

MBits

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Congratulations to Alumni Award Recipients!

The 2025 Mortar Board Alumni Award Winners have been announced

These alumni have continued to hold high the Torch well beyond their collegiate years. They have advanced the mission of Mortar Board, demonstrated remarkable accomplishments in their professional careers, and made a long-lasting impact on their communities.



Volunteer of the Year Award

Laura Baker (*The Ohio State University, 2008*)

Emerging Leader Award

Brandt Coleman (*The University of Louisville, 2015*), **Kelly Houghteling** (*University of Kansas, 2010*), **Morgan Weed** (*San Diego State University, 2021*)

Alumni Achievement Award

Cheryl Gunter (*University of Tennessee, Knoxville, 1976*), **Beth Moody Jones** (*University of Vermont, 1981*), **Jon Waggoner** (*Auburn University, 1991*)

Distinguished Lifetime Member Award

Glenda K. Guyton (*Carson-Newman University, 1974*) and **Catherine Nelson Evans** (*Texas Tech University, 1957*)

Join the 2026 National Conference Planning & Implementation Team!



We're gearing up for the next **Mortar Board National Conference, September 25–27, 2026**, in Columbus, OH — and we need your help to make it unforgettable! Students, alumni, and national leaders are invited to join the 2026 Planning Team and help shape the experience. We're forming three subcommittees: **Host** (local), **Education & Programming**, and **Marketing & Engagement**. The time commitment is just 1 hour/month in the fall, 2 hours/month in spring and summer, and weekly meetings in the final lead-up to the event.

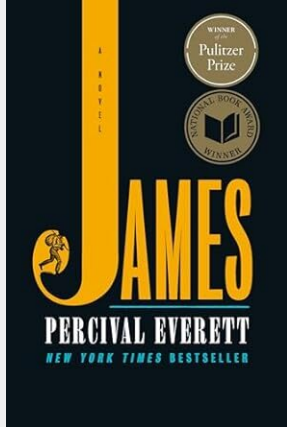
Indicate your interest by September 1 and be part of creating something extraordinary!

[Indicate Your Interest in the Planning Team HERE!](#)

Save the Date for Book Club!

We're excited to announce the return of the **Mortar Board Book Club!**

**Tuesday, September 23 at 7:30pm
Eastern / 6:30pm Central / 5:30pm**



All members are welcome to join for connection, engagement, and thoughtful discussion as we dive into ***James* by Percival Everett**.

A brilliant reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn—both harrowing and satirical—told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

Jenna Vitosh (*The University of Nebraska – Lincoln, 2006*) will facilitate our conversation – we look forward to seeing you and hearing your thoughts!

Register for Book Club

Honorary Memberships: Don't Miss Out This Fall!

If your chapter didn't select any honorary members last spring, now's the perfect time to consider doing so this fall. Honorary Membership is a wonderful way to recognize faculty, staff, and community members who embody Mortar Board's ideals of scholarship, leadership, and service—or who have directly supported your chapter. **Great candidates might include chapter advisors, academic deans or provosts, directors and student affairs staff, and faculty champions.** Each chapter may name up to three honorary members per year at no cost, making it an easy way to boost your chapter's visibility and prestige on campus.

This spring, chapters honored an inspiring range of individuals, including distinguished professors, deans of students, university presidents, and even a head football coach. **Be sure to submit your chapter's petition** to celebrate those who make a lasting impact!

For more information, talk to your Region Coordinator or email chapters@mortarboard.org.



Welcome, New National Leaders!

We are thrilled to introduce your National Leaders for the 2025-2026 term!

During Conference, National Council members for the 2025-2026 year were installed. **Nathan Cordle** (*The University of Alabama, 2011*) assumed the role as President, **Patience Whitworth** (*The Ohio State University, 2003*) moved into the President-elect position, and **Cassandra Lucas** (*Purdue University, 1994*) concluded her tenure as President and now serves as Immediate Past President. **Thank you, Cas, for your guidance and leadership!**



Nathan Cordle, Esq
President



Dr. Patience Whitworth
President-elect



Dr. Cassandra Lucas
Immediate Past President

We'd like to give a warm welcome to those **joining National Council**.

Kailee Weiker (*Ohio Northern University, 2011*) will serve as Treasurer, and **Eli Ade** (*Purdue University, 2025*) and **Molly McBratney** (*William Jewel College, 2025*) begin their term as Student Representatives at-Large.



Kailee Weiker
Treasurer



Eli Ade
Student Representative at-Large



Molly McBratney
Student Representative at-Large

Thank You Outgoing Officers

Three Student Representatives at-Large concluded their terms on Council: **Sierra Malik-Misselhorn** (*University of San Diego, 2024*), **Annanya Sinha** (*Carleton College, 2024*), and **Gabrielle Tessier** (*University of Hawaii at Manoa, 2023*). In addition, **a heartfelt thank you** goes out to **Jenni Birch Szolwinski** (*Purdue University, 1993*) and **Kathryn E. Chick** (*Hood College, 2006*) as they wrapped up their time on National Council. **Your dedication has made a lasting impact on our Society.**

Mortar Board National Foundation welcomes a new Trustee, **Jenna Vitosh** (*The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2006*). In addition, we congratulate **Craig Evers** (*The Ohio State University, 2001*) as he assumes the role of President and **David Lasater** (*Ball State University, 1992*) as he moves into the Secretary position.



Jenna Vitosh
MBNF Trustee



Craig Evers
MBNF President



David Lasater
MBNF Secretary

We are grateful for the years of service of **Barbara Arnold** (*The Pennsylvania State University, 1981*), **Mary Ruth Carleton** (*University of California, Berkeley, 1969*), and **Jan Farrington** (*The University of Mississippi, 1964*) as they conclude their time as Foundation Trustees. **Thank you for your time, talent, and unwavering dedication to Mortar Board.**

Region Coordinators

This year, we brought on five new region coordinators: **Olivia Beckett** (*The Ohio State University, 2024*), **Dillon Cook** (*The University of Alabama, 2024*), **Ava Heintzelman** (*University of Montana, 2024*), **Shelby Morlock** (*Texas Tech University, 2023*), and **Rachel Wong** (*Purdue University, 2023*). They are joining our team of 18 exceptional leaders who help support, guide, and encourage our chapters throughout the year.

[Meet Your National Leaders](#)

Thank You, Donors!

Thank you to our National Conference and Adopt-a-Chapter donors who helped us exceed our goals for this year's Conference! Because of you, chapters were able to attend and are now equipped with a strong foundation to kick off the academic year with confidence and build from the momentum gained at Conference. **Learn how you give a gift that makes a difference**

for Mortar Board.

Make a Difference!



Celebrating the Life & Legacy of Glenda K. Guyton

Mortar Board National College Honor Society mourns the passing of Glenda Guyton, a cherished and devoted member whose legacy of scholarship, leadership, and service spanned decades.

[Read More](#) on Insights



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