



## The Marlin Fitzwater Center for Communication

### *Looking Back with Pride*

*By Dr. Kristen Nevious, Director*

As the University celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary over the past year, many alumni have shared fond memories of spinning vinyl over WFPC from the porch of the Manor, filming in the basement of the Library (while trying to avoid capturing the flushing toilet on the audio track), or laying out the *Pierce Arrow*. And, as they finished their stories, they inevitably looked around the Marlin Fitzwater Center for Communication and marveled at the opportunities it represented.

At the Fitzwater Center Honors in April, Dr. James Birge draped inaugural Pierce Media Group Leadership Cords over the shoulders of seven graduating seniors who had seized those opportunities. **Valerie Armstrong, Patrick Ballantyne, Zachary Bylaska-Davies, Jennifer Connors, Samantha Deabay, Morgan Miller, and Amelia Walters** wore their cords – earned over six semesters with the Pierce Media Group (PMG), two of them in leadership positions – with pride at the 2013 Commencement. Established in recognition of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Marlin Fitzwater Center for Communication, the cords acknowledge the vital contributions these students made to the success of the PMG and the Center.

The student media – led by PMG Fellows who work with executive boards – has expanded over the years to include Raven Sports Network, Four Corners Marketing, PMG Social Media, and PoliticsFitzU. Collectively, the PMG has the potential to reach every member of the Franklin Pierce University community 24/7. More than 100 students work in PMG every year, donating a self-reported average of seven hours per week, for 13 weeks per semester, for a total of more than 18,000 hours each year.

Marlin Fitzwater was on campus several times during the year and remarked, "There is no journalism substitute for the rigors of writing, reporting, and thinking about the issues of the day. The Fitzwater Center is hands on. If bricks and mortar can stimulate this process, all the better."

As we look forward to our next 50 years, we are confident that the Fitzwater Center will continue to be a cornerstone for stellar media opportunities for Franklin Pierce students. It will also continue to be a valued source for varied forms of communications and information for the entire Franklin Pierce community.

# Monadnock Institute of Nature, Place & Culture

By Dr. John Harris, Director

## *Flood Waters on the Nubanusit & Place Scholarship 2013*

The Monadnock Institute, in partnership with the Monadnock Center for History and Culture in Peterborough, has applied for funds to undertake a documentary film project focused on the Nubanusit Brook in southwest New Hampshire. Entitled *Flood Waters on the Nubanusit*, the documentary will tell the story of the devastating Flood of 1936 and Hurricane of 1938 – the region's two most significant natural disasters – that wreaked havoc along the Nubanusit and Contoocook Rivers. Townspeople in Antrim, Bennington, Harrisville, Hancock, and Peterborough over the age of 80 have vivid memories of automobiles washed downstream, flooded homes, toppled trees, and fires raging in downtown Peterborough streets.

*Flood Waters on the Nubanusit* will be modeled on the popular *Reflections*

film series produced by the Keene Public Library and its partners in 2010. During September 2013, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Hurricane, I will facilitate a stories circle designed to introduce the Nubanusit project and gather initial recollections. I will also conduct follow-up interviews with selected individuals and will supervise the writing of a script for this new documentary.

History professor Dr. Melinda Jetté, who supervised student research on film topics and provided expertise to ensure historical accuracy and adherence to best practices in oral history procedures throughout the *Reflections* series, will serve as internship coordinator and historian on the Nubanusit project. The critical role of film producer will be filled by Dr. Douglas Challenger, the producer of the recent 60-minute documentary film focused on the history of Franklin Pierce University. In order to

ensure broad community participation and historical accuracy, a rough-cut version of *Flood Waters on the Nubanusit* will be screened in local venues in 2014, several months before a final film is produced.

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The 2013 Monadnock Institute Peter Sauer Place Scholarship has been awarded to **Jennifer Grota**, a Franklin Pierce sophomore majoring in environmental science and the 2013-14 president of the EcoClub on campus. Jennifer is interested in exploring the work that Institute advisory board member Peter Sauer submitted to *Orion Magazine* between 1996 and 2004. She plans to summarize a number of the essays Peter wrote, and then to write her own tribute honoring Peter's commitment to *Orion* and to the environmental movement before he passed away in 2010.

## New England Center for Civic Life

By Joni Doberty, Director

### *The Walter Peterson Forum for Civil Discourse: An Exercise in Deliberative Democracy*


There was no one who epitomized the spirit of civil discourse more than the late Walter Peterson. He served as governor of New Hampshire from 1969-1973. In 1975 he became President of Franklin Pierce University, a position he held for 20 years. After his retirement, he continued to be involved in public affairs and was widely respected for his efforts to bridge across partisan divides. Quite simply, he was a voice of reason.

Today, more than ever it seems, we need to reaffirm our commitment to civil and respectful public discourse. To honor Walter Peterson and foster open and honest

dialogue among individuals and groups with diverse perspectives, the New England Center for Civic Life, and the Monadnock Center for History and Culture in Peterborough, have created The Walter Peterson Forum for Civil Discourse. The forum is designed to give the Franklin Pierce community and residents of the Monadnock region opportunities to engage in civil, honest, and thoughtful conversations about the pressing issues of our time.

The theme for the inaugural year is the United States Constitution. The fall and spring sessions will each open with a keynote address, followed several weeks

later by deliberative forums. Deliberative dialogues are not debates, nor are they casual or superficial conversations. They involve reasoning together and working through possibly conflicting choices in an effort to reach some common understandings. Because it is important for all participants to have the opportunity to actively engage in deliberation, each forum is limited to 20 participants.

In the fall, the focus will be on better understanding the Constitution's historic context. During the spring session, our attention will turn to the Bill of Rights and its role in contemporary America. 

To learn more about *The Walter Peterson Forum for Civil Discourse*, please contact Joni Doberty at [dobertyj@franklin Pierce.edu](mailto:dobertyj@franklin Pierce.edu) or (603) 899-1025.