



Mortar Board

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

COLLEGIATE NEWS

Not ready to give up your Mortar Board involvement? Become a conference assistant!

Each year, Mortar Board invites outgoing chapter members to apply to be conference assistants. 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!

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
- 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 also need to complete a recommendation form.

Have questions about being a conference assistant? Learn more at www.mortarboard.org/conference/assistant.html or contact Megan at mmcgough@mortarboard.org.

Mortar Board hiring summer intern

Interested in learning the ins and outs of a national honor society? The Mortar Board National Office in Columbus, Ohio is hiring a part-time 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. Responsibilities will vary, but include:

- Leading the conference registration process, compiling information and travel plans for delegates
- Working on logistical conference details such as event seating charts, rooming lists, enlisting volunteers to help with event set-up, and confirming event details
- Coordinating the evaluation process for the conference, including assisting with the design of the evaluation forms and tabulating statistics after the conference
- Assisting with post-conference follow-up as needed with vendors and attendees

Opportunities can be targeted to specific majors and interests as needed. For example, interns may be able to assist with communications-related tasks such as writing magazine or newsletter articles, assisting with brochure revisions, and brainstorming unique marketing techniques.

If you plan on spending the summer in Columbus, Ohio and are looking for a part-time job with flexible hours, consider joining the Mortar Board National Office team. This is a paid internship and class credit may be possible with your university. To learn more about the internship, visit www.mortarboard.org/publications/InternJobDesc.pdf. Applicants should submit a letter of interest and resume to Megan McGough (mmcgough@mortarboard.org) by April 15.

Award nominations due soon

March 15 marks the deadline to submit nominations for a few of Mortar Board's national awards, as well as the opportunity to nominate a National Council candidate for alumni representative. Nomination forms can be found at www.mortarboard.org/forms.

Nominations due on March 15:

- Excellence in Advising Award - Is your chapter advisor exceptional? Now is your chance to honor them appropriately with a nomination and the opportunity to be recognized at the annual national conference, free of cost.
- Alumni Achievement Award - Alumni who have made great professional achievements and are at least five years out of college are ideal recipients for this award.
- Distinguished Alumni Award - Alumni who have devoted themselves to a significant lifetime of Mortar Board should be honored with this esteemed national award.

Need a scholarship? Search now.

Mortar Board's specialized scholarship search engine, hosted by Scholarship Monkey, gives members access to more than a million scholarships with more than \$3 billion in awards.

Browse the search engine now at www.mortarboard.org.

Job shopping? Search with Mortar Board

In conjunction with JobTarget, Mortar Board has launched a career search engine for all members, collegiate and alumni. Not only will Mortar Board members be able to search for jobs in a variety of fields across the country, but employers will have the ability to post new positions just for the organization's qualified members. Members can also post an anonymous resume that can easily be seen by employers.

Start searching today at www.mortarboard.org.

The founding of Mortar Board

As we celebrate Mortar Board's 90th anniversary, it is important to look back to the organization's roots.

Honor societies often started as local organizations, ways for like-minded students to come together. Mortar Board started the same way, with local honor societies recognizing senior college women. Specifically, it all started with an inadvertent meeting by women from The Ohio State University's Mortar Board and Swarthmore College's Pi Sigma Chi. These women met on the campus of the University of Chicago in 1915, upon realizing they wore similar mortarboard-shaped pins.

After talking, the women realized each of their honor societies held comparable values and had similar procedures. With this chance meeting, the wheels were set in motion for a national organization to be developed, closely reflecting the honor societies of the two women.

Other similar societies were sought out, and in 1918, five women representing five local honor societies joined for the "Convention for Nationalization of Honorary Societies for Senior Women." The representatives were Ernestine Becker from Cornell University (Der Hexenkries), Anita Kelly Ranysford from The University of Michigan (Mortarboard), Helen Hobart from The Ohio State University (Mortar Board), Esther Holmes from Swarthmore College (Pi Sigma Chi), and Carolyn Archbold from Syracuse University (Eta Pi Upsilon).

The motto was decided (scholarship, leadership and service), a pin was chosen (the mortarboard-shaped pin used by Ohio State, emblazoned with the Greek letters symbolizing the motto: Pi Sigma Alpha), and an initiation ceremony planned. However, the society remained nameless until 1919, taking on the now well-known name of "Mortar Board."

Although Syracuse University soon chose not to affiliate with Mortar Board, a list of schools with similar organizations was quickly created and local organizations were invited to join:

- University of California
- University of Colorado
- University of Illinois
- University of Iowa
- University of Kansas
- University of Minnesota
- University of Missouri
- Northwestern University
- University of Oklahoma
- University of Washington in Seattle
- Washington University in St. Louis
- University of Wisconsin

The national organization quickly grew, chartering numerous local societies as chapters. Within the first 50 years, the national organization had chapters at 125 universities across the U.S.

In the early 1970s, both Mortar Board (a traditionally female organization) and Omicron Delta Kappa (ODK, a traditionally male organization) became coed organizations and even considered joining forces, with 62 campuses already in common. Ultimately, this never happened, with some universities only choosing to host one of the two organizations and others having both.

Today, Mortar Board has chartered 223 chapters across the nation and 90 years later stays true to its motto of scholarship, leadership and service.

Chapters do their part to increase excitement about Mortar Board on their campus

Chapters across the nation are wrapping up their Mortar Board Week events and activities, creating awareness and illustrating the organization's three key ideals. This year, the Mortar Board National Foundation awarded grants to 11 chapters working to generate excitement about Mortar Board on their campus, giving nearly \$3,000 to create t-shirts, design posters, advertise and more.

Many chapters executed numerous Mortar Board Week events, ranging from book drives to campus-wide service activities. To see a complete list of events across the U.S., visit www.mortarboard.org/mbweek/events.html.

