

Mortar Board National Conference 2026 

COLUMBUS

CONFERENCE PROGRAM



September 25-27, 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	CONFERENCE WELCOME
4	CONFERENCE APP OVERVIEW AND SERVICE PROJECT PARTNER
5	SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
8	CONFERENCE HOTEL MAPS
9	PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS
10	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: KATHY CLEVELAND BULL
11	EDUCATION SESSIONS OVERVIEWS Block 1: 11 a.m. Block 2: 12 p.m. Block 3: 4 p.m.
13	GUIDE TO GOVERNANCE Quick Guide: Robert's Rules of Order Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws
19	ACTIVE CHAPTERS BY REGION
21	NATIONAL LEADERSHIP
23	STANDING COMMITTEES
24	CONFERENCE PLANNING TEAM
25	SESSION PRESENTERS AND PANELISTS
26	COLLEGIATE AWARD RECIPIENTS
28	ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS
30	DISTINGUISHED LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS
31	FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS
32	THE TORCH AND PAST PRESIDENTS
33	CONFERENCE DONORS
34	CONFERENCE SPONSORS
35	SAVE THE DATE
36	NOTE PAGES

WELCOME TO CONFERENCE!

A Message from Executive Director Dr. Kirsten Fox

Welcome to Mortar Board National Conference 2026!

Welcome to Columbus, and to a weekend of learning, leadership, connection, and celebration!

Columbus is a meaningful place for Mortar Board to gather. In 1918, students from four universities, including The Ohio State University, came together to found Mortar Board. At the 1970 National Conference, students voted to establish a national office, and Columbus became its home. And, as my hometown, Columbus holds a special place in my heart, so I am especially happy to welcome you here.

When I attended my first Mortar Board conference in 1997, I could never have imagined how much that experience would shape my connection to this Society, or that nearly 30 years later, I would have the privilege of welcoming you to the National Conference.

I hope this weekend gives you the opportunity to learn something new, discover new possibilities, strengthen connections across our Society, and build friendships that continue long after you leave Columbus. Whether this is your first Mortar Board conference, or one of many, I hope you leave energized by the people you meet, the ideas you share, and the impact we can make together.

Thank you for being here and for the leadership, scholarship, and service you bring to Mortar Board!

Kirsten



A Welcome from National President Dr. Patience Whitworth

Welcome to the 63rd Mortar Board National Conference!

I am thrilled to personally welcome so many students, advisors, alumni, national leaders, and invited guests to Columbus this weekend. We are grateful you took the time to join us, and I know you will find the experience both meaningful and inspiring.

While our chapters are local, each of us is part of a national community, and this weekend is an opportunity to experience the power of that community firsthand.

For 108 years, Mortar Board has championed the ideals of scholarship, leadership, and service, and you will find these values woven throughout the conference. I encourage you to learn as much as you can, connect with new people, and share your ideas for making both your campus and our national organization stronger.

Mortar Board exists because people care. I am especially grateful to the volunteers, donors, and planning teams whose time, generosity, and dedication made this weekend possible.

I cannot wait to see what you take from this weekend and bring back to your campuses and communities.

PATIENCE



CONFERENCE APP DETAILS

Your Conference, Right at Your Fingertips

GroupMe is the official online platform for the 2026 Mortar Board National Conference! Join the Mortar Board National Conference 2026 event to **access the conference schedule, session locations, event updates, announcements, FAQs, and more.**

The platform is also your place to **connect with fellow Mortar Board members.** Introduce yourself, find members from your region, share your LinkedIn, send direct messages, and make plans to connect throughout the weekend and beyond.

Plus, join our **Virtual Conference Competition!** Participate in polls, daily challenges, and interactive activities throughout the conference to earn points and **compete for exclusive Mortar Board prizes.**

Download the GroupMe app and join the event so you're ready to connect, explore, and make the most of your experience!

Event Name: Mortar Board National Conference 2026

**Scan the QR Code to Join
or Enter the Link Below**

mortarboard.org/conference-app



SERVICE PROJECT PARTNER



Feed the Kids Columbus strives to ensure food-insecure children in Central Ohio have access to nutritious meals and snacks so they are able to learn and grow. The organization began with a simple but urgent realization: many children rely on free and reduced school meals, and when schools close for extended breaks, consistent nutrition can disappear. Not only that, but hunger also shows up quietly during the school day. This realization spurred their in-classroom snack program, which supports more than 11,500 children across 34 schools in Greater Columbus each year.

If you are arriving early on Friday, consider volunteering during the 12 p.m. Pre-Conference Session to support Feed the Kids Columbus!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 25

Friday Dress Code:

School Spirit - Wear Your University Gear!

10 a.m. Registration Opens
2nd Floor Lobby

12 p.m. Pre-Conference Sessions (optional)
Are You the Author? -
Building a Life with Intention
Meeting Room 30

Service Project: Feed the Kids
Columbus *Meeting Room 21*

Columbus Walking Tour
(wear comfortable shoes)
Meet at Conference
Registration (2nd Floor Lobby)

Advisor Pre-Conference
Session
Executive Meeting Lounge

2 p.m. CONFERENCE STARTS
Region & Advisor Meetings
See chart on right for location

3:30 p.m. Conference Welcome
Hayes ABC

5 p.m. Opening Business Meeting
Hayes ABC

**7 p.m. Social & Dinner at Pins
Mechanical Company***
Meet in 2nd Floor Lobby

Region Rooms

Region 1: Meeting Room 31
Region 2: Meeting Room 32
Region 3: Meeting Room 30
Region 4: Meeting Room 33
Region 5: Meeting Room 34
Region 6: Meeting Room 35
Advisors: Executive Meeting Room

9:30 p.m. Game Night: Trivia & More (optional)
Meeting Room 30
Test your knowledge at trivia or settle in for a board or card game with fellow attendees.

Student Representative Candidates
Meeting Room 35

Mortar Board Singers Rehearsal
Meeting Room 22

Resolutions & Recommendations Committee
Meeting Room 33

10 p.m. Nominating & Credentials Committee
Meeting Room 34

Attention Alumni & Advisors!

Looking for a space to hang out or recharge?
Visit the Alumni & Advisor Lounge!

Friday: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.; 3:30 p.m. - 10 p.m.
Saturday: 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.; 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Executive Meeting Room (3rd Floor)

*Pins Mechanical Co. is a 5-minute walk from the hotel. Please let a staff member know if you need assistance; a shuttle is available if needed.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

Daytime Dress Code:
Business Casual

Evening *Banquet* Dress Code:
Cocktail/Semi-formal

8 a.m. Registration Opens
2nd Floor Lobby

Committee Meetings
Student Representative
Candidates and Nominating &
Credentials
Meeting Room 30

Resolutions & Recommendations
Meeting Room 21

Community & Belonging
Meeting Room 22

9 a.m. Student Representative Election & Breakfast
Hayes ABC
Breakfast opens at 8:30 AM

10 a.m. Region & Advisor Meetings
See chart on page 5 for locations

11 a.m. Education Session Block 1
The Pressure to Perform:
Redefining Success & Well-Being
Meeting Room 30

Fellowships Demystified: Advice
from the Winners
Hayes D

The Programming Playbook:
Student Leaders Share What
Works
Hayes E

What is the Mortar Board Expo?

Explore the exhibits in the 2nd Floor Lobby. Connect with our conference sponsors and partners, learn more about Mortar Board, and have a little fun. *Prizes are available for participation!*

**Education Session Descriptions
can be found on page 12**

12 p.m. Education Session Block 2
Show Me the Money:
Fundraising & Financial
Management
Meeting Room 30

The People in Your Corner:
Building Your Board of
Mentors
Hayes D

Make Your Mark: Raising Your
Chapter's Campus Profile
Hayes E

**1 p.m. National Citation Luncheon
and Keynote**
Hayes ABC

2:30 p.m. Mortar Board Expo
2nd Floor Lobby

4 p.m. Education Session Block 3
Leadership When It's Hard
Meeting Room 30

The Mortar Board Year: Lead,
Connect, and Make an Impact
Hayes D

Bring People In: Building a
More Engaged Chapter
Hayes E

4:45 p.m. Break
Get ready for the evening
reception and banquet!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26

5:30 p.m. Networking Reception
4th Floor Outdoor Terrace
Rain Location: 2nd Floor Lobby

6:30 p.m. Candlelight Banquet
Hayes ABC



8:30 p.m. President's Reception
1st Floor Study (Invitation Only)

9 p.m. Football, Crafts, and Fun (optional)
Meeting Room 30
Cheer on the game or get creative with a craft you can take home.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Sunday Dress Code:

Conference T-Shirt (provided at Conference Registration)

8 a.m. Morning Coffee
3rd Floor Lobby

8:30 a.m. Region & Advisor Meetings
See chart on page 5 for locations

10 a.m. Mock Initiation
Hayes ABC

11 a.m. Closing Business Meeting, Group Photo, and Brunch
Hayes ABC

12:30 p.m. CONFERENCE ENDS

Luggage Storage: Meeting Room 21

Airport Shuttle

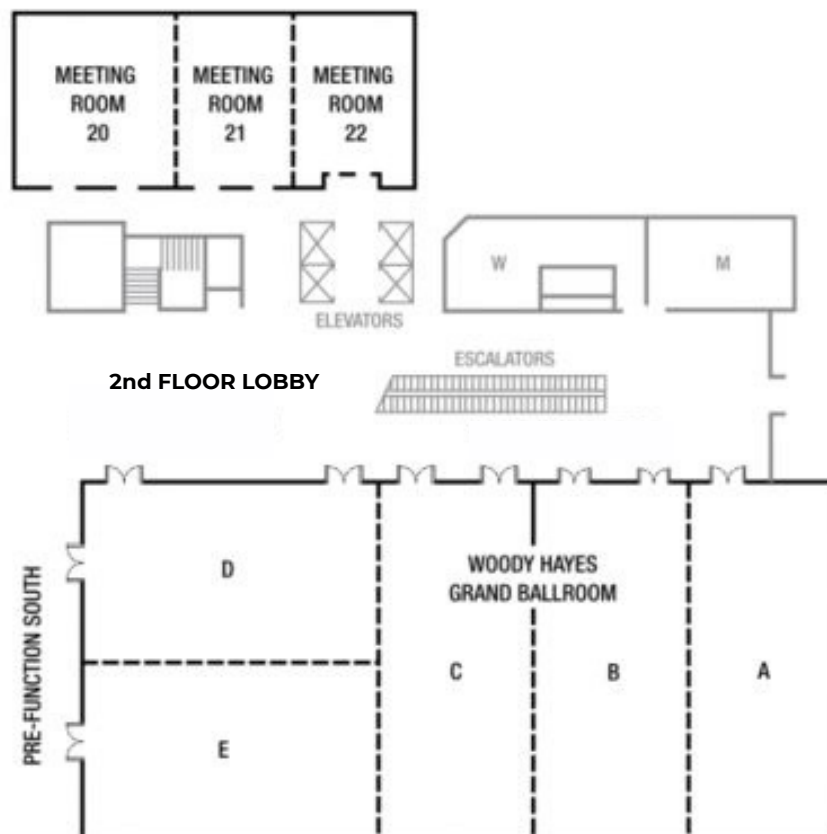
Continuous shuttle service will run from the Renaissance Columbus Downtown Hotel to the Columbus airport for departing guests.

First Shuttle Departure: 12:30 p.m.
Last Shuttle Departure: 4 p.m.

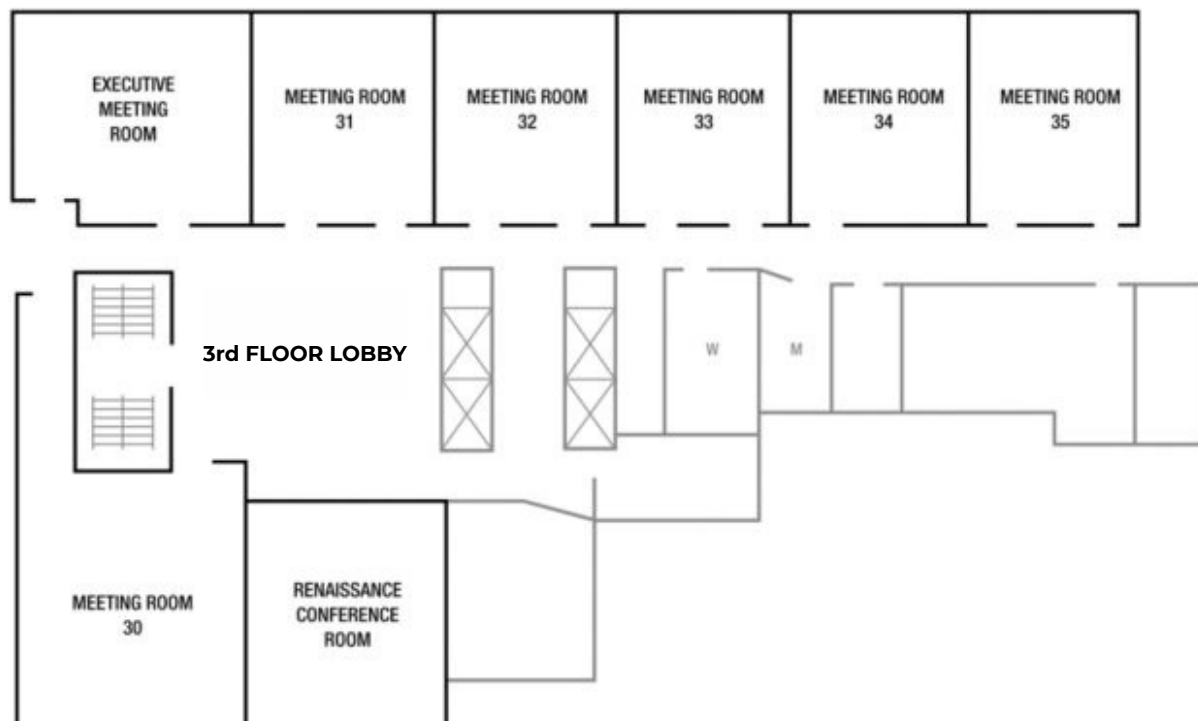
Meet the shuttle outside the hotel lobby.

CONFERENCE HOTEL MAPS

SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR



PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Friday, September 25

12 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

PRE-CONFERENCE SESSIONS (OPTIONAL)

Are You the Author? - Building a Life with Intention

Location: Meeting Room 30

Presenter: Jenna Vitosh

Are You the Author? invites emerging leaders to explore how their values shape the decisions that ultimately shape their lives. Through a practical values exercise and the B.O.A.R.D. framework, participants will learn to make more intentional choices around money, opportunity, relationships, and the life they are building.

Service Project: Feed the Kids Columbus

Location: Meeting Room 21

Give back to the Columbus community by helping pack snack bags for local children experiencing food insecurity. We'll also create kindness cards to include in each package as a personal reminder that their community cares.

Columbus Walking Tour

Location: Meet at Conference Registration (2nd Floor Lobby)

Explore downtown Columbus and discover the theater, arts, governance, history, and social offerings right at the heart of the city. We'll take a leisurely walk through the downtown area and share a little of what makes Columbus (and its connection to Mortar Board) so special. Wear comfortable shoes; the tour will last approximately 60–90 minutes.

Advisor Pre-Conference Session

Location: Executive Meeting Lounge

Join fellow advisors for a conversation about best practices for working with student groups and building strong leadership continuity. We'll also explore strategies for navigating leadership dips and preventing advisor burnout.

Have a little downtime this weekend?

Color Some Kindness!

Have a little downtime? Stop by the 2nd Floor Lobby and help us spread some kindness! Color a few kindness cards that will be tucked into the snack bags assembled during our pre-conference session.



Grab a card, get creative, and leave a little kindness behind!



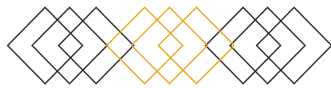
KEYNOTE SPEAKER



THE GOOD LIFE:

WHY RELATIONSHIPS ARE OUR GREATEST ACHIEVEMENT

Discover why connection is the most important predictor of a good life. In this engaging, story-rich keynote, Kathy Cleveland Bull blends research, humor, and heartfelt insight to challenge your perspective and inspire deeper relationships, stronger leadership, and renewed joy.



KATHY CLEVELAND BULL

Bowling Green State University, 1982

About Kathy

Kathy Cleveland Bull is a highly regarded professional speaker, trainer, consultant, and life coach who helps individuals and organizations “Navigate the Art and Science of Change.” Since founding N~Compass Consulting in 2001, Kathy has worked with more than 250 organizations across four continents, including NASA, the U.S. Navy, Pfizer, Ernst & Young, the U.S. Department of Defense, and more than 50 colleges and universities. Her expertise spans change management, organizational culture, leadership development, employee engagement, customer service, and personal and professional development. She has presented keynote addresses and seminars around the world, including in Nairobi, Rotterdam, and Dubai.

Kathy was one of three professional speakers recommended by Dr. Spencer Johnson to deliver training based on the international bestseller *Who Moved My Cheese?* and has trained more than 350,000 people worldwide in successfully navigating change. Before launching N~Compass Consulting, she spent 17 years in higher education leadership at Bowling Green State University, North Carolina State University, and The Ohio State University. A Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Bowling Green State University, Kathy holds master’s degrees in Counseling and College Student Development and is a co-author of *Success Simplified: Simple Solutions, Measurable Results* with Dr. Stephen Covey and others.

EDUCATION SESSIONS

BLOCK 1: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 AT 11 A.M.

The Pressure to Perform: Redefining Success & Well-Being

Location: Meeting Room 30

Presenter: Annie Mascia

High-achieving students often face pressure to excel academically, professionally, and personally while balancing increasingly demanding schedules. This session explores practical strategies for managing stress, setting boundaries, and pursuing success without sacrificing your well-being.

Fellowships Demystified: Advice From the Winners

Location: Hayes D

Facilitators: Matthew Ross and Karen Stiner

Panelists: Cadence Ciesielski, Ava Heintzelman, and Brendan Wall

Fellowships can open doors that shape your future. Hear directly from fellowship winners about developing a strong application, preparation, and making your application stand out.

The Programming Playbook: Student Leaders Share What Works

Location: Hayes E

Facilitators: Chloe Jones and Grace Tang

Student Panelists: Rainisha Doddikind, Joey Fiore, Moorea Neimeier, and Holly Purvis

What makes a chapter program successful, engaging, and worth showing up for? Student leaders from across Mortar Board share their best ideas, lessons learned, and practical tips for planning programs that connect with members and make an impact.

BLOCK 2: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 AT 12 P.M.

Show Me the Money: Fundraising & Financial Management

Location: Meeting Room 30

Presenters: Liz Cook, Craig Evers, and Kailee Weiker

Strong chapters need strong financial practices and creative approaches to generating support. Learn practical strategies for fundraising, budgeting, managing chapter finances, and making the most of the resources available to your chapter.

The People in Your Corner: Building Your Board of Mentors

Location: Hayes D

Facilitators: Kirsten Fox

Panelists: David Lasater, Tamika Lovelace, Cassandra Lucas, and Bruce Ware

No one builds a successful career or life alone, and the right people can help you navigate challenges, recognize opportunities, and grow into your goals. Explore how to intentionally build your own personal board of directors by identifying the mentors, advocates, peers, and advisors who can support you at different stages of your journey.

EDUCATION SESSIONS

BLOCK 2: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 AT 12 P.M. (CONTINUED)

Make Your Mark: Raising Your Chapter's Campus Profile

Location: Hayes E

Facilitators: Gabby Going and Rachel Wong

Student Panelists: Nabaa Al-Amood, Santah Bahjat, Sophia Harding, and Bryce Varner

A great chapter can only make an impact if people know what it is doing. Student leaders share strategies for increasing chapter visibility, telling your story, building campus partnerships, and showcasing the accomplishments of your members.

BLOCK 3: SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26 AT 4 P.M.

**** These sessions will have drawings for special prizes and merch. ****

Leadership When It's Hard

Location: Meeting Room 30

Presenter: Louise Douce

Leadership often means navigating challenging personalities, competing perspectives, and conversations that do not go as planned. Learn how to respond with empathy while still communicating clearly, maintaining boundaries, and moving difficult conversations forward.

The Mortar Board Year: Lead, Connect & Make an Impact

Location: Hayes D

Presenters: Ben Flox and Brendan Wall

Your Mortar Board year is an opportunity to build relationships, develop as a leader, serve your community, and leave something meaningful behind. Explore ways to make the most of your membership and turn one year of Mortar Board into an experience that stays with you long after graduation.

Bring People In: Building a More Engaged Chapter

Location: Hayes E

Facilitators: Cadence Ciesielski and Ava Heintzelman

Student Panelists: Aarushi Gupta, Cameron Lowery, Mary Helene Marmande, and Bayley Scott

Getting members to join is one thing; getting them to participate, connect, and feel like they belong is another. Student leaders share what has worked for their chapters, from creating a sense of community to increasing participation and turning members into active contributors.

**See our full list of conference presenters, facilitators,
and panelists on page 25.**

GUIDE TO GOVERNANCE

Quick Guide to Robert's Rules of Order

Mortar Board's Bylaws provide that our Business Meetings are governed by the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, except when our Bylaws or other rules adopted by the Society provide a different rule. (Article XI, Parliamentary Authorities)

Your Goal

Since its founding in 1918, Mortar Board has been student-led and student-governed. At each conference, every chapter sends a student delegate to represent its voice in the Business Meetings, where delegates discuss and vote on official business. Robert's Rules of Order help ensure the meetings are conducted fairly, efficiently, and with opportunities for all delegates to participate.

General Rules

- Wait to be recognized by the chair before speaking.
- State your name and chapter before speaking.
- Speak only to the motion currently on the floor.
- Keep comments respectful and directed to the chair—not to other delegates.
- Speak once until everyone who wishes to speak has had an opportunity.
- Stay focused on the issue, not the individual.

Voting

Common voting methods include:

- Voice vote (delegates respond "Aye" or "No" **and** raise their voting cards when instructed)
- Electronic vote (ballot)

How a Motion Works

- A delegate is recognized by the chair.
- The delegate makes a motion.
- Another delegate seconds the motion (if required).
- The chair states the motion.
- Delegates discuss the motion.
- The chair calls for a vote.
- The chair announces the result.

Does My Motion Need a Second?

YES – A second is generally required for motions made by an individual delegate. Examples include: main motions, amendments, referring something to a committee, and postponing consideration.

NO – A second is not required when the motion comes from a committee. Committee recommendations represent the agreement of multiple people, so they are automatically before the assembly for consideration.

Quick Cheat Sheet

If you want to...	Say...
Make a motion	"I move that..."
Second a motion	"Second."
Speak in support	"Chair, I rise in support of the motion..."
Speak in opposition	"Chair, I rise in opposition of the motion..."
Ask a question	"Chair, request for information."
Amend a motion	"I move to amend the motion by..."
Withdraw your motion	"I request permission to withdraw my motion."
Identify a rule that has been broken	"Chair, point of order..."
End debate and vote	"Chair, call the question."

GUIDE TO GOVERNANCE

Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws of Mortar Board

Proposed amendments to the *Bylaws of Mortar Board, Inc.* for consideration by chapters in September 2026:

AMENDMENT 1

Action Proposed: Clarify expectations for member participation and establish standards and procedures for removal from national membership.

- Clarify that chapters may establish participation expectations for collegiate members and may remove a member from the active chapter roster for failure to meet those expectations, in accordance with chapter policies.
- Provide greater flexibility for chapters to establish participation expectations that promote meaningful engagement and recognize members' contributions, while maintaining appropriate standards for active collegiate membership.
- Clarify that removal from a chapter's active roster does not affect the individual's status as a national member of Mortar Board.
- Establish standards for serious misconduct that may result in removal from national membership, including harassment or discrimination, violence or abusive behavior, fraud or theft, serious violations of institutional policies or applicable law, and conduct that materially harms the Society, its chapters, or its members.
- Ensure that any removal from national membership follows the procedures established in the Bylaws, including appropriate notice and an opportunity for the member to appeal.

Proposed Bylaws Changes (new language in **purple**, language to strike in **red**):

ARTICLE III

MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 – Collegiate Membership (Participation)

Section 4 – Resignation and Dismissal from Membership

Section 1.10, B

Strike: Membership in the Society requires active involvement; therefore, for a collegiate member to remain in good standing in the chapter, they must meet the requirements for participation established by the chapter and be in good standing with the institution with which the chapter is affiliated. If a penalty of the participation policy includes dismissal, the chapter must follow the dismissal procedures outlined in these Bylaws.

Add: Membership in the Society is enriched through active participation in chapter activities and initiatives. Collegiate members are expected to engage in the chapter in ways that support its mission and meet the participation expectations established by the chapter, while remaining in good standing with the institution with which the chapter is affiliated. Chapters are encouraged to establish participation expectations that promote meaningful engagement and recognize members' contributions. A chapter may remove a member from its active chapter roster for failure to meet its established participation expectations in accordance with chapter policies. Such action does not affect the individual's status as a national member of the Society.

GUIDE TO GOVERNANCE

Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws of Mortar Board

Proposed Language

B. Participation. ~~Membership in the Society requires active involvement; therefore, for a collegiate member to remain in good standing in the chapter, they must meet the requirements for participation established by the chapter and be in good standing with the institution with which the chapter is affiliated. If a penalty of the participation policy includes dismissal, the chapter must follow the dismissal procedures outlined in these Bylaws.~~
Membership in the Society is enriched through active participation in chapter activities and initiatives. Collegiate members are expected to engage in the chapter in ways that support its mission and meet the participation expectations established by the chapter, while remaining in good standing with the institution with which the chapter is affiliated. Chapters are encouraged to establish participation expectations that promote meaningful engagement and recognize members' contributions. A chapter may remove a member from its active chapter roster for failure to meet its established participation expectations in accordance with chapter policies. Such action does not affect the individual's status as a national member of the Society.

Section 4

Resignation and Dismissal from Membership

Create a new Section

Article III, Section 4.3, A. and Section 4.3, B.

Conduct and Removal from Membership

Add:

4.3 Conduct and Removal from Membership.

A. Membership in the Society carries the responsibility to uphold its values and maintain conduct consistent with its purposes. A member may be subject to removal from membership in the Society for serious misconduct that is incompatible with continued membership. Grounds for removal may include, but are not limited to:

- Harassment or discrimination.
- Violence, threats of violence, or abusive behavior.
- Fraud, theft, or other acts of dishonesty involving the Society or its members.
- Serious violations of institutional policies or applicable law.
- Conduct that materially harms the Society, its chapters, or its members.

B. Removal from national membership may occur through the procedures established in these Bylaws and shall include appropriate notice and an opportunity for the member to appeal.

GUIDE TO GOVERNANCE

Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws of Mortar Board

AMENDMENT 2

Action Proposed: Clarify the appointment and structure of national committees by distinguishing between standing and ad hoc committees.

- Remove the National President's specific appointment authority for committees from the list of individual National Council duties and establish committee appointment procedures in the Committee section of the Bylaws.
- Clarify that standing committees are appointed by the National President with the approval of the National Council, while ad hoc committees may be appointed by the National President as needed.
- Establish clear distinctions between standing and ad hoc committees to provide greater clarity regarding their purpose, appointment, and role in the governance of the Society.

Proposed Bylaws Changes (new language in **purple**, language to strike in **red**):

ARTICLE IV

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Section 1 – National Council

Section 3 – Committees

Section 1.12, A

Strike: committees

The National President shall preside at all conferences and National Council meetings, sign all charters granted, and appoint all region coordinators, ~~committees~~, and committee chairpersons. The National President shall sit as an ex-officio member on the Mortar Board National Foundation Board of Trustees with voice and vote.

Section 3.1

The National President, with the approval of National Council, shall appoint **standing** committees as needed to conduct the business of the Society ~~on an ad hoc basis~~. **The National President shall appoint ad hoc committees as needed.** Members of **standing and ad hoc** committees must be members of, **or advisors to**, the Society.

AMENDMENT 3

Action Proposed: Establish clear and consistent quorum and voting standards for conducting business and making decisions within the Society.

- Define quorum and establish the default requirement for conducting official business.
- Clarify the standards for majority votes, two-thirds votes, and plurality votes, including how abstentions are counted.
- Establish consistent voting requirements for elections, including the use of plurality voting for student representatives at-large.
- Clarify that when the Bylaws specify a different voting standard or a specific group of voters, that requirement takes precedence over the default voting standard.

GUIDE TO GOVERNANCE

Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws of Mortar Board

AMENDMENT 3 (CONTINUED)

Proposed Bylaws Changes (new language in **purple**, language to strike in **red**):

ARTICLE XI

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITIES

Create a new Section

Article XI, Section 1

Quorum and Voting Requirements, Sections 1.1 – 1.6

Add:

Article XI, Section 1 – Quorum and Voting Requirements

Section 1 – Quorum and Voting Requirements.

1.1 – Quorum. A quorum is the minimum number of voting members or accredited voting delegates who must be present for a body to conduct official business. Unless otherwise stated in these Bylaws, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the voting members of the body. A quorum must be present before the body may conduct official business or take action.

1.2 – Majority Vote. Unless a different voting requirement is specifically stated in these Bylaws, an action shall be approved by a majority of the valid affirmative and negative votes cast by members present and voting. Abstentions are not counted as votes cast.

1.3 – Two-Thirds Vote. When these Bylaws require a two-thirds vote, the action shall be approved by an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the valid votes cast by members present and voting. Abstentions are not counted as votes cast.

1.4 – Plurality. When these Bylaws provide for election by plurality, the candidate or candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be elected, even if no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast. Abstentions are not counted as votes cast.

1.5 – Elections. Unless otherwise stated in these Bylaws, elections shall require a majority of the valid votes cast by members present and voting. The election of student representatives at-large shall be by plurality, with the candidates receiving the highest number of votes elected.

1.6 – Other Voting Requirements. When these Bylaws specify that a vote is based on the entire membership, members present, accredited delegates, or another specifically identified group, that standard shall govern rather than the default majority vote described above.

GUIDE TO GOVERNANCE

Proposed Amendments to the Bylaws of Mortar Board

AMENDMENT 4

Action Proposed: Clarify the process for making administrative updates to the Bylaws between National Conferences while preserving the student delegation's authority over governance changes.

Allow the National Council and National Office to make administrative changes to the Bylaws ahead of the National Conference or Special National Conference. Examples include updating terminology referring to administrative processes and correcting typographical errors, misspellings, punctuation, or grammatical errors.

Require proposed administrative changes to be referred first to the Governance Committee for consideration.

Clarify that substantive governance changes to the Bylaws will continue to be presented to the student delegation for voice and vote.

Proposed Bylaws Changes (new language in **purple**, language to strike in **red**):

ARTICLE XIII

AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

Add: The National Council and National Office may make administrative changes to these Bylaws ahead of the National Conference or the Special National Conference. Proposed administrative changes shall first be referred to the Governance Committee for consideration.

More About the Bylaws of Mortar Board, Inc.

Twice a year, a student delegate from every active chapter participates in voting on national governance during the National Conference and Special National Conference. Participating in governance isn't just about policy—it's about having a seat at the table where decisions are made that impact chapters nationwide. It ensures Mortar Board continues to reflect the values, priorities, and perspectives of our members.

Bylaws

Our Bylaws outline how Mortar Board operates and guide the decisions that keep our organization strong, fair, and member-driven.

Submit a Bylaws Recommendation

We encourage active involvement in shaping Mortar Board's governance and bylaws. Contributing recommendations helps strengthen our shared mission and keeps our structure responsive to the evolving needs of students and chapters. There are two annual submission deadlines:

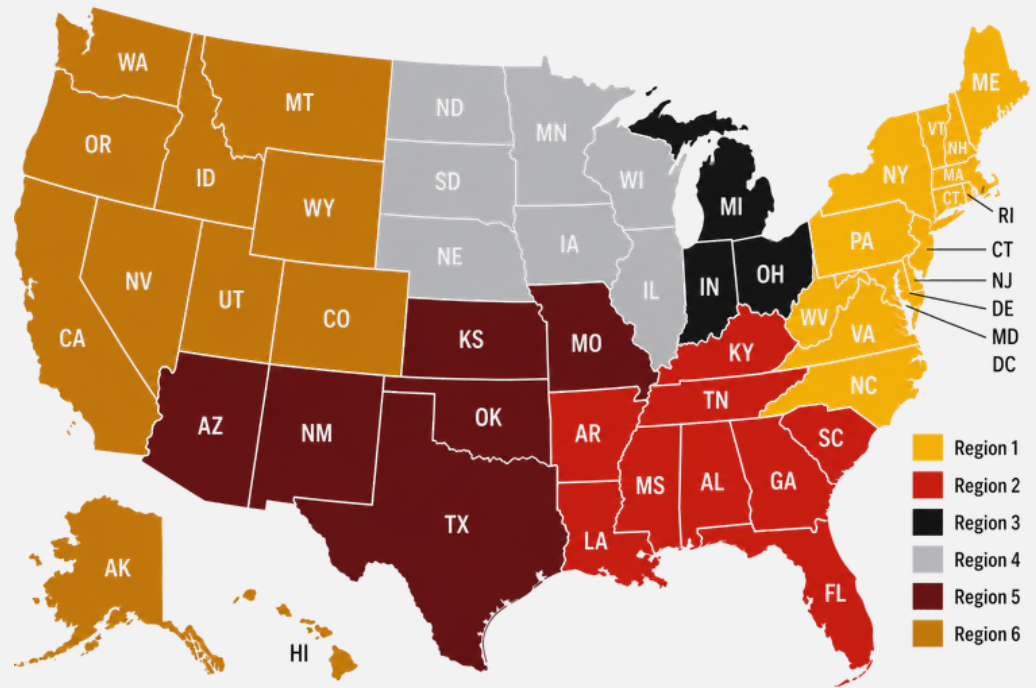
- **December 1** – for consideration at the Special National Conference
- **June 1** – for consideration at the National Conference

Learn more and view the Bylaws at: mortarboard.org/governance

**View the
Current Bylaws:**



ACTIVE CHAPTERS BY REGION



REGION 1

*Northeast &
Atlantic Coast*

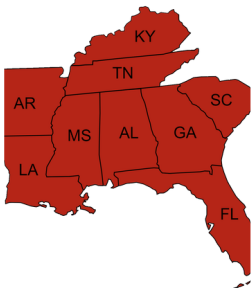


- Bucknell University
- Carnegie Mellon University
- College of William and Mary
- Endicott College
- Grove City College
- Hood College
- Lenoir-Rhyne University
- Longwood University

- Salem College
- University of Mary Washington
- University of Maryland
- The University of Pennsylvania
- University of Richmond
- The University of Vermont
- Wake Forest University
- West Virginia University

REGION 2

South & Southeast



- Agnes Scott College
- Alcorn State University
- Auburn University
- The College of Charleston
- Emory University
- Jackson State University
- Life University
- Lyon College
- Mississippi Christian University

- Rhodes College
- Troy University
- Tulane University
- The University of Alabama
- University of Louisville
- University of Mississippi
- University of South Alabama
- University of South Carolina

REGION 3

Midwest: East



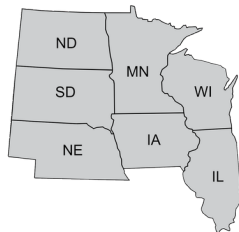
- Adrian College
- Ball State University
- Bowling Green State University
- Butler University
- Case Western Reserve University
- Denison University
- Hanover College
- Michigan State University
- Northern Michigan University

- Ohio Northern University
- The Ohio State University
- Ohio Wesleyan University
- Otterbein University
- Purdue University
- University of Cincinnati
- The University of Findlay
- The University of Toledo
- Xavier University

ACTIVE CHAPTERS BY REGION

REGION 4

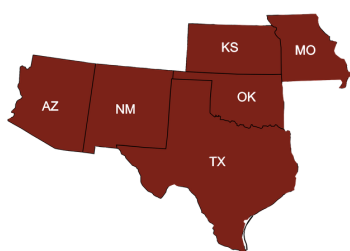
Midwest: West



- Beloit College
- Carleton College
- Coe College
- Illinois State University
- Lawrence University
- Monmouth College
- North Dakota State University
- Northern Illinois University
- The University of Nebraska at Kearney
- The University of Nebraska—Lincoln
- University of North Dakota

REGION 5

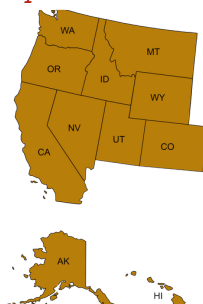
Southwest/Great Plains



- Benedictine College
- Kansas State University
- Oklahoma Baptist University
- Oklahoma State University
- Southern Methodist University
- Southern Nazarene University
- Texas Tech University
- University of Arizona
- The University of Kansas
- University of Missouri-Columbia
- The University of New Mexico
- University of North Texas
- The University of Tulsa
- Washburn University
- West Texas A & M University
- Wichita State University
- William Jewell College

REGION 6

Rocky Mountain & Pacific



- Chapman University
- Montana State University
- San Diego State University
- University of California, Berkeley
- University of California, Los Angeles
- University of Hawaii at Manoa
- University of Montana
- The University of Northern Colorado
- University of Puget Sound
- University of San Diego
- University of the Pacific
- University of Washington
- University of Wyoming



Connect with your Region Coordinator!

Your Region Coordinator is a national volunteer who is here all year to support, celebrate, and troubleshoot with your chapter. Lean on them! They have been in your shoes and can offer valuable perspective on what's working on other campuses. Your Region Coordinator is in your corner, so don't hesitate to reach out!

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

The National Conference marks the official transition of Mortar Board's leadership, including the National Council, Foundation Board of Trustees, and Region Coordinators. All Standing Committees also formally transition at the close of the Conference. While committee structures are in place, appointments are not yet finalized—there will be opportunities for both students and alumni to get involved and be appointed in the weeks following the Conference.

During the Conference, two student representatives will be elected by the general delegation to serve on the National Council. Additionally, each region will elect one student to serve as their region's representative on the Student Advisory Board, ensuring strong student voices continue to shape Mortar Board's direction.

NATIONAL COUNCIL

National President: Dr. Patience Whitworth (The Ohio State University, 2003)

Vice President: Dr. Brendan Wall (Illinois State University, 2018)

Secretary: Katie Verschelden (Kansas State University, 2002)

Treasurer: Kailee Weiker (Ohio Northern University, 2010)

Alumni Representative at-Large: Wilson Chan (University of Louisville, 1989)

Alumni Representative at-Large: Leslie Ellis (Lenoir-Rhyne University, 2015)

Student Representative at-Large: Eli Ade (Purdue University, 2025)

Student Representative at-Large: Molly McBratney (William Jewell College, 2025)

Immediate Past President: Nathan Cordle (The University of Alabama, 2011)

Past President: Dr. Cassandra Lucas (Purdue University, 1994)

Foundation Representative: Craig Evers (The Ohio State University, 2001)

Executive Director: Dr. Kirsten F. Fox (The Ohio State University, 1996)

NATIONAL FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President: Craig Evers (The Ohio State University, 2001)

Vice President: Karen S. Stiner (San Diego State University, 1987)

Secretary: Dr. W. David Lasater (Ball State University, 1992)

Treasurer: Matthew Ross (The Ohio State University, 2001)

Trustee: Dr. Joni Comstock (Eastern Illinois University, 2016)

Trustee: Susan Doss (The University of Alabama, 1985)

Trustee: Laura C. Simic (University of Oregon, 1985)

Trustee: Jenna Vitosh (The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2006)

Trustee: Bruce Ware (University of Mississippi, 1998)

Trustee ex officio: Dr. Patience Whitworth (The Ohio State University, 2003)

Trustee ex officio: Kailee Weiker (Ohio Northern University, 2010)

Executive Director, Trustee ex officio: Dr. Kirsten Fox (The Ohio State University, 1996)

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP



REGION COORDINATORS

REGION 1

Dillon Cook, *Lead* (The University of Alabama, 2024)
Kadyn (Bunting) Houchins (Longwood University, 2025)
Grace Tang (Carnegie Mellon University, 2024)

REGION 2

Annie Mascia, *Lead* (University of South Alabama, 2021)
Emily Deskus (Endicott College, 2023)
Carina Huot (University of North Dakota, 2022)
Vedant Kulkarni (Kansas State University, 2021)

REGION 3

Rachel Wong, *Lead* (Purdue University, 2023)
Olivia Beckett (The Ohio State University, 2024)
Chloe Jones (College of William & Mary, 2024)

REGION 4

Kailey Jerome, *Lead* (University of North Dakota, 2019)
Gabby Going (Eastern Illinois University, 2016)
Elizabeth Payton (Texas Tech University, 2023)

REGION 5

Cadence Ciesielski, *Lead* (Kansas State University, 2021)
Shelby Morlock (Texas Tech University, 2023)
Nick Morris (Texas Tech University, 2025)

REGION 6

Andrew Gray, *Lead* (The University of Tulsa, 2021)
Ava Heintzelman (University of Montana, 2024)
Mike Liu (Wake Forest University, 2025)

NATIONAL OFFICE STAFF

Executive Director: Dr. Kirsten F. Fox (The Ohio State University, 1996)
Director of Collegiate Success: Trish Maxwell (The Ohio State University, 2024)
Director of Strategic Advancement: Liz Cook (Bucknell University, 2025)
Membership & Operations Manager: Ben Flox (Denison University, 2025)
Communications & Engagement Manager: Jaquilynn Huff (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2019)
Administrative Assistant: Morgan Feeney

STANDING COMMITTEES

2026-2027 Standing Committee Members will be appointed by the Mortar Board National President following the 2026 National Conference. Current collegiate students are eligible to serve on these committees.

STANDING NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

Cassandra Lucas, *chair* (Purdue University, 1994)

Susan Herndon McGuire (The University of Alabama, 2006)

Dan Turner (Northern Illinois University, 1994)

STANDING GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Myra Hanson, *chair* (The University of Northern Colorado, 2011)

Cade Ciesielski (Kansas State University, 2021)

Kirsten Hawley (Miami University, 1996)

Katie Verschelden (Kansas State University, 2002)

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMUNITY & BELONGING

Gabby Going, *chair* (Eastern Illinois University, 2016)

Vedant Kulkarni (Kansas State University, 2021)

Tamika Lovelace (San Diego State University, 2021)

Elizabeth Payton (Texas Tech University, 2023)

STUDENT ADVISORY BOARD

Eli Ade, *co-chair* (Purdue University, 2025)

Molly McBratney, *co-chair* (William Jewell College, 2025)

Elizabeth Barker (University of Maryland, 2025), **Region 1**

Ariana Johnson (Troy University, 2025), **Region 2**

Keerstin Farson-Mantor (Otterbein University, 2025), **Region 3**

Kamea Graham (Monmouth College, 2025), **Region 4**

Nick Morris (Texas Tech University, 2025), **Region 5**

Francesca Bolt (University of Puget Sound, 2025) and

Rowan Eisman (Chapman University, 2025), **Region 6**

**Interested in
serving on a
National
Committee?**

Share your interest
on the Conference
Evaluation sent
Sunday afternoon!



New This Year: Membership Committee

The Membership Committee provides national-level strategy and guidance to Mortar Board regarding the vitality, growth, and effectiveness of the Society's membership, which includes collegiate and honorary members. The Membership Committee is charged with advancing the health and growth of Mortar Board membership by providing comprehensive feedback, ideas, and strategic recommendations to the National Council concerning all aspects of recruitment, engagement, support, and expansion.

THANK YOU, 2026 CONFERENCE TEAM!

STEERING COMMITTEE

Kirsten Fox (The Ohio State University, 1996)
Cassandra Lucas (Purdue University, 1994)
Trish Maxwell (The Ohio State University, 2024)
Patience Whitworth (The Ohio State University, 2003)

EDUCATION SUB-COMMITTEE

Kailee Weiker, chair (Ohio Northern University, 2010)
Marivel Alfaro (San Diego State University, 2025)
Melany Casanova (Berea College, 2024)
Elizabeth Clark (University of Richmond, 1990)
Annie Mascia (University of South Alabama, 2021)
Trish Maxwell (The Ohio State University, 2024)
Elizabeth Payton (Texas Tech University, 2023)
Myah Revis (Jackson State University, 2024)

MARKETING SUB-COMMITTEE

Jaquilynn Huff, chair (UW-Milwaukee, 2019)
Gabrielle Going (Eastern Illinois University, 2016)
Anna Isberg (Case Western Reserve University, 2024)
Chloe Jones (College of William and Mary, 2024)
Rachel Wong (Purdue University, 2023)

HOST SUB-COMMITTEE

Liz Cook, co-chair (Bucknell University, 2025)
Kirsten Fox, co-chair (The Ohio State University, 1996)
Matt Couch (College of William and Mary, 1996)
Louise Douce (The Ohio State University, 1970)
Craig Evers (The Ohio State University, 2001)
Ashley Goldammer (The Ohio State University, 2001)
Julie Schnell (The Ohio State University, 2021)

CONFERENCE ADVISORY BOARD

Chubing Fang (University of Maryland, 2025)
Joey Fiore (Longwood University, 2025)
Aarushi Gupta (Purdue University, 2026)
Chloe Jones (College of William and Mary, 2024)

A heartfelt thank-you

to the Renaissance Hotel staff, national leaders, sponsors, donors, Conference Team, National Office staff, and our many volunteers for all you contributed to making this conference possible!

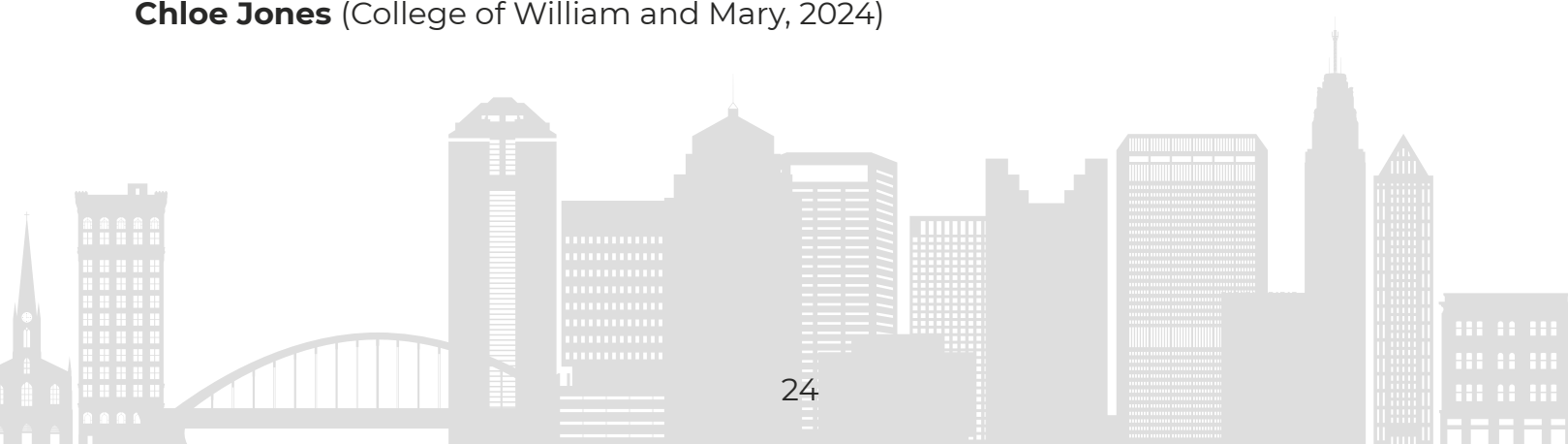


CONFERENCE EXPERIENCE TEAM

Elizabeth Payton
Texas Tech University, 2023

Arnae Rogers
The Ohio State University, 2025

Lex Rogers
Conference photographer



SESSION PRESENTERS & PANELISTS

Presenters & Facilitators

Wilson Chan (University of Louisville, 1989)
Kathryn Chick (Hood College, 2006)
Cadence Ciesielski (Kansas State University, 2021)
Kathy Cleveland Bull (Bowling Green State University, 1982)
Dr. Joni Comstock (Eastern Illinois University, 2016)
Liz Cook (Bucknell University, 2025)
Dr. Louise Douce (The Ohio State University, 1970)
Julie Eddleman (Purdue University, 1991)
Craig Evers (The Ohio State University, 2001)
Ben Flox (Denison University, 2025)
Dr. Kirsten Fox (The Ohio State University, 1996)
Gabrielle Going (Eastern Illinois University, 2016)
Dr. Jane Hamblin (Purdue University, 1973)
Gail Harrison Corvette (The Ohio State University, 1980)
Ava Heintzelman (University of Montana, 2024)
Candi Hironaka Pitts (Oregon State University, 1971)
Jaquilynn Huff (University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 2019)
Chloe Jones (College of William and Mary, 2024)
Vedant Kulkarni (Kansas State University, 2021)
Dr. David Lasater (Ball State University, 1992)
Tamika Lovelace (San Diego State University, 2021)
Dr. Cassandra Lucas (Purdue University, 1994)
Annie Mascia (University of South Alabama, 2021)
Trish Maxwell (The Ohio State University, 2024)
Nick Morris (Texas Tech University, 2025)
Elizabeth Payton (Texas Tech University, 2023)
Rev. Dr. Denise Rode (Northern Illinois University, 1971)
Matthew Ross (The Ohio State University, 2001)
Laura Simic (University of Oregon, 1985)
Karen Stiner (San Diego State University, 1987)
Grace Tang (Carnegie Mellon University, 2024)
Katie Verschelden (Kansas State University, 2002)
Jenna Vitosh (The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2006)
Dr. Brendan Wall (Illinois State University, 2018)
Bruce Ware (University of Mississippi, 1998)
Kailee Weiker (Ohio Northern University, 2010)
Dr. Patience Whitworth (The Ohio State University, 2003)
Rachel Wong (Purdue University, 2023)

Student Panelists

Nabaa Al-Amood
(Wichita State University, 2025)

Santah Bahjat
(San Diego State University, 2026)

Rainisha Doddikind
(Texas Tech University, 2026)

Joey Fiore
(Longwood University, 2025)

Aarushi Gupta
(Purdue University, 2026)

Sophia Harding
(The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2026)

Cameron Lowery
(Longwood University, 2025)

Mary Helene Marmande
(University of South Alabama, 2025)

Moorea Neimeier
(University of Arizona, 2026)

Holly Purvis
(Ohio Northern University, 2025)

Bayley Scott
(University of North Dakota, 2025)

Bryce Varner
(Mississippi Christian University, 2025)

Ashton Zow
(College of Charleston, 2025)



A special thank you to all our presenters, facilitators, and panelists who made this weekend possible. Your partnership, expertise, and generosity elevate our chapters and members across the country.

COLLEGIATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence Award

The University of Nebraska—Lincoln, Black Masque chapter

Freeman & Fox Most Improved Chapter Award

Otterbein University, Teleiotes chapter

Starlington Prize

Rowan Eisman, Chapman University

Nicholas Morris, Texas Tech University

Excellence in Advising Award

Dr. Matt Couch, The Ohio State University

Dr. Bill Fox, Otterbein University

Dr. Thomas Kolasa, Troy University

Alison Paradise, University of Puget Sound

Dr. Taylor Poe, Mississippi College

Elaine Williams, Bucknell University

Excellence in Advising with Distinction

Rev. Dr. Denise Rode, Northern Illinois University (award first received in 2020)

Inclusive Excellence Award

Ohio Northern University

Southern Nazarene University

The University of Nebraska—Lincoln

Gold Torch Award

Chapman University

Endicott College

Lenoir Rhyne University

Longwood University

Lyon College

Ohio Northern University

The Ohio State University

Otterbein University

Purdue University

Rhodes College

San Diego State University

Texas Tech University

The University of Findlay

University of Mississippi

The University of Nebraska at Kearney

The University of Nebraska—Lincoln

University of North Dakota

University of San Diego

University of South Alabama

COLLEGIATE AWARD RECIPIENTS

Project Excellence Award

SCHOLARSHIP

University of Montana
University of San Diego

LEADERSHIP

Purdue University
University of North Dakota

SERVICE TO ALMA MATER

Longwood University
University of South Alabama

COMMUNITY SERVICE

University of Mississippi
University of North Dakota
The University of Toledo

FACULTY, STAFF, AND STUDENT RECOGNITION

College of Charleston
The Ohio State University
University of South Alabama

FUNDRAISING

Mississippi College
Southern Nazarene University
University of Arizona

MORTAR BOARD WEEK

San Diego State University
Southern Nazarene University

READING IS LEADING

Ohio Northern University
University of Mississippi

MORTAR BOARD WEEK OF SERVICE

Beloit College
Hood College
The Ohio State University

Outstanding Achievement Award

RECRUITMENT AND SELECTION

Mississippi College
North Dakota State University
Troy University

CAMPUS VISIBILITY

Emory University
Otterbein University
University of Mississippi

OFFICER AND ADVISOR TRANSITION

Chapman University
Texas Tech University
The University of Nebraska at Kearney

CHAPTER REACTIVATION

Bowling Green State University
Emory University
Southern Nazarene University

CHAPTER COMMUNICATION

University of Montana
University of San Diego

DIGITAL COMMUNICATION AND SOCIAL MEDIA

Lyon College
University of California, Los Angeles
The University of Nebraska—Lincoln

ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

Purdue University
University of Arizona

NEW MEMBER TAPPING

Benedictine College
The University of Alabama

Read more about our 2026 Collegiate Awards recipients on our website!

mortarboard.org/collegiate-award-recipients

ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Volunteer of the Year



Gabby Going

(Eastern Illinois University, 2016)

Gabby led the revitalization of the Community & Belonging Toolkit while also driving strategic conversations about how the committee can better support and serve collegiate members throughout the upcoming academic year.

Region Coordinator of the Year



Annie Mascia

(University of South Alabama, 2021)

Annie has served as a Region Coordinator since 2022 and exemplifies leadership and service through mentorship, advocacy, and support for chapters. Her enthusiasm, warmth, and dedication make her a trusted and valued leader within Mortar Board.

Emerging Leader Award



Amanda Duffy *(The University of Vermont, 2019)*

Amanda is a Senior Sustainable Business Account Manager at the Pet Sustainability Coalition, advising more than 80 companies on climate action. She serves as President of Bolder Young Professionals and has held leadership roles with B Local Colorado and the Boulder Chamber Advisory Board.



Lee Lenkoff *(University of Louisville, 2019)*

Lee's career has bridged law and business, including her current role in estate and wealth planning at Certy Partners. In 2026, she returned to the University of Louisville as a part-time lecturer and mentor to graduate students.



Abigail Spraggins *(The University of Akron, 2014)*

Abigail is the founder of Abby's Helping Hands, Hopeful Hearts, a completely volunteer-run nonprofit that has supported more than 600 families and homeless teens with essential resources, emergency assistance, and dignity-centered holiday programs.

ALUMNI AWARD RECIPIENTS

Alumni Achievement Award

Dr. Maria Carpiac

University of California, Los Angeles, 1996



Dr. Carpiac, professor and Director of the Gerontology Program at California State University, Long Beach (CSULB), has devoted her career to advancing education, mentorship, scholarship, and opportunities for students of all ages. She played a key leadership role in establishing CSULB as an Age-Friendly University, and her research around aging veterans and emergency preparedness has helped to better serve 37,000 homebound veterans. Maria has supported colleagues in developing service-learning practices and contributed to national teaching resources focused on diversity and inclusion.

Katie Smith

The Ohio State University, 1995



Katie Smith may be best known as a three-time Olympic gold medalist, co-captain of the USA Women's Basketball team, former WNBA star, and one of the most accomplished basketball players of all time, but her life and career exemplify Mortar Board's purpose. An inductee of both the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, Katie has used her platform to advocate for equity and expand opportunities for women. She has contributed locally and nationally by helping bring the NCAA Women's Final Four to Columbus, supporting the Buckeye Cruise for Cancer, and mentoring young athletes and students.

Dr. Illya Thomas

Purdue University, 1991



Dr. Thomas has demonstrated a distinguished career marked by sustained professional achievement, leadership, innovation, and service. As Vice President for Research and Development at The J.M. Smucker Co., he leads a multidisciplinary team responsible for the Pet Business Strategy, providing technical guidance, advancing R&D strategy, and driving continuous improvement. Illya also served in leadership roles at Crossroads Community Church in Cincinnati, where he helped shape growth and spiritual development strategies and supported a wide range of ministries serving the community.



Visit our website at mortarboard.org/alumni-award-recipients/ or scan the QR code to learn more about the Alumni Awards and the 2026 Recipients!

DISTINGUISHED LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS



Janet G. Farrington

University of Mississippi, 1964



Janet Griffin Farrington (Jan) has spent more than six decades exemplifying Mortar Board's ideals of scholarship, leadership, and service through an extraordinary record of civic engagement, philanthropy, education, entrepreneurship, and volunteerism. Initiated into the University of Mississippi's Tassels chapter in 1964, Jan has remained deeply connected to Mortar Board throughout her life. As a three-term member of the Mortar Board National Foundation Board of Trustees and founder of the University of Mississippi Tassels Chapter Endowment, Jan has invested her time, talents, and resources to ensure the organization's long-term strength and sustainability. She also played a pivotal role in chartering the Mortar Board chapter at Jackson State University and served as a community advisor.

Jan has broken barriers as the first woman to chair the University of Mississippi Foundation, served as National President of the University of Mississippi Alumni Association, led major healthcare and philanthropic organizations, and dedicated decades of leadership to organizations that improve education, healthcare, the arts, and community life. While her accomplishments are extraordinary, what distinguishes Jan most is the humility, generosity, and integrity with which she has devoted her life to serving others.



Dr. Jane A. Hamblin

Purdue University, 1973



Dr. Jane A. Hamblin's connection to Mortar Board spans more than 50 years of continuous service, beginning with her collegiate initiation at Purdue University in 1973 and extending through decades of leadership, mentorship, and advocacy. While Associate Dean of Students at Purdue, Jane served as the senior advisor to the Barbara Cook chapter for 17 years. Her influence shaped generations of collegiate members, many of whom credit her with opening doors, building confidence, and empowering them to pursue ambitious academic and professional paths. Jane brought that same commitment to the national organization when she became Mortar Board's Executive Director in 2009, where she served for 12 years. Perhaps her most lasting contribution was her leadership of Mortar Board's 2018 centennial celebration. Jane helped shape the celebration, advanced a fundraising campaign that generated more than \$1 million in endowed funds, and co-authored Mortar Board's centennial history book.

Beyond Mortar Board, Jane has contributed extensively to the broader nonprofit and higher-education community most notably with the Association of College Honor Societies. Her colleagues consistently describe her as an inclusive, visionary leader who elevates others, brings people and ideas together, and strengthens institutions through service-centered leadership.

2026 FELLOWSHIP RECIPIENTS

Over the past eight decades, more than \$1.5 million has been awarded to Mortar Board members pursuing advanced degrees in a wide range of academic and professional fields. Fellowship recipients are selected through a competitive review process that considers scholarship, leadership, service, and future potential. In 2026–2027, Mortar Board awarded \$44,000 to outstanding members continuing their educational journeys.

MORTAR BOARD NATIONAL FOUNDATION FELLOWSHIP

Ava Heintzelman (*University of Montana, 2024*)
Undergraduate Degrees: B.S., Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience; B.S., Biochemistry;
Graduate School: University of Montana School of Public and Community Health
Program: M.S., Public Health

Shelby Morlock (*Texas Tech University, 2023*)
Undergraduate Degrees: B.A., Political Science; B.A., Spanish
Graduate School: Texas Tech University School of Law
Program: J.D.

MORTAR BOARD DIANE SELBY FELLOWSHIP

Lauren Ellis (*University of Washington, 2024*)
Undergraduate Degree: B.S., Chemical Engineering
Graduate School: University of Wisconsin - Madison
Program: Ph.D., Chemical Engineering

Chanasei Ziemann (*University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2023*)
Undergraduate Degree: B.S., Biological Sciences
Graduate School: The University of Nebraska-Lincoln School of Biological Sciences
Program: M.S., Genetics, Cell, and Molecular Biology

ELLEN NORTH DUNLAP FELLOWSHIP

Jennifer Lundgren (*San Diego State University, 2023*)
Undergraduate Degree: B.S., Biology
Graduate School: University of California Davis Weill School of Veterinary Medicine
Program: D.V.M.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY'S BARBARA COOK FELLOWSHIP

Olivia Beckett (*The Ohio State University, 2024*)
Undergraduate Degree: B.A., Public Management, Leadership and Policy
Graduate School: The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law
Program: J.D.

RAMIER/KATHERINE WILLS COLEMAN FELLOWSHIP

Minxing Liu (*Wake Forest University, 2025*)
Undergraduate Degrees: B.A., Economics; B.S., Mathematics
Graduate School: University of California, Los Angeles
Program: M.S., Quantitative Economics

RUTH WEIMER MOUNT FELLOWSHIP

Samuel Buss (*The University of Nebraska at Kearney, 2023*)
Undergraduate Degree: B.S., Health Science
Graduate School: University of Nebraska Medical Center, College of Pharmacy
Program: Pharm.D.

VIVIAN TOWNSEND BISH FELLOWSHIP

Dillon Cook (*The University of Alabama, 2024*)
Undergraduate Degrees: B.A.C., Communication Studies; B.S., Human Environmental Sciences; B.A., Criminal Justice
Graduate School: University of Georgia
Program: M.Ed., School Counseling; M.Ed., Workforce Education; Ed.S., School Counseling

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY CLASSES OF 1945-1950 + ZELMA PATCHIN-OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY FELLOWSHIP

Jason Packard (*Purdue University, 2024*)
Undergraduate Degree: B.S., Chemical Engineering
Graduate School: Yale University
Program: M.S., Ph.D., Mechanical and Materials Engineering

2027-2028 Fellowship Applications open November 15 and are due March 15, 2027.

Learn more at:
mortarboard.org/fellowships

THE TORCH

The God of Great Endeavor gave me a torch to bear.
I lifted it high above me in the dark and murky air,
And straightway, with loud hosannas, the crowd proclaimed its light
And followed me as I carried my torch through the starless night.
Til' drunk with the people's praises, and mad with vanity,
I forgot 'twas the torch that they followed,
And fancied they followed me.

Then slowly my arm grew weary upholding the shining load,
And my tired feet went stumbling over the dusty road,
And I fell - - with the torch beneath me. In a moment the light was out,
When lo! from the throng a stripling sprang forth with a mighty shout,
Caught up the torch as it smoldered, and lifted it high and tall,
'Til, fanned by the winds of heaven, it fired the souls of all.

As I lay in the darkness, the feet of the trampling crowd
Passed over and far beyond me, its paeans proclaiming aloud,
And I learned in the deepening twilight, the glorious verity,
'Tis the torch that the people follow,
Whoever the bearer may be.



- anonymous, from a 19th century poetry anthology, adapted by Elizabeth Furry (Florida State University, 1925), revised, 2011

MORTAR BOARD PAST PRESIDENTS



Nathan Cordle (2025-2026)
Dr. Cassandra Lucas (2023-2025)
Kathryn E. Chick (2021-2023)
Gail Harrison Corvette (2019-2021)
Dr. David Whitman (2017-2019)
Dr. Abigail Cook Diehl (2015-2017)
Dr. Martha Lewis Starling (2013-2015)
Susan Herndon McGuire (2011-2013)
Dr. Daniel Turner (2009-2011)
Dr. Sally Gronewold Steadman (2007-2009)
William Niederer (2005-2007)
Rev. Dr. Denise Rode (2003-2005)
Dr. Barbara Arnold (2001-2003)
Dr. Mabel Freeman (1997-2001)
Dottie Phillips (1993-1997)
Kathryne Timberlake MacKenzie (1991-1993)

Dr. Catherine Johnson Randall (1987-1991)
Dorothy Moser (1982-1987)
Jayne Wade Anderson (1976-1982)
Catherine Nelson Evans (1973-1976)
Dr. Shauna McLatchy Adix (1970-1973)
Helen Snyder (1967-1970)
Margaret Stafford (1964-1967)
Ruth Weimer Mount (1958-1964)
Dr. Jane Klein Moehle (1955-1958)
Rosemary Lucas Ginn (1949-1955)
Coral Vanstrum Stevens (1941-1949)
Kathleen Hammond (1926-1930)
Eleanor Clarke Anderson (1923-1926)
Anne Cornell Christensen (1921-1923)
Mary Mildred Logan Lucas (1919-1921)
Esther Holmes Jones (1918-1919)

CONFERENCE DONORS

Conference events were made possible by generous gifts from the following donors:

National Citation Luncheon

Gail Harrison Corvette, The Ohio State University, 1980

Candlelight Banquet

Craig Evers, The Ohio State University, 2001

President's Reception

Dr. Patience Whitworth, The Ohio State University, 2003

We are grateful to the following donors whose gifts supported our chapters for conference.

Adopt-A-Chapter

Dr. Barbara J. Arnold, The Pennsylvania State University, 1981

Vishal Bhandari, Purdue University, 2004

Wilson Chan, University of Louisville, 1989 (2)

Kathryn E. Chick, Hood College, 2006

Dr. Joni Comstock, Eastern Illinois University, 2016

Liz Cook, Bucknell University, 2025

Susan Doss, The University of Alabama, 1985 (2)

Craig Evers, The Ohio State University, 2001 (5)

Dr. Kirsten F. Fox, The Ohio State University, 1996 (2)

Dr. Mabel G. Freeman, The Ohio State University, 1965 (2)

Dr. Jane A. Hamblin, Purdue University, 1973

Gail Harrison Corvette, The Ohio State University, 1980

Dr. W. David Lasater, Ball State University, 1992

Dr. Cassandra Lucas, Purdue University, 1994 (2)

Trish Maxwell, The Ohio State University, 2024

Colin O'Brien, The Ohio State University, 1997

Dottie B. Phillips, Texas Tech University, 1975

Matthew Ross, The Ohio State University, 2001

Dr. Mary A. Sadowski, Purdue University, 2004

Laura C. Simic, University of Oregon, 1985

Dr. Tara S. Singer, University of Louisville, 1982

Karen S. Stiner, San Diego State University, 1987 (3)

Katie Verschelden, Kansas State University, 2002 (2)

Jenna Vitosh, The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2006 (2)

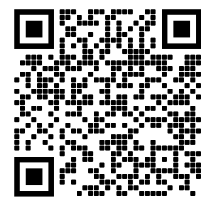
Bruce Ware, University of Mississippi, 1998

Dr. Patience Whitworth, The Ohio State University, 2003

Triumph chapter, Endicott College

Please note, these donations are as of 9/9/2026.

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We are also grateful for the many **gifts in-kind and additional contributions** from our national leaders and others who contributed flights and supplies for the conference.

The time and cost our members give to Mortar Board is inspiring. **Thank you!**

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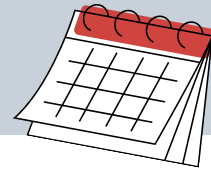
Friends of Mortar Board



Exhibitors



SAVE THE DATE!



2026

Chapter Action Plan Deadline

September 30

Fall Book Club

October 12

Career Connections

November 13

Mortar Board Week of Service

October 24 through October 31

Fall Virtual Initiation

November 22

Governance Recommendations Due

December 1



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EVENTS AT:**

MORTARBOARD.ORG/EVENTS

2027

Special National Conference

January 24

Mortar Board Week

February 14 through February 20

Fellowship Apps Deadline

March 15

Spring Virtual Initiations

April 4 and May 9

Chapter Annual Reports Deadline

May 15

Collegiate Award Deadline

May 15

Governance Recommendations Due

June 1

STRATEGIC PLAN

Vision: To be scholars ... chosen for leadership ... committed to service ... united for equity

TRANSFORMATIONAL IMPERATIVES

Emphasize the equity themes
of Mortar Board's Purpose

Develop and advance the
professional and personal skills
of members

Engage members
for life

GOALS

Brand Mortar Board
to promote
Transformational
Imperatives

Incorporate values of
inclusive excellence,
community, and
belonging into every
aspect of Mortar Board

Achieve and
maintain financial
stability at all
levels

Ensure Mortar
Board's Impact

NOTES & CONNECTIONS:

Insert your connections here



Check out our chapter
resources at
mortarboard.org/resources/
or using the QR code.

Keynote Speaker

Takeaways

SATURDAY KEY TAKEAWAYS

Education Session #1

Session Name: _____

Takeaways

Education Session #2

Session Name: _____

Takeaways

Education Session #3

Session Name: _____

Takeaways

Region Time

Takeaways

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Additional Notes:

[illegible]



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NATIONAL COLLEGE HONOR SOCIETY

