



MORTAR BOARD

NATIONAL COLLEGE SENIOR HONOR SOCIETY



Annual Awards
2023

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chapter awards

RUTH WEIMER MOUNT CHAPTER EXCELLENCE AWARD

The Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence Award is the highest honor given to any chapter. This award is given to the chapter that demonstrated excellence in chapter operations, advising, visibility, communications, and participation.

University of South Alabama
Sally Steadman Azalea chapter
President Anne Mascia

The chapter's participation policy not only encouraged more participation by combining meetings with events like service projects, spin classes, and speakers, but fostered interactions between Mortar Board members around a variety of topics. Each member served on at least one committee, which provided opportunities to utilize the multidisciplinary nature of their members' backgrounds.

The chapter partnered with departments across campus to bring speakers to their meetings, joined forces with athletics and student groups to elevate their events, and worked with the local Boys and Girls Club to promote literacy by reading, tutoring, and engaging with children. They awarded scholarships to four University students - one junior and three freshmen - to spread awareness of Mortar Board and its principles.

The chapter focused on improving DEI&B efforts this year by forming a relationship with the Vice President of Diversity and Campus Involvement, discussing what inclusion factors should be considered during member selection, and holding a Mock Selection Meeting to prepare members for initiation, especially with regard to diversity.

Focused on enhancing communication among members, they surveyed their members on how they best like to receive information. Using the results, they utilized email, QR codes, and in-person communication to reach all members.



FREEMAN AND FOX MOST IMPROVED CHAPTER AWARD

The Freeman and Fox Most Improved Chapter is a funded award that supports chapters that are developing their programming and increasing their presence on campus.

The University of Tulsa
Senior Staff chapter
President Andrew Gray

After missing a Spring 2022 selection, the recipient was laser-focused on improvement. They used Fall as a time to build visibility on campus and recruit the 2022 class who were initiated in early 2023. They then quickly turned around to recruit the next class by the end of the same semester. Their success can be seen in the overall total of 90 new members.

The chapter excelled in communication, sending frequent, well-written emails to members to keep them in the loop about selection, initiation, and events. They exchanged many emails with the National Office to ensure the most exact records possible, and copied the National Office on emails containing important information, in case anyone called.

As if two complete recruitment, selection, and initiation processes in one year weren't enough, what is equally impressive is the short and long-term strategic plans left for the next set of chapter leaders. Current leadership understood the importance of a strong transition and a focus on the future, and they created a chapter transition resource binder containing 1, 2, 3, and 5-year plans to ensure chapter success next year and beyond.



DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND BELONGING AWARDS

The Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEI&B) awards recognize outstanding efforts and successes by chapters on projects and initiatives that focus on the tenets of diversity, equity, and inclusion with an outcome of belonging.

Lyon College

Nacho Memorial Fundraiser Dinner

The Order of the Tartan chapter held a memorial scholarship for a student, Ignacio "Nacho" Gomez, who passed away a few years ago. The chapter hosts a fundraising dinner open to the community with all profits going toward a scholarship for a local student. Nacho Gomez was very involved with the Hispanic Students Association and Mortar Board, so the chapter chooses a high school student recipient that displays the same leadership qualities.

San Diego State University

JEDI Committee, Cultural Events, and World Cafe

Under the leadership of Tamika Lovelace, a member of the Jane K. Smith Cap & Gown chapter and Mortar Board's DEI&B national standing committee, the chapter organized a group of volunteers focused on DEI efforts. The DEI group decided to add J to the name, representing justice, and becoming the JEDI committee. JEDI spotlighted many National Diversity Awareness days, months, and events. They also hosted the first Cultural Sharing Event, where Mortar Board members shared important aspects of their cultural identities they wanted other members to know about. JEDI also co-hosted a World Cafe social event where Mortar Board members met on Zoom with international students across the globe, giving them a chance to practice English while discussing the differences between eastern and western college experiences.

Texas Tech University

Bias Prevention Training during Membership Recruitment

The Forum Chapter wanted to include DEI in their membership selection process. To prepare for membership selection, the Division of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion led a bias training for current members. This helped build a foundation for their largest selection class ever, with 227 applications and over 90 members tapped! The chapter credits the Bias Prevention Training with helping them create a more inclusive chapter.

Lyon College Mortar Board presents...

**Ignacio "Nacho" Gomez
Memorial Scholarship
Fundraiser Dinner**

2023

MONDAY | **24** | APRIL

6:00 - 8:00 PM

in the Scottish Heritage Building (Temp)

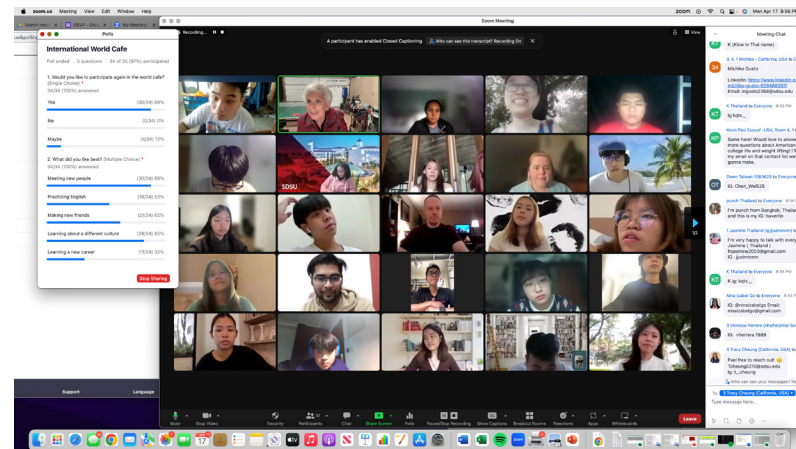


Scan the above QR code for more details and to RSVP by Friday, April 21st @ 3:00 PM!



Long live #19

For questions contact mortarboard@lyon.edu



The University of Nebraska - Lincoln

Creating a DEI Chair officer position

One main goal for the Black Masque chapter was to promote inclusivity and chapter visibility in the greater campus community. The chapter worked all year to create a position for a DEI Chair, which was ultimately filled as an officer position for the 2023-24 chapter. The DEI Chair's responsibilities include educating members via monthly programming, promoting on-campus DEI events, and making a conscious effort to make DEI part of the conversation in all weekly meetings and events.

GOLD TORCH AWARDS

The Gold Torch Award honors chapters that exemplify scholarship, leadership, and service. They are dedicated to Mortar Board, its purpose, and its Ideals. These chapters are active on their campus in ways that improve the quality of student life.

Illinois State University

President Caitlyn Kant

Longwood University

President Rebecca Keough

Lyon College

President Kristen Baham

Purdue University

President Abidemi Aregbe

Rhodes College

President Mia Harris

San Diego State University

President Natalie Sinanyan

Texas Tech University

President McCaleb Hart

The University of Alabama

President Isaac Sherman

The University of Nebraska - Lincoln

President Grace Farson

The University of Nebraska at Kearney

President Meredith Gaer

The University of New Mexico

President Jose Mendoza

University of Arizona

President Tobechukwu Emeka

University of Mississippi

President Kelly Li

University of San Diego

President Samantha Stelter

University of South Alabama

President Anne Mascia

OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

New this year, these awards highlight great strides made toward increasing chapter health and visibility on campus. Areas include recruitment & selection; officer/advisor transition, chapter reactivation, campus visibility, and chapter communications.

Outstanding Achievement in Recruitment and Selection:

Longwood University
University of Maryland
University of North Texas

Outstanding Achievement in Advisor Transition:

Case Western Reserve University
The University of Vermont

Outstanding Achievement in On-Campus Visibility:

The University of Nebraska – Lincoln
The Ohio State University
Wichita State University

Outstanding Achievement in Social Media and Digital Outreach:

Texas Tech University
University of Arizona
University of Toledo

Outstanding Achievement in Chapter Reinvigoration:

Butler University
Hanover College
University of Richmond

Outstanding Achievement in Chapter Communication:

Illinois State University
University of Mississippi
The University of New Mexico

PROJECT EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Project Excellence Awards recognize outstanding chapter projects with high member participation. Awards focus on scholarship, leadership, service, fundraising, alumni involvement, Reading is Leading, Mortar Board Week, and DEI&B.

Illinois State University

Reading is Leading

The chapter partnered with a local elementary school and ordered copies of "What Do You Do With An Idea?" for classroom libraries. Traveling from classroom to classroom, they read the book, held discussions based on reading levels, and connected the book's message back to what they do in Mortar Board.

Lyon College

LEAD

Student Creative Arts and Research Forum

LEAD is a day-long event for high schoolers to attend several talks about different parts of the college experience as well as leadership. The chapter also hosts the Student Creative Arts and Research Forum annually which allows students to showcase their artistic abilities and research and scholarly work.

San Diego State University

Daily Planner Fundraiser

Reading is Leading Library Stand

For 31 years, the chapter has provided the SDSU campus with a fully-designed daily planner which raises about \$8,000 annually. Their major Reading is Leading project was the creation of a library stand on the campus of a local elementary school. Members donate books that children can take home and read.

Texas Tech University

Apple Polishing

The Apple Polishing Ceremony serves to recognize influential staff and faculty from Texas Tech University. Each Mortar Board member had the opportunity to nominate their most influential professor, advisor, or research mentor to be recognized at the ceremony. 130 people were in attendance this year.

University of Mississippi

Books & Bears Program

Alumni Newsletter

Books and Bears is a partnership with the Black Faculty and Staff Association where Mortar Board hosted a book drive collecting nearly 75 books. Also, the chapter applied for funding through student government to cover a MailChimp account and created an informative and attractive Alumni e-Newsletter.

University of Montana

Reading is Leading Book Drives

The chapter embraced Reading is Leading this year, hosting two separate book drives geared toward different audiences. The fall drive focused on veterans and donated the books on Veterans Day to a Veterans Center; the spring drive focused on children and donated to the local public library on Dr. Seuss Day.

University of San Diego

Faculty and Staff Appreciation Dinner

STEAM Family Nights

The chapter enhanced its annual Faculty Appreciation Dinner this year by including Staff as possible honorees. Each student invited a faculty or staff member and prepared a one-page framed tribute thanking them for their dedication. The STEAM Family Nights were a partnership with a local elementary school to hold one STEAM event each semester, engaging over 425 attendees!

University of South Alabama

Top Prof

Speaker Series

Top Prof is an event where members nominate a professor who has greatly influenced their academic career. Prior to the event, which is attended by university administrators like the President and Provost, members record short video clips explaining why they chose that professor and assemble a video for the dinner. The Speaker Series, originally planned as a virtual program during COVID-19, has been adapted to be a 30-minute presentation followed by a Q&A at every member meeting. Speakers are published ahead of time and cover a variety of topics from diversity and inclusion to career readiness.

individual awards



11 members to a very strong 93 members. To help sustain this growth and plan for the future, Andrew also created a short-term (one-year) and long-term (five year) plan for the chapter. Not surprisingly, his chapter also just won the award for Most Improved Chapter.

Tamika Lovelace

San Diego State University
Jane K. Smith Cap and Gown chapter

STARLINGTON PRIZE

The Starlington Prize is awarded each year to nominees who have proven that they understand the purpose of Mortar Board, are dedicated to their chapter and have internalized the true obligation of membership.

Andrew Gray

The University of Tulsa
Senior Staff chapter

Andrew was inducted into Mortar Board in the fall of 2021 and served as the Chapter President this school year. As a result of COVID-19, the chapter lost its reputation on campus and almost all of the institutional memory was lost. However, under Andrew's leadership, the chapter saw a 750% increase in membership. The chapter held not one, but two back-to-back selections between December and March. The chapter grew from only

Tamika is finishing her second year as a collegiate member, but we know she will stay involved on the National level for many years to come. As a first-generation non-traditional college student, she was inducted into Mortar Board in 2021 and served as her chapter's first ever Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion chair. She worked with the chapter selection process to ensure diversity was considered alongside scholarship and leadership, especially given how these standards are typically presented within historically marginalized communities. Tamika also became involved with Mortar Board on a national level during the 2021 virtual Mortar Board National Conference, serving as Chair of the conference nominating committee. As the 2021 conference was wrapping up, she answered the Society's call for national volunteers and has served on the National Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Standing Committee ever since. She was also a 2023 Conference Advisory Board member.

SECTION COORDINATOR OF THE YEAR

This award honors the exceptional work done by a Section Coordinator to support the chapters and members in their region.

Kailee Weiker, Region 3

Kailee was initiated at Ohio Northern University where graduated with a degree in Business Administration and Accounting, and then continued on at Tiffin University for an M.B.A. in Business Administration and Management and Human Resources Management. She currently works at her alma mater in Payroll and Benefits. Prior to the new region model, she served as the Coordinator for Section 9. She currently serves on the Signature Event Committee and led the effort to implement and record two Chapter Operations sessions on membership recruitment and initiation. Outside of work and Mortar Board, she's actively involved in Shriners and is mom to three adorable future Mortar Boards.





EXCELLENCE IN ADVISING AWARDS

The Excellence in Advising Awards are given to Mortar Board chapter advisors who have demonstrated a commitment to the purpose of Mortar Board and who have gone above and beyond in their work with a collegiate chapter.

Martha Griffith

The University of Alabama
Hypatia chapter

Martha was initiated into Mortar Board in 2008 and has been advisor since 2014. Martha always diligently submits reports, follows up on emails, and communicates with the National Office to ensure the chapter is running smoothly. The University of Alabama has had a yield of over 98% for the last three years, class size always in the 70s. The University of Alabama accepted 79 members with a 98% yield, which is consistent with the past 2 years.

Dr. Brent Marsh

University of Mississippi
Tassels chapter

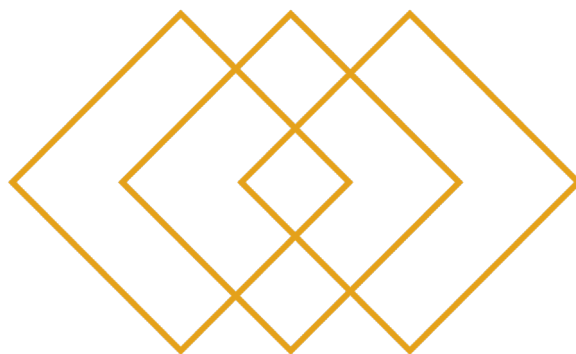
Brent has been an advisor since 2019 and was initiated as an honorary member this year. Brent is very diligent in completing reports and processes on time, always keeping the national office and chapter leadership in the loop so everyone is on the same page. He goes above and beyond his roles as advisor. He willingly assisted the National Office serving as a faculty for the LEAD Advisor Training, and works hard to maintain relationships with Mortar Board Alumni. Brent's leadership diligence resulted in increasing chapter size this year to 56 members accepting membership. This was a 75% increase from last year's 32 members. In addition to the membership increase, the

chapter had a 97% yield of selected members this Spring. In just a few short years as advisor, Brent has improved the chapter significantly, winning the Most Improved Chapter award last year and was recently recognized as a finalist for the Ruth Weimer Mount award this year!

Susan Sullivan

Longwood University
Geist chapter

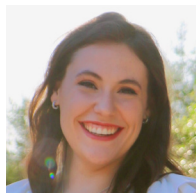
Susan has been advisor for over twenty years and was initiated as an honorary member in 2019. The chapter at Longwood is always one of the first to submit their Candidate Request and initiate their new members, spending all spring semester onboarding new members and transitioning new officers. Susan always makes sure the chapter has submitted information in a timely manner, meeting deadlines and ensuring the Longwood chapter remains in good standing with national Mortar Board and strong on campus. Under Susan's leadership, the yield this year is 92%, with 34 out of 37 candidates accepting membership. This is consistent with the past 2 years.



fellowship recipients

Mortar Board Fellowships are for Mortar Board members of any initiation year who are working toward an advanced degree. Mortar Board members of any age may apply for a Mortar Board Fellowship for postbaccalaureate degrees in any field. Past recipients are ineligible.

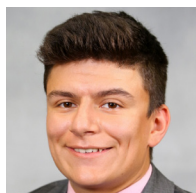
Amber Bormann, a 2023 graduate with a BA and a BBA from Southern Methodist University, majored in Marketing and Advertising with a Digital Media Strategies Specialization. She served as the President of the Decima chapter where she helped reinvigorate the chapter. Amber will pursue an Accelerated Masters in Advertising at SMU. Amber will be the recipient of the **RAMIER FELLOWSHIP/ KATHERINE WILLS COLEMAN FELLOWSHIP**.



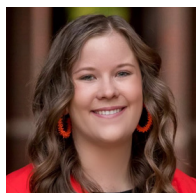
Maici Craig is a graduate of the University of Alabama with a BS in Biology. She was a member of the Hypatia chapter which she served as President. She will be attending the University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Medicine pursuing an MD. Maici will be receiving the **GENERAL MORTAR BOARD NATIONAL FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP**.



Caleb Hendrickson, a graduate of The University of Nebraska at Kearney received his BS degree in Political Science and minored in Public Law. As an Honors Scholar he participated actively in his chapter, Xi Phi. He will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Law and pursue a J.D. Caleb will receive the **DIANE SELBY FELLOWSHIP**.



Kate Kouplen is a graduate of Oklahoma State University and a member of the Achofoa chapter. She majored in Biology (pre-med) with minors in Neuroscience and Microbiology receiving a BS degree. She will pursue an MD at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine. Kate will receive the **WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY CLASSES OF 1945 TO 1950/ZELMA PATCHIN-OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP**.



Anna Madding stepped up and served as President of the Scarlet Quill chapter at Butler University, helping to reinvigorate their chapter. She has majored in Pharmacy and is in the 5-year Pharmacy program at Butler, where she will receive a Doctor of Pharmacy. Anna will be the recipient of the **DIANE SELBY FELLOWSHIP**.



Anne Mascia graduated with a BA in Psychology and a minor in English from the University of South Alabama. She served as the President of the Sally Steadman Azalea Chapter and served on the Nominating Committee, a national Mortar Board committee. She will be obtaining an MS in Clinical and Mental Health Counseling from the University of South Alabama. Anne will receive the **ELLEN NORTH DUNLAP FELLOWSHIP**.



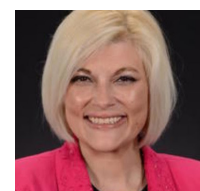
Ivy Nguyen received a BS in Biomedical Sciences with a minor in Mathematics from the University of South Alabama. She was an active participant and an officer in the Sally Steadman Azalea chapter. Pursuing an MD, she will attend the Frederick P. Whiddon College of Medicine at the University of South Alabama. Ivy will be the recipient of the **GENERAL MBNF FELLOWSHIP**.



Brendan Wall is currently pursuing a PhD in Organic Chemistry at Iowa State University. He graduated in 2020 with a BS degree in Biochemistry from Illinois State University. He served there as the President of the Red Tassel chapter and is currently a Section Coordinator for Region 1. Brendan has served on numerous MBNC committees as well as the National Council Student Representative at-Large. Brendan will receive the **RUTH WEIMER MOUNT FELLOWSHIP**.



Kristen Welsh is a graduate of Case Western Reserve University in Psychology and Women and Gender Studies. She was a member of the Lux chapter and represented the chapter at the Mortar Board National Conference. She is pursuing a MSW and MNO in Social Work and Nonprofit Management at Case. Kristen will receive the **BARBARA COOK FELLOWSHIP**.



alumni awards



EMERGING LEADER AWARDS

The Emerging Leader Award honors a recent alumni member who was initiated as a collegiate member and who has demonstrated remarkable accomplishment in her/his profession, or who is noted for outstanding community service and has shown a constant commitment to the Ideals of scholarship, leadership, and service.

Dr. Corrine Kliment, MD, PhD

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2003

Corinne is an Assistant Professor at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. She is a Pulmonary and Critical Care Physician-scientist with a proven biomedical research record. Board-certified in pulmonary medicine, critical care, and internal medicine with a focus on intensive care and outpatient COPD and post-COVID disease, she has been recognized with a number of awards for her research including the Bernie Pennock Outstanding Young Investigator Award. She has participated in medical research leading to the development of potentially new cancer drugs and written about Strategies for Achieving Gender Equity and Work-Life Integration in Physician Scientist Training.

Mr. Dylan Aste, JD

San Diego State University, 2006

Dylan has served as Assistant United States Attorney at the United States Attorney's Office, Southern District of California since 2014. He specializes in prosecuting civil claims involving health care and procurement fraud, opioids, and service members' rights. As an Assistant United States Attorney, Dylan has also defended the United States in civil litigation and prosecuted criminal defendants, which has included multiple trials and plea agreements. Dylan has also led his office's Diversity Committee since 2018 as the Chair and Co-Chair. While serving as an Assistant United States Attorney, Dylan has taught several law school classes as an adjunct professor at two San Diego law schools.

James Clear

Denison University, 2007

James has been writing about decision-making and creating habits since 2012. He's the author of the New York Times bestseller, *Atomic Habits* which has sold more than 15 million copies worldwide and has been translated into more than 50 languages.





ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

The Alumni Achievement Award honors an alumni member who was initiated as a collegiate or honorary member who has demonstrated outstanding and long-lasting achievement in her/his profession or notable, signal service to a broad community and has shown a continuing commitment to the Mortar Board Ideals of scholarship, leadership, and service.

Dr. Alicia Caudill

Otterbein University, 1994

Alicia is the Executive Vice President for Student Affairs at The College of Charleston and was instrumental in establishing our newest chapter at the College of Charleston. She provides leadership to the services that enhance life for students. In addition, she has an adjunct faculty appointment at the College of Charleston, The Citadel and the University of Georgia. Her research interests include women in higher education and families of college students and she has also served on the Board of Trustees of her Alma Mater - Otterbein University.

Amy Button Renz

Kansas State University, 2005

Amy Button Renz became an honorary member in 2005 and has had a 40-year career with the Kansas State Alumni Association and was the first female director in the Big 12 conference. She created the Student Alumni Board, the Student Ambassadors Program, and secured many millions of dollars for student scholarships. Amy was a passionate advocate for multicultural student associations and she formed alliances that benefited so many students. A member of the XIX chapter, Amy was thrilled to share that with her daughter Ashley and she continues to be a champion of the XIX chapter.

Dr. Jenna Cox Rickus

Purdue University, 1994

Jenna serves as the vice provost for teaching and learning at Purdue University, where she leads the Purdue campus in undergraduate education and student success. She is a professor of Agricultural and Biological Engineering and a professor at the Weldon School of Biomedical Engineering with expertise in biofunctional materials and biosensors. She spent time in industry as an engineer at Kraft Foods before receiving her Ph.D. in Neuroscience and Neuroengineering from UCLA. Her research focuses on engineered biomaterials, and she founded the Purdue international genetically engineered machine (iGEM) undergraduate research team. In 2016, she was named a University Faculty Scholar and a Diversity Catalyst and was inducted into the Purdue Innovator's Hall of Fame.



DISTINGUISHED LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP

The Distinguished Lifetime Membership honors an alumni member who was initiated as a collegiate or honorary member and who epitomizes the meaning of a lifetime of service to Mortar Board.

Dr. Martha Lewis Starling

Kansas State University, 1962

Marty has been both National President and President of the Mortar Board National Foundation Board of Trustees. Marty has led a life of community service including for the United Way of Pennsylvania, the Downtown State College Partnership, the P.E.O. Sisterhood, and too many more to mention. Her service to Mortar Board has been devoted. She served on the State College Mortar Board Alumni Club for 43 years, including the Scholarship Committee for 23 years. She was dedicated to the Archousai chapter at Penn State and to the XIX chapter at K-State. She joined the Board of Trustees of the MBNF in 2003 and served until 2013 when she resigned to become National President of Mortar Board, Inc. Following her service on the national council, she returned to the board of Trustees and served until term-limited in 2021.

She was a relentless fundraiser for Mortar Board, establishing the Frances Aicher Lewis Endowment Fund in 2010 to promote the training of Mortar Board advisors. During her tenure, the MBNF evolved from mainly awarding fellowships to actively establishing endowments to support Mortar Board's many initiatives. She spearheaded the fundraising for the Centennial Campaign with CAPT Sally Watlington which raised over \$1.4M in endowed funds for Mortar Board. Together they inspired alumni members to establish the Marty Starling and Sally Watlington Centennial Endowment, known colloquially as the Starlington Endowment, which provides a cash prize to honor collegiate leaders.

CAPT Sally Watlington

Purdue University, 1959

Commissioned in the Navy, she served many appointments and was highly decorated including being awarded the National Defense Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, and two Legion of Merit Medals.

Sally has also dedicated her time to many nonprofits in her community including the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette, the Greater Lafayette United Way, the YWCA of Greater Lafayette, and the Franciscan Alliance Western Indiana Hospital.

Her service to Mortar Board includes acting as an advisor to the Barbara Cook chapter and serving as the treasurer for the Greater Lafayette Mortar Board Alumni chapter. She also served on the Mortar Board National Foundation's Board of Trustees for 3+ terms including as secretary-treasurer. She also continues to serve on the Investment Advisory Council and is well known for the accuracy of her records and reports.

As mentioned, she and Marty ran the Centennial Campaign, encouraged donor stewardship, and inspired the Starlington Fund. But in addition to that, she also was responsible for the establishment of the Sally Watlington Fund and the Purdue Five Deans Fund, honoring the Purdue mentors of her youth.

