

# Mortar Board Alumni *news*

April 2009

## Calling All MB Alums!

*Your immediate help is needed... even if this newsletter has arrived at your correct address!*

*Our membership roster needs extensive updating. Postage and returned mail are expensive. When operating costs are minimized, more funds are preserved for much-needed Mortar Board scholarships!*

*Please take a moment — today — and send the following, even if you confirm unchanged information:*

- your name
- your mailing address
- your phone number
- your MB university and class graduation year
- your email address (if any; email addresses are important).

*To email your information, send to mortarboardalumni.tolo@gmail.com*

*To mail to the Foundation, send to P.O. Box 53162, Bellevue, WA 98015*

*Your information is considered strictly confidential and will be used solely for Mortar Board communications. Please send by June 1. Thank you!*

## Mortar Board Brunch Coming Soon in May

This is it! You are cordially invited to this year's exciting Mortar Board Alumni Annual Meeting and Spring Brunch!

**Saturday morning, May 9, 2009**

**University of Washington Club  
(formerly the Faculty Club)**

**9:00 am - social mixer**

**9:30 - 11:30 am -**

**brunch and program**

Keynote speaker is a professor enormously popular with UW students and impressive by any measure. He is a teacher, an author, a blogger, a creative thinker.

Dr. David Domke, Chair and Professor of Communication, is nationally known by academic, political, media, and public audiences. He is the 2002 recipient of the University of Washington's Distinguished Teaching Award (the university's highest honor for teaching). He also was named the 2006 Washington State Professor of the Year by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education and the Carnegie

Foundation for Advancement of Teaching, and the 2008 favorite professor of the UW graduating class.



Professor Domke will share his insights into the national discourse and the future of professional

journalism, now so profoundly affected by the changed landscape for newspapers.

This not-to-miss morning also will salute the Classes of 1959 and 2009. A savory brunch awaits you!

**Your RSVP (with check) is needed no later than Saturday, May 2** (see enclosed form). Cost is \$25.00 per person. (Please respond to this newsletter invitation. An additional mailing will not be sent this year.) Send reservation to 5819 111th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA 98006. Questions? Call Margot Smith (425.747.6197).

## A word from the Board...

We are family. Whether we graduated as a Tolo from the UW or as a Mortar Board from one of over 60 other colleges and universities represented in our Foundation's membership, whether we graduated quite a few years ago or whether we will graduate this June, we are family.

There is much that unites us — a very special bond about believing in, as Mortar Board alumna Colleen Willoughby has said, the “three verities of Mortar Board” — scholarship, leadership, and service. These timeless verities are especially important in this challenging time. Coupled with them are a commitment to serving causes larger than oneself, a resolution to give of one's best, and a desire to learn and understand well the nature of the challenge before one.

Several years ago, the Foundation mailed a survey to the entire membership to ask alumni preferences for possible future directions of the Foundation. Responders were strongly supportive of the Foundation's ongoing mission. Alumni also offered to serve on committees and boards. Their participation and collaboration have been both wonderful and essential.

In positioning for the future, the Foundation needs to reach out in new ways... together with you.

- Our membership records need an overhaul. Your confirmation or update (by email, note, or telephone call) is vital! If you have an email address, please include it. All contact information will be respectfully protected. We need to hear from everyone.
- New ways are needed to connect with our recent graduating classes. Email, Facebook groups, and network groupings are being developed.
- Even wider volunteer participation is needed — but in a manner that makes sense in your life. Would you like to be on a committee or board? Would you like to help with the Centennial or with the Scholarships program? Do you have webmaster, publishing (or other) skills? Do you have but an hour per year to help? Or? Let us know!
- Seriously consider giving to Tolo Chapter's Centennial Scholarship Endowment, to existing Foundation scholarships, or to the operating fund. Perhaps you might even want to create a new scholarship. If yours is a modest gift, it is welcome. Modest gifts couple with other donations and collectively can do wonders.
- Come to the Alumni Brunch on May 9th. It will be wonderful!

Everyone has a unique role to fill in the world. Everyone, including and perhaps especially you, is indispensable. — Nathaniel Hawthorne

## Foundation Scholars Excel

Academic majors range from music performance to neurobiology, from architecture and engineering to international studies, nutritional science, communications, and more. Thirty outstanding UW students were selected for Mortar Board Alumni scholarships, which totaled \$38,000 in awards for this academic year.

2008/2009 Mortar Board scholars (and their awards) include the following:

Teresa Antonoplos	(Ruth and Marshall McDonald, Tolo)
Chantel Arey	(Elizabeth Ayers)
Suttipong Boonthong	(Elizabeth Ayers)
Courtney Burnett	(Margaret Hadley)
Nicholas Connolly	(Elizabeth Ayers)
Andrea Dai	(Dorothea Taylor, Tolo)
Emily Eck	(Elizabeth Ayers)
Clifton Govan	(John and Willa O'Connor, Tolo)
Nila Gregory	(Anderson-Schuler, Tolo)
Amy Grinsteiner	(Florence Reynolds Wiltsie, Tolo)
Kristin Gustafson	(Madeline Jones Campbell, Tolo)
Sara Gutierrez	(Elizabeth Ayers)
Courtney Hampson	(Dr. Eleanor Hadley)
Timothy Harris	(Margaret Shaw Anderson, Tolo)
Jonathan Hill	(Music Performance)
Amanda Hull	(Arnold and Carolyn Bryant Peterson)
Priscilla Kuk	(Elizabeth Ayers)
Karlyn Kurokawa	(Carrie Cowgill Thompson)
Charla Lemoine	(Margery Phillips, Tolo)
Alison O'Leary	(Margaret Graham/Priscilla Renwick Trzcinski)
Hillary Phillip	(Elizabeth Ayers)
Alexander Rosinski	(Arnold and Carolyn Bryant Peterson)
Zoe Saur	(Arnold and Carolyn Bryant Peterson)
Allison Schlilaty	(Elizabeth Ayers)
Eric Soran	(Margaret Hadley)
Cindy Steger	(Arnold and Carolyn Bryant Peterson)
Andrea Swenson	(Elizabeth Ayers)
Kristi Timme	(Betty Benson Runstad)
Yan-Yat To	(Arnold and Carolyn Bryant Peterson)
Ryan Zeilonka	(Cassie Bryant)

Named scholarships are the result of significant gifts honoring or memorializing esteemed Mortar Board alumni. A reception was held earlier this year for donor families and scholars to meet.

# Tolo Chapter Nears Centennial



*Officers of Tolo Chapter's Centennial Class of 2009 relax by Red Square after initiating the Tolo Class of 2010.*

## Banner Year for UW Chapter

Tolo Chapter's Class of 2009 has continued a century's tradition of contributing significant service and leadership at the University of Washington.

Since 2003, Tolo Chapter has recognized inspirational undergraduate teaching by UW faculty through its "Mortar Board Excellence in Teaching Award." Undergraduates campus-wide nominate professors for the award, and the chapter selects the recipient. This year's award will be presented in May.

Raising funds for the Tolo Centennial Scholarship Endowment has been a chapter priority. Scholarships will be awarded to deserving UW students once the endowment goal is reached.

Contributing to Mortar Board's national project, Reading Is Leading, Tolos partnered with Better World Books in a book drive to

support the National Center for Family Literacy. During fall, 2,000 books were gathered on campus. Tolo members participated in Martin Luther King Day of Service by helping to beautify Seattle's Peace Park. Members also helped at a homeless shelter.

UW President Mark Emmert honored Tolo Chapter by declaring March 2-6, 2009, "Mortar Board, Tolo Chapter Week" at the University. The incoming Tolo Class of 2010 was tapped that week, and tapping achieved high visibility on the front page of the *UW Daily*. In early April, the new class was festively initiated before families and friends.

The Classes of 2009 and 2010 are meeting together in a collaborative Mortar Board transition and will host President Emmert at an April brunch to celebrate a splendid year.

## Tolo Centennial Scholarship

The Centennial Class of Tolo Chapter is excited to once again be a part of the annual Alumni Brunch on Saturday, May 9th! During this event, we look forward to meeting alumni and explaining our Tolo Centennial Scholarship Endowment, which will provide scholarships to deserving UW students exemplifying the ideals of scholarship, leadership, and service.

Unfortunately, as you know, colleges and universities have not been spared from the drastic effects of our current economic climate. Consequently, the cost of attaining a higher education is becoming increasingly difficult with rising tuition and sweeping budget cuts that seriously reduce classes, raise tuition,

and increase the time it takes for students to earn their degree. Now, more than ever, it is important for those who are able to support students of promise. The Tolo Chapter of Mortar Board aims to be a leader in this effort.

To encourage donations to this important endowment, we are suggesting a special (but altruistic) "competition" this year, which will include all gifts received by July 1, 2009. The class donating

the largest collective amount, in addition to the class having the highest

percentage of donors, will receive special recognition both at the 2010 Brunch and in the next Mortar Board Alumni/Tolo Foundation newsletter.

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## Tolo Centennial Scholarship

*(continued)*

As a guideline, we suggest a donation of \$5 for every 5 years of your alumni status. For example,

- members of the Classes of 1994-1998 are encouraged to give \$15,
- members of the Classes of 1989-1993 are encouraged to give \$20,
- members of the Classes of 1984-1988 are encouraged to give \$25, etc.

Of course, we will accept donations in any amount and greatly appreciate whatever you are able to give.

All Mortar Board alumni, regardless of their university of Mortar Board affiliation, are invited to participate. All donors will receive tax receipts and letters of appreciation from Tolo Chapter.

We hope we can count on your support during the Tolo Centennial Scholarship campaign to bolster our chapter's endowment, so that we may continue to pass the torch to the next generation.

*(Make donations payable to "Mortar Board Alumni/Tolo Foundation" and specify "Tolo Centennial Scholarship" on your check's memo line.)*

## Financial Report

The Mortar Board Alumni/Tolo Foundation ended its 2007/2008 fiscal year with \$738,081.00 in assets. This followed a year of total scholarship awards just shy of \$40,000. During the summer of 2008, several high profit assets were liquidated, creating a strong cash position. The move turned out to be a solid buffer against the steep economic downturn that ended 2008 and now allows remaining portfolio assets time to recover. The Foundation's scholarships program will continue its support of deserving UW students with temporarily a somewhat smaller awards total than in recent years to protect principal and allow for endowment growth.

### **MORTAR BOARD ALUMNI/TOLO FOUNDATION**

#### **Board of Directors, 2008/2009**

President	Margot Nilsen Smith
Treasurer	Barbara Schlag Peterson
Secretary	Dorothy Marston
Director	Carol Coryell
Director	Dr. Barbee Tucker-Pigott
Director	Stan Sidor
Director	Dr. Carrie Sylvester
Director	Suzanne Whitacre

## Mortar Board... online!

**It's now "under construction" ...but don't look for towering cranes!**

Mortar Board alumni will soon have a website where our region's latest Mortar Board news, announcements, and dates for future events will be posted:

<http://www.mortarboardtolo.org>

You also can reach the Mortar Board Alumni/Tolo Foundation through email at

[mortarboardalumni.tolo@gmail.com](mailto:mortarboardalumni.tolo@gmail.com)

Should you be interested in visiting other Mortar Board websites, the following may help you:

National Mortar Board's website:

<http://www.mortarboard.org>

UW Tolo Chapter's website:

<http://uwmortarboard.org>

Over 60 colleges and universities are represented in the Foundation's membership. To link to the websites of other collegiate Mortar Board chapters, visit

<http://www.mortarboard.org/chapter/list.html>

## Did you know?

The cost of attending college has risen nearly three times the rate of the cost of living, and could eventually put higher education out of reach for most Americans, according to a National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education report. The problem could affect the United States' global competitiveness, the center said in its biennial report.

College tuition continues to outpace family income and the price of other necessities, such as medical care, food and housing, the center found. College tuition and fees, adjusted for inflation, rose 439 percent from 1982 to 2007, towering over increases in medical care, housing and food, according to the report. Median family income rose 147 percent during the same period.

The report does not include the proposed 14% tuition increases proposed for the next two years at the University of Washington and Washington State University, as a result of proposed drastic budget reductions in state support for these universities.

Your gift (of any size) to Mortar Board Alumni/Tolo Foundation scholarships has never been more important!

**MORTAR BOARD ALUMNI / TOLO FOUNDATION**  
**Post Office Box 53162 Bellevue, WA 98015**