

# University of San Diego Mortar Board

Alcalá Chapter - Fall/Spring 2014/15 Newsletter



Members of the USD Alcalá Chapter of Mortar Board decided to move full speed ahead as *Changemakers* in the Linda Vista community! At their September 2014 Retreat, they enthusiastically accepted the role of *Changemaker* Leaders.

USD Mortar Board members help the nearby Linda Vista community by providing the *Reading is Leading* community event for Halloween, editing college essays for high school seniors, hosting campus tours of USD and providing a panel to answer questions about college.

USD Mortar Board members also raise funds to award STRIVE scholarships each year. They have developed a partnership with the Linda Vista community and are leaders and role models for the youth they serve. Every Mortar Board member looks for opportunities to provide leadership that makes a difference! The Mortar Board members are bona fide *Changemakers* in the USD tradition.

# *Leaping into Action!* USD Mortar Board Outreach

At the beginning of Fall Semester, Mortar Board members were out in full force at the Alcalá Bazaar informing new USD students about Mortar Board and the many leadership opportunities it provides. The event enables new students to strive for membership in Mortar Board.



KEARNY HIGH  
EDUCATIONAL  
COMPLEX



USD Mortar Board members have provided services to Keamy High School seniors in Linda Vista for 15 years. One of the services they provide is reading, editing and providing feedback to seniors looking for ways to improve their college application essays. They bond with the students who see them as role models. Members of the Alcalá Chapter of Mortar Board have earned the trust and respect of the Keamy High School graduating seniors, their teachers and administrators.



# BOO!

## Nothing Scares Mortar Board.... *Annual Reading is Leading Event!*

Every year USD Mortar Board partners with the USD Community Service Learning Center and participates in the annual Fall Festival at the Linda Vista Bayside Community Center. The Mortar Board *Reading is Leading* Event provides classic Halloween stories and “spooky” story time.

USD Mortar Board members, who wear Halloween costumes, read stories to Linda Vista children and the children read stories to the Mortar Board members! After story time, a long line formed out the door for the candy fishing game.

The Mortar Board booth was a hit and the children were fascinated with the “candy fish” they received after reading stories. Everyone from dinosaurs, princesses, and pirates came to read and fish.

The *Reading is Leading* event is USD Mortar Board’s contribution to the Linda Vista community effort to make *Trick or Treating* safe and educational for the children of Linda Vista.



# Faculty Appreciation Dinner

The Annual *Faculty Appreciation Dinner* provides an opportunity for Mortar Board members to recognize and honor faculty who have a history of scholarship, leadership and service and who have influenced their lives. Each Mortar Board member invites a faculty member to the dinner. On October 28th, 2014, there were 24 faculty and students in attendance – in addition to USD Mortar Board Advisors and Honorary Members. La Gran Terraza, a fine dining restaurant at USD, was devoted to the event. Each member spoke of his/her honoree and gave him/her a framed synopsis of their speech.

Honorees also received a Mortar Board coffee mug, a Mortar Board tablet & pen. After the event, members delivered hand-written Thank You cards with a photo of the student and the faculty member taken at the Faculty Appreciation Dinner.



USD Mortar Board Members



USD Mortar Board President, Kathleen Madden, presenting her remarks to Professor Mark Judd.



Mortar Board member, Kathryn Adamson presenting her remarks to Dr. Mike Williams.



USD Mortar Board member, Ruairidh Donaldson, presenting his remarks to Dr. Daniel Codd.

## *USD Mortar Board Parking Space Drawing Fundraiser*



In Fall semester the USD Parking Services Office provided Mortar Board with a Parking Space that could be used the week before finals. The Mortar Board Alcalá Chapter collected donations for drawing tickets. They raised \$350! The funds raised are used to fund the annual USD Mortar Board *STRIVE* Scholarships.

## *Backpack Stuffing with SDSU Mortar Board*



University of San Diego Mortar Board members joined San Diego State University Mortar Board members and San Diego Mortar Board Alumni members to stuff 50 backpacks with school supplies for children in need. USD members donated 25 of the stuffed backpacks to the Office of Community Service Learning and they distributed them to children who needed them in Linda Vista schools.

# *USD Mortar Board*

## *Best Kept Secrets*

This year Mortar Board Co-Historian, Lindsey Binkle, proposed an online fundraising idea. She asked all of the Mortar Board members to give her at least one secret family recipe. She collected over 30!

With the help of Charles Bass, a Mortar Board Administrative Advisor who is Director of USD Alumni Relations, she was able to establish a USD fundraising link for Mortar Board STRIVE Scholarships!

Mortar Board members put the donation link on their Facebook and emailed it to their families and friends.

When people donated, they received a compilation of USD Mortar Board Secret Family Recipes. The site raised \$1000 in less than a month!



## *San Diego County Mortar Board Alumni Chapter Honors Reception*

On March 22, 2015 the San Diego County Mortar Board Alumni Chapter held their 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Honors Reception at the University of San Diego Joan B. Kroc Institute of Peace & Justice. Silver pens were given to guests to mark the occasion.

Many Mortar Board alumni from San Diego State University, the University of San Diego and other universities attended the event as did active Mortar Board members from USD and SDSU.

Therese Truitt Whitcomb, was awarded the *Mortar Board Distinguished Alumna Award for 2015*. Therese was the first graduate of the San Diego College for Women in 1953. The College for Women, the College for Men and the School of Law merged in 1972 to become the University of San Diego. She received her Master of Arts from San Diego State University in 1968. In 1972, Therese met with Dr. Arthur Hughes, the first president of the University and told him of her concern about the appearance of the university. The outside of the buildings were Spanish Renaissance; however, the interiors contained primarily wicker furniture. As a result of that meeting, Dr. Art Hughes decided to include Mother Rosalie Hill's vision that the campus design be consistent and beautiful in the master plan. He named Therese Whitcomb, Director of Institutional Design, a position she held until she retired after 35 years of teaching.

Robert and Karen Hoehn were awarded the *Mortar Board Outstanding Service Award for 2015*. Robert and Karen, patrons of the arts, provided a very generous gift to the University of San Diego to expand the available exhibition space so beautiful art could be displayed for USD students and the greater San Diego community. Their gift created the Robert and Karen Hoehn Family Galleries as well as the Hoehn Family Print Study Room, which houses the university's collection of fine art prints and the research library. In addition to their support for the arts, Karen and Bob have been generous with their time and resources in furthering the work of many nonprofit organizations.

Darlene Davies, past president of the San Diego Mortar Board Alumni Chapter, introduced the honorees. USD President Mary Lyons and SDSU Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Geoffrey Chase, awarded alumni scholarships to outstanding Mortar Board members from their respective universities.

San Diego State University will host the San Diego Mortar Board Alumni Honors Reception in 2016..



*Darlene Davies and Honoree, Therese Whitcomb*



*Darlene Davies and Honoree, Robert Hoehn*



*Scholarship recipient, Brandon Bol and Dr. Mary Lyons*



*Scholarship recipient, Jesslyn Nuñez, and Dr. Mary Lyons*



*Scholarship recipient, Juliana Lockwood, and Dr. Mary Lyons*



*Scholarship recipient, Chelsea Nuñez,*



*USD Mortar Board Members and Advisors*

## *Mortar Board Members recognized as members of Alcalá 100*

USD Mortar Board graduating senior members were nominated and honored as members of *Alcalá 100*, a prestigious USD Alumni group. The Mortar Board members are now lifelong members of *Alcalá 100*, an elite group of seniors who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and service while students at the University of San Diego.

## *STRIVE Scholarship*

Members of the USD Alcalá Chapter of Mortar Board created the *STRIVE* Scholarship program in their first year (2000/01). *STRIVE* (Seeking to Recognize Individual Visions of Excellence) Scholarships are for Kearny High School Seniors who have excelled in scholarship, leadership and service.

Each year, USD Mortar Board members raise funds for *STRIVE* Scholarships. They review applications from Kearny High School seniors, select scholarship winner(s) and award the scholarships at the Kearny High School Award Program in June. Each *STRIVE* Scholarship provides \$500 to assist with book expenses for the student's first year of college. In June 2015, USD Mortar Board members will award four \$500 *STRIVE* Scholarships!

***USD Mortar Board members will have awarded over \$17,000 to 34 graduating seniors over the last 15 years.***



*USD Mortar Board member, Nicole Stenoish, presenting \$500 scholarships to two graduating seniors at Kearny High School - May 2014.*



# *USD Mortar Board prepare for America's Red Nose Day Campaign – May 21, 2015*



USD Mortar Board members quickly decided to join America's first Red Nose Day Campaign being sponsored by NBC and Walgreens. Each Red Nose costs \$1.00 and 50¢ is donated to lift children out of poverty. Red Nose Day began in the United Kingdom in 2013. It has been very successful!



## **M O R T A R B O A R D**

**SCHOLARS...CHOSEN FOR LEADERSHIP...UNITED TO SERVE**

Members of the University of San Diego Alcalá Chapter of Mortar Board are *Changemakers* who accept the challenge of providing leadership and being role models in the community!



### ***2014/15 USD Mortar Board Members***

President – Kathleen Madden    Executive Vice President – Katherine Anschuetz  
Co-Vice President of Membership – Chelsea Nuñez    Co-Vice President of Membership – Jesslyn Nuñez  
Alumni Liaison – Kelli Hatter    Communications Director – Chaney Countryman    Co-Historian – Lindsey Binkle  
Co-Historian – Hi'ilani Ng    Secretary – Juliana Lockwood    Treasurer – Taylor Kalinowski

Kathryn Adamson    Nicholas Bihl    Brandon Bol    Breana Burgos    William Carleton    Daniela Conde    Elizabeth Creech  
Caitlin Doherty    Ruairidh Donaldson    Stephanie Gorczyca    Stephanie Harrison    Dana Heintz    Lucy Hill    Lea Kiefer    Mina Krenz  
Claire Kuelbs    Elle Mahon    Aaron McCarthy    Kathleen McGuire    Danielle Meyers    Audrey Miciano    Brooke Miller  
Michael Muna    Shiv Patel    Sydnii Ray    Jonathon Richardson    Brandon Smith    Jessica Urbano  
Joshua Wheeler    Kimberly Woodbury    Andrea Young

#### ***Faculty Advisors***

Dr. Alana Cordy-Collins    Dr. Susan Lord    Dr. Michael Mayer    Dr. Judith Liu    Richard Custin

#### ***Administrative Advisor***

Charles Bass

#### ***Chapter Advisor***

Judith Lewis Logue

#### ***Honorary Mortar Board Members in order of their initiation beginning in 2000/01:***

Alice B. Hayes - Tricia A. Duran - Patrick F. Drinan - Mary E. Lyons - Francis M. Lazarus  
Anne M. Donnellan - Julie H. Sullivan - Alana K. Cordy-Collins - Susan M. Lord - Michael S. Mayer  
Thomas R. Herrinton - Carmen M. Vazquez - Delavan Dickson - Noelle Norton - Therese Truitt Whitcomb