

# Mortar Board

National College Senior Honor Society

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



**NEWS RELEASE**

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## **STEPHANIE KATHERINE OLBRYCH AWARDED NATIONAL MORTAR BOARD FELLOWSHIP**

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Mortar Board National Foundation Chair Sally Steadman, Ph.D., announced that Stephanie Katherine Olbrych is the 2011 recipient of the Mortar Board Ruth Weimer Mount Fellowship, a \$3,000 award.

Stephanie completed a dual-degree program at Case Western Reserve University in May 2011, earning both a B.A. in Spanish with a minor in chemistry and a M.P.H. in global health. In the fall, she will attend the Case Western Reserve University School of Medicine to obtain her M.D. Stephanie is a 2007 graduate of Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio and is the daughter of MaryAnn Napolitano of Akron, Ohio.

Initiated into Mortar Board in 2009, Stephanie served as treasurer and committee chair for the Lux chapter. In addition to her Mortar Board involvement, Stephanie held numerous leadership roles on campus, including fundraiser, treasurer, president and student advisor for the Global Medical Initiative student organization. She has also contributed in the Cleveland community, sorting donated medical supplies and readying them for shipment abroad for Medwish International and supervising children's activities for Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital. Stephanie is the recipient of many honors, such as the prestigious Eva L. Pancoast award for women students desiring to extend their education by foreign study or travel. She also holds membership in Phi Beta Kappa.

Stephanie has actively prepared for a future career in global medicine. She served as trip leader for a study abroad class focusing on health care in Spain and volunteered as a translator for both Refuge International in Guatemala and International Medical Volunteers in Ecuador. These experiences led her to create a capstone research project and master's essay analyzing the health care seeking behaviors of rural Ecuadorians. Stephanie describes her work in Ecuador over the past two years as an opportunity "to leave a legacy and create lasting impact in a community that has given much to me."

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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