



# OUTSTANDING CHAPTER PROJECTS

## TURKEY FOR A DAY FUNDRAISER

\*LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, FUNDRAISING, SERVICE PROJECT

### *Carnegie Mellon University*

Turkey for a Day is a fundraiser held just before Thanksgiving. Students were prompted to donate money to their favorite faculty member and the faculty member that earned the most money wore a turkey costume for an entire day. Flyers were placed all around campus the week before the event. The flyers were even tailored for each academic department. For example, in the building where the physics classes were held pictures of the Physics Department faculty member involved were posted. This event promoted leadership because various individuals were in charge of organizing different aspects of the project. Overall, the event raised \$336.09 in one week which was donated to a soup kitchen in the local Pittsburgh community. Turkey for a day was the chapter's first big project which helped unite the chapter as well as increase visibility on campus.

## HOOKED ON READING TO PROMOTE CHILDHOOD LITERACY

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

### *Hood College*

The Keystone chapter joined forces with the Frederick County Mental Health Association to create a booth to promote childhood literacy at their annual Children's Fair. The chapter created the theme "Hooked on Reading" and used it as a basis for their booth activities including a fishing game which children could fish for prizes and a special "Hooked a Book" fish. In addition to the prizes, information about the importance of childhood literacy was handed out to the children's parents. Even though at the time of the event the chapter only had 11 members close to 1,000 children and parents were reached!

## STORY BOOK FOREST

\*SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT

### *University of South Florida*

Story Book Forest, a carnival like event, involved approximately 350 children in grades 1-5. The chapter distributed over \$3,500 worth of school supplies and 350 children's books to children in the local low income area. Prizes and gift cards were also given to children who displayed their favorite books through artwork with a coloring contest

## GASPARILLA FUNDRAISING/SERVICE EVENT

\*SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, FUNDRAISING, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT

### *University of South Florida*

The Athenaeum chapter collected over \$1,700 by participating in local parades and selling concession items while passing out balloons and telling children how much fun reading can be. This event allowed the chapter to promote Mortar Board's name to the community and receive donations while showcasing the many literary events the chapter sponsored throughout the year. Through this event the chapter donated \$1,000 to Shriner's Hospitals and \$1,000 to Camp Boggy Creek for Florida's Seriously Ill Children.

## ATRIA BINGO DAY

\*LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT, SERVICE PROJECT

### *University of South Alabama*

Past and present Mortar Board members came together at Atria, a local retirement home in Mobile, to play bingo and visit with the residents. The residents enjoyed meeting younger members of the community while participating in a game they love, bingo!

Through this event, members of the chapter were able to give back to their community while getting to know the outgoing Mortar Board members and various alumni around the community.

## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE FOR GIRLS

\*LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT, SERVICE PROJECT

### *Tulane University*

The Leadership Conference for Middle School Girls was a full day event where girls from the New Orleans area were invited to spend the day at Tulane and participate in leadership and team-based sessions organized and led by Mortar Board members. This year's theme "Stepping up to the Plate: A Girl's Leadership Playbook" involved the groups being divided into different sports and each session had a sports-related phrase to correspond with the activity. For one of the sessions one of the only female sportscasters in the city was invited to speak to the group. The event was promoted by mailing letters to counselors at 10 different schools in the area. Overall, the girls who participated in the conference took away valuable information about their leadership styles and strengths and the way in which they work as a team. The Mortar Board members also gained valuable experience in creating, planning, and executing a large scale event along with gaining insight into the importance of being a positive role model. This event was a huge success because of the alumni involvement and membership commitment. Most importantly, the event impacted all of the young girls in a positive way. When the girls, all in 7<sup>th</sup> grade, were asked what changes should be made to the conference next year one girl responded "You should have the conference for 8<sup>th</sup> graders next year so we can come back."

## WORLD'S LARGEST PILLOW FIGHT

\*FUNDRAISING

### *The Ohio State University*

This annual event was held during Welcome Week as a fun way to start off fall quarter and get students excited for another great year. This year's pillow fight was the biggest yet, with 2,500 participations and although it was a new school record it was just shy of breaking the Guinness World Record. This year's fight was attended by many local news stations as well as the Big Ten Network. University President, Gordon Gee, was also in attendance along with the Vice President of Student Affairs and the Ohio State men's basketball team. The chapter collaborated with OSU's Welcome Week Committee, Events-to-Go in the Ohio Union, the Ohio Union Activities Board, and the Pancreatic Cancer Society to make this even a success. This year the Pillow Fight took on a special cause, raising awareness and money for pancreatic cancer. In the end the chapter was able to raise over \$1,100 for the Pancreatic Cancer Society. The event was held in memory of Ohio State's former Vice President of Student Affairs, Bill Hall, and Joshua Topy, a member of the 2007-2008 Mortar Board Class who lost his battle with cancer last summer. The members are proud to have raised money for such a great cause while starting a new tradition at The Ohio State University.

## LEADERSHIP DISCUSSION WITH GIL CLOYD

\*LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

### *The Ohio State University*

Dr. Cloyd is the Chief Innovation Officer at Proctor & Gamble and the Chair of the Board of Trustees at Ohio State. During this program Dr. Cloyd discussed five objectives from his experience that bring out leadership and teamwork: purpose, focus & clarity, diversity & inclusion, capability & development, and inspiration. He had a great presentation and answered student's questions afterwards. This discussion proved to be a great program for young people looking to start their careers.

## CHILDREN'S BOOK DRIVE

\*SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT

### *Wittenberg University*

The chapter held a book drive to benefit a local literacy center. This was a great milestone for the chapter as they collected 130 books during their very first book drive! This event also increased the visibility of the chapter as the project was featured in the campus newspaper.

## CINCINNATI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

\*SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PROJECT

*Miami University, University of Cincinnati, Xavier University*

All three Cincinnati area Mortar Board chapters coordinated reading to children on Saturday mornings at the Cincinnati Children's Museum. The three chapters alternated weeks so that the project did not become overwhelming to any one chapter. This event proved to be a great collaboration effort between fellow Mortar Board members.

## ADA LIBRARY — READING IS LEADING

\*FUNDRAISING, ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT

*Ohio Northern University*

Members of the Aurora chapter joined together to read to children at the Ada Library. Every member signed up for at least two evenings; in fact, the members had so much fun participating in this event the library ran out of time slots! In addition to reading to the children, the chapter held a raffle involving both students and alumni and donated all of the money to the library.

## COBB WALL CONSTRUCTION

\*SERVICE PROJECT

*Case Western Reserve University*

Members of the Lux chapter helped build a new stewardship center at the Nature Center at Shaker Lakes. This building was constructed out of cobb walls, made out of all natural materials like hay bales, straw, and clay. Volunteers from the chapter created the mixture of natural materials then assembled the walls. The chapter members also helped supervise children who were doing mixing as well as wall construction. This project was a messy, yet fun, way to help out in the community!

## TURKEY FOR A DAY FUNDRAISER

\*FUNDRAISING, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT

*Case Western Reserve University*

For this fundraiser, students were prompted to donate money to their favorite faculty member and the faculty member that earned the most money wore a turkey costume for an entire day. The chapter collected donations from other students and faculty for a week in the student union. Despite a last minute mishap with the turkey costume, the event raised \$178 and the money was used for a Reading is Leading project

## LITERACY PANEL/PENNIES FOR PEACE

\*SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PROJECT, MORTAR BOARD WEEK PROJECT

*Kent State University*

As a part of Mortar Board Week, a literacy panel was held to promote visibility on campus as well as to promote the national theme of "Reading is Leading". The event featured four speakers who spoke about literacy, minorities and women. Each speaker addressed different aspects of literacy on the local, national, and global level. After the panel, Mortar Board members felt compelled by one of the speakers' discussions about the Central Asia Institute and the work of Greg Mortenson that the chapter felt the need to increase the awareness on campus about the work and decided to collect donations for this organization. On May 4, 1970 four students were killed and nine students were injured by National Guard members during a war protest at Kent State. Every year on May 4<sup>th</sup> a commemoration ceremony and vigil is organized by the student organization, May Fourth Task Force. Since the theme of this ceremony is peace members of Mortar Board decided to raise donations during this ceremony through a campaign established by the Central Asia Institute entitled Pennies for Peace. On May 4<sup>th</sup> signs with "Will Work for Peace" were set up at the ceremony and chapter members collected donations and informed people about the organization. A total of \$125 was collected for the institute.

## HOMECOMING BOOK DRIVE

\*SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, FUNDRAISING, ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PROJECT.

### *Hope College*

For the past few years the Alcor Chapter has been sponsoring a book drive every fall asking Mortar Board Alumni to donate gently used books when they return to the university for Homecoming in the fall. These books are then given to a local school that does not have extra funds to increase their library stock. This year a new 'spin' was added to the event by raising funds for school supplies, text books, and other needs of children from a missionary family in Chiapas, Mexico. One of the members had spent the past few summers with this family, which has taken 13 children off the streets in addition to having three of their own; all of their children are home-schooled by their family who barely has enough money to pay for basic necessities, let alone schooling. After hearing about the family's situation the chapter knew it was something they wanted to add to their event. In the end the chapter raised \$1,300 to send to the family in Mexico. Both the family in Mexico and the local school were unbelievably grateful for the chapter's generosity.

## TANZANIA PROJECT

\*SCHOLARSHIP PROJECT, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT

### *Hope College*

The Tanzania Project has been a party of the Alcor Chapter for several years now. Through this project the chapter funds the education of 8 students in Tanzania that have a desire to become leaders in their community. One of our students, Fatahia, is the top student in the nation and was accepted into the most prestigious university in the nation without any bribes. She is the first from her village to attend university and she is currently working towards a law degree so that she can help others from villages like her own. The chapter believes this project is tied to the "Reading is Leading" project because they have taken the national initiative and extended it into the global community. All of the members are proud of this program because of its sustainability and how it is has changed the lives of students in other countries.

## DISABILITIES PROM

\*SERVICE PROJECT

### *Hope College*

The Disabilities Prom, an annual event held every spring, allows disabled persons in the community to come out for a great evening of dancing, dining, and socializing! All of the members were encouraged to come to the event not only because it is great for the participants to see that much support but also because it was a great time! The chapter was especially proud of the fact that the entire event was planned and paid for by Mortar Board members. The Disabilities Prom is an event both members and guests look forward to now and the chapter believes it has started a wonderful tradition on campus.

## READING EXTRAVAGANZA

\*IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT

### *Purdue University*

During the Reading Extravaganza elementary schools are invited to Purdue University for a reading session, science or theatre activity, and lunch. The readers consisted of local celebrities (e.g. the mayor, new anchor, firemen, and policemen), Purdue faculty members, local librarians, Purdue athletes, 500 Festival Princesses, The Gold Girls, Army Personnel, Mortar Board members and even The Cat in the Hat. For each reading session the students would listen to a feature reader for 15 minutes, break into smaller groups for a more personal experience, and then return together to listen to one last feature reader. There ended up being a slight mishap with the physics session when the professor's vehicle broke down on the way to the event but the members came together to pull off an extraordinary session anyway. Five local schools attended the event with a total of 372 first and second grade students! A book drive was conducted concurrently in the Purdue community and all books were donated to Tippecanoe County Child Care, Inc, an organization that is dedicated to providing quality care for children. This event signified a significant team effort from the local and Purdue communities, especially the Barbara Cook Chapter members.

## MORTAR BOARD LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

\*LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT

### *Purdue University*

"Exceed All Expectations", a leadership development conference open to all university students, provided an opportunity for conference attendees to interact with the current class of Mortar Board members, listen to keynote speakers, attend smaller interactive sessions and enjoy a formal lunch. The theme was chosen to remind students that their possibilities at Purdue and in their lives are limited only by lowered expectations. Each of the keynotes and speakers saw the opportunity to challenge the status quo and through their vision, were able to accomplish something greater than anyone could have imagined. The smaller interactive sessions covered various topics such as business etiquette, running effective meetings, women in leadership, and financial planning.

## ROCK OUT FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

\*FUNDRAISING, SERVICE PROJECT

### *Illinois State University*

Rock Out for Special Olympics was the Red Tassel Chapter's first major service project. This benefit concert to raise funds for the Special Olympics of Illinois featured four bands. The chapter raised nearly \$1,500 by implementing a cover charge at the door, a silent auction, split-the-pot raffle, gift card drawings, and selling t-shirts. Every member of the chapter was involved either in the development and planning of the project or assisting during the day of the event. Members also volunteered for Special Olympics of Illinois throughout the year leading up to this service project. The chapter hopes that this event started a new tradition of supporting a cause, in addition to literacy, as an entire chapter.

## THE NOTEBOOK PROJECT

\*SERVICE PROJECT

### *Carleton College*

In the summer of 2007, a member of the Carleton College Chapter taught English at a small school in India. Teachers there started binding their own notebooks with covers designed by the children so that their impoverished student body could have workbooks for class. Inspired by the situation the chapter bound and sold over 200 notebooks that exactly matched those used at the school. The notebooks included information on the school and the child artist who created the designs. For each notebook purchased, two more children can afford to attend the Kamala Nimbkar Balbhavan School for an entire month. To date the project has raised over \$500 to send to India and the project isn't finished yet! To top it all off, Carleton's 11<sup>th</sup> Annual International Festival has also committed to donating half of their proceeds to the Notebook Project!

## UNK HONORS CONVOCATION

\*LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT, SERVICE PROJECT

### *University of Nebraska at Kearney*

Since 1992, the Xi Phi Chapter has hosted the university wide Honors Convocation immediately following the initiation of the new Mortar Board members. Parents of new and current members, along with faculty honorees, administration, and seniors receiving awards are all invited. During this event sophomores who excel in scholarship, leadership, and service are invited to apply for the Mortar Board scholarship. For the past 11 years, the Outstanding Sophomore recipient has been selected to be a Mortar Board member the following year. The award is made more special in that the Xi Phi founders, Jackie Rosenlof and Bobbie McKenzie, always attend and present the award.

## A BOOK OF MY OWN

\*LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, FUNDRAISING, ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT, MORTAR BOARD WEEK PROJECT

### *University of Nebraska at Kearney*

The Xi Phi Chapter has worked with the Buffalo County Department of Health and Human Services the past three years to provide reading activities and books to groups of foster children. Workers at the Department of Health and Human Services revealed that many of the foster children are moved frequently from home to home and often have very few possessions; the chapter desired to give these children something they could take with them wherever they went. During the year, members provided activities for the foster children during the biweekly meetings of the foster parents. Each member participated at least twice and ended up getting to know the foster children very well. At the final meeting each child was presented with a new book, chosen especially for them. Overall the chapter provided new, hard back books for 27 children!

## 28<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL 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. The 28<sup>th</sup> annual drive reached more underprivileged families than ever before. Members sent letters to over 900 businesses for their support in addition to working with high school honor societies and local non-profit agencies to coordinate donations and to help families register to receive a basket. All together the chapter raised \$12,000 to assist over 800 families! The chapter is honored to have such a great impact on the community every holiday season and they intend to continue to help those who have given the university so much!

## WE H.E.A.R.T. READING

\*LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL PROJECT, MORTAR BOARD WEEK PROJECT

### *Washington University*

The Keod Chapter paired with the University City Library to create a Valentine's Day inspired event for elementary aged children. At this event five stations were set up to represent how we H.E.A.R.T reading; *Holiday*- Valentine Day card making, *Eating*- Cookie Decoration, *Art*- Bookmark Making, *Reading*- Books were available for children to read as well an animated storyteller who did an amazing job engaging the children, and *Text*- Word searches and crossword puzzles that were Valentine's Day themed. Each of the 50 children that attended received a gift bag that included candy, pencils, a valentine, as well as a card that mentioned the event was put on by Mortar Board at Washington University. The members agree that the highlight of the day was the donation from Build-A-Bear which allowed each child to take home a bear, accessories, and outfit.

## MORTAR BOARD WEEK

\*LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, MORTAR BOARD WEEK PROJECT

### *Kansas State University*

This year, to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mortar Board, the XIX Chapter went above and beyond to present a successful Mortar Board Week program. On Monday members volunteered at a booth in the K-State Student Union where they passed out promotional items regarding the week and Mortar Board applications. Tuesday brought the keynote speaker, Mat Christenson, a K-State Mortar Board alum, who gave a moving speech titled "Inspired to Learn". The chapter hosted "Pop into Mortar Board" on Wednesday which involved passing out donated Pepsi products, candy, and Mortar Board stadium cups outside the library. The week ended on Friday with "Serving up a Thank YOU" a fiesta style feast that was enjoyed by all the members for their hard work during the year. The week allowed all the current Mortar Board members to celebrate the organization while increasing visibility across campus.

## CHESSMATES

\*SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, SERVICE PROJECT

### *William Jewell College*

ChessMates has, for two years, provided a framework for William Jewell College students to mentor elementary students in the Liberty Public Schools. A weekly game of chess is the vehicle by which Mortar Board members strengthen strategic thinking and communication skills in the elementary students. The Panaegis chapter partnered with the college's chapter of SIFE (Students in Free Enterprise) to work with 75 elementary students in two elementary schools over the course of two semesters. After spending one semester in the program, the students exhibited the following improvements in behavior and skills: increased attention spans, increased ability to articulate strategic options, and increased levels of self-confidence. At the end of the semester a chess tournament was held to celebrate the elementary student's accomplishments; prizes were awarded and each tournament participant received a ChessMates t-shirt.

## READING WITH THE HOGS: VALUING DIVERSITY

\*SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT

### *University of Arkansas*

The Octagon Chapter used a Halloween theme to teach racially and economically diverse elementary school children about diversity. Many of the students at the schools were minority students who had English as a second language. The parents of these students generally lack education and work in menial labor jobs. The teachers expressed that the children needed to be encouraged so that they would succeed and go to college because it was something that has been beyond the dreams of their parents. The classes were divided into three different groups within each classroom, were read three stories, and did a variety of craft activities. The goal of the chapter was to teach the children that being different from others around you is not a bad thing and that being different makes you special.

## MORTAR BOARD WEEK OF EVENTS

\*SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM/PROJECT, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT, SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT, MORTAR BOARD WEEK PROJECT

### *University of Wyoming*

Instead of holding a single event, the Cap and Gown Chapter decided to hold several fun-filled events throughout Mortar Board week which consisted of a week-long child's book drive and iPod Raffle, a mixer for Mortar Board members, alumni, and community members, a tutoring night, and a knowledge quest. The chapter made it a point to combine many of the goals of Mortar Board into their week of events. For instance, their tutoring night assisted the members in improving their leadership abilities while serving the university community by offering free tutoring. The tutoring also attracted new faces to Mortar Board events. The book drive allowed the community to learn more about the national project and drew people to the chapter's booth in the Wyoming Union. The chapter boosted their alumni participation in chapter events and improved their visibility on campus thanks in large part to the successful Mortar Board Week activities.

## SPELLING BEE

\* SERVICE PROJECT, IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL PROJECT, MORTAR BOARD WEEK PROJECT

### *Drury University*

During Mortar Board Week 2008 the Skiff Chapter held a school-wide spelling bee to raise books for a local elementary school. Teams from many campus groups competed to see who could stay in the competition the longest. The teams were encouraged to raise books for the school by providing a "cheat" for every 10 books donated on behalf of the team. Even more books were raised by requiring that every person that attended the event donate one book as an entry fee in which they could designate the book to one team. The event raised over 150 books in its very first year and the chapter hopes to make the Spelling Bee a continuing tradition at Drury.

## GARDEN OF THE GODS SECTION PROJECT 2007

\*SERVICE PROJECT

*Colorado State, Colorado College, University of Northern Colorado, University of Denver, University of Colorado/Boulder, University of Wyoming.*

This year marked the 5<sup>th</sup> consecutive year that Section 22 has volunteered for the Garden of Gods project. The Garden of Gods Park is a very large, city-owned park that receives little monetary support; therefore much of the work necessary to keep the park in good environmental condition is done by volunteers. Six out of the eight chapters within the section worked near the South Spring Canon Picnic Area cutting down dead scrub oak. Removing the scrub oak greatly reduces the fire hazard in the park; doing this by hand is very manpower intensive, but leaves far less impact on the park than machine operators and prevents new erosion from beginning.

## MORTAR BOARD NATIONAL CHALLENGE

\*FUNDRAISING, ALUMNI INVOLVEMENT, SERVICE PROJECT

*University of Hawaii at Manoa*

Prior to last year's national conference, the Hui Po'okela Chapter offered the "National Mortar Board Challenge" to each of the 214 chapters across the nation. In addition to typical fundraising efforts, the chapter took the Huli Huli (traditional Hawaiian-style roasted) Chicken sale global by soliciting participation and support from other Mortar Board Chapters. Overall the group sold more than 1,100 Huli Huli Chicken tickets (with more than 340 bought from two other Mortar Board Chapters) and was able to donate 400 whole chickens to the Institute for Human Services, a non-profit organization to help support the homeless. This donation translated to a contribution of more than 1,600 meals!

## MORTAR BOARD BLOOD DRIVE

\*SERVICE PROJECT

*University of San Diego*

This year the Alcalá Chapter of Mortar Board added a new service event to the calendar, a Mortar Board sponsored blood drive. In the week leading up to the event the University of San Diego campus was showered with signs, banners and posters advertising the blood drive! Not only did the advertising work for recruiting people to donate blood, it also greatly promoted the Mortar Board name. Even though the event required a lot of logistical work it was all worth it in the end when so many students came out to give blood that the Red Cross actually had to send students away!