



Outstanding Chapter Projects

B.O.O.S.T. Fundraising

* FUNDRAISING, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT "READING IS LEADING"

Carson-Newman College

A local after school tutoring program, Bonner Out-of-School Time (B.O.O.S.T), got their own boost when this chapter raised \$700 in support of its programs. The chapter held a Krispy Kreme doughnut sale, with half of the proceeds going to the program. In addition, the chapter sponsored a "B.O.O.S.T. Your Speed 5K" run to raise funds. Race bags, water, granola bars and fruit were donated by local grocery stores and businesses. All 32 members helped sell doughnuts and coordinate the race. Members also donated books and provided lessons for the students in the after school program.

Mortar Board Auction

* FUNDRAISING, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT "READING IS LEADING"

Cornell College

The Torch chapter continued its annual tradition of a Mortar Board auction this year. Local businesses were given the opportunity to donate items to be auctioned off to Cornell students and community members. Over 30 businesses donated gift cards or in-kind donations. All profits were donated to the Cedar Rapids Public Library, which is still very much in need of support due to the floods of 2008. This project excelled because it not only gave a chance for non-executive board members to lead the entire event, but also, it brought the Cornell community together.

First Book Fundraiser/Book Drive

*FUNDRAISING, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT "READING IS LEADING"

Cornell College

The chapter held several events to collect books for two local organizations. First, the chapter collected books for the Cedar Rapids Public Library, which lost all their books in the 2008 flood. They also held a Virtual Book Drive through First Book to benefit Matthew 25, an organization that reads to elementary school students in Cedar Rapids. Their book drive included 20 members trick-or-treating on Halloween to collect gently used books and donations for First Book. Members also collected books and donations in their campus library and used sidewalk chalk, a Facebook event, and spray paint to advertise. Fifteen members also sold baked goods in exchange for donations and gently used books. In all, the Torch Chapter collected 677 books and raised \$648.69 for First Book.

Alumni Dinner

*LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT

University of Denver

The Kedros chapter held a dinner featuring five alumni and the chapter's section coordinator, David Whitman. The dinner allowed members to network and connect with local Mortar Board alumni. Alumni shared their current and past experiences and the opportunities that Mortar Board offered them. Current members learned that Mortar Board is more than just a one-year commitment and how it can help further its members' life experience. This was a wonderful connection to make for both the current members and alumni.

David Coleman: The Dating Doctor

*SERVICE PROJECT, MORTAR BOARD WEEK PROJECT

University of Findlay

The Mortar Board chapter at the University of Findlay had David Coleman come speak on Valentines Day. His program was called "Making Relationships Matter" and taught students how to create and maintain healthy relationships. More than 250 students from the university as well as community members came to hear David's advice and message regarding love. His presentation was a way for the chapter to serve the students and community members in an unconventional way. Sweatpants with the Mortar Board logo on them were handed out after David's speech.

St. Baldrick's

*FUNDRAISING, SERVICE PROJECT

Florida State University

The Torchbearer chapter worked to raise money for children's cancer research. Members helped with the fundraising, recruiting and promotion of the event. For the benefit, people could donate their time, money or hair! In order to show solidarity with the children, some volunteers, including seven women and even some faculty from Florida State University, offered to shave their heads. Overall, the chapter raised about \$10,000 through online or cash donations.

Marshmallow Throwers

* FUNDRAISING

Hope College

After receiving a donation of 500 handcarved wooden deer and moose slingshots from a local corporation, the Alcor chapter decided to sell them as a fundraiser. Warning labels had to be printed and applied to the slingshots because they were considered weapons. The chapter renamed the slingshots "marshmallow throwers" and attached ziplock plastic bags with marshmallows to them. Hundreds were sold for \$6 each at Mortar Board Week events, all Last Lectures and to the community. This proved to be a very successful fundraiser.

Mortar Board Week and Visibility Project

*ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT, MORTAR BOARD WEEK PROJECT

Hope College

The Alcor chapter has been granted two glass showcases for their Mortar Board materials and awards. They are located in the Student Center's main hallway and in the main library. This, along with the their many campus events and having their members proudly wear their Mortar Board T-shirts and sweatshirts around campus, helped improve the chapter's visibility. For Mortar Board Week, they set up a table and gave out cookies and hundreds of Mortar Board brochures. They also held the Wearing of the Blue Breakfast and the International Thanksgiving Dinner, both aimed at encouraging eligible students to apply.

Last Lecture Series

* LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT "READING IS LEADING"

Hope College

This year the Alcor Chapter of Mortar Board invited three professors, selected by the chapter members, to give a last lecture. Each was honored to be invited to speak and gave excellent lectures. The chapter advertised the lectures on campus, in the newspaper, on Knowhope and in store windows throughout Holland. The lectures were attended by 300-400 people. Books were distributed to the first 100 in attendance. Professionally bound copies of the lecture were given to all attendees and DVDs of each of lecture could be purchased.

Fall Retreat and Spring Dinner

* LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Hope College

This year a fall retreat was held the first week of classes. All chapter members went to one of the advisor's homes and spent the day eating, playing games and brainstorming upcoming projects and fundraisers. The event helped the chapter to bond quickly, to have an extended period to discuss what they would like to accomplish, and to get to know the officers they had elected in the spring. At the end of the year, all of the Mortar Board members went to President Bultman's home, where they each received their graduation honor cords. They also received medallions at the initiation ceremony for new members.

Disability Prom

* LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, SERVICE PROJECT

Hope College

This chapter hosted its fifth annual Disability Prom this year and included two new foster homes from the area. The prom was held during Christmas and everyone in attendance received a Santa hat to take home. The university provided refreshments for the dance and a local DJ was on hand to provide music. Chapter members decorated the space, danced with those in attendance and selected songs.

Dance Marathon

*FUNDRAISING, SERVICE PROJECT

Hope College

The Dance Marathon is an annual event at Hope College that raises funds for children in the Helen DeVos Childrens Hospital. This year the chapter had three dancers participate and each danced for 24 hours. Other members, including alumni from previous years, also got involved in the event. The chapter raised over \$11,000 for their family and child. Overall, the Dance Marathon raised over \$99,000 for the hospital.

Invisible Children Legacy Scholarship

* SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, SERVICE PROJECT

Hope College

Each member of the 2010-2011 class of the Alcor Chapter donated funds to sponsor a year's education for a child enrolled in the Invisible Children scholarship fund. The recipients of these scholarships are largely children who have been rescued from being used as child soldiers in northern Uganda. The chapter's 35 members plus advisors donated a total of \$420 to the scholarship fund.

Kiva Microloans

* LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, SERVICE PROJECT

Hope College

The Alcor chapter's class of 2010 began assisting people in great need by participating in Kiva, a microloan program which provides small loans to applicants around the world. This year, Hope College held their annual Critical Issues Symposium, which focused on global food issues. In order to stay in line with the topic of food, the committee that worked on this project looked for individuals seeking loans for food-related issues who were also supporting sustainable practices, and whose goals reflected those of Mortar Board.

First Book Virtual Book Drive

*FUNDRAISING, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT "READING IS LEADING"

Hope College

For their Virtual Book Drive, the Alcor chapter mailed all Mortar Board alumni to get them involved, had a table at the annual Homecoming Day and encouraged current members to contribute books and money. This year, the chapter raised books and funds for West Holland School and CASA. The chapter raised \$10,899.61 and collected three large boxes of books. In addition, members were able to read with many of the children.

Tanzanian Scholarship Project

*SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, FUNDRAISING, SERVICE PROJECT

Hope College

This project provides the funding for several Tanzanian students who would not be able to finish their schooling without financial assistance for their tuition and books. When this project started, the

chapter supplied textbooks to one school. They next added a scholarship for one student, with the project expanding to now include assistance for 15 students. The chapter believes it has provided future leaders for Tanzania.

President for a Day

*FUNDRAISING, MORTAR BOARD WEEK PROJECT

Hope College

Hope College President Dr. James Bultman and his wife Martie agreed to "swap" for one day with students that won a drawing. The students were able to go to meetings and events with the president and his wife. In return, the Bultmans attended classes. Martie Bultman also cooked dinner for the students at their home. The day concluded by attending a home basketball game, where the students sat in the president's seats and Dr. Bultman and his wife spent the first half of the game in the student section. Tickets were sold for \$1 or 6 for \$5. Fliers and tables selling tickets on campus were used for marketing.

CASA Pumpkin carving, Stocking stuffing, Tutoring and Border's Gift Cards

*SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT "READING IS LEADING"

Hope College

This project involved everyone in the chapter. Members helped stuff stockings and collect and carve about 15 pumpkins. Twelve members, along with other students from the college, tutored the children after school. All members and some chapter alumni participated in the Virtual Book Drive, which gave money for CASA to purchase books and supplies. The CASA students are all from families struggling economically and are encouraged to pursue scholarship and goals for themselves.

"Wild About Reading"

*SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT "READING IS LEADING"

Kansas State University

This project's purpose was to partner Mortar Board and the Center for Child Development (CCD) in an effort to address childhood literacy in the Manhattan community. About 45 families from three local daycare centers, including the CCD, participated. Many of the students and families at the three area daycares are considered low income. Thanks to a donation by PBS, each child in attendance was able to go home with a free book. During the event the children and families listened to local "celebrities" read children's stories. Upon registration, each family was given a pack of information about Mortar Board and also the importance of childhood reading, provided by PBS and the local public library.

Give Love – Give Books!

*SERVICE PROJECT, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT "READING IS LEADING"

University of Nebraska at Kearney

The Xi Phi chapter partnered with the National Honor Society at Kearney High School. Through their collaboration they were able to collect approximately \$250 at a university sports event over

Valentines Day weekend. The chapter bought children's books and distributed them to kindergartners at one of the public schools as part of the Kearney Public Schools' "Literacy Alive" project. During the year, Mortar Board members provided reading and related activities for Central Elementary. At the end of the year, each child in the fourth grade classrooms was given a book to keep, along with a picture of the Mortar Board member who had worked with the child during the year.

UNK Honors Convocation

* LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, ALUMNI INVOLVMENT, SERVICE PROJECT

University of Nebraska at Kearney

During this ceremony, awards are presented to students by the Alumni Association. In addition, Mortar Board recognizes two recipients for the chapter scholarships. Freshman and sophomores are invited to apply for this scholarship and one freshman student and one sophomore student who excels in scholarship, leadership and service is selected. For the past 13 years, the Outstanding Sophomore recipient has been selected to be a Mortar Board member the next year. The Xi Phi founders attend the event and make the presentation.

Seeing Is Reading

* SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, FUNDRAISING, ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT "READING IS LEADING," MORTAR BOARD WEEK PROJECT

University of Nebraska at Kearney

Throughout the year the Xi Phi chapter sponsored several fundraisers, including a contest between residence halls to reward the hall that could collect the most donations. Alumni also contributed funds for the project. The chapter collected approximately \$500 for books. The proceeds were given to Christian Record Services for the Blind. Christian Record's free programs and services for the visually impaired include magazines and books for all ages in Braille, large print and audio formats. They also offer scholarships to and sponsor camps for blind students.

Faculty Appreciation Dinner

* LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, FUNDRAISING, SERVICE PROJECT

University of Nebraska at Kearney

All 20 members participated in this event. In addition, 21 faculty members and two administrators were invited, along with the chapter advisors. The theme was "Walk of the Stars" and the decorations, music and food carried out the theme. Each Mortar Board member invited one faculty member to the dinner. Members were instructed to choose a faculty member who had a positive impact on their undergraduate careers. The faculty members received anonymous invitations for the dinner and were informed that they would meet the student who had invited them at the dinner. Students arrived early and prepared to meet the faculty members. Upon arrival, each faculty member was greeted by her or his student and photographs were taken. After the meal, each member introduced her or his faculty guest.

Turkey Basket Drive

* LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, FUNDRAISING, SERVICE PROJECT,

University of North Dakota

The Turkey Basket Drive is the largest and most successful project that the Quo Vadis chapter undertakes each year. Last year was the 31st year of service to the community through this event. Over 1,500 letters were sent to businesses asking for their support. The chapter also worked with a high school honor society and local non-profit agencies to coordinate donations and to help families receive a basket. This year they raised over \$16,000 to assist 1,100 families. Baskets included a turkey meal with all the fixings.

Mortar Board Lecture Series

*SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT

University of San Diego

For this lecture series three professors were selected to speak. The chapter chose professors who had an impact on the members' academic development and whom they would like to know more about. They chose a professor from each of the main schools on campus so that all departments were highlighted by this new series. The professors within each department were very supportive of each other and invited their classes to attend the lectures. The professors shared their life stories and advice with the attending students, and each lecture was highly impactful.

Emeritus Faculty and Staff Outstanding Service Awards

Ceremony and Brunch

*SERVICE PROJECT, ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT

San Diego State University

For the past 25 years, the Jane K. Smith Cap and Gown chapter has sponsored a ceremony to honor retired faculty, staff and administrators who gave generously to the university, its students and the community. The event is self-supporting as attendees pay for the brunch as well as donate money toward the award. This year, members chose to recognize their advisor, Dr. Jane K. Smith, with this award. This event provides excellent visibility for the chapter on campus through the electronic faculty and staff newsletter, Mortar Board Alumni Newsletter, and the San Diego State University Retirement Association newsletter.

Faculty and Staff Appreciation Dinner

*SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, SERVICE PROJECT

San Diego State University

This is the 21st year that Mortar Board has sponsored a dinner to honor faculty and staff who have made significant contributions to the education and academic achievement of the SDSU members of Mortar Board. Each Mortar Board member selects one faculty or staff member to recognize at this dinner. They also invite the current and former advisors to be recognized. Members of the Jane K. Smith Cap and Gown chapter feel that this is a great service project for the campus. It is seldom that faculty and staff are thanked and recognized publicly for the tremendous contributions they make.

The honorees are always pleased to be able to meet with the students and to be recognized and thanked.

Honors Council

*SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, SERVICE PROJECT

San Diego State University

The SDSU Honors Council was founded by Mortar Board in 1989 and is made up of student and faculty representatives of the University Honors Program, Phi Eta Sigma, Scholars without Borders, Golden Key, Phi Kappa Phi, Mortar Board and Phi Beta Kappa. The purpose of the council is to advise, promote the interests of each chapter as well as those interests common to all six societies, recognize students and faculty for their achievements, and represent honor societies on the Associated Students Council. Honors Council hosts multiple service events, such as canned food drives, study abroad workshops and a holiday toy drive.

Backpack Stuffing

*SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT "READING IS LEADING," MORTAR BOARD WEEK PROJECT

San Diego State University

For the ninth consecutive year, Mortar Board members stuffed backpacks with school supplies and donated them to needy children. This year the bags went to an orphanage in Mexico and a low-income middle school in the San Diego area. The SDSU members also involved members from the University of San Diego chapter as well as the alumni board. The backpack stuffing was a great opportunity for members to mingle as well as a service to the children who needed assistance.

Alumni Relations

*ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT "READING IS LEADING," MORTAR BOARD WEEK PROJECT

San Diego State University

This chapter takes great measures to keep their alumni involved. The alumni relations chair attends all alumni board meetings. The chapter holds an annual Alumni Luncheon at which \$8,000 in scholarship money is awarded to active members who are attending graduate and professional school. The alumni are also very involved with the Backpack Stuffing project. In fact, the idea for the project came from one of the alumni board members!

Last Lecture Series

*SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT, SERVICE PROJECT

San Diego State University

Many of the degree programs at SDSU require a capstone project (a culminating experience that asks students to integrate their major with their overall coursework, within the context of life). With this idea in mind, the Last Lecture Series was created with the intent of honoring teachers and scholars at SDSU by providing a distinguished career capstone event. Honorees give a public lecture where they are asked to sum up in one final lecture what they believe has made their lives and work meaningful and worthwhile.

Mortar Board Planner/Calendar of Events

*SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, FUNDRAISING, SERVICE PROJECT

San Diego State University

For almost two decades now, the Jane K. Smith Cap and Gown chapter has been creating a planner specifically for SDSU students. Included in the planner is the SDSU academic calendar; final exam schedule; testing dates; important dates; athletic, music, and drama events; listing of clubs and organizations; campus map; valuable coupons; important offices and telephone numbers; and much more. This year, over 11,000 copies were sold.

Students Supporting Special Education Walk

*SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, FUNDRAISING, SERVICE PROJECT

San Diego State University

As a new philanthropy project this year, the Jane K. Smith Cap and Gown chapter decided to bring attention and raise awareness to children with special needs. Members worked to organize a fundraising walk to benefit the San Diego Unified School District special education classes. In an effort to raise awareness, students made and carried signs recognizing various mental and physical challenges faced by children, provided information about budget cuts affecting special education classes in the schools, and garnered support from several campus student organizations. The first annual walk was a great success hosting more than 100 participants and raising more than \$1,000.

Project Holiday Stocking

* FUNDRAISING, SERVICE PROJECT

San Diego State University

Mortar Board members and alumni donated hundreds of items to fill Christmas stockings to send to service men and women deployed in the Middle East and Afghanistan. This project provided 50 stockings with a variety of goodies, including hand warmers, snacks, batteries and toiletries. Stockings were delivered to the US Midway where they were packed and shipped to our troops.

Garden of the Gods Section Project

*SERVICE PROJECT

Colorado State University, Colorado College, University of Colorado Boulder, The University of Northern Colorado, The University of Denver, University of Wyoming, University of Utah

For the eighth consecutive year, multiple chapters from Section 22 worked at the Garden of the Gods. Members worked on three different projects including moving tons of dirt and large rocks up a hill to fill an erosion gully, picking seeds for future reseeding, and cutting Russian Thistle and the Great Mullen. In 2010, 52 members from all seven active chapters in Section 22, including Section Coordinator Dave Whitman and Mortar Board National President Dan Turner, collaborated on this project.

Mortar Board "Reading is Leading" Scholarship

*SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, FUNDRAISING, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT, "READING IS LEADING"

University of South Alabama

Two scholarships are awarded to an incoming freshman and a "rising" junior. The chapter sells flowers through Blossom Express during the fall and spring commencements to raise funds for the scholarships. In addition, university alumni gave \$14,000 to the fund during the annual endowment fund drive. Each scholarship candidate is required to write an essay explaining how reading has positively influenced and affected her or his leadership abilities.

Excellence in Teaching Awards Ceremony

* SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT

University of South Carolina

The Alpha Order chapter hosted its 18th annual Excellence in Teaching Awards ceremony in November 2010, honoring 31 professors who have inspired and influenced Mortar Board members during their collegiate careers. A total of over 70 attendees came. During the ceremony, a keynote speaker gave brief remarks about the importance of Mortar Board at USC and the faculty-student relationship. Mortar Board members spoke about the individual influence of their nominee on their college experience.

Pen Pal Project with East Tennessee Children's Hospital

*SERVICE PROJECT

University of Tennessee - Knoxville

During a chapter meeting in October, members participated in the Pen Pal program with East Tennessee Children's Hospital (ETCH), a renowned hospital in the community. Members created motivational cards for the children at ETCH, using construction paper, markers, stickers and other miscellaneous art materials. They had 37 people participate and used approximately \$10-\$20 dollars of art supplies.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Fundraiser

* FUNDRAISING, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT, "READING IS LEADING"

Texas Wesleyan University

Twelve members of this chapter raised money for Big Brothers Big Sisters in the annual "Bowl for Kids Sake" fundraiser in October 2010. Members used their leadership skills by encouraging family, friends and coworkers to pledge donations to BBBS. Each member had a goal of \$100 to raise. Overall, the chapter raised \$1,100 to benefit BBBS. They also teamed up with another campus organization, Lambda Kappa Kappa , who raised an additional \$40. As many as 50 organizations and companies attended the event and all donations went to help the children in the BBBS programs

Leadership and Politics: Governor Michael Dukakis

* LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, MORTAR BOARD WEEK PROJECT

University of California, Los Angeles

In honor of Mortar Board's ideal of leadership, members attended a leadership development seminar presented by Michael Dukakis, former governor of Massachusetts and 1988 democratic presidential nominee, now a UCLA Faculty Member. At the seminar, members got an inside look at some of the major issues facing President Obama. Governor Dukakis shared observations about the impact of the recent elections, some of the most pressing issues facing the Obama presidency, and how they might be addressed. Members also got the opportunity to ask questions of this important national leader.

Leadership Development Seminars

* LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

University of California, Los Angeles

In honor of Mortar Board's ideal of leadership, the members of the Agathai chapter at UCLA participated in interactive leadership development seminars and activities that were designed to provide effective leadership training with emphasis on personal growth and community involvement. Facilitated by the Bruin Leaders Project, the seminars offered throughout the year covered a wide range of topics ranging from public speaking to self-realization and conflict resolution.

Mortar Board at UCLA Stands Up to Cancer!

* FUNDRAISER, SERVICE PROJECT

University of California, Los Angeles

In efforts to stand up to cancer, the Agathai chapter has participated in a series of events that promote cancer research and awareness. First, members went to South Central Los Angeles to present community members with information on how to obtain free cancer screenings at the local Planned Parenthood clinic. Second, members participated in Relay for Life, where they raised money for the American Cancer Society and walked for 24 hours in honor of those who have survived and those who have fallen to cancer. Third, members participated in the Bruin Run | Walk at UCLA, which raised money for the Chase Child Life program at Mattel Children's Hospital at UCLA.

Project Afghani-Dan

* SERVICE PROJECT

University of California, Los Angeles

During the holiday season, the Agathai chapter led a donation drive in honor of Lieutenant Dan O'Brien, who is a friend of the chapter, and his brigade. Lovingly titled, "Project Afghani-Dan", members collected a variety of items that would brighten the spirits of our brave men and women overseas. Some of the items included UCLA gear, food, clothing, music, books, other entertainment items, holiday decorations, everyday supplies like toothpaste and deodorant, and letters of appreciation. They also sent a large photo of the chapter where each member signed and wrote a personal message of gratitude.

Reading to Kids

* SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT "READING IS LEADING," MORTAR BOARD WEEK PROJECT

University of California, Los Angeles

Reading to Kids is a grassroots organization dedicated to inspiring underserved children with a love of reading. To this end, Reading to Kids gathers, on average, 955 children and 425 volunteers at reading clubs on the second Saturday of every month at eight Los Angeles elementary schools. At the monthly reading clubs, pairs of volunteers read aloud to small groups of children, while their parents receive training on how to encourage their children to read at home. Kids, parents, teachers and school libraries receive book donations at the end of the clubs. These are important donations, as 60 percent of low-income homes do not have age-appropriate reading materials for children.

Hollywood TV Taping Fundraiser

* FUNDRAISER

University of California, Los Angeles

In effort to raise money for our scholarship program, the members of the Agathai chapter partnered with On-Camera Audiences to be placed in a live television studio audience for pay. In the past, chapter members have attended "Let's Make A Deal," "Mike and Molly," "Wanda Sykes Show" and "Chelsea Lately." Given UCLA's close proximity to Hollywood and all of the television studios, the fundraiser was very successful.

UNICEF's The TAP Project

* SERVICE PROJECT

University of California, Los Angeles

Just \$1 raised through the UNICEF Tap Project can provide a child with safe water for 40 days. The Agathai chapter took the lead in the community by encouraging local restaurant owners to ask their patrons to donate \$1 or more for the tap water they usually enjoy for free, and all funds raised would support UNICEF's efforts to bring clean and accessible water to millions of children around the world. The 2011 UNICEF Tap Project Funds will specifically target Togo, the Central African Republic and Vietnam.

Virtual Book Drive at UCLA

* SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, FUNDRAISING. AULMNI INVOVMENT, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT "READING IS LEADING,"

University of California, Los Angeles

The chapter at UCLA raised over \$1,300 for the Virtual Book Drive Challenge and ranked 3rd out of 52 participating chapters nationwide. They donated the raised funds to local non-profit, Reading to Kids, who in turn will provide books to countless underserved children in the Los Angeles community. The Mortar Board Virtual Book Drive is a fundraising challenge in which Mortar Board chapters across the nation compete to raise funds in order to bring new books to local programs serving children from low income families.

Waiting for 'Superman' and DonorsChoose.org

* SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, SERVICE PROJECT

University of California, Los Angeles

Members viewed a limited release of the new documentary film, *Waiting for "Superman"*, which analyzes the current state of public education in the U.S. and how it is affecting our children. In addition, members wrote a personal response to the film and later donated \$15 each to a classroom of their choice on DonorsChoose.org, which is an award-winning online charity. Some of the classroom projects that inspired our members included providing five TI-84 calculators and two AP biology books to a middle-school biology class in Los Angeles, and providing children's books to an elementary school in San Diego.

Annual Academic Fair

* SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, MORTAR BOARD WEEK PROJECT

University of California, Los Angeles

The Agathai chapter at UCLA sponsors the Annual Academic Fair during Mortar Board Week. The two-hour event showcases many campus services and organizations that promote academics beyond the classroom. This year, they welcomed Project Initiative, Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society, National Society of Collegiate Scholars, the Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Societies, Pre-Law Society, UCLA UniCamp, Academics in the Commons, and more. Some exciting features of this event include free giveaways and free food!

Academic Planner & Calendar of UCLA Events

* SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, FUNDRAISER, AULMNI INVOVMENT

University of California, Los Angeles

For over two decades, the UCLA chapter has produced the popular Academic Planner and Calendar of UCLA Events specifically for UCLA students and faculty. Included in the planner is the UCLA academic calendar; important dates; athletic events; listing of clubs and organizations; campus map; A to Z Guide of UCLA; important offices and telephone numbers; and much more. The Academic Planner is published by one of our very own, an Agathai alumna, and all of the proceeds fund the chapter's scholarship program.

Agathai Quarterly Journal

* SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, AULMNI INVOVMENT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT "READING IS LEADING,"

University of California, Los Angeles

Established in 2010, the *Agathai Quarterly Journal* features high-quality, original research produced by the collegiate members and alumni of the Agathai chapter of Mortar Board at UCLA. Issued at the end of each academic quarter, the interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal has a focus on scholarly essays in the humanities, social sciences, biological sciences and arts. The *Agathai Quarterly Journal* seeks ways to bring the members of Mortar Board into critical dialogue with various studies, thus enabling them to become part of a wider network of scholars with similar interests and be exposed to new perspectives and innovations in diverse fields.

Finals Care Packages

* SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, SERVICE PROJECT

University of California, Los Angeles

During finals week, members of the Agathai chapter assemble and distribute over 200 care packages to busy students on Bruin Walk. To help alleviate the stress that accompanies finals week, our care packages contain a variety of items, including testing materials such as a blue book, a pen and pencil, snacks, and much more!

Mortar Board at UCLA Builds a Stronger Community with Habitat for Humanity

* SERVICE PROJECT

University of California, Los Angeles

Members of the Agathai chapter partnered with Habitat for Humanity to build low-income housing in the city of Pacoima, California. Throughout the day, members performed a variety of tasks, including painting, ground leveling and installing interior hardware. Habitat for Humanity provides affordable homes to working families who would never otherwise realize this dream.

Project Read

* SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT "READING IS LEADING", MORTAR BOARD PROJECT WEEK

University of California, Los Angeles

Members participated in the Agathai chapter's original literacy project for blind children – Project Read. Members collected dozens of children's storybooks in Braille and then brought the stories to life by recording themselves reading in animated voices. Books were donated along with their individual disc to the Blind Childrens Center in Los Angeles.

Mortar Board Scholarship Program

* SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, SERVICE PROJECT

University of California, Los Angeles

This highly competitive program provides scholarships to three exceptional students who embody the three ideals of Mortar Board - scholarship, leadership and service. The scholarship recipients include one graduating high school senior from the Los Angeles Unified School District, one community college transfer student, and one undergraduate from UCLA - the only requirement is that they be working toward a degree.

Valentines for Sojourn Services for Battered Women and Their Children

* SERVICE PROJECT, MORTAR BOARD WEEK PROJECT

University of California, Los Angeles

Members of the Agathai chapter created over 100 handmade friendly valentines cards for the women and children of Sojourn Services for Battered Women and Their Children located in Santa Monica. On Valentine's Day, they delivered them to Sojourn; the women and children were very touched and appreciative.

Annual Chapter Retreat

* LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

University of California, Los Angeles

The Agathai chapter at UCLA reconnected with one another after a long summer at Dockweiler State Beach. At the day-long retreat, members engaged in team-building activities, relay races and committee planning. After the president presented the chapter's overall vision, goals and expectations for the year, each committee brainstormed ideas and established goals for the year, which they presented to the chapter.

UCLA-USC Cross-Town Show-Down Book Drive

* SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT "READING IS LEADING", MORTAR BOARD PROJECT WEEK

University of California, Los Angeles

The UCLA chapter competed against our neighboring Mortar Board chapter at USC by sponsoring a campus-wide book drive. The winning university took all of the books and donated them to its literacy-related charity of choice. This year, the Agathai chapter collected 414 books while USC collected 66 books. The UCLA chapter donated all the books to Books For Africa, which is an outstanding grassroots non-profit organization that has a mission to end the book famine in Africa.

Nothin' But Sand Venice Beach Cleanup with Heal the Bay

* SERVICE PROJECT

University of California, Los Angeles

The Agathai chapter at UCLA cleaned one of Los Angeles County's dirtiest beaches - Venice Beach. Throughout the day, members picked up all sorts of trash, including plastic, styrofoam, cigarette butts and articles of clothing. This event was made possible by Heal the Bay, which is a nonprofit environmental organization dedicated to making Southern California coastal waters and watersheds, including Santa Monica Bay, safe, healthy and clean.

HOPE Kids Event

*SERVICE PROJECT

University of Utah

The Acorn chapter partnered with HOPE Kids, a nonprofit organization that organizes fun events for terminally-ill children and their siblings. Members chose to sponsor and plan three different HOPE Kids events over the past year, each with a different theme (pumpkin painting, winter wonderland and an Easter egg hunt). Each of these events featured activities related to the main theme and provided a fun outlet for the kids. Many children participated at each program night and the chapter was able to maintain a low budget (only \$30-\$60 per event) with the help of donations from members.

Reading is Leading Book Drive Competition

* SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT "READING IS LEADING," , MORTAR BOARD PROJECT WEEK

William Jewell College

The Panaegis chapter held a book drive competition among the residence halls and faculty. They collected donations at a table in the college union and also walked through the residence halls and faculty offices. Every \$10 donated per team was recorded on a huge banner hanging in the college union. The winners received coupons to a local restaurant and candy. They chose to purchase books through First Book and sent the books to local Kansas City organizations in need of children's books.