

# Mortar Board

National College Senior Honor Society

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



**MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **MORTAR BOARD PRESENTS EXCELLENCE IN ADVISING WITH DISTINCTION AWARD TO HOPE COLLEGE ADVISOR DIANNE R. PORTFLEET**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society announced that Dianne R. Portfleet, Ph.D., of Grand Rapids, Mich., is the recipient of the 2013 Excellence in Advising with Distinction Award. This honor was presented to Portfleet at the Society's national conference, held last month in Atlanta.

The Mortar Board Excellence in Advising with Distinction Award was created last year to recognize extraordinary service of longstanding by advisors of Mortar Board chapters who have already received an advising award. Portfleet received her first national Excellence in Advising Award in 2007. Honorees are nominated by their chapters and selected by a group of national volunteers.

Portfleet has provided more than a decade of service as advisor to the Alcor chapter of Mortar Board at Hope College. Described by student members as "the driving force behind our chapter," Portfleet has guided the organization to national prominence, evidenced by its achievement in 2010 of the Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence Award, the highest honor for a Mortar Board collegiate chapter. A role model for chapter members, Portfleet is actively involved with everything from sheltering students during a rainy-day book drive and hosting member retreats in her home to fundraising thousands of dollars for worthy causes and sponsoring large-scale campus events. Her personal passion for education has led to the chapter's involvement with the Hope College Children's After School Achievement program, Kiva loan project and Tanzanian education scholarship project.

An associate professor of literature at Hope College since 1997, Portfleet earned her doctorate from Columbia Pacific University in 1984. She also holds her baccalaureate degree from Pennsylvania State University and a K-12 teaching certification from Grand Valley State University. Prior to her tenure at Hope College, Portfleet taught college-level courses at Cornerstone University and the University of Georgia. A renowned author, Portfleet has published four books and numerous articles, including the first book-length study of the works of Walter Wangerin, Jr., an American artist and poet. For her many accomplishments, Portfleet was named Hope College's Outstanding Professor-Educator of the Year in 2006 and Outstanding Woman of the Year in 2003.

Mortar Board is the premier national honor society recognizing college seniors for outstanding achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. Since its founding in 1918, more than a quarter of a million members have held the honor of being initiated at 230 chartered chapters across the nation. Mortar Board provides its members with opportunities for continued leadership development, promotes service to colleges and universities and encourages lifelong contributions to the global community. Some notable Mortar Board members include professional football player and philanthropist Drew Brees, former United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and award-winning actor Marion Ross. Learn more about Mortar Board at [www.mortarboard.org](http://www.mortarboard.org).

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*Photo Caption: Mortar Board National President Susan Caples presents the Excellence in Advising with Distinction Award to Dianne R. Portfleet (left) at the 2013 Mortar Board National Conference in Atlanta.*