

Mortar Board

National College Senior Honor Society



MEDIA RELEASE

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MORTAR BOARD HONORS OUTSTANDING ALUMNI

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society recently presented national awards to five alumni at its national conference in Atlanta.

The Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award was presented to Betty M. Nelson, initiated at the Barbara Cook chapter of Purdue University in 1988. Originally from West Virginia, Nelson received her baccalaureate degree in psychology and sociology from Radford University and a master's degree in student personnel administration from Ohio University. She worked at Purdue University for three decades, beginning in the Psychology Department before being asked to join the staff of the Dean of Women's Office. Rising through the leadership, Nelson became dean of students in 1987, retiring in 1996 when she was made dean of students emerita. While dean, Nelson helped create the Disability Resource Center, established many student leadership development programs, and served in leadership positions in the National Association for Women Deans, Administrators and Counselors and the Indiana Association for Women Deans, Administrators and Counselors. She continues to be active in community and local activities including the Community Foundation of Greater Lafayette (Ind.), the Lafayette Rotary Club, and the Lafayette YWCA. Betty is also the president of the Greater Lafayette Mortar Board Alumni chapter. Some of her many honors and awards include the Sagamore of the Wabash, the Helen B. Schleman Gold Medallion and the Amelia Earhart Award. Several Purdue awards are made in her name each year. A recently released book, *The Deans' Bible*, highlights Nelson's leadership as one of five groundbreaking women deans.

The Mortar Board Alumni Achievement Award is conferred annually upon extraordinary Mortar Board alumni who have demonstrated outstanding achievement in their professional lives, representing Mortar Board's commitment to the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. Honorees serve as remarkable role models and are selected by a group of their peers, who consider contributions at the local, national and international level. The Alumni Achievement Award was presented to three members.

David D. Coleman, M.A. was initiated at the Fayette Paulsen chapter of Bowling Green State University in 1984. Coleman is known worldwide as The Dating Doctor™. He has been honored 14 times as The National Speaker of the Year—11 times by *Campus Activities Magazine* and three times by The National Association for Campus Activities. In 2011, he became National Entertainer of the Year, the first and only speaker to achieve this honor. He is an author, entertainer, product-endorser and radio and television personality who is sought after for his programs on relationships, leadership, team-building, values and character. He has been featured in *Glamour*, *Us*, *Men's Health*, *Celebrity Living*, *Mademoiselle*, *Women's World*, *Cosmopolitan*, *USA Today*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post* and *The New York Times*. Major television networks and hundreds of radio stations nationwide have featured him. More than two million people at 3,500 campuses, corporations, military installations, churches and civic groups have heard one of Coleman's live programs. Millions more have read his books or seen his videos.

Glenda Earwood, Ph.D. was initiated at the Sphinx chapter of Auburn University in 1973. Executive director of Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society for First Year Students, Earwood honed her abilities in student affairs. After earning her Ph.D. at Florida State University, she became director of student life at Austin Peay State University and then dean of students at Wesleyan College (Macon, Ga). Known in higher education for her research about the effects of Title IX on the gender of members and officers in honor societies, Earwood established herself as an expert, bringing insight to the sometimes unexpected ramifications of the legislation. When it came to leading AΛΔ, Earwood was able to combine her love of students and higher education with a strategy for longevity of this honor society and has brought AΛΔ to great prominence and financial viability. Under her guidance over the last 17 years, AΛΔ has developed a robust fellowship and scholarship program and has built endowment funds that inspire awe. Earwood has developed a stellar reputation within the Association of College Honor Societies for both AΛΔ and for herself; she served as ACHS president in 2005-2006.

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Kathryn McDaniel Moore, Ph.D. was initiated at the Mabel G. Freeman chapter of The Ohio State University in 1964. Moore has had a distinguished career as a faculty member, researcher and higher education leader, serving on the faculty and in administration at Cornell University, Pennsylvania State University, Michigan State University, and North Carolina State University, from which she retired as dean of the College of Education in 2009. Moore is internationally recognized for the work she has done on issues of women's leadership in higher education and intercultural competence and institutional change. She has authored or co-authored two books, several monographs and book chapters and more than 40 articles in most of the major journals in the field of higher education in the U.S. and Europe. She led the first national study of administrators' careers in 1993-1995, which encompassed both two- and four-year colleges. Moore was a Fulbright Research Scholar in Brazil and has lectured the world over.

The Mortar Board Emerging Leader Award recognizes extraordinary Mortar Board alumni who are within 20 years of their graduation, have demonstrated exceptional achievement in their careers and are noted for outstanding community service. Honorees serve as remarkable role models and represent Mortar Board's commitment to the ideals of scholarship, leadership and service.

The Emerging Leader Award was presented to Sonya Laddon Rahders, B.A., initiated at the Agathai chapter of the University of California, Los Angeles in 2011. Rahders distinguished herself as a passionate student leader at UCLA with the "Sex Squad," which educated high school students about safe sex. Currently a third-year law student at the University of California-Hastings with a social justice concentration, Rahders is the editor-in-chief of the *Hastings Women's Law Journal*, is president emerita of Law Students for Reproductive Justice, and serves on the national board of LSRJ and the board of the Hastings Public Interest Law Foundation. Born and raised in Santa Cruz, Calif., Rahders completed a high school equivalency and moved to South Lake Tahoe as a teenager to pursue a dream of becoming a professional snowboarder. She began her nonprofit career at age 19 at the League to Save Lake Tahoe, known by its slogan "Keep Tahoe Blue." She earned her associate's degree from Cabrillo College and then transferred to UCLA where she found that Mortar Board, which she served as treasurer, was the first place she truly found a feeling of community on campus.

Mortar Board is the premier national honor society recognizing college seniors for outstanding achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. Since its founding in 1918, more than a quarter of a million members have been selected for membership at 231 chartered chapters across the nation. Mortar Board provides its members with 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 professional football player and philanthropist Drew Brees, former United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and award-winning actor Marion Ross. Learn more about Mortar Board at www.mortarboard.org.

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