

Mortar Board

National College Senior Honor Society

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



NEWS RELEASE

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CARA WALDO AWARDED NATIONAL MORTAR BOARD FELLOWSHIP

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Mortar Board National Foundation Chair Sally Steadman, Ph.D., announced that Cara Waldo is the 2011 recipient of the Mortar Board Ellen North Dunlap Fellowship, a \$3,000 award.

Cara graduated from the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in August 2010, earning a B.A. in political science and international studies with minors in English and Spanish. In the fall, she will attend The George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C., to obtain her J.D. in international law. Cara is a 2006 graduate of Tri County High School and is the daughter of Lee and Joni Waldo of De Witt, Neb.

Initiated into Mortar Board in 2009, Cara was elected selections chair of the Black Masque chapter and named Mortar Board Notable Honoree two years in a row. In addition to her Mortar Board involvement, Cara served as student government senator, E.N. Thompson International Scholars president, and Kappa Alpha Theta Sorority vice president of development. Additionally, she founded and organized an annual, week-long conference promoting climate issue awareness as a member of Focus the Nation.

Cara is the recipient of numerous honors, including the prestigious Outstanding Student Leadership Award, which is given to only one female student at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln each year. This award recognizes a student who has not only exhibited leadership skills in academic, co-curricular and/or extra-curricular activities but has also “made notable contributions toward the development of leadership qualities in their fellow students.”

Cara’s interest in international law was inspired by two service trips abroad during which she taught English in Kenya and conducted independent research in Rwanda. Bearing witness to violence against helpless people motivated Cara to pursue a law degree to rectify injustices against those who cannot defend themselves. Describing her future goals, Cara stated, “Unjust situations may be difficult for individuals to overcome on their own, but through the power of the law, I can help them to prevail over their adversity and prosper.”

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.

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