

Mortar Board

National College Senior Honor Society

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



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 15, 2011

BREANNA PIPER AWARDED NATIONAL MORTAR BOARD FELLOWSHIP

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Mortar Board National Foundation Chair Sally Steadman, Ph.D., announced that Breanna Piper is the 2011 recipient of the Mortar Board Jane K. Smith Fellowship, a \$5,000 award.

Breanna graduated from San Diego State University in December 2009, earning a B.A. in political science with a minor in sociology. In the fall, she will attend The University of Pennsylvania Law School in Philadelphia, Pa., to obtain a J.D. with a focus on public interest law. Breanna is a 2005 graduate of Notre Dame High School in Salinas, Calif. She is the daughter of Don Piper of Monterey, Calif. and Marlies Hammer of Salinas, Calif.

Initiated into Mortar Board in 2009, Breanna was elected recording secretary and served on two committees for the Jane K. Smith Cap & Gown chapter. In addition to her Mortar Board involvement, Breanna co-founded the Survivor Outreach Support group, providing a forum on campus for victims of abuse to seek support in a safe environment. She also participated as vice-president of Phi Kappa Phi National Honor Society, director of community service for the University Honors Council and keynote speaker at "Take Back the Night," a rally supporting survivors of sexual violence. Breanna is the recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the prestigious Henry L Janssen Honor Council Award at San Diego State University. She also holds membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

Breanna was selected during her junior year to represent San Diego State University in Washington, D.C., as a participant in the Leon Panetta Congressional Internship Program. As an intern, Breanna conducted original research on the topic of violence against women, which culminated in a paper, "The Epidemic of Sexual Assault in the United States Military." A survivor of violence in her personal history, Breanna's ambition is to advocate for women and children in need. When asked about her future goals, Breanna described, "My ultimate goal is to utilize my legal education and experience to penetrate the arena of public policy as a legislator, where I will have the resources to advance necessary and progressive changes on a...systemic level."

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.

-30-

For more information, please contact Jenni Szolwinski at jszolwinski@mortarboard.org or 513-907-7485.