWW.MORTARBOARD.ORG

SPRING 2009

VOLUME 39, NUMBER 2



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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.

MORTAR BOARD, INC. MISSION

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

NATIONAL FOUNDATION MISSION

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

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

For more information on how you can become an Alumni Sustaining Member for just \$25 annually, please visit www.mortarboard.org/alumni.

Mortar Board welcomes 227th chapter

By Alicia Notestone

The University of Minnesota Duluth has been selected to host the newest chartered chapter of Mortar Board. After a thorough application process, this comprehensive regional university known for its commitment to excellence and enrichment will be the home of the Tau Delta chapter.

The University of Minnesota Duluth, founded as the Normal School at Duluth in 1895, offers 78 majors to just under 10,000 undergraduate students annually. The university consistently ranks among the top midwestern regional universities in the list of "America's Best Colleges" by *U.S. News and World Report*.

In order to have the privilege of obtaining a Mortar Board charter, an institution must be accredited, grant baccalaureate degrees, have support of the university administration, host official visits by a national representative of Mortar Board, and be voted upon favorably by the organization's board of directors, the National Council. The group should also serve as an active honor society that continues to make significant contributions to college and community life.

After a visit from a national representative of Mortar Board and unanimous approval by the National Council, the chapter was installed as Mortar Board's 227th on April 23 by national President-Elect Daniel J. Turner. At this time, 22 collegiate members and two honorary members, Department of Economics Head Dr. A. Maureen O'Brien and Chancellor Kathryn A. Martin, were initiated into the society.

The chapter has already devoted itself to the national literacy project, "Reading is Leading," by making plans to volunteer with America Reads, a national grassroots campaign challenging every American to help all children to learn to read.

The Tau Delta chapter has selected an individual motto of "Honor, Service, and Leadership," which they plan to uphold with numerous projects and initiatives as a part of Mortar Board.

"With its dedication to excellence and enrichment, I feel that the University of Minnesota Duluth is a great fit for a new Mortar Board chapter," Turner explained. "The Tau Delta chapter has already committed to promoting literacy as a part of the Mortar Board's national literacy initiative, 'Reading is Leading' by volunteering with America Reads. I am certain the chosen members will exemplify the national ideals of scholarship, leadership and service, making Mortar Board a highly sought-after recognition for students."

Mortar Board member updates

John Armour, a 2008 initiate from West Virginia University; **Reynaldo Fuentes**, a 2009 initiate from the University of Wyoming; and **Kendra Key**, a 2009 initiate from the University of Alabama, were awarded Truman Scholarships. The Truman Scholarship Foundation finds and recognizes 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 provides them with financial support for graduate study, leadership training and fellowship with other students who are committed to making a difference through public service.

Scott Hugo, a 2008 initiate from the University of California, Los Angeles, and **Shandrack White**, a 2007 initiate from the University of Mississippi, were selected as 2009 Rhodes Scholars. The Rhodes Scholarships, the oldest international fellowships, bring outstanding students from many countries around the world to the University of Oxford.

Dr. Susan Komives, initiated in 1967 at Florida State University, was recently elected to serve as president of the Council for the Advancement of Standards in Higher Education (CAS). CAS is a consortium of 36 higher education associations that develops quality standards and programs to promote student learning and developmental outcomes. Dr. Komives is a professor of college student personnel at the University of Maryland College Park.



Dr. Susan Komives

Correction: **Aaron Merkin** (incorrectly listed as "Merlin" in the fall 2008 edition), a 2008 initiate at the University of Wyoming, was named recipient of the National Education Association Jack Kinnaman Scholarship. Additionally, he was appointed to the influential nine-member National Education Association Student Program Advisory Committee.

Sheela Ramesh, a 2008 initiate from Carnegie Mellon University, was honored with a Marshall Scholarship. The 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 granted for two years and provide full financing.

Seven Mortar Board members were among 23 Alpha Lambda Delta members honored with the society's national fellowships. Each recipient will receive between \$3,000 and \$7,500 for their graduate or professional study. The recipients are **Bethany Coston**, initiated at Albion College in 2007; **Van Hoang**, initiated at Hanover College in 2007; **Bonnie Keane**, initiated at Valparaiso University in 2008; **Brittany Knick**, initiated at Clemson University in 2006; **Mina Makary**, initiated at Otterbein College in 2008; **Robyn Strumpf**, initiated at the University of Southern California in 2008; and **Amanda Weldy**, initiated at the University of California, Los Angeles in 2008.

WHAT ARE YOU UP TO?

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

Member provides assistance for parents of disabled children

By Alicia Notestone

A typical day in 29-year-old Katie's happy life seems like any other: she wakes up, goes to work at the job she has held for the past six years, and depending on the time of year, tries to fit in one of her favorite extracurricular activities - skiing or swimming. Katie's life, however, is anything but typical. She is "multi-handicapped," meaning she suffers from a number of disabilities including decreased motor control and the inability to speak.

Nearly three decades ago, Mortar Board member Dr. Barbara Holdcroft (initiated in 1983 at The University of Toledo) welcomed her second child, Katie, into the world. Katie was always pleasant, ate well and slept peacefully. Just before her daughter turned one year old, Barbara and her husband Kirk noticed some developmental delays. Despite the fact that Katie was not crawling yet, something most children do between six and 10 months, a neurologist performed tests and determined that she was "within normal limits."

After another six to eight months of little progress, the Holdcrofts' pediatrician identified some unrelenting developmental delays. A second neurologist then handed the family a heartrending diagnosis: Katie would never be able to walk, communicate or function, and would eventually be confined to a near-vegetative state as her brain and skull had stopped growing, all simply because her "head was too small."

Barbara, as numerous mothers would, had difficulty accepting this drastic diagnosis, finally taking Katie to a third neurologist. Several tests over numerous visits later, Katie was found to be clear of genetic deficiencies. However, no clear label could be assigned to her developmental delays. This provided hope in that Katie did not have a terminal illness, but the lack of a confirmed diagnosis prevented access to valuable information and the use of helpful treatments. Katie's rough "multi-handicapped" diagnosis falls under the category of a developmental disability, which affects between .3 and 1 percent of all people.

Against all odds, Katie has continually progressed beyond what was initially believed to be her limit. She can eat, bathe, run, walk, ski, swim, and ride a bicycle. She still cannot read, speak or write, but is intuitive, aware of her surroundings and communicates with her actions. She holds a job at Lott Industries, a non-profit corporation that provides meaningful employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities. Transportation to and from her job is provided by the state-funded Board of Mental Retardation and Developmental Disability.

Throughout Katie's life, Barbara has built an information path, collecting bits and pieces of helpful data from various sources along the way. Barbara explained, "I kept thinking 'Why isn't there something out there? Why isn't it easier to get information about all of the medical details and things I should be doing?'"

Years later, she understood that she could be the solution to this problem. She could share the information she's found, the advice she's been given, and tips of her own. Instead of transferring the difficult task of gathering information onto other parents, she could help caregivers raise children with disabilities.

Barbara shares her family's journey, with its struggles and joys, with those who work closely with people with disabilities. Her book, "I'm Katie's Mom: Pointers for Professionals and Parents of the Disabled," offers the insight and advice she wishes she'd had years ago. Barbara has learned many valuable lessons in the past 29 years, including the lesson to be herself and pursue her dreams while helping her child. She did just that, and now holds a bachelor's and master's degree in both education and theology. Her doctorate, which she obtained while raising a family, attempted to blend those two academic disciplines with the study of moral development.

"I'm Katie's Mom: Pointers for Professionals and Parents of the Disabled," is sold at book retailers such as Amazon, Barnes & Noble and Borders, and can be purchased by contacting the publisher, Vantage Press, at 1-800-882-3273. Members may contact Barbara directly at bholdcroft01@terra.edu.

Excerpt

Hi, I'm Katie's Mom. Often that is my only identity. That's the only one that is important to Katie, my daughter with a disability. It is certainly the only identity that counts within her circle. My name is totally unimportant.

If you are reading this, you most likely have a child who has been diagnosed with a disability. I will not tell you that I am sorry, because I do not know the scope of your situation, and the resources that may be available to you. There is much that can be done, and, quite frankly, this could be a very positive force in your life.

I am writing this because there often isn't information regarding raising a child with disabilities. Pertinent advice regarding this is hard to obtain, especially from parents who have "been there." In my experience, it took several years to find out about the agencies and services available. I hope that this might be a guide for some.

The disability that my daughter is diagnosed with is "multi-handicapped," indicating that a number of disabilities challenge her. The most glaring is her inability to speak, to form words. Katie can make sounds, and her receptive language is good. She also is affected in her motor control, especially small motor activities, and on some cognitive level that it is difficult to determine. The ideas and stories in this book relate to the experiences of our family with Katie, with these limitations.

Because Katie is unable to verbally express her thoughts, I have taken an unusual approach to writing. Each chapter of advice will begin with my own experience on a topic, and then I will often add what I believe to be Katie's thoughts on the experience. There are many days I surely wish she could express herself.

Of course there is the disappointment of realizing she/he may never go to college, get married, and produce cuddly grandchildren. But there are other dreams and goals, if you are not complacent, and you embrace the challenge. Being a parent of a "normal" child is no "cake-walk" if you take your responsibility seriously. There are a great many similarities.

As with "normal" children, one of the caregivers becomes the "primary caregiver" and this changes over time, with age changes. It has been no different in our household. Katie has identified most closely with me, and this has not changed with age.

This book will not give you all the answers. It does not/cannot address every situation conceivable. But I hope it offers some insight into this particular calling. It will simply detail some of what I have learned in 24 years of being "Katie's Mom."



Katie (left), with her mother Barbara, loves to ski.
Photo: Joe Glick Photography

Standing out from the crowd: building your personal brand

By Alicia Notestone

In the current job market, it is critical for individuals to stand out among other candidates, bringing their desirable qualities front and center.

Branding, an extensive marketing technique, made its way into the personal arena with the advent and subsequent popularity of “personal branding.” Personal branding, like traditional branding, associates a product (you) with a certain set of attributes: skills, characteristics, personality traits, etc. Quite simply, it is a way to market yourself to others. Now is the time to create and apply your personal brand, and market yourself to potential employers, colleagues, graduate schools and more.

Defining your brand

Just like major corporations such as Starbucks, Apple and Disney have differentiated themselves from competitors, a strong personal brand can help you to stand out. The key is to make a distinction between your brand and those of other colleagues, candidates or classmates.

What discernible characteristics do you (and therefore your brand) have? What unique skills can you offer? What are your short- and long-term goals? Try to define yourself, professionally, in a few sentences, as you would describe yourself to a complete stranger. Then, shorten that into a quick brand snapshot that could be used on business cards, such as “diverse marketing professional” or “accounting and finance expert.”

Developing the brand

Everything about you is your brand. Your personal style, the way you handle e-mails, your business cards, résumé, telephone manners, voice mail greeting, and online identity all play a role in how you are perceived, and perception is everything.

It is important to express yourself in a way you would like to be thought of, while maintaining authenticity, in order to create a trusted brand. Look at every aspect of your brand identity and ensure that it is consistent with your desired perception. Dress appropriately; communicate with courteous e-mails; design personal business cards with contact information and your brand snapshot; target your résumé, curriculum vitae (CV), cover letter and other application materials for each specific position with grammatical accuracy; use polite telephone manners; record a professional voice mail greeting; and maintain a positive online identity.

Your online identity

Your online identity is made up of all your public participation on the Web - sharing social networking profiles, commenting on or writing a Web log or “blog,” posting on a Twitter micro-blogging account, uploading online photo albums, posting online videos and reviewing products. When using your real name, almost everything you do online can easily be traced back to you. To see what others see, do a Web search for your name or create an alert that will e-mail you when your name is mentioned at www.google.com/alerts.

Building your brand

Individual brand enhancement by way of personal and professional growth can make you more valuable, which helps when searching for jobs or looking to increase your worth at your current company.

This enrichment can come from numerous sources, including freelance projects, business seminars, continuing education courses, and networking with industry associations. Small, subtle moves such as keeping up-to-date on trade publications, taking on new or additional roles at work, and volunteering also help to build your brand.

You are a good investment

When economic problems arise, it is easy to let personal investments fall by the wayside. Keep in mind that you are your most valuable asset and are worthy of investment.

The cost of a brand-enhancing personal investment can vary from next to nothing (such as self-education at a local library) to a very large expense (such as formally furthering education at a college or university).

In addition to education, joining alumni associations for schools or membership societies (such as Mortar Board, Greek organizations and honoraries) may range in cost but can provide valuable benefits. For example, Mortar Board members have access to career and scholarship search engines and a career and graduate school network. Many universities offer similar advantages.

Volunteer involvement in these and other organizations gives individuals an opportunity to apply their unique skills in a different way and often learn new skills. With this involvement, you can serve in local, regional or national roles that can help you expand professionally and strengthen your network.



Sharing your brand

There are traditional methods of sharing your brand - business cards, résumés, cover letters, stationery - as well as more modern techniques relying heavily on the Internet and social media. Professional and social networking sites such as LinkedIn and Facebook provide an opportunity to expand brand visibility and enhance networks.

With the use of LinkedIn, individuals can share their résumé, current projects and recommendations all in one place. Facebook, initially created in 2004 for college students at select schools, has expanded greatly and now boasts accounts for people of all ages, businesses, celebrities and more. It is a great way to share ideas and promote your brand and learn by joining groups applicable to your business interests. For more ways to share your brand, please see “Five online tools for professionals” at right.

Keeping it up

When it comes to your brand, maintenance of your reputation is just as important as building it. Whether you are looking for a job or are happily employed, continually add new accomplishments to your résumé and keep records of your projects in a print or electronic portfolio. Update your social networking profiles and ask colleagues to provide recommendations on LinkedIn. Keep yourself in the minds of others by making new professional contacts and attending networking events.

Three marketing and communications techniques that can be applied to your brand

1 Positioning - This marketing practice takes a product and distinctively positions it in a specific place in the mind of the target audience. When applied to your brand, this means making yourself be seen in a certain light by your target audience. With positioning, you aren't changing yourself; you are changing the mind of your target audience. Are you looking for a job? You probably want to seem intelligent and qualified to an audience of prospective employers. Are you trying to advance within your current company? You may want to be seen by colleagues and supervisors as the ideal employee. As your role changes, you may need to re-position yourself. In short, know where you stand in the minds of others and make sure that is consistent with where you want to be.

2 Creating buzz - Often created by word-of-mouth or online “viral” marketing, making buzz is making excitement. Buzz is often a positive, albeit vague, association or excitement about a product or person. Unconventional guerilla marketing, such as the mysterious placement of magnetic “Mooninite” figures from the Adult Swim program Aqua Teen Hunger Force (which were mistaken for explosive devices) in Boston in 2007, gained national buzz. Eccentric techniques, although hopefully not this extensive, can give you sizzle. You can create buzz by becoming a valued part of a network. If you have a blog or are on Twitter, build a network of friends and strangers and actively engage by posting interesting, thoughtful remarks and information.

3 Public relations - Also referred to as “PR,” public relations blends various techniques and outlets to build awareness and a favorable knowledge of a product. It provides credible, third-party sources with information about the product - something you can also do. Like a positive review from a trusted source varies from a positive review from the product's maker, other people's opinions of you hold greater clout than your opinion of yourself. Strive for positive recommendations and online feedback and a network that trusts you. Attend events in your company, industry, membership organizations or professional associations to get your name in the public eye. As you grow, volunteer to moderate events, serve as a speaker or become an expert in your field consulted by journalists and hence gain notoriety.

Five online tools for professionals

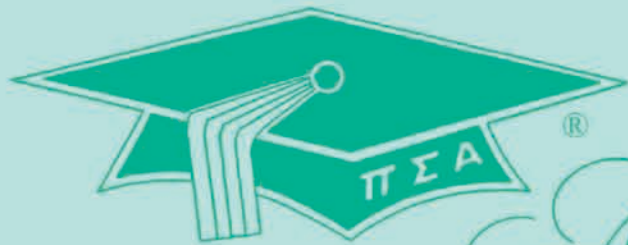
1 LinkedIn (LinkedIn.com) - LinkedIn is a professional networking site with more than 35 million users in 170 industries. A user's profile serves as an online résumé, and allows associates or “connections” to post recommendations. The site can be used to find jobs, people and business opportunities, as well as participate in meaningful discussions.

2 Blog - Short for a “Web log,” a blog is an online journal of sorts. It allows users to articulate their views with short stories, essays and comments, thereby creating a public forum for expressing ideas. Many people choose to register a domain name such as www.firstnamelastname.com or use free blogging sites such as WordPress.com to blog about their personal and professional interests.

3 Twitter (Twitter.com) - Twitter is a fairly new “micro-blogging” site that has gained popularity with multiple generations and types of users. Using Twitter posts known as “tweets,” people can answer the question “What are you doing?” in 140 characters or less. Many people use this service to share their daily activities, make plans with their friends or “followers,” or share interesting links and articles.

4 Facebook (Facebook.com) - As of early April, this networking site exceeded more than 200 million active users. Facebook's mission is “to give people the power to share and make the world more open and connected.” Using this Web site, members can upload photos, chat, share links and videos, connect with friends and colleagues and promote their personal brand.

5 YouTube (YouTube.com) - YouTube is an international video-sharing site that allows users to watch and share original videos, ranging from professional tutorials to family memoirs. If you have expertise to share, this is a great place to do it. If you have room to learn, YouTube videos offer a fantastic wealth of information.



2008 Annual Report

Mortar Board Digest

The following are Mortar Board activities for the period of Nov. 1, 2007 through Oct. 31, 2008:

- 5,884 members were initiated into 198 active, collegiate chapters
- 92 percent of those asked accepted the honor of becoming a member of Mortar Board
- 86 honorary members were inducted by chapters
- 65 gift memberships were granted to those in financial need
- 230 members continued their collegiate membership and involvement for more than one year
- 320 alumni members committed to support Mortar Board through sustaining dues, more than half of those as lifetime members

This 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 is 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 National Office

The 2007-2008 fiscal year continued to provide some significant opportunities and challenges for both Mortar Board, Inc. and the Mortar Board National Foundation. Members and alumni continue to experience the great things active Mortar Board chapters and alumni are doing through a variety of channels such as electronic newsletters, social media, online social and career communities, along with the *Forum*.

Mortar Board's national initiative is "Reading is Leading." This year, 46 of Mortar Board's collegiate chapters rose to the challenge of a first-time Virtual Book Drive. Held July 26 through Oct. 15, this effort resulted in \$25,586.24 to help the non-profit organization First Book provide children from low-income families with the opportunity to read and own their first new books.

The Mortar Board National Council wishes to thank Martha Burns Anderson and Al Fisher for their service as leaders during the 2007-2008 year. The national leadership team also welcomed Jane Beyer and Joseph Rodriguez as new members elected at the 2008 Mortar Board National Conference held in Columbus, Ohio.

The Mortar Board National Foundation distributed a record \$60,000

in fellowships this year, along with an additional \$10,000 in funding for special chapter projects. Current economic conditions have adversely affected the ability to maintain the record distribution levels for the coming year, and future fundraising will play a major role in providing funds to alumni furthering their education.

A new vehicle called the Chapter Endowment Program was established for providing donors with the ability to establish their own fund within the Mortar Board National Foundation, ultimately benefiting a local chapter of their choice. Affinity relationships and sponsorships with generous partners such as GEICO, UnitedHealthcare StudentResources and College Loan Market remain critical in helping to fund Mortar Board leadership development, chapter project grants and fellowships. The National Foundation would like to thank Judy Lewis Logue, who ended her term as a National Foundation trustee this year after many years of service and advocacy. Denise Rode was welcomed as a new trustee during the year.

The Mortar Board National Foundation granted \$9,308 to chapters in support of special projects or initiatives during the 2007-2008 fiscal year. The following chapters were awarded with grants:

- University of Arizona
- University of Arkansas
- Bowling Green State University
- Carleton College
- Carnegie Mellon University
- Carson-Newman College
- University of Cincinnati
- Drury University
- Florida State University
- Fort Hays State University
- Hood College
- Kansas State University
- Lyon College
- University of Maryland
- Northern Arizona University
- Queens University of Charlotte
- Rhodes College
- Salem College
- Seattle Pacific University
- University of South Alabama
- University of South Florida
- Tulane University
- Valparaiso University
- Washington University in St. Louis

- William Jewell College
- University of Wyoming
- Xavier University

Fellowships ranging in amounts from \$3,000 to \$10,000 were distributed to 15 members in pursuit of graduate or professional degrees by the Mortar Board National Foundation Fund:

- Cindy Bethel, University of South Florida, Washington State University Mortar Board Classes of 1945-1950 Fellowship
- Kimberly Blezien, Ohio Northern University, College Loan Market/Mortar Board Fellowship
- Melissa Elafros, Michigan State University, Mary Elizabeth Ramier Fellowship
- Danielle English, Kansas State University, GEICO Fellowship
- Kirsten Freeman Fox, The Ohio State University, Barbara Cook Fellowship
- Nicole Hannemann, Texas Tech University, Ellen North Dunlap Fellowship
- Amanda Hong, Case Western Reserve University, UnitedHealthcare StudentResources/Mortar Board Fellowship
- Donny Kakati, University of South Alabama, Zelma Patchin Fellowship
- Chase Knowles, University of California, Los Angeles, Mortar Board Fellowship in honor of Judith Lewis Logue
- Eniola Mafe, Spelman College, Mortar Board Fellowship in honor of Martha Burns Anderson
- Joan-Marie Manolakis, University of Alabama, Mortar Board Fellowship in honor of Al Fisher
- Maureen Mork, The Ohio State University, Ruth Weimer Mount Fellowship
- Ian Neel, San Diego State University, Mortar Board Diane Selby Fellowship
- Jeannie Nguyen, University of Washington, Katherine Wills Coleman Fellowship
- Laura Twilling, The Ohio State University, Mortar Board Fellowship

Mortar Board continues to expand with the installation of the 225th chapter at The University of Findlay in Findlay, Ohio and the 226th chapter at Lenoir-Rhyne University in Hickory, N.C.

At a critical time when cultivating young leaders is so important to the global community, it is paramount for Mortar Board members and alumni to continue financially supporting a respected national organization that has made a significant difference personally, professionally and within our own communities, across the globe. Economic times are tough. Mortar Board has weathered the storm over the last 91 years because of the caring and generous support of their peer selected members. With your help, Mortar Board leaders chosen for service can help calm the storm of today and provide some incredible opportunities for tomorrow.

Here's to another great year,



Jon Cook
Former Executive Director

Editor's Note: The Mortar Board National Council and National Foundation have launched a search for the society's next executive director. Megan Stevens will serve as interim executive director during this transitional period. More information regarding the search will be posted online at www.mortarboard.org/EDsearch.

Mortar Board 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 contact the Mortar Board National Office:

- 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 alumni and chapter gatherings
- Office furniture
 - Occasional (meeting) chairs
 - Coffee tables
 - Lamps

Annual Financial Position

Nov. 1, 2007 - Oct. 31, 2008

Mortar Board, Inc.

Revenue

Membership Dues ¹	\$353,475
Fees	\$39,312
Contributions/Grants	\$30,000
Investment income	\$41,429
Other	\$2,661
Subtotal	\$466,877

Expenses

Programs	\$405,611
Management	\$90,097
Subtotal	\$495,708

Total Assets

Unrestricted	\$462,346
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¹\$370,000 in membership dues was budgeted for 2007-2008; actual revenue fell short.

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

Total Assets

All restricted and unrestricted \$676,895

During the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the Mortar Board National Foundation distributed \$60,000 in fellowships to Mortar Board members. This represented a one-time increase of \$30,000 in fellowship funding. This distribution, coupled with a loss in investments, caused the total assets of the Mortar Board National Foundation to drop to \$676,895. A more detailed report on the Mortar Board National Foundation will appear in the fall issue of the *Mortar Board Forum*.

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 Fellowship
- Gail Harrison Corvette Leadership Endowment
- Katherine Wills Coleman Fellowship
- Mary Elizabeth Ramier Fellowship
- Mortar Board General Fellowship
- Mortar Board, Inc. Diane Selby Fellowship
- Ruth Weimer Mount Fellowship
- Washington State University Classes of 1945-1950 Fellowship
- Zelma Patchin Fellowship

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, 2008 through Dec. 31, 2008.

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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.

Mortar Board's roaring twenties

Celebrating our history

By Alicia Notestone

While “returning to normalcy” at the end of World War I, the 1920s in the United States became synonymous with women’s suffrage, jazz, prohibition, flapper girls, the Red Scare and the nation’s first “talkies.” Technology was on the rise with a more affordable availability of luxuries such as radios and automobiles (the price of a Ford dropped to \$290).

The fashion of young women, including some Mortar Board members at the time, was that of the flapper girl - short boyish bob haircuts, skin-baring knee-length dresses, and make-up - all drastically different than the previous conservative, Victorian style of life. A trip to Mortar Board’s national archives unearthed an article by a former national editor, Mrs. Carter C. Chinnis, which tells the story of one rebellious member with a bob who didn’t want the dean of women to know about her haircut. So, she saved her shorn hair to wear as an early version of hair extensions, known as a “fall,” when required to meet with the dean.

Throughout the 1920s, more women began attending large state colleges and universities. As a result, this decade was one of great growth for Mortar Board, founded as a women’s society, yielding 41 new chapters between 1919 and 1930. While many women at this time took gender-specific coursework such as home economics, many Mortar Board members were crossing traditional gender barriers with non-traditional careers. One member, Dr. Virginia Helm Milner from the University of Kentucky, graduated with a medical degree from Johns Hopkins University and was a resident physician at Children’s Hospital of San Francisco at the young age of 26.

As Mortar Board, which initially had many chapters in the Northeast and Midwest, expanded to the South and the West, it was divided into seven sections to be overseen by regional section directors. By the end of the decade, 47 chapters fell in these sections. Today, Mortar Board’s 227 chapters are divided into 25 sections.

Along with women’s right to vote as a result of the ratification of the 19th Amendment in 1920, Mortar Board women were given the opportunity to proudly step into more active campus roles, some chapters even shedding their secretive nature. Members of the chapter at the University of Idaho planned the first dance to ever be sponsored by a women’s organization on campus called the “Spinsters’ Skip,” in which women invited men to be their dates. Similar dances quickly popped up on several other campuses, many hosted by other Mortar Board chapters.

In addition to dancing, members expressed a distinct fondness for singing. Michigan State University compiled a song book, and many chapters submitted their original Mortar Board songs for widespread recognition in the newly developed national publication, the *Mortar Board Quarterly*, which printed its first copy in 1925. Today, Mortar Board’s official songs are “Thy Ideals” and “The Mortar Board Ode.”

In addition to their love of social activities and fun, Mortar Board members took a serious and active role in supporting each other and various causes. The Tolo chapter developed an emergency loan program for women at the University of Washington. The fund allowed women to borrow immediately, with the only formality being a request of up to \$25 from the dean of women, which must be paid back prior to graduation. The fund helped many women who may have otherwise been forced to drop out of school for lack of funds. Correspondingly, the University of Texas Mortar Board chapter spearheaded a campus campaign to provide lighted campus walkways to ensure the safety of women returning from the library at night. This project came to fruition in 1926 with a shocking \$14,000 system and an enhanced sense of security on campus.

The 1920s also saw the first mention of Mortar Board sponsoring a national project, which did not actually culminate until 1985. Throughout the decade, the strength of the

national organization was seen as key, and every chapter and member felt wholly invested in the society. Like today, being selected for Mortar Board was an honor for those exemplifying the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service, ideals from which Mortar Board has not wavered.

To honor the 91st anniversary and look forward to the centennial celebration, Mortar Board has launched a historical series to be highlighted in each edition of the Mortar Board Forum magazine. Look for the next edition of the Mortar Board Forum to see the growth of the society throughout the 1930s.



A photo of Mortar Board’s section directors, now known as section coordinators, reprinted from a 1926 edition of the *Mortar Board Quarterly*. Left to right, upper row: Luella Galliver, Alline Smith, Eveline Broderick; lower row: Lillian Stupp, Irene Rems, Lillie Cromwell

The Historical Publication Committee is compiling a centennial Mortar Board history book. Please send any Mortar Board history, from personal memoirs to photos, to committee chair Martha Tykodi at:

4932 York Road SW, Pataskala, OH 43062

history@mortarboard.org

Learn more at www.mortarboard.org/history

Bowling Green State University

The Fayette Paulsen chapter started their exceptional year with participation in the national Virtual Book Drive. The fundraiser was very successful, raising a total of \$315 to purchase boxes of books for the Toledo Family House, a shelter that provides much-needed support to families in need. The books were welcomed with huge smiles.

Spring brings the chapter's annual project, the Last Lecture, to campus. This ongoing event held at BGSU for the past three years again permitted an honored professor to give a lecture as if it were their last. In March, Dr. Paul A. Moore, a biology professor and director of the University Honors Program, gave a lecture entitled "To suck the marrow out of life: Living a life of consequence," featuring elements of critical thinking, his influences, and how to engage life with passion and to live with a purpose.

Also on the calendar for this spring is the Living Book presentation. This new event strives to help show children how fun books can be, by bringing Dr. Seuss' "Sneetches" to life during the Sibs and Kids weekend on BGSU campus. This event was funded by a \$100 chapter project grant awarded to the chapter by the Mortar Board National Foundation. The grant has aided in the success of the event by providing the funding necessary to build and make props, costumes and scripts.

*Submitted by Kim Miller,
Communications Chair*

California Polytechnic State University

Last year, the Tassels chapter focused their "Reading is Leading" efforts on a local elementary school whose library had burned down, leaving the children with no books. This low-funded school had few options to help to replenish its library resources. Members of Mortar Board provided support by conducting fundraisers to buy books for the school's newly reconstructed library.

Additionally, the chapter's literacy efforts reach beyond the borders of the county, the state and even the nation by supporting the developing Northrise University in Ndola, Zambia. Northrise University began in 2004, offering degrees in business administration,

marketing, information technology and theology. Cal Poly, as well as Dordt College in Iowa, has partnered with Northrise University to develop a college of sustainable agricultural sciences. As the campus and enrollment grows, new majors in construction management and engineering will likely be added. Unfortunately, the university's library shelves for these subjects remain virtually empty with few prospects for obtaining valuable textbooks and reference materials. The chapter hopes to combat this problem by collecting books from various departments and faculty as well as hosting fundraisers to cover shipping fees.

Dr. Mary Pedersen, the chapter's advisor, recently visited Northrise University to develop an Africa - U.S. Higher Education Initiative planning grant to help fund the new program. As food, agriculture and land-use planning are significant issues in many parts of Africa, it is only fitting that the books donated will go to promote higher education and sustainable agricultural practices in Zambia. When Northrise University President Moffat Zimba visited Cal Poly in early March, Mortar Board members were able to present him with the gift of more than 800 books collected from the university faculty and library, and he was overwhelmed with gratitude. The Tassels chapter will continue to collect books for Northrise University through the summer, and a shipping container will be sent to Africa by boat in October.

Submitted by Kristina Wolf, Secretary

Case Western Reserve University

The Lux chapter has had a very busy year administering several projects in support of the national philanthropy, "Reading is Leading." During the group's second annual book drive, they collected nearly 2,000 gently-used children's books from the campus community. Hundreds of books were donated to a variety of worthy recipients, including local elementary and high schools, a battered women's shelter, a church tutoring program, and a program that sends books to underprivileged third-world schools. The chapter's Turkey for a Day fundraiser, in which students donate money to see their professor wear a turkey costume for a whole day, supported literacy by raising funds

for the non-profit organization First Book.

The chapter continues to host their annual Rock for Doc event, a fundraiser originally conceptualized to honor and subsequently memorialize the late beloved Dr. Ignacio Ocasio, now expanded to recognize excellence in teaching. Rock for Doc attendees are treated to a free dinner with music, dance and theater acts performed by campus groups. Proceeds contribute to a scholarship fund.

Submitted by Sarah Murphy, President

Coe College

The members of the Crescent chapter have been very active within their community of Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Members regularly participate in a "backpack project" every Thursday, which supplies local, underprivileged elementary students with food and other supplies for the weekend. The chapter is also responsible for the upkeep of a one-mile stretch of highway through the Adopt-A-Highway program. In September, 25 percent of the chapter volunteered and collected more than 15 bags of trash along this particular stretch of highway. Members are also very active in helping the Coe College community. As a group, members have organized two designated driver weekends for students of Coe. In addition, five to eight members of Mortar Board have volunteered to usher at every play and special guest speaker event on campus.

*Submitted by Lisa Sadewasser,
Public Relations Chair*

Cornell College

The Torch chapter in Mount Vernon, Iowa has had a productive year with a clear mission: promote reading and help a flood-affected community. The Torch chapter, comprised of 32 members, rose to the occasion when they took on the Cedar Rapids Public Library (CRPL) as their "pet project" for the year. The tragic 2008 destruction of the 85,000 square foot library by a devastating flood is thought to be the largest public library disaster in U.S. history. This disastrous flood caused river water containing raw sewage and other pollutants to submerge up to seven feet of the library's first floor, destroying the entire adult and young adult collections, reference materials, a computer

laboratory and much more. Main support for rebuilding the library will come from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and state resources, and is estimated to take up to three years. Private donations such as those from the Torch chapter are critical in helping the library to be restored quickly.

In keeping with Mortar Board's commitment to literacy, the chapter began their "Reading is Leading" fundraising efforts by collecting donations for the library at home football games and raised close to \$900. The group sold t-shirts, gift wrapped books around the holidays at Barnes & Noble, and took orders for Buffalo Wild Wings from Cornell students by charging them for the pick-up and delivery of the wings to campus residence halls.

In November, the group used a unique finals week massage fundraiser to raise \$370. Licensed massage therapists from the Cedar Valley area graciously volunteered their time and Mortar Board charged \$5 for a five-minute massage to help students de-stress from studying. The chapter's Trick-or-Treat for Books door-to-door unwanted book collection also helped to raise funds. Books collected from the drive were recycled at a two-day used book sale in February, raising \$330. Because of the event's success, another sale was slated for spring.

"We found innovative ways to raise money for a common cause," explained Chapter President Tina Pontarelli. She continued, "I am very impressed with the effort each individual member has put in to working towards this common goal that has been both productive and inspiring." As of mid-March, the Cornell College Torch chapter raised approximately \$1,895.15 and continues to raise funds throughout the academic year.

Submitted by Rebecca Sullens, Director of Communications



Cornell College members Rebecca Sullens and Jessica Morton pose for a picture at the check-out for the Torch chapter used book sale

Editor's note: If you are interested in helping the Torch chapter support the CRPL, please contact them at cornellcollege@mortarboard.org. For more information on the CRPL Flood, please visit their Web site at www.crlibrary.org/flood/index.html.

Drury University

The Skiff chapter held their second annual spelling bee during national Mortar Board Week. This year, nine teams of three participated in the spelling bee. Attendees were asked to bring children's books as an entrance fee, as well as to contribute to the "cheats," which could be purchased to assist the teams. The Student Union Board emerged as the victors over Pi Beta Phi in second place and the Student Government Association in third. Many area businesses, including restaurants and a local honey maker, donated prizes for the top three teams.

"It's exciting that Skiff has an event that can get our campus excited about our organization's philanthropy, 'Reading is Leading,' as well as get our members involved in scholarship, leadership and service all at once," said Chapter Historian Emily Manck.

The chapter was very pleased that the second annual bee was met with such great enthusiasm by the campus and is eager to continue their association with local Boyd Elementary. The event provided the school with close to \$100 and more than 140 books for their library.

Submitted by Emily Manck, Secretary/Historian and Ashley Trantham, Communications Chair

University of Hawaii at Manoa

Loosely translated, the University of Hawaii at Manoa's chapter name, Hui Po'okela, means "an organization of excellence." This name represents exactly what the Hui Po'okela chapter is all about. During the past academic year, members of the chapter have dedicated themselves to the three standards of Mortar Board: scholarship, leadership and service. Labeled as one of the few service honor societies at the university, the group is proud to say that altruistic service has been their main focus.

All members of this student-run organization felt that service should be an important foundation upon which the chapter could branch out and have a positive effect on the community. To date, the chapter has organized and completed more than 30 service projects. These projects range from beach clean-ups to helping local organizations with community events, such as the Okinawan Festival held last October. The members' strong desire to help the community has resulted in service projects continuously being organized by the local chapter, even as the spring semester comes to an end.

The chapter's motivation and dedication to helping the community has led to many community members contacting the group for help. Recently, the chapter was contacted to assist with judging a speech festival held at a local intermediate school. Eight members participated as judges and the event's coordinators were very grateful to have judges without any affiliation to the speech participants. As a result, the Hui Po'okela chapter has been invited back for subsequent speech festivals.

One unique service project in which the Hui Po'okela recently participated is the huli huli chicken fundraiser. Roasted chicken was sold at this fundraising event, yielding about 100 roasted chickens to be donated to a local homeless shelter, the Institute for Human Services (IHS). Members of IHS were so grateful for the chapter's contribution that each of the participating chapter members walked away feeling as if they had truly made a difference that day.



The University of Hawaii at Manoa chapter participated in more than 30 service events this year.

By partnering with charitable organizations such as the American Heart Association, the American Lung Association, the Easter Seals of Hawaii and countless others, members of the Hui Po'okela chapter have been able to develop the necessary skills that they can apply to their lives and carry with them upon graduation from the University of Hawaii at Manoa. This tradition, in which members of the Hui Po'okela chapter are able to walk away with something more than just an honor stole, gives the local chapter a strong reputation of helping students, building and developing leadership skills, and introducing members to altruistic services.

Submitted by Theodore Chang, President

Hope College

The Alcor chapter has continued its dedication of service toward the college and surrounding community of Holland, Mich. during the past year. Since the beginning of 2009, the chapter has created a prom night for disabled local citizens, has held a Last Lecture Series for various Hope faculty members to share their life views, and has raised money for the DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids, Mich. at the college's annual Dance Marathon.

For the past few years, the chapter's annual Disabilities Prom has provided a night of entertainment for numerous disabled members of the Holland community. The prom allows Hope students to interact with community members outside of campus and also provides members with an opportunity to serve and love their fellow human beings.

The chapter launched a Last Lecture Series, inspired by the "Last Lecture" delivered by late Carnegie Mellon University professor Dr. Randy Pausch. The series has featured professors from a variety of academic departments and has allowed these professors to answer the question: "If this was the last lecture of your career, what would you say?" Professors are invited to reflect on their careers and lives and to think deeply about what really matters to them, as well as what wisdom they wish to impart to students. So far, each Last Lecture has been a great success. Chapter

President Alex Griffith was thrilled with the attendance, sharing that "We packed out both venues for the lectures with an amount of students and staff that surpassed even our greatest estimates."

Meanwhile, the Dance Marathon has been a long-standing and successful tradition at Hope. Students, including Mortar Board members, have seized the opportunity to donate their time and money to the 24-hour fundraiser so that children with various diseases may have a second chance at life.

In addition, the chapter is also focused on its upcoming "Reading is Leading" event. "We will be sending some of our members to Van Raalte Elementary, the school which received our First Book Virtual Book Drive proceeds in October, to spend time with the kids and to read to them," Griffith explained.

Finally, the chapter inducted new members for next year's Mortar Board class and held their traditional Wearing of the Blue Breakfast for freshman and sophomore students who have been honored on the dean's list during the past semester. The breakfast allows current Mortar Board members to educate underclassmen about Mortar Board and its benefits. Most of the current Mortar Board members attended the event at least once during their college careers.

As another semester of service is drawing to a close, Hope's Mortar Board members are enjoying the rich experiences that have come with their Mortar Board memberships and will soon be passing this tradition on to the newest class of members.

Submitted by Chris Lewis, Director of Communications

Kansas State University

The XIX chapter recently hosted the annual Academic Decathlon for Kansas high school students. The Academic Decathlon program is designed to develop a greater respect for knowledge, promote inter-school academic competition, emphasize the need for communication skills, stimulate versatile intellectual growth, and strengthen team efforts.

Mortar Board members planned the event for several months and contributed by handling registration, organizing volunteers, proctoring tests, calculating scores and much more. The event was a great way to allow members to serve Kansas high school students while promoting scholarship in their community. In all, 14 teams and more than 140 participating students from across Kansas came to this annual competition to test their knowledge and scholastic abilities.

Submitted by Robert W. Flack, Director of Communications

Lenoir-Rhyne University

The Arktos chapter, chartered just last year, recently conducted its first tapping of a new class of 20 members. Members initiated into the inaugural class in 2008 visited the classes of newly selected candidates. There, current members read a statement about the selected candidates aloud to the class and presented the candidates with a scroll. The group's first round of tapping went very well and the chapter hopes to keep this tradition for years to come.

Submitted by Catherine Covert, Director of Communications

MacMurray College

In February, members of the Cap and Gown chapter of Mortar Board surprised retired professor Penny Mitchell while she was eating lunch with professor Claire Jerry by tapping her for honorary membership. Mrs. Mitchell, widow of former MacMurray College President Edward Mitchell, served as librarian and professor at the college from 1973 through her 2007 retirement, as well as a Mortar Board advisor from 1980 to 1987. She was selected for honorary membership based on her service to college students, commitment to scholarship and volunteer efforts through her church.

*Submitted by Malea G. Harney,
President*



Pictured from MacMurray College (left to right) are Danielle Bird, membership co-chair; Dr. Claire Jerry; Lisa Hackney, membership committee; Penny Mitchell, honorary member; Malea Gillis Harney, president; and Kathleen White, chapter advisor.

University of Mississippi

The Tassels chapter's "Reading is Leading" project involved donating more than \$300 to the Boys and Girls Club of North Mississippi with First Book. These funds were used to purchase books for the program's clubhouse. A celebratory party to honor the books' arrival was held in April. The chapter also sponsored an Easter egg hunt in April for students of a local after-school program, Leap Frog.

*Submitted by Catherine Black,
President*

University of Nebraska - Lincoln

The Black Masque chapter's memorable year began with homecoming week in October, when the group competed against other campus organizations in various activities including a talent show, blood drive and float competition.



A tradition of the Black Masque chapter at the University of Nebraska - Lincoln is exchanging a large gavel with the University of Missouri chapter at the homecoming football game. Black Masque chapter members are pictured here on the field with the gavel.

The chapter's Mortar Board float not only won the competition, but was also shown on ESPN before the homecoming football game. All of the chapter's efforts were rewarded during the game when Mortar Board was recognized as homecoming champion for the student organization division. Homecoming weekend was also significant for the exchanging of the gavel with the Friars chapter of Mortar Board from the University of Missouri. This tradition has become an excellent opportunity to learn more about Mortar Board and the traditions of another university.

In November, each Black Masque chapter member recognized one person who has made a significant impact on his or her life at the People Who Inspire Celebration. Honored guests, including family members, co-workers and professors, were recognized for their positive influence on members' lives and treated with an ice cream dessert. This popular event allowed members to learn more about each other and the people who inspire them.

The chapter has also been busy throughout the year with other events on campus. Members volunteer weekly at a local elementary school by reading to students at the before and after school programs. Additionally, the group was recognized as the top fundraising organization at Dance Marathon, a 12-hour fundraising event for the Omaha Children's Hospital. This spring, the group volunteered at the campus-wide service initiative the "Big Event," participated in a wheelchair basketball tournament, and contributed to two philanthropic events hosted by the student government.

Submitted by Chad Hall, President

Northern Illinois University

Recently, the Pleiades chapter completed the successful selection and tapping of new members for the 2009-2010 academic year. With nearly 1,500 students eligible for membership in Mortar Board, more than 100 students applied. A newly modified selections program streamlined the process and shortened the time required to review applications, allowing the 2008-2009 chapter to swiftly select 50 new members to welcome into the Pleiades chapter. New members and their families were invited to a formal initiation brunch to celebrate their membership in Mortar Board.

In February, the Pleiades chapter began a new service tradition of giving microloans to the less fortunate by working with international microfinance organization Kiva.org. The chapter has selected four entrepreneurs from around the world to receive loans used to start or support their business ventures. As the terms on these loans are met (which takes approximately one year), the 2009-2010 chapter will select a new group of entrepreneurs from Kiva to receive the next round of loans from the Pleiades chapter. This tradition will then continue annually as new members are inducted and loans are completed.

The year concluded with the annual Outstanding Faculty and Staff Recognition Reception, held in early April, to honor NIU faculty and staff who have made exceptional contributions to the campus community and toward the success of Mortar Board members. This year, the chapter recognized more than 100 of the university's best at the reception.

*Submitted by Kevin Levy,
Director of Communications*

Ohio Northern University

The Aurora chapter spent the winter months honoring those who inspire them both academically and professionally. Members nominated their favorite teachers for the annual Favorite Professors Dessert, held in January. Members wrote a short speech to share with the audience, in which they explained why each honoree is an outstanding professor. Honorees received a framed copy of the speech and a special Mortar Board cookie.

The chapter proudly invited 40 of Ohio

Northern's most promising scholars and leaders to join Mortar Board. The new members were initiated with a special ceremony and celebratory banquet at the university ballroom in the presence of new initiates' parents. In addition to the new collegiate members, the chapter initiated three honorary members: professor Deirdre Myers, Dr. Kristen Finley and Dr. Peter Banfe.

The Aurora chapter is devoted to service. Last fall, the group raised \$660 for the First Book Virtual Book Drive. To support "Reading is Leading," the chapter makes weekly trips to the Ada Public Library to spread the fun of reading. Members also participated in a bone marrow registration drive to become part of the National Marrow Registry. Finally, members will continue their tradition of lending a hand to ONU Recycles to help to keep the campus beautiful and to support green endeavors and finish the year off with a sand volleyball tournament.

Chapter President Jeffrey Otte and Membership Vice President Axel Brandt were nominated for the chapter's annual Aurora Award. The recipients of this award were nominated and chosen by fellow members for exemplifying Mortar Board's key ideals of scholarship, leadership and service throughout their year of active membership. These members were honored at the ONU President's Leadership Dessert in May.

*Submitted by Autumn Steiner,
Communications Chair*

The Ohio State University

The Mabel G. Freeman chapter celebrated national Mortar Board Week by holding community service and literacy events with Hamilton Elementary School and collaborating



Members of the chapter at The Ohio State University regularly volunteer with local Hamilton Elementary School.



Oklahoma State University chapter members volunteered at a local nursing home, giving residents gifts during the holiday season. Pictured above are a Mortar Board member and a resident enjoying the holiday celebration.

for a career panel and networking event with the Greater Columbus Mortar Board Alumni Chapter. At the event, a panel of alumni members answered questions about their experiences in Mortar Board and their career paths, and provided expertise about job searches and entering graduate school. Local collegiate and alumni members attended this career event planned by Alyssa Bowerman, the chapter's alumni liaison.

Just days later, the chapter held a book party at Hamilton Elementary School. Books donated to the school's library were symbolic of the money raised by Mortar Board and contributed to the school through the First Book Virtual Book Drive. The book party and contribution show Mortar Board's continuous concern for literacy and their support of the national project, "Reading is Leading."

*Submitted by Jin Schrattenecker,
Communications Chair and
Bobbi Hoover, Historian*

Oklahoma State University

In December, the members of the Achafoa chapter began a new holiday tradition. With the desire to reach out in a unique way during the holiday season, the group set up an "angel tree" and distributed gifts at a local nursing home. Each of the home's residents made gift wishes, which were then collected and fulfilled by the chapter. Members volunteered to purchase, wrap and deliver these gifts to the 17 residents of the nursing home. This event was a great and rewarding way to wrap up the semester and allowed the chapter to give back to the Stillwater community. All members involved, as well as the residents, thoroughly enjoyed the visit.

Submitted by Caroline Diedrich, President

University of the Pacific

The Knolens chapter of Mortar Board has had an active semester. This spring, the chapter hosted the Second Annual Informational

Dessert Night with honor society Phi Kappa Phi. For this event, existing members of both organizations baked or purchased desserts and invited all potential members for a night of questions and answers, mingling and desserts.

The chapter's philanthropic project for the semester was held in conjunction with the university's Eberhardt School of Business (ESB). ESB has an entrepreneurial internship class that works with a local business and their Web presence on Pencils.com. This Web site provides educational information about pencils and sells pencils and other school supplies. When customers purchase pencils or post items to the Web site they earn "pencil points" which can be used toward discounts for future purchases. Customers can then donate these points to schools, designated based on need. Mortar Board will also work with Pencils.com to establish a school supply drive. The chapter feels this partnership is ideal for Mortar Board because it allows members to continue work with the same cause from one semester to the other.

*Submitted by Genene Chacon,
Communications Director*

University of Puget Sound

The Otlah chapter works hard to incorporate thoughtful events during holidays. For Halloween, seven members participated in a haunted house at a local community center. These members dressed in costumes and helped lead children through the house to collect candy. In December, nearly all of the chapter's 21 members helped to wrap gifts for needy children during one meeting, and 15 members drove to Seattle to participate in another gift wrap. Finally, the academic year's holidays were wrapped up with an Easter egg hunt.

A non-holiday event is the chapter's Last Lecture Series, which started off with a bang. Psychology professor Chris Jones delivered an inspiring and comedic lecture to more than 40 students concerning college students' behaviors, learning habits and development. A second Last Lecture occurred in April.

*Submitted by Katie Lind,
Director of Communications*

Purdue University

Members of the Barbara Cook chapter have kept a full schedule this semester, hosting and planning many of the standard Mortar Board events in addition to a few new programs. The busy semester was kicked off with the annual Mortar Board Leadership Conference, a successful program offering more than 300 students a day filled with speakers, breakout sessions and networking.

At the beginning of February, the chapter hosted the Freshman Scholar Athlete Dessert Reception to recognize freshman athletes who achieved a GPA of 3.0 or higher during their first semester. The event had a great turnout and members were proud to have a Barbara Cook chapter alumnus as the keynote speaker.

Mortar Board Week was a great opportunity to publicize the chapter and its events. The group hosted information tables where they distributed information about chapter events, publicized the cover contest for Mortar Board's university calendar, and gave away free items such as pencils, folders and bookmarks.

Mortar Board Week was also a strong segue into the chapter's first-ever Last Lecture Series. The chapter hosted a Last Lecture with speaker Purdue University Provost Dr. Randy Woodsen. Dr. Woodsen spoke about life lessons, experiences, hopes and regrets, and then attended a reception where students could ask questions and interact following the lecture. It was a strong kickoff to what the chapter hopes will become a growing event on campus.

Recently, the chapter held a reading carnival to kick off their large book drive. The carnival was set up for foster children and volunteers of the Department of Child and Family Services to hear book readings by local celebrities, play games and have fun with literature.

*Submitted by Mary Monardo,
Director of Communications*

University of Redlands

The Wisdom, Excellence, Belief and Service (W.E.B.S.) chapter has had a productive year of community service and events. Throughout the year, the group has been involved in the University of Redlands' Totally Kids Outreach program for patients of the Totally Kids Specialty Health Care, a medical facility that

provides subacute care for children and young adults who are technology-dependent, medically fragile or developmentally disabled. Mortar Board members have been actively involved in reading to children, assisting with board games, helping with art projects, creating programs and simply cuddling with babies and toddlers.

The W.E.B.S. chapter has also been involved in the university's "I'm Going to College" program. Throughout the academic year, schools and community organizations in southern California bring elementary, middle and high school students to the University of Redlands and take part in daylong programs. This program is meant to expose children to the college setting early on and teach them that college is a possibility for everybody. Mortar Board members have helped out with the tours throughout the year. The tours involve games, group discussions, lunch with students and other fun activities.

*Submitted by Jennifer Bielman,
Director of Communications*

University of San Diego

The spring semester has been action packed for the Alcalá chapter. The semester kicked off with the group's annual Mortar Board Week joint service project with San Diego State University. The two Mortar Board chapters met at the SDSU campus for a morning of backpack stuffing for low-income elementary school students in the community, as well as for some fun quality bonding time.

The San Diego Mortar Board alumni chapter held their annual luncheon in March. Current Mortar Board members wore their caps and gowns as they greeted numerous alumni and their families. The luncheon honored two distinguished alumnae, Betty Peabody and Julie Golden, who have dedicated their lives to the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service.

Back at USD, Mortar Board members hosted the annual Faculty Appreciation Dinner. Students spoke on behalf of their chosen faculty and presented them with a gift from Mortar Board. The evening was full of laughs and a few tear-jerking moments.

Alcalá chapter members are excited to "pass the torch" to next year's members. During

the months before graduation, members have gained a new perspective - one of outgoing members leaving their mark on the USD community. They can feel proud as they graduate because they have accomplished many things together, and for that they thank Mortar Board.

*Submitted by Csilla Kristof,
Communications Director*

San Diego State University

The Cap & Gown chapter had much to live up to from the past accomplishments of the graduating class of 2008, which was honored by being awarded seven national Project Excellence Awards and the Golden Torch Award last year. The chapter previously received the highest national honor - the Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence Award - at the 2003 Mortar Board National Conference.

In the past year, the Cap & Gown chapter's students and faculty have dedicated time and effort to continuing the excellence that they stand for with a variety of awards ceremonies and events. In the fall semester, Mortar Board honored three retired faculty and staff for their contribution and dedication to SDSU at the 23rd Annual Faculty and Staff Outstanding Service Awards ceremony. William Erickson, former vice president for business and financial affairs, received the Outstanding Service Award for Administrators. Anne-Charlotte Harvey, professor emerita in theatre, received the Emeritus Faculty Award. The late Steven Collins, former SDSU director of government and community relations, was recognized with the staff award, which was accepted by his son Steven "Craig" Collins II. At an awards



Pictured at the San Diego State University's Faculty and Staff Outstanding Service Awards ceremony are Sally Roush (vice president for business and financial affairs), Steven "Craig" Collins II (son of late staff honoree Steven Collins), William Erickson (administrator honoree), Thomas B. Day (emeritus president), Anne-Charlotte Harvey (faculty honoree) and Kaycee Gerhart (Mortar Board event chair).



Members from the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, the University of Missouri, the University of Missouri - Kansas City, Northwest Missouri State, Wichita State University and William Jewell College participated in the Section 17 project at the Harvesters Community Food Network's food bank.

ceremony and dinner, current Mortar Board members awarded a current faculty or staff member for the difference each have made in their lives while at SDSU.

In the third annual Last Lecture Series, Dr. Patricia Huckle, emeritus professor of Women's Studies, gave a "last lecture" to more than 200 attendees including Provost Dr. Nancy Marlin and SDSU President Dr. Stephen L. Weber.

In the spring semester, the SDSU chapter teamed up with the USD chapter and San Diego area alumni for the seventh annual backpack stuffing event to stuff 50 backpacks for two groups of middle school children, those living in an orphanage in Mexico and those at a nearby San Diego school. These three partners (SDSU, USD and area alumni) had another opportunity to work together to host the 19th Annual Alumni Luncheon to recognize two outstanding alumni as well as seven outstanding current members. Julie Golden was one of the alumni recipients, selected for her years of dedication to fundraising through performances she directed and in which she performed. Alumna Betty Peabody was also an alumni award recipient, chosen for her volunteer work with San Diego's Balboa Park and other organizations. Seven graduating Mortar Board members were awarded \$1,000 scholarships to help to fund graduate study.

*Submitted by Kameran Neises,
Director of Communications*

Section 17

Representatives from seven different chapters gathered in Kansas City, Missouri at the Harvesters Community Food Network for a section project. After some time to break the ice with all of the new faces, 32 Mortar Board members toured Kansas City's only food bank and then worked together to sort donations in the warehouse. Members from the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, the University of Missouri, the University of Missouri - Kansas City, Northwest Missouri State, Wichita State University and William Jewell College all participated.

*Submitted by Victoria Lubrs,
Section Coordinator*

University of South Alabama

The 2008-2009 academic year for the Azalea chapter began with participation in the national First Book Virtual Book Drive. Members organized fundraisers and encouraged the entire campus to raise money, and within a period of a month, the chapter raised approximately \$2,000 for new books for a local middle school.

In October, the chapter hosted its annual Trick-or-Treat for Books on Halloween evening, venturing out into the local neighborhoods on a quest for used children's books. The members (along with other participants all over campus) brought back a record of more than 200 books

in one night. The books were taken to St. Mary's Children's Home and distributed during the annual St. Mary's Christmas party, where members gathered on a Sunday afternoon for a fun holiday party filled with crafts, pizza and, of course, Santa Claus (who, upon close observation, looked suspiciously like one of our very own members).

During the spring semester, the Azalea chapter actively planned some of the biggest events of the year, including celebrating and promoting Mortar Board during Mortar Board Week. Each day, members sat in the breezeway of the Student Center actively recruiting potential new members and discussing Mortar Board with interested students. Following Mortar Board Week, the chapter celebrated Faculty Appreciation Day by giving free Krispy Kreme doughnuts to the university faculty members across campus. Professors and administrators were delighted at this small token of appreciation. Additionally, each individual Mortar Board member honored one professor that he or she felt had impacted their life at the University of South Alabama in some way during the annual Top Prof Banquet. The professors were each honored by a speech from their student and a certificate of appreciation at the banquet. It was a wonderful way to honor the people who have played such a significant role in the successes of chapter members. All in all, this year has been a very busy and exciting one for the Azalea chapter.

*Submitted by Kassie Everett-Carroll,
Director of Communications and
Sonia Savani, President*

University of Tennessee at Knoxville

The Cap & Gown chapter has had a very successful year under the chapter leadership of Mary Braddock as president and Kaylee Willingham as vice president. Members have diligently engaged in monthly service projects and ongoing service opportunities. In November, the chapter collected canned goods for the Second Harvest Food Bank. This seasonal service project provides non-perishable food collected by the chapter to families in need throughout the holidays for both Thanksgiving and Christmas meals.

In conjunction with the national "Reading

is Leading" initiative supported by the chapter, members raised more than \$100 for the First Book Virtual Book Drive. The chapter donated these funds to the Reading for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&D) organization, a group members have been working with throughout the academic year by volunteering to read aloud and record these books on tape for people who cannot read on their own. This money will help RFB&D purchase books for volunteers to read. One of the chapter's significant service initiatives for the RFB&D is a read-a-thon co-sponsored with Delta Gamma sorority. For two days, volunteers read for one-hour time slots, resulting in a significant amount of recorded books for RFB&D.

The chapter also led a campus-wide clothing drive for the Redeemer Church located near the University of Tennessee campus. Each member was required to donate an item or items of clothing valuing \$10. Bins were also placed around campus so that other members of the student body could contribute to the drive.

Beyond service projects, the chapter has also completed membership selection for the 2009-2010 school year. The membership chairs this year were Taylor Reynolds and Lauran San Roman, who did an excellent job of organizing and directing the various committees that help make membership selection function smoothly. Communications Director Kelly Johnson was in charge of the publicity committee. This group was in charge of publicizing the



The University of Tennessee at Knoxville's chapter vice president, Kaylee Willingham, volunteers as a reader at a local elementary school.

membership drive and increasing the number of applications. In the end, the chapter had a great applicant pool, surpassing their goal of 200 applications. In the end, 55 top seniors were selected to be a part of next year's Mortar Board chapter.

*Submitted by Kelly Johnson,
Director of Communications*

University of Texas at Austin

The Visor chapter recently introduced a Last Lecture event to provide students with advice and insight on life and matters beyond education in the classroom. Inspired by a last lecture given by the late Carnegie Mellon University professor Randy Pausch in 2007, the chapter introduced the lecture to ask a respected professor, "What wisdom would you try to impart to the world if you knew it was your last chance?"

Dr. Brent Iverson, a renowned and widely



University of Texas at El Paso chapter members pose at The Book Rack, a local organization which members helped to relocate to a larger facility.



University of Utah chapter members stand among the 960 books they collected as a part of their "Trick-or-Treat for Books" event. Members organized and sorted these books, donated to the Reach Out and Read organization.

popular organic chemistry professor, was selected from numerous nominations from the campus community to give the lecture during the university's honors week celebration held the first week in April. Whether serious, humorous, outrageous or inspiring, the chapter hopes that last lectures will have an impact on students for years to come.

Submitted by Anupama Atluru, President

University of Texas at El Paso

The determined officers and committed members of the Chenrezig chapter have worked with various non-profit organizations and businesses to raise funds. With the help of Blossom Express, graduation flower sales in the fall raised more than \$2,000 in just one day of work. The chapter's Halloween candy gram fundraiser brought in \$120. With the use of boxes on and around campus, the chapter collected more than 300 books for a mutually beneficial partnership with Better World Books in which the group received a check for \$300.

The chapter has also been working to increase knowledge of Mortar Board on campus and in the community. The chapter assisted a local organization, The Book Rack, to relocate to a larger facility. This involvement has been instrumental in getting the Mortar Board name out in the community. Additionally, February's annual Greet, Eat, Meet Barbecue helped to recruit prospective members and expand knowledge of Mortar Board on campus.

At this event, potential members helped themselves to snacks and took part in a brief presentation explaining Mortar Board's goals and involvement in the community.

The chapter held numerous spring service events, including volunteering to paint and decorate at the local Child Crisis Center; donating baby shower items to the Gabriel Project, a group that assists teenage mothers with their pregnancies; answering phones at local National Public Radio (NPR) affiliate KTEP during the station's pledge drive; and assisting in numerous roles at the El Paso Rehabilitation Center Transmountain Challenge sponsored by GECU. The Chenrezig chapter plans to end the semester strong and finish on a smooth idle ready for the new inductees.

Submitted by Deborah Rodriguez (President), Duane Galindo (Vice President), Edith Perales (Secretary), George Ortiz (Communications Chair), Veronica Avitia (Membership Chair), Sharon Chavarria (Social Chair), and Mitzel Aveytia (Alumni Chair)

University of Utah

This October, the Acorn chapter conducted a Trick-or-Treat for Books event. Members dropped off collection bags with community members including friends, family, neighbors and businesses for the Reach Out and Read organization. These bags, filled with 960 books, were collected in early November.

This enormous accomplishment reflects greatly on the outstanding chapter members and considerably contributed to literacy with Reach Out and Read as well as the national "Reading is Leading" initiative.

Submitted by Lauren Gebrke, Advisor

University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

Throughout the fall semester, the Honoratae chapter reached out into the community by engaging in various service projects both on and off campus. This group of focused seniors devoted many hours and efforts to help Mortar Board's name become more widely recognized throughout the Milwaukee area.

Members continued traditions such as the annual graduation flower sale fundraisers and expanded their horizons with fun new projects. This year's Honoratae chapter introduced the Turkey for a Day event to raise funds for the national "Reading is Leading" initiative. Despite being in its first year, the event raised more than \$1,000, resulting in the purchase and collection of hundreds of books for a local elementary school.

The chapter's other service events included contributing to the Rake-a-Thon, Prison Toy Drive and bell ringing for the Salvation Army. Chapter members continue to work hard to make an impact in their community and help the Mortar Board name shine on campus.

Submitted by Abbey Rusch, Vice President

*Congratulations
to chapters celebrating anniversaries of
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50th Anniversary

University of Mary Washington
University of Puget Sound

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