

the mortar board tassel

BGSU MORTAR BOARD ALUMNI SOCIETY NEWS

President's Address by Scott Pogros

Mortar Board Alumni: To those of you who recently graduated from BGSU, I hope you have started a successful career. To those alumni who have been away from the University for a while, I hope you are striving for success in all you do.

Several years ago, our chapter returned to BGSU's campus with only three active members. Those three people are recent alumni and I would like to thank them for the standards they set



Mortar Board members get the word out at Campus Fest 2005

for Mortar Board members who came after them. When I was elected President of the Fayette Paulsen chapter of Mortar Board, I knew I was taking on something special and life-changing. I am pleased to report that the state of the chapter is strong. In just one semester, our chapter has accomplished great things.

With the help of our Community Service Chairwoman Melissa Haas we have organized several successful service projects ranging from collecting canned goods for those in need to supporting a book drive to benefit those affected by the hurricanes. Dr. Wanda Overland, advisor, also discovered that we had an endowment in our chapter's name. With the help of this endowment along with the membership applications going out this spring, an application for two \$500 Mortar Board sponsored scholarships will go out as well. This was a great step in helping our chapter to become more firmly entrenched on campus.

Bryan Warga, scholarship chairman, has done a remarkable job putting this scholarship together. Another proud point for our chapter was the adoption of a constitution at our second fall semester general meeting. Over the summer, I took on the task of writing a constitution for our chapter to strengthen the transition from one year to the next. The constitution that was drafted and adopted by this year's members will insure the Fayette Paulsen chapter will have the framework to function for years to come.

I am excited about the new members who will be inducted into Mortar Board in March. The officers and members working with me this year have set a high standard for Mortar Board as members who came before us did. I am confident the Fayette Paulsen chapter will continue to meet and exceed those standards.



Meet the Presidents!

Current President Scott Pogros with past president Jenna Laub at a Meet-and-Greet for prospective Mortar Board members at a recent recruitment event (left).

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Check Out Our Service Projects



Alumni Relations chair Katie Norman and Co-Membership chair Anita Moy assembling mums for Homecoming 2005.

Mortar Board is a national senior honor society that recognizes its members for outstanding leadership, scholarship, and service. The BGSU chapter of Mortar Board has proved its

outstanding service to the community by continued involvement in three very successful service projects throughout the 2005 fall semester.

In September 2005, Mortar Board supported a Hurricane Katrina Relief effort by collecting over two full boxes of non-perishable items that were sent to help fellow U.S. citizens in Louisiana. The second service project was the BGSU Blood Drive in October 2005. Members of Mortar Board gave blood and also spent many hours volunteering at the blood drive. The last service project was the annual Mortar Board Book Drive, running from the beginning of November to just before winter break in December. Mortar

Board members and members of the Bowling Green community donated new and used books along with school supplies. A large box of donated items then was sent to Mobile, Alabama with a group of BGSU students to help children in need due to the hurricanes.

The Fayette Paulsen chapter of Mortar Board is dedicated to providing service projects that not only benefit the surrounding Bowling Green community but also benefit other citizens across the U.S. As the spring semester begins, Mortar Board members look forward to many more chances to help and serve.

Melissa Haas
Service Chair

Membership Is Honored

Membership is an important quality to an organization such as Mortar Board. Having members participate in service events, interact with one another socially and academically, and emerge as leaders within the University are characteristics of these individuals. As membership chairs, we felt it necessary for our chapter to honor these students who donate their time and energy into Mortar Board. We contemplated several ideas; however, we discovered the best idea at our annual Homecoming alumni mum sale.

At the mum sale, we spoke with several alumni who informed us of the various traditions and events their Mortar Board chapters held and were involved with. One alumna explained how her Mortar Board chapter held a formal dance for both old and newly inducted members. We felt this would be an enjoyable event that could be coordinated. We have begun to organize this event and have scheduled the event for Saturday, April 1, 2006, at the Bowling Green Country Club. Other details and a theme are currently being established. All current and alumni Mortar Board members are welcome to attend with a guest.

Bowling Green Country Club is located on 923 Fairview Avenue. To make reservations for this event please email Anita Moy at amoy@bqnet.bgsu.edu. Additional questions and suggestions should be emailed to co-membership chairs Anita and Holly Fete at hfete@bqnet.bgsu.edu.

Alumni Spotlight: Carol Payne-Smith '55

Q: What was your area of study at BGSU and your first job after graduation?

A: I started out in music education but switched to business education. My first job after graduation was as an office administrator of the newly opened Counseling Center at BGSU and I began graduate studies that fall.

Q: What are you doing currently in the professional world?

A: I retired six years ago after teaching and holding various administrative positions for 35 ½ years at Western Michigan University. I retired as Professor of Education and Professional Development. My teacher preparation program at BGSU gave me the opportunity to hold teaching positions at the high school, adult ed., and then college level after earning a Ph.D. at Michigan State University.

Q: In what ways are you still attached to BGSU?

A: My husband, Robert L. Smith, and I have endowed the F. Lee and Patricia Miesle award for a graduate student in theatre, so we are interested in the Huron Playhouse and the undergraduate and graduate programs in theatre at BG. This fall I served on the planning committee for the 50th anniversary of the class of 1955.

Q: What are some of your best memories as a student here at BGSU?

A: I enjoyed serving as president of Student Senate, coordinating the orientation program for freshmen out of the Admissions Office, social activities in Delta Gamma, touring with the Women's Glee Club and the A cappella Choir, and the feeling of knowing practically everyone on campus. One highlight was a trip to Wilberforce University where we installed a chapter of Pi Omega Pi - my first experience as a member of a minority group.

Q: What was your favorite memory of Mortar Board?

A: Being tapped for Mortar Board and wearing the mortar board around campus that day was really a highlight. Getting to know the other women who were campus leaders in a non-competitive environment was a special experience.

Q: What do you miss most about BGSU, and what did your experiences here teach you?

A: Living in Kalamazoo, MI and being on the campus of Western Michigan University frequently means that I haven't left an academic and rich cultural environment, so I can't really say I miss anything about BGSU. Yes, I wish I could see some of my classmates and sorority sisters but we have all changed and grown in different ways. Times were simpler in the 1950's and we were sheltered from the problems and injustices in our country. We were exposed to segregation on the choir's trip to Florida and we were told not to violate the law if we boarded a bus, etc. We knew few men who were serving in the Korean Conflict and really didn't keep up with current events. Bowling Green had few minorities and international students, but I learned discipline, meeting deadlines, assuming leadership positions and getting to know people from different towns and cities. These qualities are still important for anyone to acquire. I believe my teacher preparation program was excellent and after reviewing many teacher's ed programs across the nation, I still would rate BGSU in the 1950's as superior.

We would like to thank Carol for participating in the Alumni Spotlight. If anyone is interested in future BGSU Mortar Board newsletters, please contact Katie Norman (sarahn@bqnet.bgsu.edu) or Scott Pogros (pogross@bqnet.bgsu.edu)



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Interesting Mortar Board Facts

- * Mortar Board was founded by The Ohio State University, Swathmore College, the University of Michigan, and Cornell University in 1918.
- * There have been more than 200,000 members of Mortar Board.
- * Mortar Board encourages lifelong dedication to the well-being of the global community.
- * The actual mortarboard represents ancient honor and distinction among scholars.
- * Our colors are gold and silver, for achievement and opportunity.

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