



Mortar Board

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

INK: Important news for chapter officers and advisors

2008 National Conference to be held July 25-27

Mortar Board is pleased to announce this year's Mortar Board National Conference, "Carrying the Torch," will be held July 25-27 in Columbus, Ohio at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North. This year's conference will feature many opportunities to share new ideas, learn about Mortar Board, and network with chapters from across the country.

Each chapter is REQUIRED to send one representative to the national conference each year. This representative should be the newly elected president for your chapter, so remind those who are running for president that they should be available for travel this weekend.

In addition to meeting new people and learning more about Mortar Board, your chapter delegate has the power to vote on new organizational legislation. Best of all, this delegate's attendance at the conference is **FULLY FUNDED** by Mortar Board, including travel, accommodations and meals!



Some highlights:

- Alumni award recipients will be honored
- Nationally-renowned speakers will address members
- Members can network with each other, esteemed alumni and national leadership
- The traditions of Mortar Board will be celebrated at an exquisite candlelight banquet
- Delegates from more than 200 chapters can get to know each other and learn about other chapters from across the U.S.

Registration opens March 15 at www.mortarboard.org/conference, so be sure to share this information with your chapter's official delegate in a timely manner. The deadline to register is May 15.

Chapters are encouraged to send additional chapter members and advisors for a nominal fee of \$225 per attendee. These attendees are also responsible for arranging their own travel and covering associated costs.

Payment of national fees

Fees are a requirement of membership and all chapters are required to collect the listed fees on behalf of Mortar Board and submit to the National Office. These fees allow Mortar Board to provide valuable support, services and the honor of lifetime membership.

Fee	Amount	Paid By
National new member fee	\$60*	Member to chapter
Continuing senior fee	\$25	Member to chapter
Local new member fee	Varies**	Member to chapter (chapter keeps)
Honorary member fee	\$0	<i>Fees are waived this year</i>
Conference fee	\$150	Chapter from funds

* *Based on financial need, each chapter is permitted to waive one new member fee annually. The Coral V. Stevens Gift Membership is selected confidentially, and may be awarded to one new member or a few, up to a maximum of \$60.*

** *Some chapters charge local fees in addition to the \$60 national membership fee, in order to support local initiatives. If your chapter charges a local fee, it does not need to be submitted to the National Office.*

Deadlines & Reminders

Before tapping

Official Membership Report (OMR)
(Due immediately after selection and before tapping of new members)

March 15

- Mortar Board Forum magazine submissions due
- Alumni Award nomination form due
- Conference assistant application due
- National Council nomination form due
- Excellence in Advising Award nomination form due
- National conference registration opens

May 15

- Final OMR and fees (or within one week of initiation)
- Officer Address Information Form (or immediately following chapter officer elections)
- National conference registration due

Chapter reports due:

- Chapter Finance Report
- Chapter Annual Report
- Advisor Annual Report

Annual chapter award nominations due:

- Golden Torch Award nomination form
- Project Excellence Award nomination form
- Most Improved Chapter Award nomination forms
- Chapter Project Grant application due
- Chapter Web site Award nomination form

Following the submission of part III of the OMR, the total amount your chapter owes will be calculated automatically. This page should be printed and sent along with payment to the National Office.

NOTE: Honorary membership fees are now waived. However, the OMR will continue to include this fee on the payment page. Please subtract the \$15 fee times the number of honorary members, and submit the reduced amount to the National Office:

Mortar Board National Office
1200 Chambers Road, Suite 201
Columbus, OH 43212

Fees must be paid by ONE check or ONE credit card and submitted to the National Office within one week following initiation.

Proper officer transition continues your chapter legacy

Chapter transition is most effective when planned to include both the newly initiated and existing members of the chapter. Officer training and transition also directly affects the success of Mortar Board. Each incoming and outgoing officer should download the Officer & Advisor Handbook and use it as a guide during their transition.

A suggested meeting agenda for a combined meeting of old and new officers and advisors includes:

- A discussion of the greatest challenges of the past year, both positive and negative
- Suggestions from the outgoing officers for improvement
- Individual meetings of new officers and advisors with their predecessors
- Time for new officers and advisors to ask questions
- Verification that all membership fees have been sent to the National Office by May 15 (or within one week of initiation)
- Have members exchange phone numbers and e-mail addresses to stay in contact over the summer and throughout the upcoming academic year
- Report all the new officers on the Officer Address Information Form immediately following elections

Stay involved with Mortar Board as a conference assistant!

If you enjoy pulling off large events, have great attention to detail, are willing to jump in where help is needed, and are enthusiastic about Mortar Board, we would love to have you apply to become a conference assistant! Benefits of being a conference assistant:

- Arrive early to meet with the esteemed national leadership of Mortar Board
- Attend the 2008 Mortar Board conference for free (including travel, accommodations and meals)
- Help execute Mortar Board's largest event of the year
- Build lasting relationships with other Mortar Board members from across the nation and share your experience as a member
- Get a jumpstart on being a part of the national leadership – many conference assistants have gone on to become section coordinators, committee chairs and even National Council members
- Assist delegates from each of Mortar Board's chapters as they prepare for the upcoming academic year

Fill out an application and return it to the National Office by March 15. You must be available to participate in the conference from July 24 - 27, and your chapter advisor or administrative liaison will need to complete a recommendation form.

Have questions about being a conference assistant? Contact Megan at mmcgough@mortarboard.org.

Alumni awards: nominations sought

Do you know an outstanding alumnus? Mortar Board is currently accepting nominations for the Alumni Achievement Award and Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award. Learn more about specific qualifications for each award or nominate an alumnus online.

Icebreaker of the month The Pig Personality Profile

Give chapter members the following instructions: on a blank piece of paper draw a pig.

Also advise members not to look at their neighbor's pig and give no further instructions other than to say the pig is of the animal variety! Do not influence how the pigs are drawn. Their drawing will serve to interpret their personalities.

The results are as follows:

- If the pig is drawn toward the top of the paper you are a positive & optimistic person.
- If the pig is drawn toward the bottom of the page, you are pessimistic & have a tendency to behave negatively.
- If the pig is facing left, you believe in tradition, are friendly, and remember dates and birthdays.
- If the picture is facing forward (towards you) you are direct, enjoy playing the devil's advocate, and neither fear nor avoid discussion.
- If the pig is facing right, you are innovative and active, but have neither a sense of family, nor remember dates.
- If the pig is drawn with many details, you are analytical, cautious and distrustful.
- If the pig is drawn with little detail, you are emotional, naive, care little for detail, and take risks.
- If the pig is drawn with four legs showing, you are secure, stubborn, and stick to your ideals.
- If the pig is drawn with less than four legs showing, you are insecure, or are living through a period of major change.
- The larger the pig's ears you have drawn, the better listener you are.

Submitted By: Gordon M. Cotten

Graduation flower sales

Mortar Board's longtime partner for graduation flower sales, Blossom Express, may be contacting your chapter by phone as a follow-up to an e-mail sent in December.

Blossom Express helps your chapter by:

- Offering quality rose bouquets, already wrapped ready to distribute, in a variety of colors.
- Absolutely no up-front costs or expenses - payment follows the sale, and flowers are shipped to you at no cost.
- Guaranteed quality - if the flowers aren't up to snuff, Blossom Express will FedEx replacements.
- Allowing your group to earn up to \$2,000 for less than a day of effort.
- Providing sales support, suggestions and tips every step of the way.

If you think you may be interested in selling Blossom Express flowers at your university's commencement ceremony, contact Lori Taylor by phone at 800-332-7421.

Summer internship opportunity at the National Office

The Mortar Board National Office in Columbus, Ohio is hiring a part-time, paid intern to work a 12-week period over the summer. Interns should have strong computer and customer service skills, and can be of any major or field of study.

If you plan on spending the summer in Columbus, Ohio and are looking for the opportunity to learn the ins and outs of a national honor society, consider applying by April 15. View a complete job description at www.mortarboard.org/publications/InternJobDesc.pdf for more details and how to apply.

Request your brochures now

Updated Mortar Board brochures are available, free of charge, to each chapter. These are great for displaying at informational tables during the selections process!

To request your brochures, simply e-mail mortarboard@mortarboard.org with your school name, mailing address and quantity requested.

Don't have time to request the shipment? Print a high-resolution version yourself or take a peek at what you're ordering online today at www.mortarboard.org/chapter/resources.html.



Chapter spotlight: Ohio Northern University

Ohio Northern University's Aurora Chapter, a 2007 recipient of the Silver Torch Award, is well-known on its campus for selecting the best and brightest to carry out the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service.

With members whose interests and activities vary greatly, the group is still able to find unity in Mortar Board. Together, they participate in numerous service activities such as a highway cleanup and a recycling program. The chapter is proud of their relationship with the Ada Public Library. There, Mortar Board members read to and make crafts with local children, putting a personal touch on the national Reading is Leading initiative. Additionally, the chapter holds successful fundraisers, including a graduation flower sale and exam care package sales.

With such a diverse group, it is undoubtedly difficult to coordinate the schedules of members. The group powers on, though, advising others to get involved in the campus and community, allowing every member to live up to their potential.

INTRODUCING Graduation Gift Sets



Only available through March 15.
Next ordering period begins April 15.