

Mortar Board

National College Senior Honor Society

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



NEWS RELEASE

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KAILA MATTSON AWARDED NATIONAL MORTAR BOARD FELLOWSHIP

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

Kaila graduated in May from the University of South Alabama in Mobile, earning a B.S. in chemistry with a minor in business. In the fall, she will attend the University of California, Santa Barbara to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry. Kaila is a 2007 graduate of Arrowhead High School and is the daughter of Gary and Sharon Mattson of Hartland, Wis.

Initiated into Mortar Board in 2009, Kaila was elected historian of the Azalea chapter and attended the 2009 Mortar Board National Conference in Chicago. In addition to her Mortar Board involvement, Kaila served as secretary of the American Chemical Society, treasurer of the University of South Alabama Honors Program and member of the University Academic Standards Committee. Kaila also distinguished herself as a community leader and volunteer, working especially with young women to encourage their interest in math and science through hands-on, experiential activities such as the “Girls Exploring Math and Science” program and the Science Olympiad. Asked about her experiences, Kaila elaborated, “As a female in a predominately male field, I have a particular interest in assisting young, driven females see the magic behind the molecules.”

Kaila’s academic excellence is evidenced by her participation in undergraduate research, including two internships in Germany with renowned world leaders in ionic liquid chemistry, earning her co-authorship on two published journal articles. Kaila is the recipient of several extremely prestigious national and state awards, including the highly-competitive 2011 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship and the 2010 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. She also received the national Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship and was named as the 2007 Wisconsin Junior Miss.

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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