

Pierce

Jim Breen '86
Reflects on a Career
in TV News

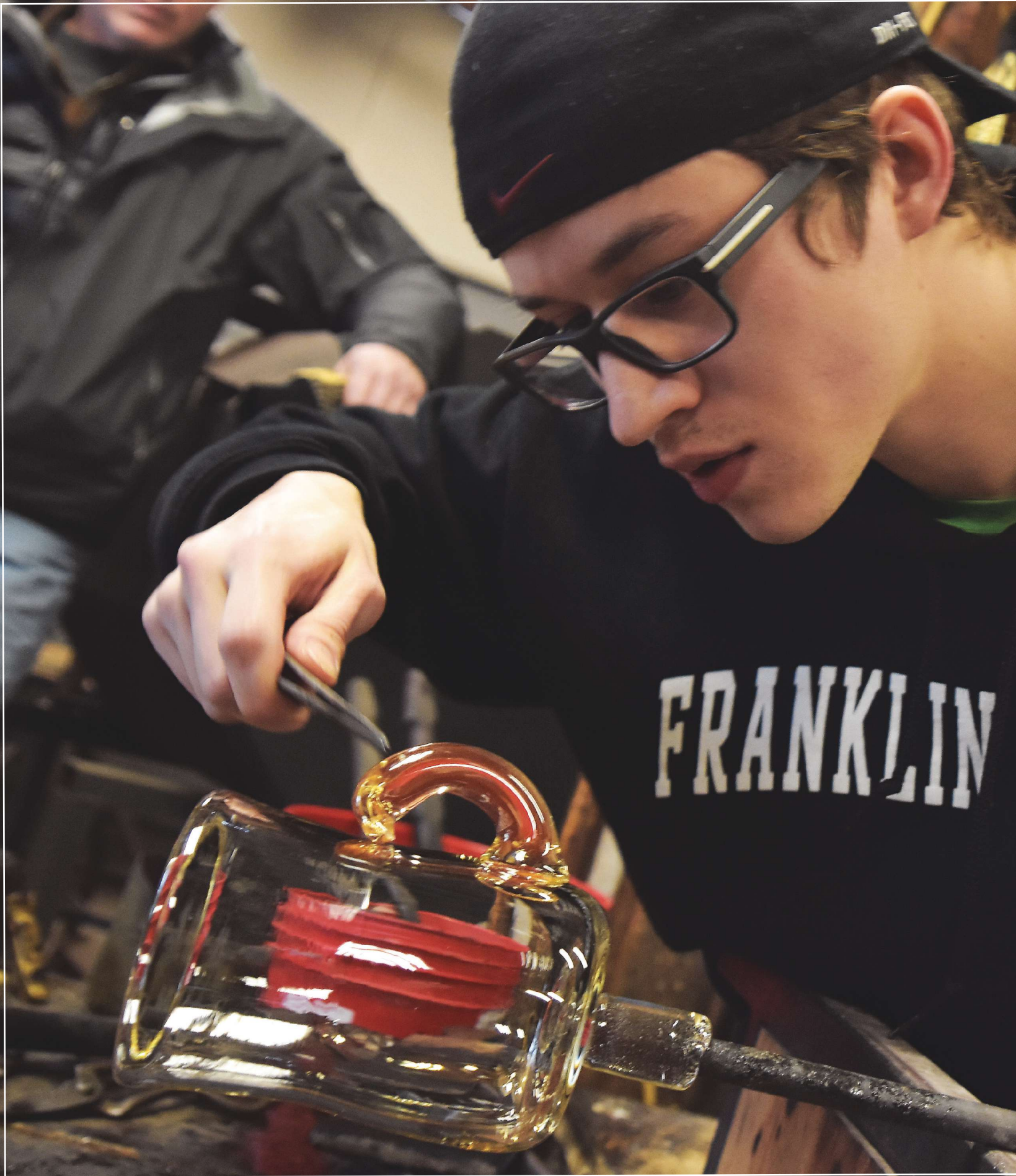
Scott Bleakney '95
Talks About Life
at the Most Magical
Place on Earth

Karen Scolforo's '98
Path to the Presidency

**WHERE
OPPORTUNITY
AND INSPIRATION
MEET**

**Franklin Pierce Professor
Josh Cleland — Award
Winner and Mentor**





Alex Frey '17 attaches a handle to a freshly blown mug in Franklin Pierce University's Glass Blowing Hut.

PIERCE



Fall/Winter '18

VOL. 36, NO. 2



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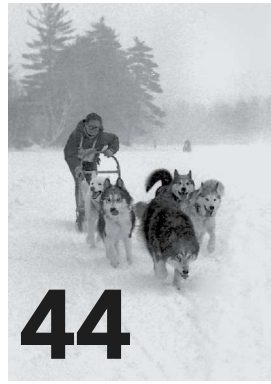
PHOTOGRAPHER: ANDREW CUNNINGHAM



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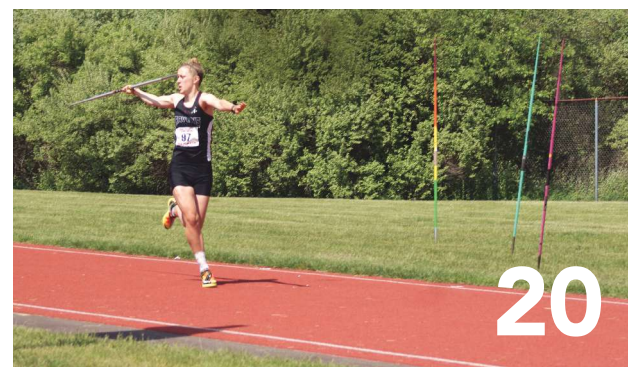
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Pierce

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“We are committed to investing in opportunities for our students to reach their greatest potential.”



Fostering Curiosity and Experiential Learning

In our strategic plan, Advancing & Sustaining Raven Nation: Engage 2016 - 2020, we challenge ourselves to harness our many strengths as a University to create an environment that fosters intellectual curiosity and encourages experiential and applied learning. The mission that drives us is to prepare our students to become confident and knowledgeable individuals who are well-prepared for their future careers and communities.

We are committed to investing in opportunities for our students to reach their greatest potential. Every day, I see our mission come alive in myriad ways. Undergraduate students tell me about their classes, clubs and community service. Graduate students treat patients in local clinics and solve business problems where they work. Faculty members propose ways to link their curricula to issues in the wider community. Business leaders ask how to engage our students as interns and future employees.

Our strategic challenge is to lead the way in individualized, experiential learning, while maintaining the fiscal, operational and planning discipline necessary to enroll, support and retain our students.

To that end, this fall we launched new information systems to better respond to students' needs and facilitate alumni success on the other side of their Franklin Pierce degree. The Nest integrates information about students' academic, residential, medical, social and extracurricular needs, helping us identify and support at-risk students, keeping them on track to graduation. Pierce Portfolio consolidates information about students' interests, career preparation, job searches and employment, and promotes lifelong connections with our alumni. Additionally, we created the Raven Nation app to better engage with students — on their phones! The app is a

student-centered approach to communications that connects our community, digitally.

Over the summer, we completed several capital projects on the Rindge campus that enhance the student experience. These enhancements include a significant investment in water filtration, improved wireless internet access, touchscreen computers, and the addition of an artificial turf playing field and an ongoing renovation of Monadnock Hall for the College of Business. We enhanced the Library Café with the addition of a new outdoor patio and fire pit which now plays host to Friday night gatherings. The Franklin Pierce Centers in New Hampshire and Arizona are enjoying classroom renovations and new equipment and furniture. Our investments today will add to the quality of life for both our undergraduate and graduate student communities.

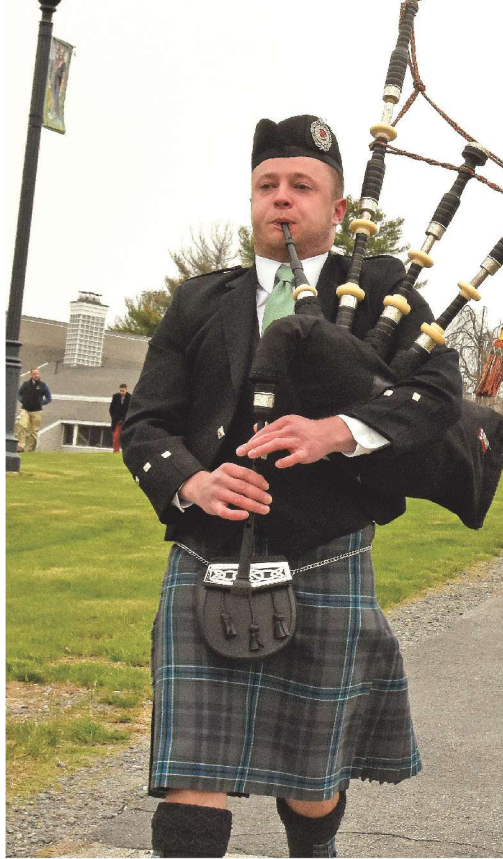
Finally, this fall we will undergo our comprehensive accreditation peer review by the New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE). Over the past two years, faculty, staff, trustees, and students prepared the self-study report which assesses the University against shared standards that unify the quality of higher education across New England. This report is currently being reviewed by the NECHE visiting team. In November, they will meet with all constituent groups, identify strengths and make recommendations to enhance institutional effectiveness. I look forward to sharing the results of this important review in the spring.

KIM MOONEY '83
PRESIDENT



Students celebrate at the University's 53rd Commencement.





RAVENINGS

CLASS OF 2018

Commencement Ceremony: A Bright Spot on a Rainy Day

Graduates, parents, faculty and guests braved the cold and rain to celebrate the University's 53rd Commencement Saturday, May 12, 2018. President Kim Mooney '83, welcomed graduating Ravens, reminding them of the best qualities of their namesake bird. "Ravens are the smartest of birds, adaptable, empathetic, cooperative and playful." She highlighted these qualities in the engaged and close-knit Franklin Pierce community, offering congratulations to all.

The University conferred 581 degrees, including 81 doctorates in physical therapy; 132 master's degrees in business, physician assistant studies and nursing; 352 undergraduate degrees; and 16 associate degrees.

Joshua Mercer '18, valedictorian for the College of Graduate and Professional Studies, shared this advice with his classmates: "Use your education to be vehicles for positive change. Be inclusive, ask

questions, be curious and never forget the relationships we built as we came together to accomplish a common goal."

Mooney and Provost James DuMond Jr. awarded two honorary degrees and a special award. One went to Dana Bash, CNN chief political correspondent, recognized for her diligence and adherence to the truth in reporting the news. Bash encouraged graduates to be ambitious, but not overly calculating. "Love what you do, first because you are going to spend a lot of time doing it, and second because passionate and engaged professionals are better at what they do."

Leader Bank founder and CEO Sushil Tuli was recognized for his entrepreneurial spirit, community-minded banking practices and generosity that inspires others. Northeast Delta Dental President and CEO Tom Raffio received the Hon. Walter R. Peterson Citizen Leader Award for his outstanding leadership, humility, professionalism and sense of humor.

At the ceremony's closing, Mooney bid farewell to the Class of 2018.

"Over 20,000 graduates enthusiastically welcome you into the Franklin Pierce University Alumni Association," she said. "We are forever connected to each other and to this special University, our alma mater. You are always welcome here. We will always want to know how you are." — *Julie Rizzo*

"We are forever connected to each other and to this special University, our alma mater. You are always welcome here. We will always want to know how you are."

— KIM MOONEY '83



ANDREW CUNNINGHAM

“ I talked about telephone interviews and how to prepare for them. As it happened I had a telephone interview in June for a job I applied for. I didn’t get the job, but I wanted to share my experience... ”

SHARING EXPERIENCES

Alumni Create Life After College Videos

Renting your first apartment. Negotiating your first salary. Figuring out how to invest. How to navigate these and other milestones of adulthood were central to a series of videos Pierce alumni made over Reunion Weekend to share their experiences with younger Ravens and recent graduates.

“The initial idea came from President Mooney,” said Henry Ellis ’69, president of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. “From there, I took the idea to Katie Copeland [alumni relations] and Misty Start ’11 M.Ed. ’17 [career services center]. They were the ones that put together the topics to be covered and worked with Kristen Nevous [Marlin Fitzwater Center] to arrange the taping.”

Topics included marketing yourself, interviewing and resume tips, how to send follow-up emails and thank you notes, building your savings and understanding credit scores, investing for retirement and how to adhere to workplace etiquette.

“I talked about telephone interviews and how to prepare for them,” said Ellis. “As it happened I had a telephone interview in June for a job I applied for. I didn’t get the job, but I wanted to share my experience, as telephone interviews are being used more and more as initial screening mechanisms today.”

Ellis and three other Raven alumni made videos, and there are discussions about adding more to the series. — *Holly Beretto ’93*



NURSING RESEARCH

Nursing Research: Improving Babies' First Breaths

Nearly one in 10 babies born in the U.S. requires some degree of intervention to take their first breaths. An endotracheal tube may need to be inserted in the tiny airway within seconds or minutes of birth, a life-saving procedure that requires speed and precision.

Dr. Paula McWilliam, director of nursing at Franklin Pierce, has assembled a research team and developed a prototype device, the Sensor-Integrated Laryngoscope, to measure the torque and force applied to insert the tube. The device provides objective data to guide first responders and medical personnel learning and using the technique.

"In newborns, every attempt to intubate doubles or triples the risk of infection," said McWilliam. "The ultimate goal is to reduce errors and injury."

McWilliam's team includes faculty and students from Pierce's nursing and physical therapy programs. They recently collaborated with the Laerdal Company of Norway to test the laryngoscope on a beta version of their SimBaby manikin, a highly realistic infant simulator that helps clinicians develop critical "muscle memory" for proper technique.

McWilliam has partnered with Dr. Louis Halamek, a professor in the Neonatal and Developmental Medicine division at Stanford University, and faculty from the College of Engineering and Physical Science at University of N.H., to design and prototype the laryngoscope.

McWilliam's research is supported by N.H.-INBRE (IDeA Network of Biomedical Research Excellence) in collaboration with the N.H.-INBRE lead institution, the Geisel School of Medicine at Dartmouth, and several partner institutions including Franklin Pierce. — *Julie Rizzo*

SAVING LIVES

Ravens Research Opioid Crisis

Every day, more than 90 Americans die after overdosing on opioids, according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, which recently issued a report citing that the misuse of and addiction to opioids, including prescription pain relievers, heroin and synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, is a serious national crisis affecting public health and social and economic welfare.

Annalea "Annie" Wohlgemuth '20 is assisting Dr. Leila Jabbour, associate professor of health sciences at Pierce, with her research on the effect of opioids on the human brain.

Jabbour's current project is focused on mapping expression of Δ FosB in postmortem human brain specimens obtained following opioid overdoses. "Our long-term goal is to better understand addiction resulting from the abuse of opioids, by analyzing differential gene expression in the specimens we have on hand," she said. The research is funded by N.H.-INBRE of the National Institutes of Health.

As a student research assistant, Wohlgemuth prepares brain tissue slides to be analyzed by Jabbour. The tissues are harvested from the hippocampus, nucleus accumbens and amygdala, areas that control fear and are affected by the presence of opioids.

"First, tissue samples are dewaxed and affixed to a specimen slide," she said. "The

tissue slide is baked in a hybridization oven and then blocked with horse serum. A primary and secondary antibody is applied and rinsed off. Diaminobenzidine, an organic compound that is used in the staining of nucleic acids and proteins, most commonly for immunohistochemical procedures, is applied and counterstained."

The process takes a couple of hours, and Wohlgemuth said the experience is invaluable.

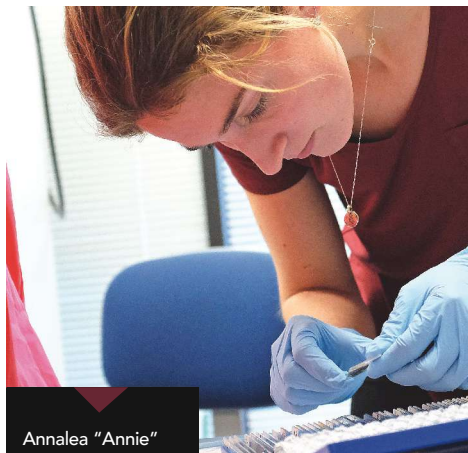
"Hands-on experience in the field of science is so very important," she said. "This opportunity allows me to relate this research to my ongoing coursework. If I were not at FPU, I would not be as successful as I have been."

Last year, Wohlgemuth was inducted into the Alpha Chi academic honor society. Members must be in the top 10 percent of their class and be nominated by a faculty member.

"Annalea Wohlgemuth is the type of multidimensional student that Franklin Pierce University attracts and mentors for optimal success during their time here," said Provost James DuMond. And Wohlgemuth agrees about mentoring.

"The professors always answer their emails and are available during their office hours to assist in any way they can."

— *Alexa Wallace '16 MBA '19*



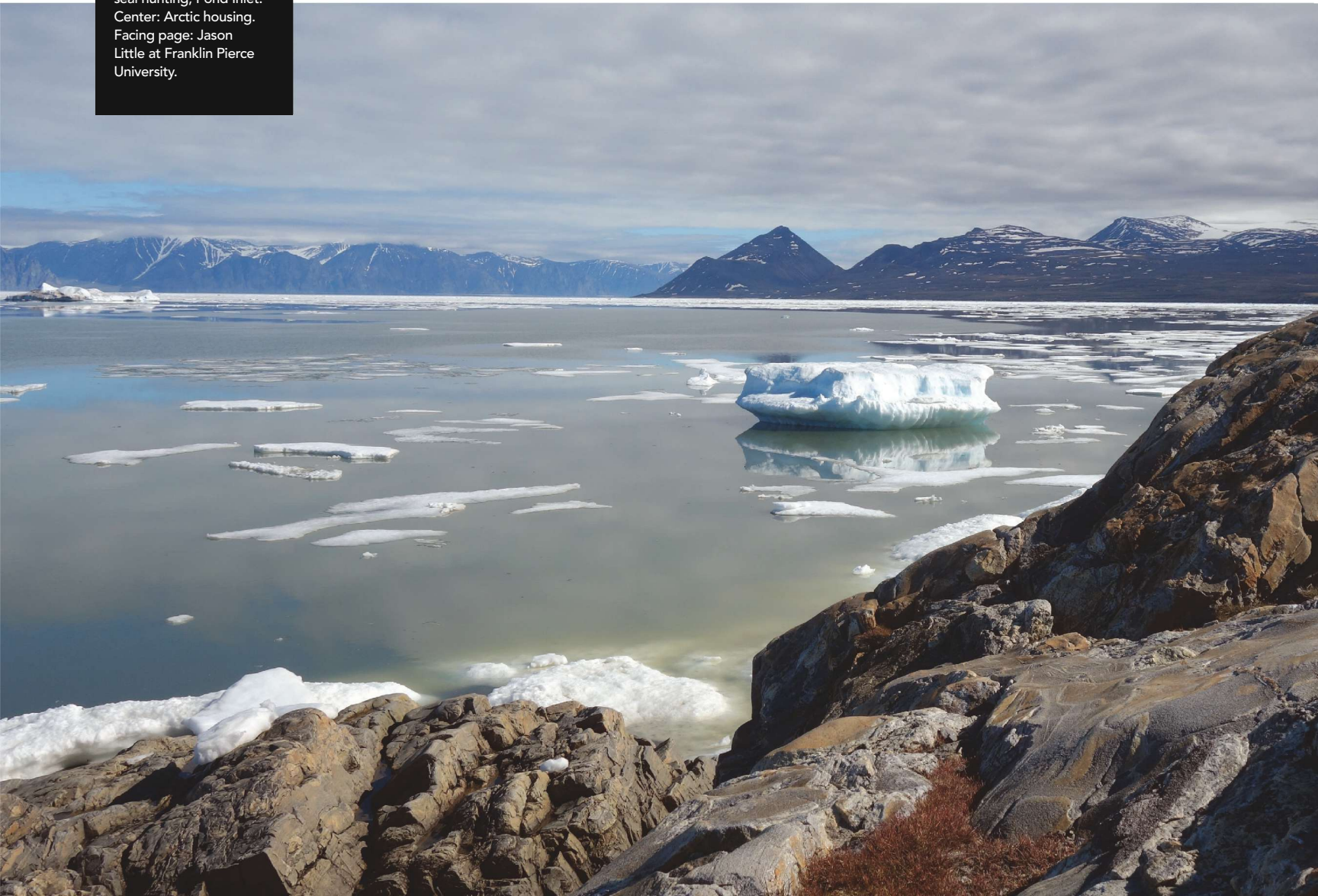
Annalea "Annie" Wohlgemuth '20 in Dr. Leila Jabbour's lab.



RAVENINGS



This page, clockwise from upper left: Qamutiiks (snow sleds), Aileen Hope with mentees, a family seal hunting, Pond Inlet. Center: Arctic housing. Facing page: Jason Little at Franklin Pierce University.





MARKETING ON ICE

Jason Little Studies Canadian Inuit Businesses

In summer 2008, Jason Little took a 600-mile canoe trip on the Kazan River in Canada's Nunavut Territory.

"I was blown away with the landscape, animals (including caribou, muskox, lake trout), the cultural sites and the Inuit people I met on the river," said the Franklin Pierce professor of marketing. "Nunavut is really the last frontier in North America — a territory three times larger than Texas, with a population of only 40,000 — primarily Inuit spread across 25 hamlets." That trip made him realize he wanted to work on a project that would combine his love of university teaching with his admiration for Inuit culture.

It would take another 10 years to come to fruition, but in July 2018, Little fulfilled his dream, traveling to Nunavut to mentor a small group of young Inuit entrepreneurs and complete a study that would benefit Inuit-owned businesses there.

The center for his studies would be the hamlet of Pond Inlet, a location he calls "a crown jewel" at the northern tip of Baffin Island overlooking a northwest passage through Eclipse Sound.

Through networking, Little met Aileen Hope. "She is what I consider an angel volunteer in the community, speaks Inuktitut and knows just about everyone at Pond," said Little. She connected him with a group of young entrepreneurs who had been meeting monthly at the local library, and Little began mentoring sessions via videoconferencing. They worked on sustainable business practices, mission statements, quality product design, website development and inventory management, issues that take on special challenges in a location where ice conditions dictate accessibility and drive business cycles.

"I wanted to learn about what kind of marketing communication strategies are being used and what might be done differently to improve the strategy to get the word out."

Earlier this spring, before leaving on his semesterlong sabbatical, he engaged students in Franklin Pierce's Small Business Advisory Club to do preliminary research on 343 Inuit-owned companies, gathering data on their existing online presence and marketing strategies. Their work is part of Little's larger report, "A Research Study to Determine Effective Marketing Communication Strategies for Businesses Located in Nunavut, Canada."

In July, Little met with his core group of mentees to help their small businesses improve on leadership best practices, goal setting, business planning, budgeting and accountability. He worked intensively with Jamesie Itulu, a partner in the emerging business High Arctic Apparel Company and member of the Pond Inlet Community Economic Development Committee. He also interviewed business leaders in Pond Inlet and Iqaluit, the capital of the Nunavut Territory, about their use of market communications and the potential for improvement.

Little expects to share his research with leaders of business development organizations in Nunavut (including Inuit-owned) by the end of the year, and hopes to present his findings at the Iqaluit Trade Show and Northern Lights Conference in 2019. He plans to continue incorporating his research in his classes at Franklin Pierce and will share his experiences during the annual Academic Showcase in April 2019. — *Julie Rizzo*

SUPPORTING INITIATIVES

Grant Will Fund Digital Learning

Franklin Pierce was awarded a \$233,800 grant from the Davis Educational Foundation, which will support the University's Initiative for Digital Education for Accelerated Learning (IDEAL). The funds will be awarded over three years to assist with the new program's launch and implementation. "We are deeply appreciative for the validation and confidence this sizeable award conveys about our institution," said President Kim Mooney '83. "The Davis Educational Foundation has a strong reputation in higher education for funding projects with partner institutions like Pierce where vision and strategy come together seamlessly to benefit students. I'm grateful for their continued investment in the University."

IDEAL will improve student learning outcomes through a comprehensive, integrated program of skills development for both

faculty and students. At the conclusion of the three-year timeline, the program will have trained 25 faculty, integrated digital literacy outcomes into the general and liberal education curriculum, and the University will have developed a solid financial strategy to ensure that the results of this initiative are sustainable going forward.

Established by Stanton and Elisabeth Davis after Mr. Davis' retirement as chairman of Shaw's Supermarkets, Inc., the Davis Educational Foundation supports the undergraduate programs of public and private, regionally accredited baccalaureate degree granting colleges and universities throughout the six New England states.

This grant follows awards totaling more than \$1.1 million from organizations, including the National Science Foundation, George I. Alden Trust and the N.H.-INBRE (IDeA Network of Biomedical Research). — *Matthew Barone*

ADVOCACY ON FILM

Pierce Students Present at Education Conference

Earlier this year, Franklin Pierce's Teagan Comeau '20 and Tyler Comeau '20 joined Dr. Jacqueline Kelleher, professor and certification officer, at the 16th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Education.

The conference is an opportunity for academic professionals from around the world to network about education issues.

The FPU trio presented "Dungeons and Distractions," a film created by the Comeau twins. It is a first-person perspective on what it is like to have autism and be in a general education middle school classroom. Kelleher also presented a curriculum guide with activities and problem-based learning on autism spectrum disorders. Their session was packed, and the team said they had multiple requests for copies of the guide from attendees from across the U.S., Canada and Denmark.

The twins collaborated with Kelleher on the guide, which offers activities that teach critical thinking, perspective taking and dialogue skills. These were piloted with hundreds of pre-service teachers, teachers, related service staff and parents of children with disabilities.

"It was such a privilege to share this work," said Kelleher. "We were honored our peers selected our work for presentation, and the experience inspired us to create more projects that raise awareness of individuals with disabilities."



Teagan Comeau '20 and Tyler Comeau '20 with FPU professor Jacqueline Kelleher

Kelleher and the twins plan to continue their work in advocacy. Kelleher said she hopes to create a film series of shorts that depicts the experience of persons with disabilities identified under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act. — *Alexa Wallace '16 MBA '19*



A WINNING SOLUTION

Governor Sununu Visits BEST Camp

New Hampshire Governor Christopher T. Sununu visited the Rindge campus in July to speak with 90 middle school students attending the BEST camp, a partnership among Franklin Pierce University, the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary and the local school district. The governor met privately with President Kim Mooney '83, then engaged in a lively discussion with campers in Marcucella Hall.

President Mooney said, "We are pleased to have Governor Sununu visit to see the BEST camp in action. This partnership provides critical benefits for families in our community and is a model for collaboration in communities across New Hampshire."

In its eighth year, the BEST (formerly QUEST) camp is organized, staffed and funded by the Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary. The school district provides teachers for academic sessions. Franklin Pierce provides the facilities, and many faculty and staff volunteer their time.

Sununu explained he was on a mission to learn what made BEST camp work so well, and campers eagerly shared their favorite activities — the high ropes course, Japanese drumming, "bows and arrows and spears," flying an airplane and unlimited ice cream!

"A lot of these kids would have nothing to do over the summer without us," said Tonya Albee, BEST chairperson at Jaffrey-Rindge Rotary. "Parents are very grateful. Some of our campers are homeless; many are food insecure. The chefs in the dining hall take good care of them."

Sununu encouraged campers to rise to challenges by keeping their focus on positive outcomes. He invited them to think like engineers when they encounter hardships and figure out ways to solve problems and make broken systems work. — Julie Rizzo



LEARNING AND EXPLORATION

Academic Showcase 2018

Franklin Pierce University's Ninth Annual Academic Showcase took place this past spring, highlighting research projects and presentations by students and faculty. April's celebration kicked off in the library courtyard with opening remarks from President Kim Mooney '83, welcoming everyone to a fun day of learning and exploration.

Academic Showcase is a daylong celebration. Instead of attending classes, students present research and attend peer-given lectures, simulations and roundtables. Highlights from the April 2018 showcase included "The Nexus of Politics and Popular Culture," "Can Poetry Matter?," "Constitutional Protections for Fake News?," a theater performance of "Are You Like It," a moot court demonstration, and Raven Brain Bowl and Ethics Bowl.

Student poster sessions included senior research projects, conference presentations and classroom papers. — Alexa Wallace '16 MBA '19



SUCCESS

Lolami Lola-Charles Secures Internship

“**A**t a small school where everyone wants to see you succeed, you can make a big impact,” said Lolami Lola-Charles ’19, who feels strongly that this close-knit community helps him be the best he can be.

Last year, with support of the University through the student travel grant, Lola-Charles attended the Eastern National Association for Black Accountants Conference in Norfolk, Va. While there, he made connections with Johnson & Johnson, resulting in a paid internship over the summer.

Born just outside the city of Lagos, Nigeria, and reared in Edgewood, Md., Lola-Charles is enrolled in the Business Plus 3 + 1 Program, double majoring in accounting and finance. The program is designed for students to earn their B.S. and their MBA in four years.

Lola-Charles began playing basketball in high school and realized

that he had natural abilities for the game. He was scouted by Pierce men’s head basketball coach David Chadbourne in his senior year to play for the Ravens.

“**Success is found in a multitude of ways at FPU**”

LOLAMI LOLA-CHARLES ’17 MBA ’19

Lola-Charles saw the opportunity as “a lane to go to college debt-free,” he said. So he jumped at the opportunity. Balancing basketball and coursework was challenging, but Lola-Charles’ work ethic meant he earned the title of Northeast-10 Conference Commissioners Honor Roll Scholar Athlete. He and his teammates also serve as instructors in the University’s basketball camps, and Lola-Charles works in the Office of Admissions as a guide for prospective students.

As a child of an immigrant and an immigrant himself, Lola-Charles credits his mother for inspiring him to attend college and become a successful businessman. He believes the best way he can repay her is to be successful himself. — *Alexa Wallace ’16 MBA ’19*



BIG READ

'Peyton Place' Revisited

When the novel "Peyton Place" was first published in 1956, its depictions of sex, class and murder in a small New England town shocked the nation.

Residents of the Rivermead Lifecare Center lived through that era and several residents joined Pierce students, faculty and staff on the Rindge campus in February to discuss the once-banned book. The group discussion was an offshoot of last year's successful NEA Big Read of "My Antonia." The center's residents related well to the students because they were the same age when the book was released.

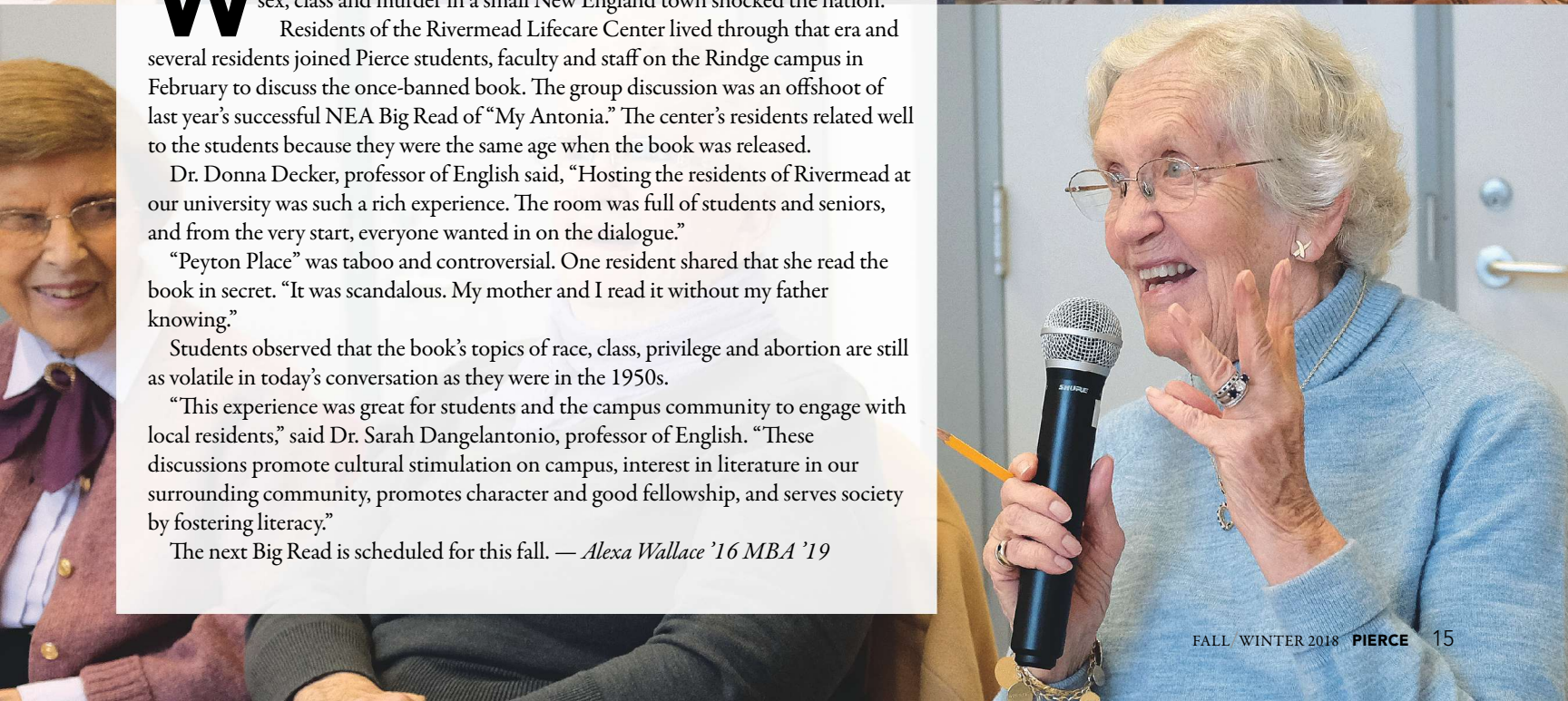
Dr. Donna Decker, professor of English said, "Hosting the residents of Rivermead at our university was such a rich experience. The room was full of students and seniors, and from the very start, everyone wanted in on the dialogue."

"Peyton Place" was taboo and controversial. One resident shared that she read the book in secret. "It was scandalous. My mother and I read it without my father knowing."

Students observed that the book's topics of race, class, privilege and abortion are still as volatile in today's conversation as they were in the 1950s.

"This experience was great for students and the campus community to engage with local residents," said Dr. Sarah Dangelantonio, professor of English. "These discussions promote cultural stimulation on campus, interest in literature in our surrounding community, promotes character and good fellowship, and serves society by fostering literacy."

The next Big Read is scheduled for this fall. — *Alexa Wallace '16 MBA '19*





FIRST STEPS

Students and Parents Learn About College

Students and parents practiced saying their goodbyes during the Student Transition Experience Program known as STEP Day. In the morning, families talked with representatives from various campus departments and learned more about the opportunities offered at FPU.

Campus tours were ongoing throughout the morning before the opening marks were made by Linda Quimby, vice president for enrollment and university communications. Quimby welcomed students and their families to Rindge and gave a brief overview of what the day encompassed. Families attended informational sessions, which ranged from residential life and informational technology to first year academics and experiential learning.

Students and parents went their separate ways during the lunch hour. Parents listened to Jim Earle, vice president for student affairs, speak about college students and the important roles parents play in their child's experience and education. Students introduced themselves and played team icebreaker games as the future Class of 2022.

The transition to college is an important marker in life as a young adult. For many, it will be their first time living away from home, without the people they grew up with. And Franklin Pierce faculty and staff are experienced and prepared to help students find their passion and greatest potential. — *Alexa Wallace '16 MBA '19*





PHYSICAL THERAPIST. RAVEN. INVENTOR.

Joshua Sigsworth Creates Devices for Doctors and Patients

When Joshua Sigsworth '07, DPT '10, started out as a physical therapist, he quickly realized traditional medical bags were difficult to use.

“Most clinicians need about three bags when they see patients — one for their laptop, one for a scale and another for supplies,” he said.

So with the help of Hopkins Medical Products, Sigsworth co-designed a bag, the Hopkins Home Health Pro Backpack, that allowed him to practice efficiently and pain free. Its four compartments allow for increased compliance with clean bag technique, increased efficiency for finding equipment, and easy access to a computer/tablet and schedule.

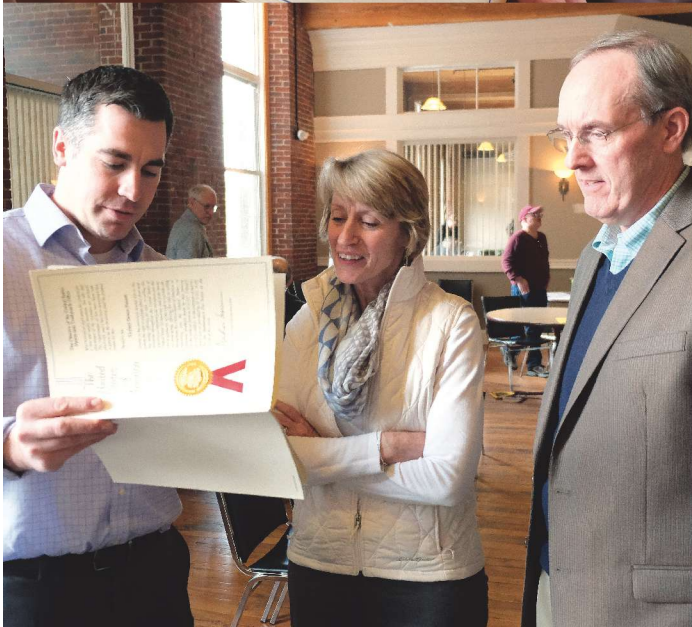
“The brand development manager and Hopkins Medical Products in general were so great to work with,” Sigsworth said, “I recommend people reach out to large companies and see what can happen.”

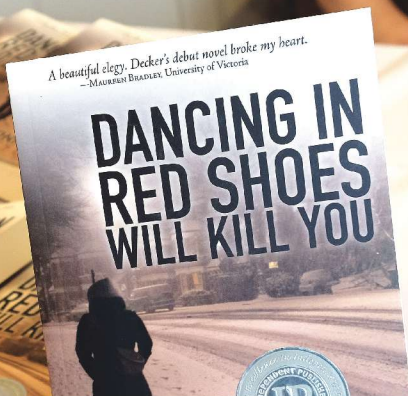
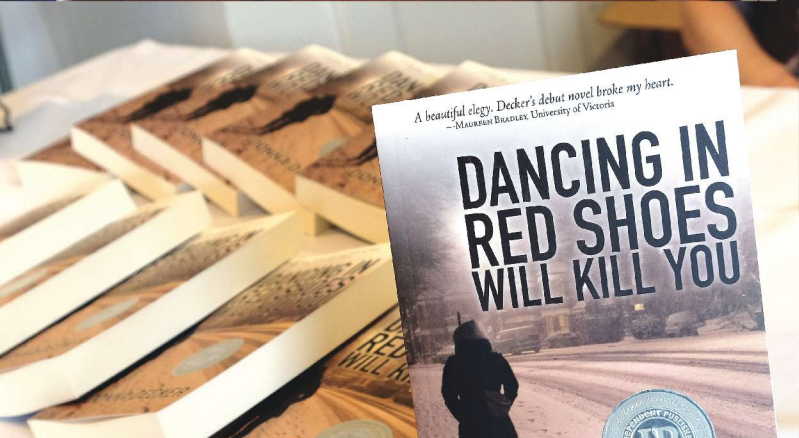
Sigsworth credits the successful partnership to the company’s forward-thinking and open-minded approach to improving the lives of clinicians and patients.

The contract physical therapist and first-generation college student earned his bachelor’s in biology before going on to pursue his DPT. His wife is also a contract traveling physical therapist, and their experiences led him to design Stair Assist. The mobility device allows patients impacted by trauma, disease or normal aging processes to safely ascend and descend stairs.

He was granted a utility patent by the United States Patent and Trademark Office, then built a team and founded Kinesiologic, LLC, an invention and innovation company that helps inventors navigate patent applications, marketing, manufacturing and distribution processes.

Sigsworth’s goal is to have the Stair Assist available for sale within the next year. — *Alexa Wallace '16 MBA '19*





A REGIONAL RESOURCE

Pierce Hosts Women in Higher Education Leadership Conference

Last spring, FPU welcomed female leaders in higher education to the Rindge campus for the New Hampshire Women in Higher Education Leadership Conference. Nearly 150 women attended the daylong event, which included seminars and discussions about what it's like to be a woman with leading roles in the state's colleges and universities. Professor of English Donna Decker's keynote speech, "Cover Me, I'm Going In," was the story of a woman's experience working in higher education.

"Dr. Decker was inspiring," said Caitlin Glennen of Southern New Hampshire University. "She used humor to show how speaking up and taking up space is necessary to become the strongest woman you can be."

In hosting conferences like this, the University showcases what Pierce can offer as an event setting. Over the years, FPU has hosted weddings, family reunions and high school proms, as well as conferences and business meetings. With multiple event spaces of different sizes, Pierce has placed itself among the region's premier resources as a conference and meeting site. For information about hosting your event on campus, contact Rick Kohlmorgen, director of conference services, at kohlmorgenr@franklinpierce.edu. — *Alexa Wallace '16 MBA '19*



JASON POTTERTON '07

2010 SPORTS EMMY AWARD

OUTSTANDING NEW APPROACHES SPORTS PROGRAMMING—SUPER BOWL MVP'S ASSOCIATE PRODUCER

ALUMNI VISIT

Jason Potterton Chats About His Career

Jason Potterton '07 returned to campus in March to talk with current students about his job as photo editor with ESPN. Majoring in communications as an undergraduate, his goal was to work in sports media. He achieved that in 2008, joining the sports network's Bristol, Conn., headquarters.

He and his co-worker, Joe DiMartino, a social media specialist, spent the day conducting a sports media workshop with selected students and chatting with prospective social media majors about career opportunities in the field.

When a student asked Potterton his favorite part of his job, he responded, "At the end of the day, my job is to watch college basketball games — it's totally awesome." He added, "I get to exercise a certain amount of creativity. I have broad latitude to do whatever I think will engage people. And, I've met Pedro Martinez."

As an undergraduate on the Rindge campus, Potterton received a student Emmy from the Boston/New England Chapter of the National Academy of Television for a project spotlighting former Super Bowl MVPs.

"It's always a pleasure to welcome alumni back to our Rindge campus to share their academic and professional journeys with our aspiring students," said Dr. Kristen Nevios, director of the Marlin Fitzwater Center for Communications. "Jason is a wonderful example of our students who go on in life to become accomplished professionals in their respective fields and remain connected to Franklin Pierce."

Potterton's visit ended with Tune in Radio's broadcast of the FPU versus Merrimack College baseball game. The media and communication students observed and worked alongside Potterton during the game, which the Ravens won 5-4 after 10 innings.

— Alexa Wallace '16 MBA '19

“I get to exercise a certain amount of creativity. I have broad latitude to do whatever I think will engage people. And, I've met Pedro Martinez.”

— JASON POTTERTON '07

RAVENINGS



RAVENS ROUNDUP

BY MATT JANIK

“If I didn't have something to overcome, I'd be lost.”

— NICOLE GALEWSKI '17 MBA '19



NO QUIT IN HER

Galewski '17 MBA '19 Finds Success While Battling Spinal Condition

When it comes to injuries, athletes can be stubborn in dealing with their diagnosis. For Nicole Galewski '17 MBA '19, it was no different.

She earned her bachelor's degree in psychology and is currently pursuing a master's in general special education, and is one of Franklin Pierce's most seasoned athletes on the women's track and field team. A record holder and multi-event competitor, Galewski has established herself as among the program's best despite dealing with subluxation degeneration, a condition which affects specific areas of the spine, causing nerve interference.

While most athletes have a timetable for their injuries, Galewski does not have that luxury. She sees various specialists and chiropractors once every two months, a routine that has been going on since 2015 when Galewski began feeling a tingling in her leg.

"I just didn't feel right, and even after going home for blood tests they still couldn't find anything," said Galewski, a native of Whitman, Mass. It was eventually determined there was inflammation in her upper spine area, but there was still no definite answer. Then began what she described as "draining" rehab sessions throughout the summer.

A multi-event athlete, Galewski competes in both the heptathlon and pentathlon, grueling days that involve various events lasting around six hours.

"I attribute my success to going through rehab," said Galewski, the record holder in the indoor pentathlon and the outdoor heptathlon.

Galewski's preparation and recovery were eye-opening and obscure compared to her competitors. For Galewski to participate in

multiple events, she needed former assistant coach Chris DeLeon, who would re-teach Galewski how to walk after finishing an event because she couldn't feel her legs.

"She'd compete in one event, we'd re-teach walking, then she'd compete in her next event," said DeLeon, who would walk side by side with Galewski as she concentrated on his feet.

For Galewski, starting isn't the hardest part. It's finishing.

"If I run 800-meters, I can't feel my legs 400-meters in."

That is alarming enough. While her competitors acknowledge her condition afterward, she refuses to use her situation as an excuse or a means to draw attention.

"I had no other options," said Galewski, who admitted to going through a "woe is me" phase earlier in her career.

With her no-excuses attitude and hardworking philosophy, Galewski has matured from a redshirted freshman who was academically ineligible into a national All-Academic graduate student with a 3.2 GPA and multiple school records.

There's a lot on her plate, but Galewski, would not want it any other way.

"If I didn't have something to overcome, I'd be lost," she said.

She's had more than her share of triumphs at Pierce. In a meet she was not supposed to run in, she ended up anchoring the 4x200 meter relay and breaking a school record. The following year at the same meet, she took part in the pentathlon, competing in five events.

Though there is no cure for her condition, Galewski doesn't think too far ahead. While the future may pose its adversities, Galewski knows she can handle it. — *Tyler Arago* '20



RAVENS ROUNDUP

DOUBLE DIP

Ravens Golf Makes NCAA Appearances

This past spring, both the Ravens men's and women's golf teams qualified to participate in NCAA Championship play at the Atlantic/East Regional (men) and the East Super Regional (women). It marked the first time in program history that both teams advanced to championship games in the same season.

The men took things a step further as they used top 15 finishes from environmental science major Sam Myers '16 MBA '19 and management major Taylor Simpson '19 to finish second at the regional and advance to the national finals in Muscle Shoals, Ala. In the team's first-ever trip to the national championship, the Ravens finished 19th.

The women's team finished eighth in regional play. Highlighting play was a tie for fifth from sports and recreation major Camden Morrison '18, who qualified for the national finals as an individual for the second straight season. The women's national championship was held in Houston, where Morrison finished in a tie for 19th.

Coach Tyler Bishop was named NE 10 Coach of the Year for both men's and women's golf.



LENDING A HELPING WING

Ravens in the Community

Under Rachel Burseson in her first year as director of athletics, the Department of Athletics undertook a concerted push to make a bigger impact in the community.

Franklin Pierce student-athletes combined to perform 2,775 hours of community service during the 2017-18 academic year. Overall, 449 Ravens contributed their time to at least one community service project over the course of the year, each averaging 6.18 hours of service.

The department's student-athletes took part in more than 60 unique community service events, including assisting with Special Olympics New Hampshire, working with local elementary schools and inviting youth groups to campus for clinics.





OPENING A TAB

Field Hockey's Strassburg Leads Operation Can Tab

Jessica Strassburg '16 MBA '20 has been collecting can tabs on her own since her freshman year at Franklin Pierce. Now, more than a year later, she heads a club on campus dedicated to the same goal, and is loving every minute of it.

Operation Can Tab, a campus club, focuses on collecting can tabs, on and off campus, to be donated to Shriners Hospitals for Children. Shriners sells the tabs to recycling companies and uses the proceeds to pay for expensive surgeries and recoveries for sick and injured children. Shriners operates 22 nonprofit medical facilities across North America.

Strassburg, an elementary education and English major, has a personal connection to the hospital which has made fundraising even closer to her heart.

"My cousin actually went to Shriners from the time he was a baby until he was 18, because he has cerebral palsy," said Strassburg.

After collecting here and there in high school, Strassburg really started to collect in her dorm room



It was a lot of word of mouth; I play field hockey so my teammates are really supportive. Then the lacrosse team got involved, and through Snapchat it spread like wildfire.

— JESSICA STRASSBURG '16 MBA '20

and then started to receive more and more can tabs from her friends on campus.

"It was a lot of word of mouth; I play field hockey so my teammates are really supportive," said Strassburg. "Then the lacrosse team got involved, and through Snapchat it spread like wildfire."

On Feb. 28, Operation Can Tab was voted into existence as an official club by Pierce's Student Government Association.

"It was surreal, because I didn't ever imagine it becoming a club," said Strassburg. "I thought it was just going to be a little, 'Oh, hey let's save our can tabs for Shriners,' but when people started getting involved I was like, 'Okay it's time to organize this.'"

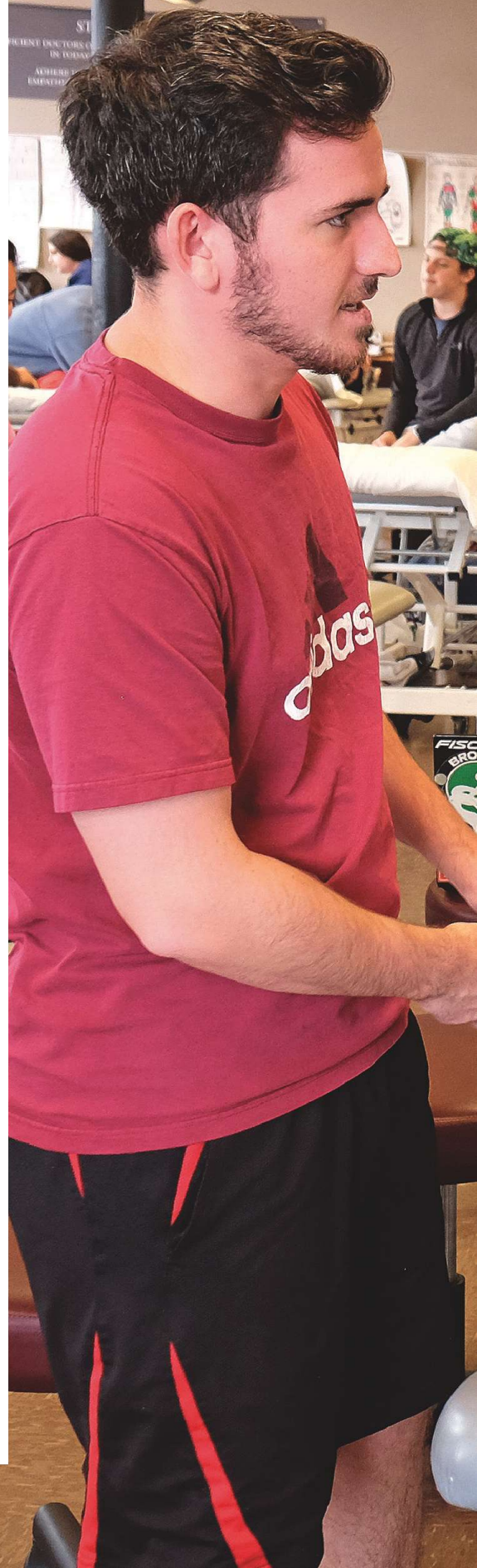
The club held its final collection April 30, just before the close of the spring semester. The club collected a total of 300 pounds of tabs over the year, which were donated to the Shriners Hospital in Springfield, Mass. — *Shannon Slater '19*

When Opportunity and Inspiration Meet

Pierce's Josh Cleland Transforms the Lives of His Students

BY JULIE RIZZO PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREW CUNNINGHAM

Dr. Josh A. Cleland's rise in the field of physical therapy has been described by a colleague as "meteoric," and in June 2018, the Franklin Pierce professor received the two highest honors in his profession from the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA). He was designated a Catherine Worthingham Fellow and was awarded the Dorothy Baethke-Eleanor J. Carlin Award for Excellence in Academic Teaching.





Joshua Cleland
with students.

“I carry all of my past students with me. They have influenced me so much both professionally and personally over the years. It is easy to be a good teacher when you have great students.”

— JOSH CLELAND

Cleland is at home in his office at Franklin Pierce University in the Manchester Center, where the Doctor in Physical Therapy (DPT) program is housed. The historic building is a converted textile mill, and artifacts and photographs of laborers and equipment from its industrial past hang in the hallways. Cleland's desk sits under a towering exposed-brick wall, covered with framed degrees and awards.

Cleland is an example of what can happen when opportunity and inspiration meet at the right time in a person's life. A self-described “unmotivated student” at 17, Cleland dropped out of a college engineering program after one term and went to work in construction for eight years. When a friend was injured on the job, he gave her a ride to physical therapy and observed her treatment over the following weeks. He was fascinated and arranged to shadow physical therapists on the job until he knew for certain this was where his passion lay.

A Respected Colleague, A Trusted Mentor

With characteristic drive, Cleland threw himself into catching up academically so he could enter a Master in Physical Therapy program at Notre Dame College in Manchester. There he met Dr. Jane Walter Venzke, dean of health sciences and a passionate advocate for the field, who recognized that same passion and gift for pedagogy in her student. In Venzke, Cleland found the mentor who would unlock and inspire his potential.

Venzke offered Cleland his first teaching position at Notre Dame College after he completed his doctorate in physical therapy. When the college closed in 2002, the physical therapy program was acquired by Franklin Pierce, and Venzke became associate dean of graduate studies. Venzke brought Cleland with her to Pierce as a full-time faculty member, a remarkable opportunity three years out of school. He worked with Venzke to build the curriculum for the DPT program, which launched in 2007.

Pierce's DPT program is a tight-knit, collaborative team of faculty and staff, focused on helping each student and each other reach their potential. Dr. Mary Palaima, DPT

program director, explained that all DPT faculty members are engaged in research and all are committed to giving students professional opportunities that include attending conferences and presenting research.

A valued mentor and colleague on the team, Cleland is a world-renowned expert in his field.

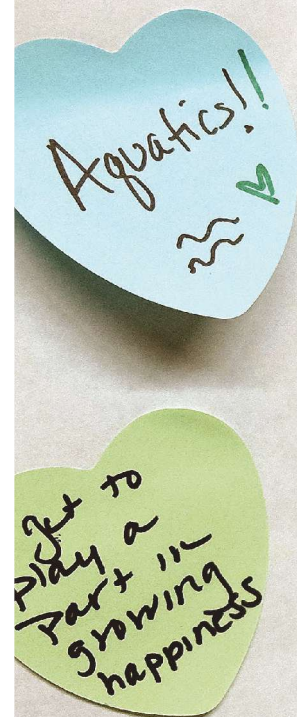
“Josh is a joy to work with,” said Palaima. “He is generous about sharing information and making sure faculty are doing the best work we can do with students. It's our job to make sure he doesn't get a big head.”

Dr. Maria Altobello, dean of the College of Graduate and Professional Studies, said, “For the past 15 years, I have seen [Josh's] devotion and enthusiasm for the physical therapy profession. He is well respected by our faculty and our students. Yet behind all those awards and accolades, I have the pleasure of working with a down-to-earth individual who is humbled by all these recognitions. Josh is without a doubt a wonderful ambassador, not only for our Doctor of Physical Therapy program but for Franklin Pierce University.”

Students and colleagues say that the willingness to help anyone, from the newest member of the team to the most distinguished colleague in the field, is Cleland's essence. Dr. Paul Mintken, a professor at the University of Colorado at Denver, met Cleland when they did their fellowship in manual therapy together at Regis University.

“Josh had only been a physical therapist for six years. He was a new faculty member and he already had about 40 publications,” said Mintken. “He bent over backwards to help me get started in research. He is selfless in all his activities. He has no ego.”

To date, Cleland has published over 170 peer-reviewed articles and five textbooks used in physical therapy and in medicine and delivered hundreds of professional presentations at dozens of conferences internationally. He is recognized as the leading expert in the country in orthopedic manual physical therapy. Because his scholarly work is widely distributed and frequently cited, he is regularly called to testify in court proceedings when manual treatment





“It is fair to say that Dr. Cleland has accomplished more in his short career than most faculty members accomplish in a lifetime. Almost all his publications are novel contributions to our field that force us to rethink what we do and why we do it.”

— DR. PAUL MINTKEN

is challenged. His passion for evidence, his openness and collegial spirit inspire his colleagues in academia to push boundaries to advance the field as well.

“It is fair to say that Dr. Cleland has accomplished more in his short career than most faculty members accomplish in a lifetime,” Mintken said. “Almost all his publications are novel contributions to our field that force us to rethink what we do and why we do it.”

A Balanced Career

Leaning back in his chair, Cleland holds up three fingers and counts off what he believes are the three key elements essential to a balanced program and a balanced career. “Teach. Treat. Research,” Cleland said. “Clinicians have to be educators — they’re teaching patients every day.”

As a professor, Cleland believes his students push him with their questions, their perspectives and their challenges

to his thought process, making him a better teacher, a better clinician and a better researcher.

On the importance of research, Cleland is passionate. “The field of physical therapy has changed significantly over recent years,” he reflected. “It used to be that an MD gave a patient a prescription for a specific physical therapy protocol. Now they’re more likely to diagnose a problem and the PT will determine the best course of action.” As clinicians become more autonomous, they must also become sophisticated users of research-based evidence for the safety and effectiveness of treatment.

A Bond With His Students

The unique bond that Cleland has with his students starts with his sincere interest in who they are. That’s one reason he said he was so touched to receive the Dorothy Baethke-Eleanor J. Carlin Award. It recognizes exceptional

Award Winner

Joshua Cleland was named a **Catherine Worthingham Fellow of the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA)** at the association’s annual NEXT conference in June 2018. The designation is the association’s highest honor, recognizing unwavering efforts to advance the physical therapy profession.

Cleland also received the **Dorothy Baethke-Eleanor J. Carlin Award for Excellence in Academic Teaching** from APTA, recognizing exceptional teaching effectiveness, distinctive expertise, and excellence as a role model for students, faculty and clinicians.

In recent years, Cleland has received the prestigious **David Lamb Memorial Award** from the International Federation of Orthopaedic Manipulative Physical Therapists, and was ranked as the world’s sixth-leading medical expert on neck pain management. He has received the **Rothstein Golden Pen for Scientific Inquiry Award**, APTA’s **Rose Award** in Research, Orthopaedic Section for three consecutive years, as well as the **Excellence in Research Award** from the Journal of Orthopaedic and Sports Physical Therapy.





teaching effectiveness, distinct expertise in a subject area, and excellence as a role model for students, faculty and clinicians. And Cleland was nominated by his students.

Rachel Kelly-Martin DPT '18, spearheaded the nomination, and wrote in her letter of recommendation, "Josh is an exceptional teacher in every sense of the word. He provides material that is clear, succinct and meaningful. His labs are interactive, productive and fulfilling. He leads by example, while allowing time for natural inquiry and student-led learning."

Kelly-Martin, an outdoor educator and yoga instructor before entering the DPT program, said Cleland pushed her to see the connection between teaching and clinical work, opened her to a passion for research as his graduate assistant and convinced her to join him in training for a half Ironman. "He somehow manages to give all his students his undivided attention. I think he sleeps about a minute a night."

Eric Gattie DPT '08, is now on the staff at Concord Hospital, and Cleland is on his dissertation committee for his Ph.D. in physical therapy. "Josh cares for every student. He builds a relationship from the first minute. When I graduated from Franklin Pierce, Josh prodded me to apply for a job at Concord Hospital. Then it was, 'You should apply for a fellowship.' 'You should get your Ph.D.' 'You can do it.'"

Cleland's boundless energy extends to his personal hobbies and friendships. He has climbed every over-4,000-foot peak in New Hampshire with his dad, and is working on all the over-14,000 footers in Colorado with Mintken, who laments, "Nobody else can keep up with him."

From his office in Manchester, Cleland looks out on the students who gather in hallways and around tables and vending machines. "I carry all of my past students with me. They have influenced me so much both professionally and personally over the years. It is easy to be a good teacher when you have great students." P



THE GREATEST JOB IN THE WORLD

Scott Bleakney '95 Helps Make Dreams Come True
at the "Most Magical Place on Earth"

BY HOLLY BERETTO '93

When the rope drops every morning at Magic Kingdom Park, thousands of sunscreen-slathered tourists pour across the wide brick plaza, pausing for photos with the Disney World Railroad Train Station as a background, before spilling onto Main Street, U.S.A. and walking toward the iconic Cinderella Castle. Children are wide-eyed with wonder, pointing at Goofy and Pluto or other characters strolling the street, adults grinning like the kids they once were. Dappled in Florida sunshine, shimmering with a little bit of pixie dust, Walt Disney World's Magic Kingdom Park at Walt Disney World Resort is a place where dreams, large and small, come true, every hour of every day.

And Scott Bleakney '95 helps to make sure they do.

Scott Bleakney '95
at Walt Disney
World's Magic
Kingdom.



By the time the Paxton, Mass., native was a junior at Franklin Pierce, he knew he wanted to live in a warm-weather climate. While he loved Pierce's mountain setting and panoramic views, he was pretty much done with the cold and snow and slush. So, he set his sights south.

In early January 1996, Bleakney loaded up his car and hit I-95. Destination: the Carolinas or Florida. He wasn't picky; as long as there was sunshine and he could use the skills he'd picked up as a business administration major, he was all in. He rolled into the Sunshine State and applied for work at Walt Disney World Resort. By Valentine's Day, he found himself working at Disney's Hollywood Studios at the Tower of Terror attraction. He didn't think he'd stay that long.

Twenty-two years later, Bleakney's still part of the Disney family — and he couldn't be happier.

MANAGING THE MAGIC

"I wouldn't say that I was ever a huge Disney fan before I started working there," said Bleakney. "However, once I started working here, I absolutely fell in love with the company and everything it stands for."

Today, Bleakney is a duty park manager at Magic Kingdom, where he said he's "responsible for making sure our guests have the most magical time of their lives." That means everything from making operational decisions on a sometimes improvisational basis, interacting with park guests and his fellow cast members, and being the direct point of contact for any situation when guests need assistance. The core of his job is pretty simple: make sure the day runs smoothly and help create magic for families.

Sounds like a snap, right?

"Our scope is pretty grand in size," said Bleakney. "And we [he and fellow duty park managers] are responsible for things happening inside Magic Kingdom and the roadways all around it."

At 142 acres, Magic Kingdom Park is practically a small world of its own, inside the larger Walt Disney World Resort. When it opened in 1971, it instantly became a top-tier family destination. Over the last 47 years, the resort has expanded across its lush Florida setting to include 36 separate hotels, four theme parks, two water parks, the ESPN Wide World of Sports Complex

and the Disney Springs shopping, dining and entertainment district. Walt Disney World has its own roads, transportation system, even its own water works and fire departments. It's a massive operation — and a wildly beloved place. Walt Disney was known for his exacting attention to details and his desire to ensure that everyone who visited his parks felt special. Thus, the standard for Walt Disney World customer service — and the promise cast members make — is excellence.

"The most challenging thing [about my work] is delivering above and beyond on the promise we make to our guests every day when they visit the most magical place on Earth," said Bleakney. "But my fellow cast members and I take great pride in delivering [on it] every day."

From the smiles of kids — and even adults — meeting their favorites like Cinderella, Tiana, Belle and Buzz Lightyear, to the shrieks as they careen through Big Thunder Mountain Railroad or disappear into the dark of Space Mountain, to the unexpected joy of happening upon a Hidden Mickey, or the excitement of the nightly fireworks, Bleakney and his colleagues are doing a great job.

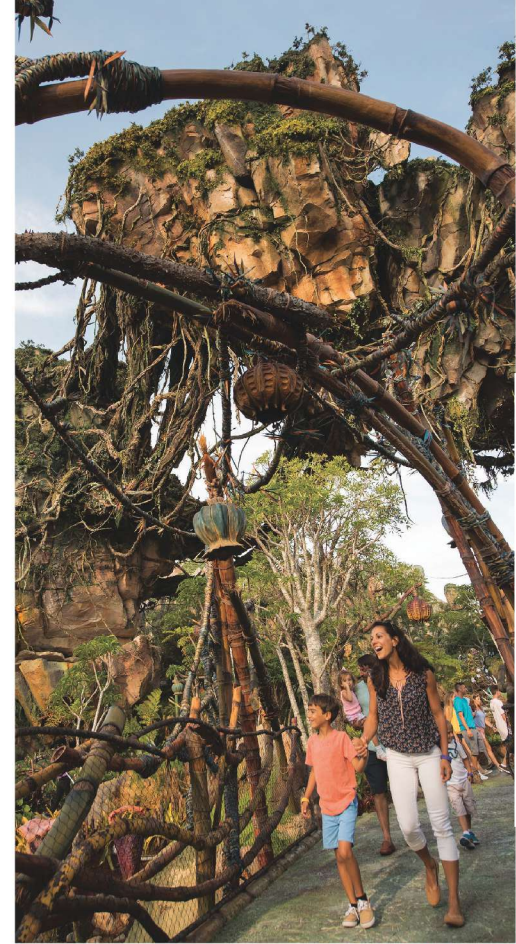
FROM PIERCE TO FLORIDA

It might seem odd now, since he works for one of the largest entertainment entities on the planet, but when Bleakney was looking at colleges, he wanted a small environment. His hometown is just outside of Worcester, Mass., the state's second-largest city, and Bleakney knew he needed someplace compact, with small class sizes.

"When I saw the campus nestled in the mountains of New Hampshire, I knew that I made the right decision," he said. "To put it in perspective, at the time, my high school by population was bigger than the population at the Rindge campus."

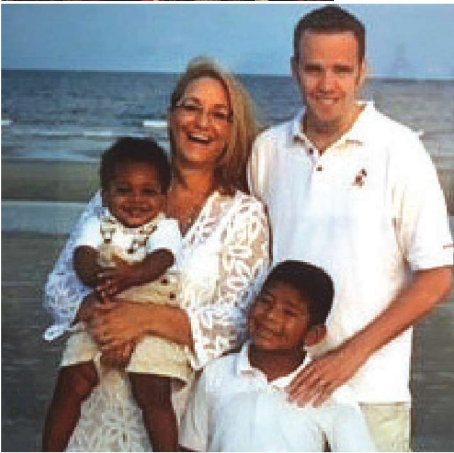
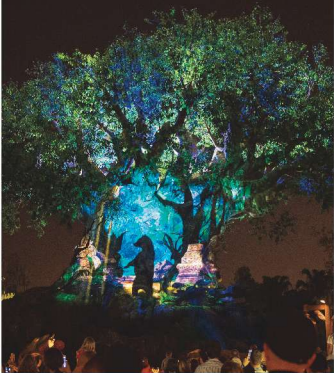
Pierce was a place where Bleakney thrived. He feels one of the school's strengths is its small size and that it's easy to develop relationships with professors, administrators and fellow classmates.

"John Cunningham [the dean of student affairs] was easily the most influential person for me as a student," he said. "I often look back and reflect



Clockwise from top left: Pandora – The World of Avatar at Disney's Animal Kingdom; The Tree of Life Awakens at Disney's Animal Kingdom at Night; Bleakney with his family; "It's a Small World," a gentle boat ride through whimsical scenes; Slinky Dog Dash in Toy Story Land at Hollywood Studios.





DAVID ROARK/WALT DISNEY WORLD (TOY STORY, PANDORA, ANIMAL KINGDOM), WALT DISNEY WORLD (IT'S A SMALL WORLD)

on our conversations that have been so helpful to me throughout the years. That is what made this school so great, you really got to talk to the teachers, vice presidents, nearly everyone.”

His classmate, Jay McCormack '95, sums it like this: “Everyone knew everyone else at Pierce.” Today, McCormack works in production operations at ESPN and teaches online courses in sports management for Pierce’s MBA program. But back when he was in school, he and Bleakney lived on the same hall during their freshman and sophomore years.

“I met him on day one,” said McCormack. “And I can’t think of anyone who didn’t like him. Scott got along with absolutely everybody.”

McCormack said Bleakney’s outgoing personality was backed by a core of integrity, praising his friend for “living what he believes.”

At Pierce, in addition to his studies, Bleakney served as the vice president of the student senate during his junior year and worked in the admissions department during the school year and throughout the summer, giving tours and assisting with data entry. He was an avid supporter of Ravens athletics, showing up at games and cheering on his friends and their teams.

Perhaps the thing he was best known for, however, was his nickname: Doogie.

“During my freshman year, I was given the nickname because everyone thought I looked like Doogie Howser from the TV show starring Neil Patrick Harris,” Bleakney said, amused. “It even got to the point where the teachers addressed me as Doogie.”

But that level of familiarity was comforting, he said.

“Franklin Pierce was a safe place to grow up and get an education,” he said. “I had the greatest roommates ever, friends I still keep in contact with. The friendships and acquaintances made there really shaped my life. It is pretty neat to run into some of them, whether expectedly or unexpectedly at the park when they come to Disney.”

McCormack recalls a spring break trip he and Bleakney and a few others took to Florida one year. He rode shotgun and Bleakney drove, and when they rolled into Florida, they spent time at Pleasure Island, an entertainment complex of bars, clubs and restaurants designed for the over-21 crowd located in the area previously known as Downtown Disney.

“We went into this country bar, just to see it, and we were the only ones in shorts,” he said. “But I remember on that trip, Scott said to me, ‘I’m coming here after graduation.’”

McCormack remembers asking Bleakney after they

graduated if he was still heading south. At the time, he pondered joining his friend, but he’d secured a job in Boston and felt he couldn’t leave.

“So, he left and I stayed,” said McCormack. “And the rest is history. Everything really fell into place for him.”

During his time at Walt Disney World Resort, Bleakney moved from working at the Tower of Terror as a merchandise host, to becoming a performer and trainer. He segued into Disney University, the company’s training arm, as a facilitator of their orientation programs, then became a guest services manager in Magic Kingdom’s Fantasyland and Frontierland, leading supporting teams of 400 cast members. He took on management positions in the park’s restaurants and overseeing multiple food and beverage kiosks, before being promoted to duty park manager in 2016.

THE MOST MAGICAL PLACE ON EARTH

“I have grown a lot over the years,” Bleakney said, reflecting on his post-college life. “If you had told me when I went to Franklin Pierce College that this is what I would be doing, I would have called you crazy. I’ve learned that life is way too short, so you should be doing what you love or find something that gives you satisfaction. I’ve learned that it’s about the journey and the people that you share it with.”

Bleakney knows that when it comes to sharing life’s journeys, Disney plays an important role for many people and their families. And he loves that he works in a place that has such a long tradition of being a place where people make memories. He loves the annual Super Bowl commercials where athletes are asked, “You just won the Super Bowl. What are you going to do next?” and they answer, “I’m going to Disney World.”

“Seeing those athletes here later that week joining the parade down Main Street is very special,” he said. “The other event I love is Mickey’s Very Merry Christmas Party. There’s snow on Main Street, cookies and hot chocolate, Christmas shows and a special Christmas parade. It is all really neat, and something I do not take for granted.”

He knows he has a front-row seat to some milestone moments in people’s lives. He and his team members have helped coordinate marriage proposals, assist the Make-A-Wish Foundation with coordinating family trips to the park, and creating a host of other moments for guests young and old. One of his other favorite traditions is selecting a veteran every day and recognizing his or her service to the country as part of the daily flag retreat on Main Street, U.S.A. at Magic Kingdom.

“My fellow cast members and I have such pride in what we do and where we work,” he said. “I have the greatest job in the world.” **P**



‘HOW DID THIS EVER HAPPEN?’

Jim Breen '86 Looks Back on a Career in TV News

BY MATT JANIK PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDREW CUNNINGHAM

Once Jim Breen '86 came to New Hampshire, he simply never left. A self-described “country bumpkin” from North Adams, Mass., Breen initially looked at Franklin Pierce because he knew a friend of a friend who had come to the school for its anthropology program. When he came to Rindge, Breen not only found exactly what he was looking for in a school, but he fell in love with New Hampshire in general. Nearly 40 years later, Breen has more than three decades of experience at the state’s only major network television affiliate. He has spent nearly the last 20 years at WMUR in his current position as director of news operations.



Breen had always wanted to do something a little different for a career. Television appealed to him, but he was not initially interested in the news world he currently lives in. When he first came to Franklin Pierce, Breen was looking to graduate in just three years and move on to a career in ad sales. There was just one problem. He completed an internship in that field and hated it.

NO AVERAGE DAY

So, it was back to the drawing board. Breen interned with the news operation at WMUR, located in Manchester, and everything clicked.

As soon as I walked through the door, I thought, “This is for me,” said Breen.

At the end of the internship, WMUR was so eager to get Breen on board, they initially proposed a start date which conflicted with graduation. Ultimately, Breen graduated from Franklin Pierce on a Sunday and started his first job at the ABC affiliate the very next day.

He spent his first five years as a beat photographer, capturing footage of anything and everything. He worked nights and weekends and news and sports. In 1991, he was promoted to chief videographer, allowing him to settle into a more traditional Monday through Friday schedule. Since 2000, he has served as the director of news operations, marking 32 years of service at WMUR in May.

When asked what his typical day at New Hampshire’s news leader looks like, Breen replied with the standard saw of anyone in media: “There is no average day, that’s the beauty of television.”

“There is no average day, that’s the beauty of television.”

— JIM BREEN '86

WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHEN, WHY, HOW

WMUR’s slogan is “No one covers New Hampshire like we do.” The “what” of that coverage comes from the assignment desk and the news producers. Breen, however, is responsible for “how” the news team will cover the Granite State’s more than 9,000 square miles of ground.

Some days, that “how” can be daunting, and it’s certainly not for the disorganized.

“Logistics is my thing,” said Breen. “Logistics is a huge part of my day.”

His role is to sort out where his photographers and reporters are going, with some teams on the road as much as four, five or six hours a day. How long will it take them to get there? Does it require an overnight stay? Will they be going live from the location? And, if so, how? How is all the footage going to get edited and back to the studio in time for the newscast? Breen called the logistics of the newscast, “kind of a puzzle,” which seems like a bit of an understatement.

Breen and his team are also at the beck and call of breaking news. There are times when the news team spends the entire day prepping their evening newscast, only to be forced to throw the whole thing out and start from scratch 20 minutes before going on the air. Breen describes the 100-person newsroom as a bunch of “news junkies.” He takes pride in how they never stop working and stresses the “always” when he points out they “always have fun.”

Breen’s career has taken him around the world on behalf of WMUR and ABC News. As a videographer, he was on the sideline capturing footage of the New England Patriots’

Breen pointed to a 2016 visit by former president Barack Obama to Pease Air National Guard Base in Portsmouth. It marked the first time WMUR had streamed anything from location directly to the newscast; they were live on the air, but without the traditional use of a production truck. “That was amazing,” Breen recalled thinking after the fact. “How did we do that?”

“How did we do that?” has become a common refrain for Breen as the industry’s technology continues to advance. He used the same phrase to describe a device which allows the news team to go live from anywhere



Breen with Hillary Clinton, left and Donald Trump, right, as they stopped in New Hampshire during the 2016 presidential campaign.

appearance in Super Bowl XXXI. On the news front, he has interviewed every presidential candidate since Ronald Reagan. He interviewed two sitting presidents, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush, in the Oval Office. He has covered trade missions to Ireland, Northern Ireland, England, Denmark and Germany with Jeanne Shaheen when she was the governor of New Hampshire. Every four years, WMUR co-produces ABC News’ presidential debate, an event Breen is a part of.

STILL HAVING FUN

When asked about the future, Breen points to two things which keep him going: he’s still having fun, and he’s still learning.

“As long as I have those two things, I’ll keep working here,” he said. “Every day I learn something; the technology is crazy.”

in the country. Breen described it as a “brick” the size of about six cell phones and was amazed at the innovation it represented. Breen has also helped implement a proprietary system on behalf of Hearst Television, WMUR’s parent company, allowing his teams to edit footage in the field and send it back to the studio for near-immediate airing.

Breen said one of his very first assignments for WMUR was to cover Ronald Reagan, president at that time. More than three decades later, Breen is still awestruck about how he, the “country bumpkin” from North Adams, came to be in such a situation.

“It’s amazing when you think about it,” Breen offers, with the same sense of wonder he seems to hold for every aspect of his job. “How did this ever happen?” **P**

a goal fulfilled

Karen M. Scolforo '98 Returns to New England
and Takes the Lead at Castleton University

BY IAN ALDRICH



On New Year's Day 2017, Dr. Karen M. Scolforo '98 took to her journal to write out her goals for the coming year. In between proclamations about running another half marathon and mastering 50 acoustic guitar songs, the 53-year-old president of Central Penn College in Summerdale, Pa., recorded that she someday wanted to head a college in New England, ideally in Vermont.

From the outside, Scolforo's dream may have seemed curious. In 2016, she was honored as a Woman of Excellence by the YWCA and received the prestigious Luminary Visionary Award by the West Shore Chamber of Commerce and would go on to be named the 2017 CenturyLink Business Woman of the Year.

But Scolforo, who grew up in North Attleboro, Mass., knew that eventually she would move back to New England. She wanted to be closer to her aging mother, who still resided near her hometown, and her kids, who were sprinkled around the region.

Four months after making her journal entry, Scolforo discovered that Castleton University, a public university of 1,900 students on the western edge of Vermont, was searching for a new president. She soul-searched over the timing of the change, but the university offered everything she was looking for. That September, Scolforo was tapped from a pool of 50 candidates to lead the school.

"I loved the idea of working for a public institution," said Scolforo, who holds a Doctorate of Education with a cognate in higher education administration and finance from the University of North Florida. "I've always been drawn to Vermont and this school has a wonderful tradition. I had never worked at a public institution before, and I had no experience working with unions, but I love a challenge."

In fall 1981, Scolforo tried her hand at a nursing program, but it didn't take. "I couldn't stand the sight of blood," she recalled with a laugh. Instead, she turned to business and was selected for a management training program with Toys "R" Us. As she would at later times in her career, Scolforo quickly climbed the ranks. At the age of 22, Scolforo had a supervisory role and had helped lead the large toy retailer in its opening of five new stores in the Carolinas. By the late 1980s she was a national marketing director for another national firm. But by 1994, she was married and the mother of three young children she didn't see nearly as much as she wanted to.

"I wanted to be home at night and cook dinner for my family," said Scolforo. "As I began to think about what I wanted to do next with my life, being in education and being a teacher made the most sense."

In Franklin Pierce, Scolforo found a university that generously credited her past schooling and easily catered to her schedule of being a working mother. "I looked young then," she said. "I had long hair and braces and when I had my kids with me at school people thought I was the babysitter. But the thing about Franklin Pierce is that they made things so accommodating. One of my favorite things about [the University] was that they did such a good job of hiring faculty who had not only strong teaching credentials but also valuable real-world experience. They could draw from their experience and keep us engaged. I never missed a class. I remember driving through a blizzard to get to one class in Salem. That's how valuable those classes were to me." She laughed. "I was willing to risk my life! I wanted an excellent education and I got that. They adapted to my unique background and made the classes so accessible. I think about those things a lot now as a [university] president."

“One of my favorite things [about Franklin Pierce] was that they did such a good job of hiring faculty who had not only strong teaching credentials but also valuable real-world experience.”

— DR. KAREN M. SCOLFORO '98

After graduating summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Science in General Studies with concentrations in marketing and education, Scolforo taught middle school for several years, first in Weare, N.H., and then in her hometown of Mont Vernon.


It's a career that Scolforo would have been perfectly content to follow. But in 2002, her husband's employer relocated the family to southern Maine and Scolforo's new home state didn't recognize her New Hampshire teaching degree. "They wanted me to start at the bottom and take three more courses before they'd even talk to me about teaching," said Scolforo, who earned a Master of Arts in 2002 from Rivier University.

Instead, she landed a job as director of education for a private, for-profit college located in Sanford, one that would launch her career in higher education. She missed the classroom but found a love for helping educators empower their students. Over the next decade, Scolforo took on bigger roles. She earned her doctorate and held leadership positions at Keiser University and then at Fortis College, both in Jacksonville, Fla. In summer 2013, she landed at Central Penn.

Her success and the volume of her pursuits speak to the kind of drive that she refined at Franklin Pierce and has continued to hone in the years since.

As was done for her so many years ago in Rindge, Scolforo has tasked herself with expanding the opportunities her school provides so that her students have a more relevant place in the world that awaits them. She's looking at expanding opportunities for nontraditional students and has begun laying groundwork to begin offering doctoral programs at Castleton.

As she talks about these changes, her words convey an energetic tone. She's both driven and optimistic. "The goals are lofty," she said. And that's the point. What was instilled so significantly in her at Franklin Pierce more than two decades ago resonates strongly with her now as she prepares a new generation of students to work in and shape the world.

"You have a strong sense of responsibility when you're part of a public university, to serve the public and to serve the greater good, and to make sure your education is not only high quality but accessible and affordable. I saw that and experienced that at Franklin Pierce." 





Gianaris Establishes Scholarship

Gift Honors His Grandparents

Zachary Gianaris '89 values the sense of family and friendship he experienced at Franklin Pierce. "Franklin Pierce is a place where people know you by name," he said.

That's why he established the Gianaris Family Scholarship Fund, which will support students from Worcester County, Mass., wishing to attend the College of Business at Franklin Pierce. Gianaris facilitated the gift of \$110,000 to establish the endowed fund.

The Gianaris family history is a classic American immigrant story. Gianaris' maternal grandparents were from a small village in Yugoslavia. During World War II, his grandfather, Alki, was conscripted to provide produce from local farms to feed invading German soldiers and tried to help nearby farmers hide enough food to survive the winter themselves. When it got too dangerous, he organized a group to emigrate and eventually landed with his wife, Katina, in Worcester County, where he started a fruit wholesale business.

Gianaris' paternal grandparents, George and Agnes, came from Tsounis, Greece, settling in New Britain, Conn., in 1918 to open a diner. Gianaris' mother, Barbara, a schoolteacher, would frequent that diner, and at his grandfather George's urging, his son, Zachary (senior), finally found the courage to ask her out.

Gianaris worked in his grandfather's fruit business alongside three generations of family members and giving back to the community became a family tradition. Business had grown from one pushcart to 15 trucks. Gianaris recalls stories of his grandfather freely supplying

food to his neighbors in the wake of a massive flood in Worcester County in 1955.

All four of Gianaris' grandparents prioritized hard work and education. Both grandmothers worked alongside their husbands in the family businesses to be able to educate all their children and grandchildren. Gianaris attended Worcester Academy for two years, graduated from Bartlett High School in Webster and earned his associate degree from Dean College. He graduated from Franklin Pierce College with a bachelor's degree in business in 1989.

When his paternal grandmother, Agnes Gianaris, died recently at

the age of 102, Gianaris approached his father about establishing a scholarship fund. He felt the Gianaris Family Scholarship was a perfect way to honor her memory and strong belief in education.

Gianaris also shares her commitment to family and community. He is currently the primary caretaker for his own parents, both of whom require full-time, long-term aid.

"His generosity is no surprise," said classmate and friend Judie Newsome '89.

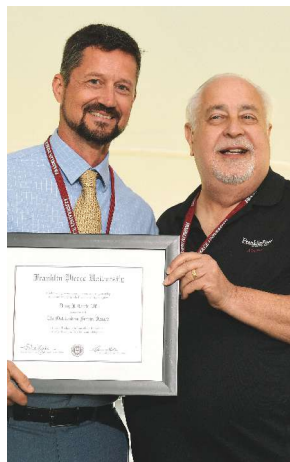
"Zack is a great guy and would give you the shirt off his back."

"Zachary Gianaris is a wonderful example of the lifelong connection students, faculty and staff make with one another as part of our close-knit community," noted President Kim Mooney '83. "We are deeply grateful for the family's commitment to help make our excellent business education accessible to Franklin Pierce students from communities near Worcester." — *Julie Rizzo*

“Franklin Pierce is a place where people know you by name.”

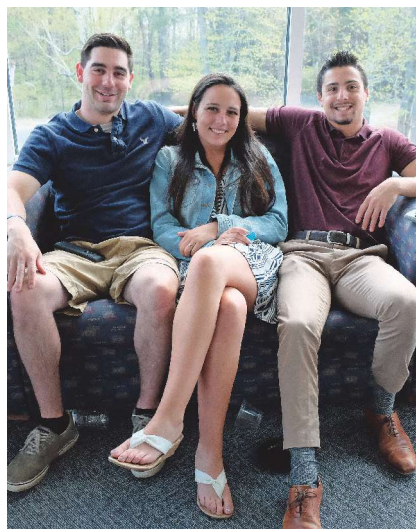
— ZACHARY GIANARIS '89

EVENTS



REUNION WEEKEND 2018

More than 300 alumni, parents, faculty, staff and friends headed back to campus in June for our annual Alumni Reunion Weekend. We marked a milestone this year as the Class of 1968 celebrated its 50th class reunion. Reunion 2019 is June 28 – 30. The Alumni and Parent Relations Office is looking for reunion class agents for the following classes: 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009 and 2014. For more information, contact Katie Copeland at copelandk@franklinpiercedu.



ALUMNI SENIOR RECEPTION

The alumni office hosted a senior send-off reception, welcoming our new graduates into the alumni association. Special thank you to the 2018 senior class delegation for helping to organize the event.

EVENTS



ALUMNI MOCK INTERVIEWS

Alumni headed back to Rindge to help current students with job interview techniques. A special thank you to the Lloyd and Helen Ament Astmann '69 Career Center and Dave Masse '83, Matt Naffah '05, Amanda MacGee '03 and Jason McCormack '95, MBA '13.

ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Alumni, parents, families and friends joined us to celebrate our student-athletes and recipients of the 2018 Athletic Hall of Fame, where James Thorpe '08, Nicole Cheadle-Morris '03, Hazel Harding '89 and Jon White '03 were inducted.



NEW YORK RECEPTION

Thank you to trustee Kerry Stein '80 and his wife, Jean Marie, for hosting a summer reception at their beautiful home in Mamaroneck, N.Y. A great time was had by all.





MOVE-IN DAY

Franklin Pierce students, faculty and staff were on hand to welcome new students to campus for the 2018 Move-In Day. They helped unload boxes and get students settled into their new Pierce homes. Welcome, new Ravens!

29TH ANNUAL ATHLETIC GOLF TOURNAMENT

More than 100 golfers joined us for the 29th annual Franklin Pierce Golf Tournament at the Keene Country Club. All proceeds raised go toward the Don and Judy Schriefer Scholarship and student-athletes.



AABOD MEETINGS

In March, the Alumni Association Board of Directors met at the Manchester Center for their annual board meeting. Special guest speakers included President Kim Mooney '83, trustee Bob Riley '82, dean of CGPS Maria Altobello, and members of the senior class delegation, Maggie Bell '18, Rachel Sayward '18 and Kristen Spencer '18. The next Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting is in March at the Manchester Center.

Mush!

A group of alumni volunteers has embarked on an archive project in conjunction with Franklin Pierce's DiPietro Library and the Pierce Arrow Newspaper. The group, including Dan Becker '70, are digitizing old photos and issues of the newspaper. Among the hundreds of photos capturing life at Pierce is this one, showing a scene from one of the school's winter carnivals in the 1970s. Look for details in an upcoming issue about how the project is progressing and what you can do to help.



DAN BECKER



ONCE A RAVEN, ALWAYS A RAVEN

After graduation, you become part of a proud alumni network of 25,000-strong, spread across 41 states and 15 countries.

How can connecting with your alumni community benefit you?

Joining with your fellow Ravens across the country or around the globe can help you to grow personally and professionally. Update your information online to keep in touch with close friends and classmates, plus learn about upcoming networking events and other resources. Stay connected!

Please take a moment to complete the Alumni Engagement Survey. Those who take the survey will be entered to win some Pierce Pride swag!

[Franklinpierce.edu/alumni](https://franklinpierce.edu/alumni)
[Franklinpierce.edu/AlumniSurvey.htm](https://franklinpierce.edu/AlumniSurvey.htm) (Alumni Engagement Survey)
[Facebook.com/franklinpiercealumni](https://facebook.com/franklinpiercealumni)



SAVE THE DATE

Keep an eye on events at franklinpierce.edu/calendar

FEBRUARY

10 Open House

APRIL

13 Open House

MAY

10 Convocation

MAY

18 Commencement

JUNE

28-30 Alumni Reunion
Weekend

JULY

22 Athletics Golf Tournament