



Mortar Board

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

ADVISOR NEWS

Many chapters presented with national awards at the conference

Each year, Mortar Board honors outstanding chapters with a number of awards at the annual national conference:

- **Silver Torch Award** - Awarded to chapters meeting chapter minimum standards
- **Golden Torch Award** - Awarded to chapters meeting all the requirements for the Silver Torch Award who excel beyond the minimum, exemplifying scholarship, leadership and service.
- **Ruth Weimer Mount Chapter Excellence Award** - This highest possible chapter achievement is awarded based on chapter operations, participation, selections, advising, visibility and communications.
- **Most Improved Chapter Award** - This award recognizes chapter success during the year while re-establishing and re-invigorating programming and membership.
- **Project Excellence Awards** - Chapters or sections with excellent events exhibiting Mortar Board's ideals of scholarship, leadership and service are honored.
- **Web site awards** - Outstanding Web sites are recognized based on overall appearance, clarity and correctness of information, use of graphics and the quality of information.

To see if your chapter was honored with an award at the 2008 Mortar Board National Conference, please check the list at www.mortarboard.org/conference.

Learn more about national awards at www.mortarboard.org/chapter/award.html.

View a list of all the 2007-2008 recipients at www.mortarboard.org/conference.

Virtual Book Drive underway

Nationally, Mortar Board has launched a Virtual Book Drive, held in conjunction with First Book. This initiative, held as a part of the Reading is Leading national project, is a great way for chapters, alumni and supporters to unite nationally while working toward a common goal – to give children across the country access to books.

With a donation of just \$2 toward the national goal of \$30,000, a child can be provided with their very first book. Detailed information can be found in the Virtual Book Drive packet. **Please note that the Virtual Book Drive will end on October 15, 2008.**

How your chapter can participate

The Mortar Board Virtual Book Drive is a fundraising challenge in which chapters compete to raise funds in order to bring new books to local programs serving children from low-income families.

1. To begin, gather chapter members and hold a fundraiser or two using helpful ideas listed on page 4 of the Virtual Book Drive packet.
2. Donate the proceeds online or by check/money order at www.firstbook.org/mortarboard by October 15.
3. Together, your chapter can identify a program (or even multiple programs) to assist directly with your contributions.
4. Communicate with this group, and they can shop at the First Book Marketplace for books of use to them.

For complete details, please download the Virtual Book Drive packet.

Mortar Board Lingo

What can happen to a chapter on probation?

Chapters are required to submit all vital reports and fees to remain in good standing nationally. Failing to either submit reports or fees is considered an infraction.

A chapter with just one infraction may be placed on probation by the Mortar Board National Council.

According to the national Bylaws, a chapter will be placed on probation for twelve months or until the infraction is corrected. Within this period, if either the original infraction is not corrected or any additional infractions occur, the National Council may place the chapter on an inactive list and recommend disaffiliation of the chapter at the next conference.

It is important to ensure that your chapter's account is cleared to prevent probation and possible disaffiliation from the society.

If you are concerned that your chapter's account may not be cleared, please contact the Mortar Board National Office at 800-989-6266 ext. 103.



Chapters with the most donations will receive prizes

The top three chapters will receive Borders gift cards in denominations of \$500, \$250 and \$100 respectively to be given to the recipient group/program of their choice.

Additionally, the Mortar Board section that raises the most funds will be able to select two programs to receive 500 books each from First Book.

Ways to donate

- **Online at www.firstbook.org/mortarboard** - Simply fill out an easy online form, select the amount you would like to donate and credit your collegiate chapter with the donation. Parents, friends, individual members and the chapter as a whole can donate online before the book drive ends on October 15.
- **Check or money order** - Complete an online donation form and mail your donation to First Book, Campus Advisory Boards, 1319 F Street NW, Suite 1000, Washington DC, 20004. To ensure proper credit of donations, please indicate your desired collegiate chapter and location.

Advisors attended Mortar Board National Conference

This summer, Mortar Board advisors joined collegiate and alumni members at the annual national conference July 25-27 in Columbus, Ohio. Advisors had the opportunity to attend targeted advising workshops, learn more about chapter operations, share their experiences, and gain valuable advice from other advisors at interactive panels.

To see everything that went on at this year's conference, view a video slideshow of the event at www.mortarboard.org/conference. Be sure to look for advisor attendance specials for the 2009 National Conference held in Chicago, July 24 - 26!



Association of College Honor Societies (ACHS) offers advising grants

ACHS has announced a grant program that encourages cross-campus collaboration and new initiatives among student organizations related to social responsibility. Specifically, ACHS will offer six \$500 grants to pilot projects that achieve one of the following objectives:

- Conduct initiative or pilot project related to social responsibility, or
- Strengthen current social responsibility or sustainability initiative of individuals and the campus.

This project must also:

- Address one of the elements of the Seven Wonders of the Socially Responsible World, outlined in this grant information packet
- Include two or more honor societies on campus
- Report on the plans and outcomes of the project

Funding is intended as an honorarium to the advisor for facilitating and reporting on the outcomes of this pilot project. The grant will be awarded after the project report is received. Funds for the project should be provided by the honor societies or by fundraising activities (including institutional or corporate grants).

Advisors interested in submitting a proposal should download the information packet provided by ACHS, available at www.mortarboard.org/publications/ACHS_SocialResponsibilityProject.pdf. Proposals must be received by October 15, 2008. All questions should be directed to ACHS Executive Director Dr. Dorothy I. Mitstifer at dmitstifer@achsnatl.org.

Advisor spotlight: Dr. Martha Anderson, University of Louisiana at Monroe

Despite also advising two other very large campus organizations and holding the position of assistant dean of students, Dr. Martha Anderson continually shone as a strong advisor and administrative liaison for the Senior Board chapter. In more than 20 years of devotion to Mortar Board, she has served as advisor to the group, been named an honorary member of Mortar Board, held the position of section coordinator for Section 7, chaired the national leadership committee and served as alumni representative on the National Council. At the 2008 Mortar Board National Conference, she was also honored with the prominent Excellence in Advising Award.

As advisor, Dr. Anderson has provided constant advice, input and support. She has gone above and beyond the call of duty, personally assisting with each and every one of the chapter's numerous projects throughout the 2007-2008 academic year.

Chapter President Raghda Elsayed praised Dr. Anderson's commitment, "With her smile, optimism, and motivation, her continuous support made our chapter what it is today. Her outstanding character, dedicated service, and great leadership set her apart on campus as the best advisor."