

# Mortar Board

National College Senior Honor Society

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



**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **COURTNEY MEYER AWARDED NATIONAL MORTAR BOARD FELLOWSHIP**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Mortar Board National Foundation Chair Sally Steadman, Ph.D., announced that Courtney Meyer is the 2011 recipient of the Mortar Board Diane Selby Fellowship, a \$5,000 award.

Courtney graduated in May from Albion College, earning a B.A. in economics and international studies. In the fall, she will attend the School of Oriental and African Studies in London to pursue her M.Sc. in development studies with a concentration in Africa. Courtney is a 2007 graduate of Houghton Lake High School in Houghton Lake, Mich.

Initiated into Mortar Board in 2010, Courtney was elected president of the Chevron chapter. In addition to her Mortar Board involvement, Courtney served as junior staff member, director of programs and senior staff/counselor for the Michigan Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership Seminar. She also participated in Circle K International as district board member, district club chartering committee member, and president of her local chapter. Courtney contributed to original scholarship at Albion College, performing independent research during a study abroad experience in Switzerland and conducting course field work in Suriname, South America. These research efforts culminated in an honors thesis, several presentations at undergraduate research conferences and a forthcoming publication. Among Courtney's many honors are the 2011 Edmund and Kathleen Jenkins Award for outstanding student research and the 2011 Maurice Branch Award for research or scholarship by a senior in economics or management. Courtney also holds membership in Omicron Delta Kappa and Phi Beta Kappa.

Courtney's graduate interest in international development was ignited by her visit to Suriname, where she observed extreme poverty first-hand. She describes, "The experience was eye-opening and allowed me to conceptualize how living without electricity or sanitation impacts one's well-being and choices." By returning to Suriname this summer as an American embassy intern, Courtney explains, "I will gain an invaluable understanding of the type of fiscal and monetary decisions which are made in the poorest country in South America and consider environmental and biodiversity concerns necessary to preserve one of the largest interior rainforests in the world."

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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For more information, please contact Jenni Szolwinski at [jszolwinski@mortarboard.org](mailto:jszolwinski@mortarboard.org) or 513-907-7485.