

Mortar Board

National College Senior Honor Society

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



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

June 15, 2011

ROBERT EDWARD STARR AWARDED NATIONAL MORTAR BOARD FELLOWSHIP

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Mortar Board National Foundation Chair Sally Steadman, Ph.D., announced that Robert Edward Starr is the 2011 recipient of the Mortar Board Fellowship, a \$3,000 award.

Robert graduated in May 2011 from Chapman University in Orange, Calif., earning a B.S. in computer science and business administration. In the fall, he will attend The University of Edinburgh College of Science and Engineering in Edinburgh, Scotland to obtain a M.Sc. in high performance computing. Robert is a 2007 graduate of Beaumont High School and is the son of Kenneth and Sharon Starr of Beaumont, Calif.

Initiated into Mortar Board in 2009, Robert was elected president of the Schweitzer chapter. Robert's participation in Mortar Board enhanced his service to the community through opportunities to work with local area groups like Concern America, an international development and refugee aid organization. In addition to his Mortar Board involvement, Robert served as director of risk management for Delta Tau Delta Fraternity, retention officer for Gamma Beta Phi Honor Society, student representative for the Association for Computing Machinery and orientation assistant for the Office of Orientation and First Year Programs. Robert is the recipient of numerous honors, including the Chapman Presidential Scholarship and the Delta Tau Delta Kershner Scholar Award. He also earned the prestigious Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship, whereby he will focus on humanitarian service, personal diplomacy and academic excellence during his graduate study abroad.

Robert has been fascinated with computers since junior high, even building his own computer to use as a gaming machine. His academic interest lies in high performance computing, which focuses on large-scale computer systems and supercomputers. When asked about his career goals, Robert replied, "When I view our world, I see so many applications of computer science that can help people and improve their lives. With more advanced training in my field, I am confident my knowledge and skills will be greatly enhanced, thereby preparing me in the future to assist in designing and implementing new technologies [that] will improve the quality of life throughout 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.

-30-

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