



# Mortar Board

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

## ALUMNI NEWS

### **Virtual Book Drive raised more than \$25,000**

The second annual Virtual Book Drive, held in conjunction with national nonprofit First Book, successfully raised more than \$25,478.85 to contribute to the battle against illiteracy. In full, 56 chapters participated in this fundraising challenge.

Overlapping with Mortar Board's national project, "Reading is Leading," the Virtual Book Drive allows Mortar Board chapters, alumni and friends to join forces to provide children from low-income backgrounds with their very first brand-new book. Last year, 46 chapters raised more than \$25,000 for the Virtual Book Drive.

### **The chapters who raised the most in 2009 are as follows:**

1. Hope College - raised \$8,535.38
2. Kansas State University - raised \$3,060.04
3. Western New England College - raised \$2,157.00

### **Honorable mentions (listed in alphabetical order):**

- Case Western Reserve University
- Indiana University of Pennsylvania
- University of Montana
- University of Northern Colorado
- Seattle Pacific University

Hope College not only received the top award for the overall chapter challenge and supported Pine Creek Elementary School, but received each monthly top donor award during the drive for August, September, October and November, resulting in an additional \$400 in Borders gift cards to support a second recipient, CASA (Children's After School Achievement).

Illiteracy is linked to nearly every major socioeconomic crisis today. Children who cannot read are statistically more likely as adults to suffer poor health, struggle in the job market, rely on government assistance, and find themselves in the criminal justice system. Since 2002, Mortar Board has made a national commitment to combat illiteracy with the "Reading is Leading" initiative.

### **Mortar Board Week is coming soon**

Each year, Mortar Board members commemorate the February 15, 1918 founding of Mortar Board with a celebration: Mortar Board Week.

In 2010, the 92nd anniversary celebration will be honored by chapters holding events that exemplify the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service on their campus. These range from community service events to leadership expositions.



All members, including alumni, are encouraged to wear their official Mortar Board pin throughout Mortar Board Week. Can't find your pin? Order a new one now at [www.mortarboard.org/merch](http://www.mortarboard.org/merch)!

### **Note to members**

The Mortar Board National Office wants to know all about you – awards, new jobs, accomplishments, life events, and more! Update us using an easy online form at [www.mortarboard.org/forms/alumni\\_update.php](http://www.mortarboard.org/forms/alumni_update.php) or by sending an e-mail to [mbforum@mortarboard.org](mailto:mbforum@mortarboard.org).

### **Find an alumni chapter**

or

### **Start a new chapter**

at [www.mortarboard.org/alumni](http://www.mortarboard.org/alumni)



[www.mortarboard.org/alumni](http://www.mortarboard.org/alumni)

### **Thank you for your year-end gifts**

The Mortar Board National Foundation would like to thank all of our outstanding alumnae and alumni supporters for year-end gifts to the Foundation. These gifts will help support fellowships, leadership training, chapter project grants, the annual national conference and more.

### **Mortar Board Week T-shirt sale**

Share your Mortar Board pride this February with a classic white tee at a limited-time low price of just \$4.99 each.

Get your T-shirt today at [www.mortarboard.org/merch](http://www.mortarboard.org/merch).

## ***Furthering your education? Apply for a national fellowship.***

Each year, the Mortar Board National Foundation awards fellowships to members of all ages in order to assist in financing their post-graduate education. Thousands of dollars will be available for Mortar Board fellowships for the 2010-2011 academic year, with applications due on or before January 31, 2010.

Recipients are chosen for academic excellence, recommendation, promise, financial need and Mortar Board involvement. Since the establishment of the Mortar Board fellowship program in 1941, more than \$500,000 has been awarded to members pursuing further study in graduate or professional school.

- Learn more - <http://www.mortarboard.org/opp/fellowships.html>
- Apply by January 31 - <http://www.mortarboard.org/forms/fellowship.php>
- Be sure to have at least two recommendations submitted on your behalf - [http://www.mortarboard.org/forms/fellowship\\_rec.php](http://www.mortarboard.org/forms/fellowship_rec.php)

## ***Mortar Board alumnus David Needs named AFCA Assistant Coach of the Year***

David Needs, current advisor for the Panathenees chapter at Carson-Newman College and a 1990 Mortar Board initiate, has been named Division II Assistant Coach of the Year by the American Football Coaches Association (AFCA).

Needs, the quarterbacks coach, is in his 14th season at Carson-Newman, and 17th season overall. He also played quarterback at Carson-Newman, and was a part of the 1988 and '89 national championships. He has been a part of 10 South Atlantic Conference titles and three national championship games while on the football coaching staff. In addition to his football responsibilities, Needs serves as head men's and women's track coach.

Needs is heavily involved off the field in the Carson-Newman and Jefferson City communities, working a free, week-long camp at Manley Baptist Church for school-age children, teaching them how to run and play football. He is also an advisor for Mortar Board, and has helped with many chapter service projects such as delivering teddy bears for sick children, visiting senior homes and shut-ins and reading to children at various elementary schools. Each fall, he leads and sponsors the "Cereal Bowl," a charity flag football game between redshirt football players and faculty which has raised thousands of dollars and thousands of boxes of cereal for needy families.

"David is Carson-Newman through and through," Carson-Newman athletics director David Barger said. "He is a tremendous football and track and field coach, and works tirelessly at both. He is also thoroughly committed to our campus and local communities. He is the type of person that makes Carson-Newman what it is."

## ***Mortar Board Alumni Spotlight Sheila Castellarin***

### ***The Ohio State University, Initiated in 1957***

### ***2009 Mortar Board Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award recipient***

Immediately following her 1958 graduation with a B.S. in human ecology from The Ohio State University, Sheila Castellarin joined the greater Columbus Mortar Board alumni chapter and has since served in nearly every chapter office and attended almost every meeting. Other officers in the Mortar Board alumni chapter have described Sheila as a responsible, organized, efficient, thoughtful, and strong leader. While continually growing professionally at Columbia Gas to the position of vice president for communications and consumer affairs, she always made time for service to her community.

For the past 10 years, she has managed the greater Columbus Mortar Board alumni chapter's scholarship program, distributing approximately \$50,000 to deserving students each year and continually fostering growth of the scholarship endowment fund. In addition to the alumni chapter, Sheila has served two, three-year terms on The Ohio State University Mortar Board Alumni Council and is currently serving on a committee to celebrate the chapter's centennial in 2014.

## ***Mortar Board historical book in research stages***

Do you have great Mortar Board stories, photos or memorabilia? Or, would you like to serve as a chapter's permanent historical liaison to assist with the book? Please contact the national Historical Publication Committee at [history@mortarboard.org](mailto:history@mortarboard.org) as they prepare for the publication of Mortar Board's centennial history book. Learn more at [www.mortarboard.org/history](http://www.mortarboard.org/history).

## ***Is your alma mater in the "spotlight"?***

During the academic year, Mortar Board recognizes a chapter for its excellence each month. A list of honorees is available online at [www.mortarboard.org/chapter/spotlight.html](http://www.mortarboard.org/chapter/spotlight.html).



Her devotion to Mortar Board and what she refers to as the “love of her life,” The Ohio State University, is seemingly endless. Her limitless service to the university has consisted of countless memberships and roles, including membership on the university’s Advisory Committee on Women, a five-year term on the OSU Alumni Association’s board of directors as both an officer and committee chair, serving as president of the Alumnae Council, and a six-year term on the prestigious Alumni Advisory Council. For this service, she has been recognized by The Ohio State University with the Centennial Distinguished Alumni Award in 1970, the Distinguished Service Award in 1995, the John B. Gerlach Development Volunteer Award in 1997 and the Ralph Davenport Mershon Award in 1999.

Many other central Ohio organizations have had the great privilege of receiving service from Sheila, including the Columbus Metropolitan Library, BalletMet, Columbus Day U.S.A. Association, WOSU board of trustees, Riverside Methodist Hospital Foundation Development Council, Greater Columbus Arts Council and the Catholic Diocese of Columbus Foundation.

*Each year at the Mortar Board National Conference, alumni members are honored with either the Alumni Achievement Award or the Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award. Nominations are accepted through March 15 of the award year. To nominate yourself or another alumna/alumnus to be honored in 2010, please use the online form available at <http://www.mortarboard.org/forms/alumniaward.php>.*



Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award recipient Sheila Castellarin is pictured with her award at the 2009 Mortar Board National Conference