

THE MAGIC OF THE CLASSROOM . . .

This article is dedicated to and in honor of all the teachers of Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Kirsti came to Franklin Pierce because of the intimacy of the campus, community-oriented feeling, and the ability to get one-on-one attention from professors. She applied for student teaching during her senior year, handing in her application, resume, and cover letter to the Education Department. “From there,” Kirsti explained, “Pat Kirsh considers what she knows about you and what she sees on the information sheet handed in to her and places you where she feels you will be well matched. She was amazing — always very friendly and very helpful whenever I had any questions or needed help with anything!”

Kirsti finished her first student teaching placement in October 2012, followed by a second student teaching placement in December 2012. The first placement was in a second grade room with Cheryl Jordan at Winchendon Memorial School, and the second in a sixth grade room with Nicole Pease at South Meadow School in Peterborough. Kirsti said that a favorite part of her placement “was getting to know the students and really making a connection with them, and especially seeing how much you, as a teacher (even just a student teacher), can truly impact their lives. Also, getting the chance to see how your students grow.”

Lessons Learned

Just like the students in her classroom, Kirsti has grown since arriving at Franklin Pierce. She describes herself as “fun loving,

TEACHER IN TRAINING

Kirsti Joanna Bogaard '13 is double majoring in Elementary Education and Mathematics at Franklin Pierce University.



organized, caring, and detail oriented — but always trying my best to put others first.” She loves to spend time with family and friends, and being outside and active, including playing rugby. Kirsti prides herself on working with and helping kids, which is what she does at the Rindge Recreation Department After School Program. “Since being at Franklin Pierce, one thing I have noticed that has changed about me as a person,” Kirsti reflected, “is that I am much more outgoing than I used to be. When I came to Franklin Pierce, I was very shy and pretty held back, but now I feel I have broken out of my shell somewhat, and am not afraid to get out there and get involved.”

After graduation Kirsti is hoping to move to the Groton/New London area of Connecticut and obtain a teaching position at one of the at-risk schools in

the area. She also plans to take either night or online classes to continue her own education as she works toward a master’s degree. There is no doubt that Kirsti has found her passion.

“A teacher needs to be someone who really has that passion in them to want to work with students,” Kirsti said. “But not only that, they need the right people to help them nurture it and help them grow. I know a few people that helped me become who I am when it comes to teaching, even though my experience so far is only student teaching; it is all the professors and people that work in the Education Department at Franklin Pierce, my amazing host teachers that I learned incredible amounts from, and Pat Kirsh, who helped me to get those great placements.”

COMING FULL CIRCLE

By Christina Young, Director of Alumni Relations

Model of Excellence Patricia Brown Kirsh '70 offers a lifetime of inspiration.

Pat was an Anthropology major and Education minor at Franklin Pierce. Growing up, Pat had a dream of working on an archaeological site, but once she began her field observations in Education, Pat knew that teaching was her future.

During Pat's student teaching days, she taught at a small, private kindergarten in Troy, N.H., operated by Franklin Pierce Education Professor Marion Austin. Pat remembers her days as a student, staying up late in her dorm with her roommate and scrambling to create lesson plans in her junior year. Senior year, Pat was hired one day a week to teach a preschool class in Troy, and her career grew from there. Directly after graduation, Pat secured a second grade teaching position in Winchendon, Mass., where she taught for 34 years. Good friend and long-time colleague, Cheryle Delbove, said that the administration recognized Pat's talents, kind demeanor, and personable nature, and after a short time Pat, was promoted to principal.

Finding the Magic

The Education Department at Franklin Pierce also recognized Pat's talents and reached out to her early in her career to ask if she would take field observation students and student teachers into her classroom. Franklin Pierce worked with Pat to place students as early as their first semester

sophomore year. One of Pat's favorite memories was meeting each student and watching the "potential teacher find the magic of the classroom," she said. Pat felt it was similar to working with her own students in the classroom. "Every child has special gifts," Pat said. "Helping those reluctant learners to be ready learners and find their special interests is one of the joys I will never forget from my teaching days."

Cheryle, who describes Pat as a quiet and supportive leader, took over placing field observation students for Pat when she retired in 2005. Cheryle credits Pat for making the Memorial School an integral part of the field observation/student teacher placement process at Franklin Pierce University. "There is no better cheerleader for Franklin Pierce," Cheryle said.

After Pat's "retirement," she was asked to take a position at the University coordinating all of the students' placements and observations. Pat embraced the position and worked with the education program at Franklin Pierce to place students in Elementary Education (K-8), Art Education (K-12), and Secondary (5-12) Teacher Certification.

Rave Reviews

Education students at Franklin Pierce University have gained a reputation for professional competence and

effectiveness in the classroom. **Nancy Gagnon**, administrative assistant in the Education Department, raved about her colleague's placement work: "Pat performs her magic with ease, and makes everything run smoothly. She is simply a delight to work with."

Biggest fan, husband, and fellow alum, **Bruce Kirsh '71** shared that he is proud of Pat's commitment to the Franklin Pierce Education Department by volunteering her time to place Franklin Pierce student teachers during her 34-year career in the Winchendon school system. "And Pat provided me with the drive and ambition to become a better and more focused student when we were in school together," he added.

Pat's natural ability to inspire education has heavily influenced the success of the placement program at Franklin Pierce. "I started out being a student, but have come full circle now, working for the education department at Franklin Pierce," she said. Pat is pleased to witness that the magic of the classroom is still alive today.

We thank Pat for all that she has done for the education program and especially for the magic she has created by working with so many students over the years. And we look forward to seeing budding teacher Kirsti Joanna Bogaard embark on her professional teaching career!

