



# Mortar Board

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

## ALUMNI NEWS

### **Alumni Achievement Award recipients announced**

The recipients of the prestigious Mortar Board Alumni Achievement Award, to be honored at the 2008 Mortar Board National Conference this month, have been announced:

- Nancy Rogers (The University of Kansas, Initiated in 1968)
- Kimberly Till (The University of Alabama, Initiated in 1976)
- Marilyn Wirtz (The University of Iowa, Initiated in 1977)

The Alumni Achievement Award is conferred annually upon extraordinary Mortar Board alumni who are outstanding in their professional lives; who have contributed at the local, national and international communities; and who serve as outstanding role models to collegiate members. The deadline to nominate a deserving alumnus for the Alumni Achievement Award or the Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award is March 15 annually.

These three devoted members will be recognized at the candlelight banquet held on July 26, 2008 at 7 p.m. at the Crowne Plaza Columbus North hotel. Mortar Board members are welcome to attend the banquet for \$25. If you plan to attend, please RSVP by July 15 by calling 1-800-989-6266 or send your check to the Mortar Board National Office, 1200 Chambers Road, Suite 201, Columbus, OH 43212.

### **Nancy Rogers**

#### **The University of Kansas, Initiated in 1968**

Nancy Rogers graduated from The University of Kansas with a B.A. with highest distinction in 1969 and in 1972 obtained a J.D. from Yale Law School. She has since spent more than 30 years of teaching at The Ohio State University, rising to the top with a number of leadership and senior administrative positions, including vice-provost for the entire university. She temporarily stepped down from her current position as dean of The Ohio State University Moritz College of Law to serve as the interim Ohio attorney general for a period of approximately six months. After the 2008 election, she will return to her deanship.

With dozens of articles, books, chapters and book supplements to her name, she has certainly left her mark on the legal world. For these amazing contributions throughout her distinguished career, Rogers has received numerous awards, honors and recognitions. Among her countless awards are those in the field of law, such as the Ohio State Bar Association's highest honor – the Ohio Bar Medal (2008) and the American Bar Association Section on Dispute Resolution's D'Alemberte Raven Award (2002) and honors for service, such as the recent Columbus YWCA Women of Achievement Award (2008) and the Ohio State University Council of Graduate Students Distinguished Service Award (2004).

Her commitment to Mortar Board's ideals of scholarship, leadership and service shines brightly with her ongoing devotion to academia and public service, being nominated by the Greater Columbus Mortar Board Alumni Chapter as the "epitome of achievement." The group went on to state that "She is living the commitment to scholarship through her teaching, writing and extensive work to diversify the composition of the student body in the college of law to better fit the needs of our society."

### **Kimberly Till**

#### **The University of Alabama, Initiated in 1976**

Kimberly Till's amazing success includes her studies at Harvard Graduate School of Business, where she graduated with an M.B.A. and second year honors (1983); and Duke Law School, where she graduated with a J.D. with distinction (1980); as well as her remarkable White House Fellowship and Henry Luce Scholar experiences.

After just eight months as president, she was made CEO of the world's second largest market intelligence/research company: Taylor Nelson Sofres (TNS) North

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



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

America. This phenomenal accomplishment is the latest stop in a meteoric rise through the corporate world. She has been a star in such organizations as Microsoft, AOL/Time Warner, Disney and SONY.

Till currently resides in New York, where she tirelessly works on women's issues as a member of the prestigious Women's Forum. She also serves by invitation on the Council on Foreign Relations and is a member of the New York Economic Club and The Advertising Council.

Throughout her life, she has maintained a devotion to scholarship, a commitment to service and displayed unmatched leadership. In short, she represents everything that Mortar Board hopes alumni will become.

### ***Marilyn Wirtz***

#### ***The University of Iowa, Initiated in 1977***

While obtaining both a B.S. and M.A. from The University of Iowa, Marilyn Wirtz began her more than 30-year relationship with Mortar Board. This strong bond developed while Wirtz served as her collegiate chapter treasurer from 1977 to 1978. Immediately after graduating, she continued her Mortar Board involvement by joining the area alumni chapter, serving as the collegiate chapter's advisor and beginning her nearly ten-year tenure as a regional section coordinator. She then moved on to the National Council, where she served as the national membership chair, followed by the position of vice president and finally topped with nine years as a National Foundation trustee.

Professionally, Wirtz has moved from several illustrious teaching positions to her current role as principal at Hoover Elementary School.

Through her years of devotion to education, she has been recognized with numerous awards and honors, held many professional memberships, taken part in task forces and given countless hours to community service. Specifically, her community and volunteer activities include serving on the Hancher Performing Arts Center Advisory Board; previously serving as president of the Hancher Performing Arts Center Guild; holding positions of both president and treasurer in the Altrusa Club of Iowa City; providing service and guidance as a lector and Eucharistic minister at St. Mary's Church; serving as president of the University Newcomers Club; serving as a leader for the Girl Scouts and giving back as a member of the Junior League.

Nominator Ruth Skelley, president of the Staff and Circle Alumni Chapter, explains that "Not only does [Marilyn] personally present a living model to our actives and alumni, her record of service to our organization is a model of dedication."

### ***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).

## ***Mortar Board alumni spotlight***

### ***Dr. Eileen Wilson-Oyelaran***

#### ***Pomona College, Initiated 1968***

#### ***2007 Mortar Board Alumni Achievement Award recipient***

Dr. Eileen Wilson-Oyelaran has an extensive background in higher education and has held teaching and administrative positions at Salem College, Winston-Salem State University and Obafemi Awolowo University in Nigeria. Most recently, she became president of Kalamazoo College in July 2005.

She obtained a B.A. in sociology from Pomona College and an M.A. and Ph.D. in education from the Claremont Graduate University. Her primary areas of scholarly interest are child development and multicultural education, and she has written numerous articles on child growth and development in the Nigerian context. While in Nigeria, she also served as a consultant for UNICEF in the area of early childhood development. Recognized for her expertise in the area of cultural diversity, she has worked with faculty in higher education and K-12 to improve educational outcomes for women and students from underrepresented groups.

Dr. Wilson-Oyelaran is the recipient of many honors and fellowships, including the Kent Fellowship, the Thomas J. Watson Fellowship and the Claremont College's Black Studies Center Visionary Leadership Award. She has been honored with the Gender Equity Architect Award from the American Association of Colleges of Teacher Education and the Strong, Smart, Bold Award from the Salvation Army in recognition of her work in leadership development and mentoring young women and girls. She serves on the Board of the Greater Kalamazoo United Way, the Presidents Council of the American Association of Governing Boards and the Michigan Community Service Commission. She also serves as a trustee of Pomona College.

