Dear Student,

Mortar Board is an honor society for college seniors open to the candidacy of all students of junior standing with a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or above who plan to graduate in December 2010 or May 2011. Selection for membership is based on scholarship, leadership, and service to the college or community. Since Mortar Board is an active society, members are expected to participate in the chapter’s activities throughout their senior year to retain their membership.

Mortar Board is a national organization founded by Ohio State University, the University of Michigan, Cornell University, and Swarthmore College on February 16, 1918. UVM joined the organization in 1924. There are currently 228 active chapters on campuses throughout the country. Our traditional activities include conferring Sophomore Awards on potential members, raising money for the United Way, donating food to needy families through the local food shelf, cooking weekly dinners at the Ronald McDonald House, sponsoring a single parent family during the holidays, raising money for the Vermont Respite House, and various other volunteer activities. We typically receive over one hundred applications from the top students at UVM, of which approximately one quarter are selected.

The current members of the UVM chapter will be selecting students for next year’s chapter in February. In order to have sufficient information to evaluate your candidacy, we ask you to complete the Application Information Sheet which is on our website: www.uvm.edu/~mboard. In addition, we request a brief, informal letter from a faculty member or campus official commenting on your leadership potential and past service to others. This letter must be sent directly to Mortar Board, Department of Student Life, Davis Center, Room 310, University of Vermont, Burlington, VT 05405. These documents are due no later than 4 pm on Monday, February 8, 2010. You need not return the Application Information Sheet if you do not wish to be considered for membership.

Congratulations on the possibility of your becoming a Mortar Board member. If you have questions, please feel free to contact anyone on the membership selections committee listed below. You may wish to attend the information session on Tuesday, January 26, 2010, at 8 pm in Lafayette 210. A short film about Mortar Board will be shown and any questions you have will be answered.

Good luck with your application!

Sincerely,
Jessica McCarthy
Mortar Board President