SPECIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE SUMMARY
A Special National Conference was held virtually in January 2014 to allow chapters’ delegates to discuss and decide eight proposed amendments to the Bylaws of Mortar Board, Inc. All amendments carried, and they are restated here. A revised copy of the Bylaws may be found in your meeting materials and, of course, on the Mortar Board website.

Amendment 1 ARTICLE III Membership, Section 1
The candidate shall be at least in her/his junior year or the equivalent status in units or hours, depending upon the institution or the candidate's accelerated or prolonged curriculum. The intended date for the candidate's graduation shall be no sooner than one semester or one quarter following initiation, summer school excluded. Members entering graduate work or otherwise enrolled may continue collegiate membership to complete the full year following the initiation. A member initiated into the Society may continue collegiate membership until she/he has been awarded a baccalaureate degree. A member remaining on campus to earn a subsequent baccalaureate degree may continue as a collegiate member until that degree has been awarded. One no longer enrolled is not eligible to serve as a collegiate member.

Amendment 2 ARTICLE III. Section 2.1.
An alumni member is one who, by reason of graduation from a baccalaureate degree program, or other reasons, is no longer a collegiate member.

Amendment 3 ARTICLE III. Section 3.1
Honorary membership, being the highest honor given by the Society, may be conferred by a collegiate chapter or the National Council only upon a person who is not a college student, who has earned a baccalaureate degree, and who has made a distinguished contribution toward the advancement of the goals and purposes of the Society.

Amendment 4 ARTICLE III. Resignation and Dismissal
The previous Sections 1.11 through 1.13 were moved to a new Section 4 within Article III and renumbered Section 4.1, 4.2 and 4.3. The heading was changed to read “Resignation and Dismissal from Collegiate Membership.” The language was unchanged.

Amendment 5 ARTICLE V. Section 2.3
The National Office may utilize the aid and advice of a Conference Advisory Board in planning for and assisting at the national conference.

Amendment 6 ARTICLE VI.
Mortar Board’s national project is Reading is Leading. Each chapter may develop and participate in at least one literacy program focused on reading and writing skills.

Amendment 7 ARTICLE VII. Finances. Section 2.1
The National Council shall ensure that an appropriate accounting of the Society's financial statements is made annually.

Amendment 8 ARTICLE VII. Finances. Section 3.
When an alumni chapter or collegiate chapter becomes inactive, any funds remaining in the alumni chapter or collegiate chapter account after local obligations have been met must be transferred to Mortar Board, Inc. in care of the National Office.

NATIONAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS
ELECTING THE NATIONAL COUNCIL
The Society’s board of directors is called the National Council. It is composed of eight elected officers whose terms run for two years. Each year, Mortar Board’s voting delegates are charged with the task of electing members to fill offices that will be vacated due to term expiration. This year, one of the eight offices is up for election: student representative.

Qualities desired in a student representative
• Be a collegiate member of Mortar Board
• Be completely committed to fulfilling all the obligations of a two-year term
• Have strong communication skills
• Exhibit excellent time management
• Possess the ability to work successfully with students, alumni and administrators
Responsibilities include

- Attendance at the annual national conference and winter meeting
- Participation in every monthly meeting by conference call for the two-year term
- Input in regular email discussions
- Serving on standing committees
- Being a collegiate advocate in all National Council matters

A standing Nominations Committee chaired by Barbara J. Arnold (The Pennsylvania State University, 1981) and Susan Caples (The University of Alabama, 2006) has been charged with the duty of recruiting qualified candidates to replace the outgoing officer over the past few months. The candidates for National Council slated by the Nominations Committee follow.

CANDIDATES FOR STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE

Candidates for student representative were asked to submit a brief statement of interest to Mortar Board.

Madeleine Cloutier, Texas Tech University, 2014
Business marketing, with a minor in human development and family studies
Hometown: McKinney, Texas

In addition to serving as president of the Forum chapter, I am a Chancellor Ambassador and a Rawls College of Business Ambassador, acting as a representative of our university and my college on campus and in the community.

My career aspirations would be to work in a public relations or marketing foundation that benefits children. One of my biggest strengths would have to be “WOO,” winning others over. I love to meet new people and constantly be interacting. I also have a large passion towards helping children. Originally, I came into Texas Tech with a major in Early Childhood Education. I changed my major during the middle of my junior year to Business Marketing. One day, I hope to impact children on a larger scale. I would thrive in a public relation or marketing foundation that benefits children.

An example of a time when I successfully served on a board would be when I acted as the Risk Management Chair for the 2012 Panhellenic Executive Council, which governed 11 sororities and 2,000 sorority women. I was responsible for keeping the leaders of each chapter accountable for their women's actions, health, and safety.

Lubbock's worst risk management issue is drinking and driving. I implemented Texas Tech's very first annual "Don't Drink and Drive" week event, having Panhellenic partner with Kappa Delta Chi, a multicultural Greek sorority. During this awareness week, we held many events, including a wrecked car parked on campus to show the students the effects of drinking and driving. I tried to go the extra mile in implementing this event, which has been repeated for the last two years!

Once the fall semester begins, my internship with Target will end, and I will be a full time student. Besides classes and serving as the president of Mortar Board, I will have all of my time to devote towards the National Council for Mortar Board.

Within the two-year term that I would be serving on the National Council of Mortar Board, I plan to contribute a fresh new student voice. I have been involved in a variety of different activities giving me a unique and different background, but one thing in particular that may separate me from the pack is my experience working with incoming freshman. During the summer of 2012, I was on the Red Raider Orientation Crew, representing Texas Tech to thousands of perspective students. As New Member Coordinator for my sorority, I worked with 73 young ladies helping them transition into their new role as college students. I was worked as a student assistant for the Parent and Family Relations Department, which gave me a unique insight into the struggles of freshman year through a parent’s eyes.

Mortar Board was founded by women to promote women's education. So if we go back to the basics on how Mortar Board was founded, I truly believe that there is a need to reach out to the freshmen, and not just the upperclassmen. I feel like there is a void, because a lot of these students are slipping through the cracks. By fall of 2015, I would hope to have a plan in motion to make sure that we are reaching out to younger students, as well as upper classmen. Although younger students cannot serve on Mortar Board, I believe that the students on Mortar Board could find a way to reach out to the younger student's as mentors.
Assessing my obligations from August 2014 to August 2016, there are some areas that are still up in the air. I will complete my chapter presidency in fall 2014, closing out my undergraduate fraternity leadership experience. However, post-graduation I will likely be working for the fraternity for two years. My 2014-2015 academic year will consist predominantly of research into prisons and prison populations, which will be aided by my internship with the University Beyond Bars program.

While leading the executive board of my fraternity, we have almost doubled our membership and have reestablished ourselves as a leader in UW's community. This success has stemmed from dedicated hard work and a constant push to communicate and listen to everyone involved. I see these two factors as being the greatest initial contribution I can make to the National Council. I am dedicated to the organizations I affiliate myself with and will work hard for them. Often, this hard work involves my exceptional communication and listening skills that I have full intentions of utilizing in my position as Tolo Chapter president and if elected to the National Council. These contributions would begin immediately upon my selection in the hopes that I can build on this communication and listening to meaningfully address any topic or issue that might arise. Ultimately, through the swift implementation of these skills, I would help facilitate the development of interpersonal relationships essential to the Council’s success.

I am involved in a significant amount of extracurricular activities on UC's campus, and hope that I can make a positive impression on all of them. Regarding career aspirations, I hope to complete my masters degree in mechanical engineering, and pursue a career as a device design engineer in the medical device and biomechanics world.

I will be graduating from the University of Cincinnati, and plan on working full time and attending graduate school for the next 1-2 years. After graduate school I plan on focusing on my career as a design engineer.

For the last four years I have served as an At-Large Senator representing the entire University within Student Government. Through my communication, project planning, and active discussion facilitation we were able to implement initiatives that brought students together and improved the current student’s day to day life.

I believe I would bring a fresh perspective to the National Council of Mortar Board. Throughout my time, I would like to implement a mentorship program to encourage younger collegiate students to improve academically so that they are eligible for the honorary as a senior. Additionally, I would like to create a “signature event” to bring visibility to each chapter across the country. Finally, I would like to create a stronger bond between alumni and undergraduate students to assist in the adjustments from life after graduation. I will help facilitate this by communicating with different chapters and identifying strength and weaknesses, and continuing to keep networking and communication lines open.

Campus activities include being the President of Mortar Board Azalea Chapter, President of American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) South Student Chapter, Executive Vice President of National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Vice President of Alpha Chi National Honor Society, a member of Sigma Gamma Epsilon (SGE) Earth Sciences Honor Society, and a member of the Geology Club. Community services include volunteer work doing lawn maintenance for the elderly, teaching youth instruments at my church (Orchard A/G), as well as various other activities. My career aspirations are to become a chief petroleum geologist for a major oil company. I believe this is the first goal of many that I plan to obtain during my future career.

Obligations for August 2014 through August 2016 are grad school, considering acceptance. The grad schools I am currently looking into are Texas A&M, University of Houston, and Colorado School of Mines. An example of a time when I successfully served on a board and what brought about that success is
when I first became the President of AAPG. There was minimal member involvement in the beginning, where, as now, member involvement is almost 100 percent. This was brought about by motivating the members to actually strive to make a difference in their community and campus.

One way that I would like to contribute is by boosting member involvement this upcoming year by showing others that leaders lead by serving, not just delegating. This is just one of many ways I would like to contribute.

Andrew Wrisinger, University of Missouri-Kansas City, 2013

Business, organizational behavior
Hometown: Philadelphia

I am a 2013 MB initiate and current president of the Delta Alpha chapter of University of Missouri – Kansas City Mortar Board. I am a business major who studies organizational behavior — essentially, I study the psychology of networks, negotiations, and conduct research around these topics in our Behavioral Lab. I hope to take my background in business and psychology to create predictive models to help improve organizational structures. I’ve helped many tech companies better understand their engineering team’s networks — however, I’ve also taken my skills to outside student organizations in helping their philanthropic ventures.

I will be graduating May 2015 and plan on finding consulting work on the East Coast. Throughout the year, much of my time is dedicated to working in our school’s Behavioral Lab, where I assist in statistics, study coordination, and personal research. I am currently consulting in Shanghai and Beijing while later interning in Seoul, Korea by helping a start-up enter into the European market — I will continue to help this company through the next year.

I am a strong believer in transparency and ethics. While on our university’s Dean Student Advisory Cabinet, I became aware of certain ethical issues surrounding number fraud and emotional manipulation in a student organization I was a part of. I brought light to the issue to many administrators, though many turned their heads and refused to acknowledge the errant behavior. I reached out to external outlets to expose the issue after trying diligently to resolve the issue in-house for two months — the media and faculty came to assist and many students felt comfortable enough to speak out about what they felt pressured into as a ‘silence pact.’ Since, the organization has been audited and investigated while removed of certain advisors who allowed such heinous things to happen.

I believe I can offer a variety of problem-solving approaches to relational issues through my network mentality. I like to wrestle with challenges directly and with groups to get many different viewpoints around the issue. I can help improve Mortar Board’s relational network and improve its standing with many partners — I guarantee I can make a strong impact on this board and give it my all as a serving representative.

INCUMBENTS ON THE NATIONAL COUNCIL

National President - Martha (Marty) Lewis Starling, Kansas State University, 1962
B.S. in textiles and clothing, Kansas State University
M.S. and Ph.D. in clothing and textiles, The Pennsylvania State University
Retired director of development, The Pennsylvania State University

President-elect - Abigail G. Diehl, The Pennsylvania State University, 1995
B.A., advertising/public relations, The Pennsylvania State University
M.Ed. and Ph.D. in higher education, The Pennsylvania State University
Assistant dean for alumni college relations and special projects, The College of Health and Human Development, The Pennsylvania State University
Vice president - Katie Chick, Hood College, 2004
B.A., English, music: piano pedagogy
Director of career management, The Advisory Board Company

Secretary-treasurer - Jane Beyer, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee, 1980
B.A., political science and communication, University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee
M.A., public affairs, University of Wisconsin - Madison
Vice President-Specialized Development Manager, Associated Bank

Alumni representative - Clay C. Mingus, Purdue University, 1997
B.A., English and Spanish, Purdue University
J.D., 2001, The University of Georgia School of Law
Chief Legal Officer, Partner – La Cima Restaurants, LLC

Alumni representative - Paula J. Stuettgen, University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire, 1976
B.A., Latin American studies, Spanish, sociology, University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire
M.E.P.D., professional development and higher education administration,
University of Wisconsin-Stout
Senior coordinator emerita for assessment and special projects,
University of Wisconsin - Eau Claire

Student representative - Christopher A. Shulman, Texas Tech University, 2013
B.S., 2014, Texas Tech
First-year law student, Texas Tech University School of Law

OUTGOING NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBER

Student representative - Ellie Norris, Southern Methodist University, 2012
B.A., 2014, Southern Methodist University
First-year law student, University of Texas at Austin
Join us for the 2015 MORTAR BOARD NATIONAL CONFERENCE
July 31 - August 2
Phoenix
Sheraton Phoenix Downtown Hotel