

# Mortar Board

National College Senior Honor Society

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



**NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 15, 2011

## **AUSTIN WESEVICH AWARDED NATIONAL MORTAR BOARD FELLOWSHIP**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Mortar Board National Foundation Chair Sally Steadman, Ph.D., announced that Austin Wesevich is the 2011 recipient of the Mortar Board Barbara Cook Fellowship, a \$5,000 award.

Austin graduated in May from Washington University in St. Louis, earning a B.A. in chemistry and a B.Mus. in music. In the fall, he will attend the Washington University School of Medicine to obtain his M.D. Austin is a 2007 graduate of Alamo Heights High School in San Antonio, Texas and is the son of Cathy and Jim Wesevich of Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas.

Initiated into Mortar Board in 2010, Austin was elected treasurer of the Keod chapter. In addition to his Mortar Board involvement, Austin was an extremely active campus leader, including singing in and serving as music director for “The Pikers,” an all-male a cappella group. He also played viola in the Washington University Symphony Orchestra and served as manager for the men’s varsity basketball team. Austin’s community activism is similarly notable. He participated in service trips to Honduras and Kentucky as a member of the Catholic Student Center, volunteered at Normandy Middle School in St. Louis County and interned for Midtown Catholic Charities, serving families living in poverty. Austin is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Washington University National Merit Scholarship and membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

Undergraduate experiences as both teacher and researcher influenced Austin’s interest in medicine. He was selected to be a teaching assistant for introductory and higher-level biology courses at Washington University. He also received the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship at the University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, during which he studied a protein involved in DNA repair relating to the development of cancer. Asked about his goals for graduate study, Austin described, “Laboratory research as an undergraduate student opened my eyes to my love for science and helping others through the gifts I have been given.”

This year, the Mortar Board National Foundation awarded a total of \$40,000 in fellowships to 10 exceptional Mortar Board members. Fellowship recipients are chosen based on academic excellence, strong recommendation, scholarly promise, financial need and Mortar Board involvement. Since the establishment of the Mortar Board fellowship program in 1941, more than \$600,000 has been awarded to assist members in pursuing further study in graduate or professional school.

Congratulating this year’s Mortar Board fellows, Dr. Steadman remarked, “The Mortar Board National Foundation is honored to recognize these remarkable scholar-leaders and to support them in achieving their future academic and professional goals. This exceptional group truly exemplifies Mortar Board’s ideals of scholarship, leadership and service.”

Mortar Board is the premier national honor society recognizing college seniors for outstanding achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. Since its founding in 1918, the organization has grown from the four founding chapters to 229 chartered collegiate chapters with nearly a quarter of a million initiated members across the nation.

Mortar Board provides opportunities for continued leadership development, promotes service to colleges and universities and encourages lifelong contributions to the global community. Some notable Mortar Board members include distinguished politician Condoleezza Rice, Super Bowl MVP Drew Brees and Suzy’s Zoo creator Suzy Spafford. Learn more about Mortar Board at [www.mortarboard.org](http://www.mortarboard.org).

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