eTour of Campus Lands

In November of 2008, the Monadnock Institute in collaboration with the Environmental Science Department at Franklin Pierce launched a Web-based interactive electronic map of the natural areas on the Franklin Pierce University campus. Titled the “eTour of Campus Lands,” this project includes “clickable” points placed on aerial photos of the campus property. By clicking these points, viewers are taken to pictures and summaries of class projects, student thesis research, and faculty research as well as information on natural history and wildlife sightings.

Franklin Pierce alumnus and former Place scholar Neel Patel was the main designer of the eTour. Building on his knowledge of GIS-based electronic mapping, Neel developed a simple, user-friendly tour that is available to anyone with PowerPoint software (a viewer version of PowerPoint can be downloaded for free from the eTour homepage). This project has already been used by several classes at Franklin Pierce and will continue to grow as students, faculty, and others in the community add to our knowledge of the 1,000-plus acres of forest and wetlands on campus. To visit the eTour, go to http://eraven.franklinpierce.edu/etour/.

Monadnock Institute—Keene State College Partnership

On Thursday, November 5, Institute director John Harris will join authors John Elder, Kent Ryden, and Pavel Cenkl in a panel discussion exploring the themes of regional identity and New England cultural history as part of Keene State College’s symposium “From Local to Global: 100 Years of Education at Keene State.” The panel will be moderated by Keene State College Professor Mark Long.

Exploring Aldo Leopold

Institute director John Harris has been selected to participate in a National Endowment for the Humanities faculty summer institute focused on the life and work of conservationist Aldo Leopold. John will join twenty-five other faculty members in Prescott, Arizona, for a month-long investigation of Leopold’s contributions, sponsored by the Arizona State University Institute for Humanities Research.

Fall Symposium 2009: Save the Date for Saturday, October 24

The Monadnock Institute plans to participate in the international day of action on climate change on Saturday, October 24. We will present a panel discussion on this topic that we hope will include Arctic explorer Will Steger, among others. Plan to hold the date and join members of the Institute in a conversation focused on what we can do to ensure a healthy planet. Franklin Pierce University undergraduates will be encouraged to take action and address climate change and ecological best practices in a series of presentations and activities on Friday, October 23.

In Memorium

In January, the Institute lost one of its most dedicated and valuable advisors, Peter Sauer, who died at his home in Salem, New York. Peter not only contributed an essay to Where the Mountain Stands Alone and participated in several NEH-sponsored Teaching Place programs at Keene High School, he also offered his wisdom on virtually every project we undertook. In remembrance of Peter’s dedication and spirit of generosity, the Monadnock Institute is naming a $1,000 scholarship the Peter H. Sauer Place Award. The undergraduate recipient of this award will be asked to become familiar with Peter’s writing in Orion Magazine, as well as design and implement a project, focused on some aspect of place, in honor of Peter.

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**Symposium 2008 Summary**

### Dreaming Green: Energy, Architecture, Land, and the Future Franklin Pierce

On Friday, November 7, more than 100 students, faculty, and staff at Franklin Pierce joined members of the Monadnock Institute’s executive committee to celebrate “Dreaming Green” on the FPU campus. Organized and introduced by students in the EcoClub, the day-long symposium featured presentations, discussions, and a green design charrette. Morning presenters included facilities director Doug Lear, who summarized the University’s recent commitment to wood pellet heating, and Hank Ouimet, program manager and LEED-certified engineer at Weston and Sampson, who described the benefits and applicability of wind, solar, and geothermal technology in New England. In addition, FPU Environmental Science graduate Neel Patel offered an overview of eTour, a electronic map of campus lands (see related article on page 1), which he developed in fulfillment of the Place scholarship.

Following lunch, keynote speaker Jim Merkel addressed the issues of campus greening based on his experience as the sustainability coordinator at Dartmouth College. Jim emphasized the importance of “modifying first” — investing in energy efficiency through traditional methods like increased insulation and window replacement before pursuing expensive new technology solutions. He also encouraged students to minimize consumption through innovative approaches like trayless cafeteria meals and dorm-wide energy savings competitions.

Following Jim’s remarks, symposium participants, facilitated by Kirk Stone, High Performance Schools Program Manager at the Jordan Institute, worked in teams to design energy efficient renovations to Marcucella Hall, the current science building on campus. These suggestions included the following: a revolving outer door to conserve heat, ceiling plants to absorb CO₂, remodeling walls and flooring to include local wood, and heat and CO₂ sensors to reduce energy when the building is not in use. The symposium concluded with a discussion led by undergraduates who had recently participated in the Northeast Climate Neutrality conference hosted at Dartmouth College.

### POWA Program for FPU freshmen Treks in New Direction

Franklin Pierce’s freshmen pre-orientation wilderness adventure (POWA) program is gearing up for another year of backpacking and kayaking, with minor changes to the previous models. The program, conceived by former Director Doug Connelly, has had three years of successful trips in some of the most scenic areas of northern New Hampshire.

The program for 2009 will look to yield the same experience for students, but in a different manner. Instead of the faraway venues of the past, the program will concentrate on local trails and rivers. The Monadnock-Sunapee Greenway and Contoocook River are tentatively on the list. Although the “wilderness” aspect of the trip might be interrupted by occasional civilization, the purpose is for students to better identify with their immediate surroundings. Students will also spend the first day on campus in lieu of heading straight for the trailhead or river put-in. Backpackers will investigate the “wild side of campus” while trekking along the trails on both sides of Route 119. The kayakers will paddle Pearly Pond, getting lessons on kayaking techniques and on the flora and fauna that thrive in and around the pond.

This program has always had positive outcomes with anywhere from 39 to 50 students in attendance each summer. When POWA was proposed the emphasis was on the retention of student participants. Many studies have shown that students who make associations early in their careers stay the course, or courses, so to speak, rather than withdrawing or transferring. Philip Davidowsky, a previous participant reflects, “This trip is a very meaningful experience that I feel more incoming students should be a part of. It definitely made my introduction to college life much smoother, and a lot of fun.”
**Model Place-maker: ES Major Kristen Bean**

Senior Environmental Science major Kristen Bean chose Franklin Pierce after sitting in on an introductory environmental science session with Department Chair Dr. Catherine Koning, and discussing her interests in sailing and outdoor recreation with Director of Recreation Doug Carty. She also liked the fact that Mount Monadnock, which she had climbed as a kid, “was going to be in my backyard.”

Once enrolled, Kristen quickly became involved in the Franklin Pierce adventure recreation program. Since then, she has led dozens of hikes, rock climbing trips, and skiing adventures to places that include Tuckerman’s Ravine, Rumney Rock, and the Welsh & Dicky Loop. She also helped coordinate a ski trip to Austria for students over spring break, and was twice selected as a student leader for the week-long pre-orientation wilderness adventure program FPU offers freshmen before they arrive on campus in the fall (see related article on page 2). Kristen recalls with a smile the sighting of an American Bald Eagle, which a freshman first identified as a “huge crow,” flying across Lake Umbagog in the North Country region of New Hampshire.

In addition to her coursework in Environmental Science and her contributions to the outdoor adventure program and the EcoClub at Franklin Pierce, Kristen has worked at a Massachusetts Audubon summer camp, a Massachusetts wildlife turtle protection project, and an internship with Vanasse, Hangen, Brustlin Inc., an engineering firm which specializes in environmental regulation, compliance, and mitigation. She feels fortunate for the opportunities Franklin Pierce has afforded her, and seems very confident as she considers her next steps after graduation — which will likely include graduate school or perhaps an immediate job in environmental education. The faculty members who have helped guide Kristen during her college career also feel fortunate for the time they have shared with this exceptional individual.

Kristen can usually be found skiing to school in the winter months, and biking her way to campus in the spring and fall. Her thoughts for deepening connections between Environmental Science, the Monadnock Institute, and Adventure Recreation at Franklin Pierce include “more opportunities to teach students in advance of outdoor trips we take, especially in light of the new course in Outdoor Leadership.”

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**Departures**

**LIZ PALCHAK AND DOUG CONNELLY**

Two members of the Institute’s executive committee, Liz Palchak and her husband, Doug Connelly, recently accepted faculty positions at the renowned Teton Science School in Jackson, Wyoming. Both of these energetic individuals will be missed: Liz for her patience and ability to inspire passion in first-year students interested in environmental education at Franklin Pierce, and Doug for his expertise and enthusiasm in FPU’s pre-orientation wilderness adventure program for freshmen (see related article on page 2).
During the second year of the North Country project, Kay Morgan, Project Coordinator has continued professional development initiatives with teachers which have also included community members in two major events: a summer institute and a “Community Writing Day.”

Teachers from Woodsville, Whitefield, Lancaster, and Groveton came together with community members from Littleton, Bethlehem, Berlin, Intervale, and Stratford to participate in a four-day intensive institute held at the White Mountain School in Bethlehem. Howard Mansfield opened the institute with a talk focused on community memory. Participants attended workshops on writing and assessment, and the importance of intergenerational interaction in sustaining community heritage and in imagining the future. Field experiences at the Moore Dam and Reservoir in Littleton and the Frost Place in Franconia as well as research projects at each place helped teachers to craft community heritage lesson plans to take back to their classrooms. These plans are available to the public online at www.northcountrynhstories.org. The institute was partially funded by a grant from the NH Humanities Council.

In November, teachers and community members came together again at the Highland Center in Crawford Notch to discuss ways of encouraging students to write about their communities and publish their work in local newspapers. John Harris and Rebecca Brown, anthology editor, met with community participants, sharing model essays from *Where the Mountain Stands Alone* and helping individuals craft essay topics. Kay Morgan met with teachers to discuss methods of helping students expand and deepen their essays. NH author Rebecca Rule led a session with the whole group on methods of gathering stories and writing about them. After lunch, North Country journalists Eileen Alexander and Charles Jordan talked informally with the group about publishing student work.

The North Country project continues to solicit work from secondary and post-secondary students for the online and print anthologies by partnering with an Environmental Studies class at White Mountain Community College and continuing work with high schools throughout the region. Students at twelve area high schools have been invited to attend a Writers’ Day on May 7 at the Mountain View Grand Resort in Whitefield. Ernest Hebert, author of numerous novels featuring rural New Hampshire, will keynote the day, and students will choose from a variety of writing and visual arts workshops focused on creating a sense of place.

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**North Country Writers**

**Land History & Conservation**
- Intervale Abenaki Camp: Alan Leveillee
- Among the Notches: Tom Wessels
- Lake Umbagog: Emma Rous
- White Mountain Tourism: Pavel Cenkl
- Appalachian Mountain Club: Elizabeth Mills
- CCC and German War Camp: Alan Koop
- Forbes Farm: Eileen Alexander

**Identity in the North Country**
- Land Ethics & Property Rights: John Harrigan
- Immigrant Groups in Berlin: Becky Rule
- Conway vs North Conway: David Emerson
- Visions of the Land: Barbara Tetreault
- Branding the North Country: Roger Brooks
- Town Sketches: Paul Hertneky
- Notchism: Suzanne Moberly

**Lost & Recovered Places/People**
- North Country Calendar: Howard Mosher
- Boom Times: Kim Nilsen
- Stories in Stone: Kevin Gardner
- Frost Place: Kay Morgan
- Moore Dam: Fran Lavoie

**Recreation, Then and Now**
- Cannon Mountain Skiing: Meghan McPhaul
- Camp Diamond: Adair Mulligan
- Bethlehem: Rita Farrell
- Neil Tillotson: Katrina Farmer
- Gwendolen Ladd: Photographer: Susan Zizza

**Industry & Arts, Now and Then**
- River Drives & Robert Pike: Edie Clark
- Logging Stories: Sylvia Smith
- Limmer Boots: Doug Connelly
- White Mt. Painters: Robert Cantrell
- Railroads: Nat Tripp
- Bethlehem Landfill: Katherine Cox

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**Announcing a New Web Site**

Visit us online to view our new electronic anthology and learn more about the North Country project: www.northcountrynhstories.org
Anthology editor Rebecca Brown, assisted by Kay Morgan and John Harris, has been soliciting stories with “dirt under their nails” from North Country residents for inclusion in our print anthology. Authors who plan to contribute to the volume include John Harrigan, Edie Clark, Barbara Tetreault, Tom Wessels, Sylvia Smith, Kim Nilsen, Paul Hertneky, Eileen Alexander, Pavel Cenkl, and Howard Frank Mosher. Included below are excerpts from some of the essays we have received. To read more excerpts and other essays focused on North Country topics, visit the Institute’s new electronic anthology at www.northcountrynhstories.org.

“The Empire of the Trees” by Kim Robert Nilsen

Farming was Colebrook’s sturdy backbone, and it was about to get a whole lot stronger. The main trading center for Upper Coös, Colebrook, had already been crowned the “Potato Capital of New Hampshire” when the first iron horse pulled into the town’s newly minted railway station in 1887. Mountains of potatoes and potato starch could ship by rail, surely; but load ice aboard double-walled boxcars and milk could get to Whitefield unspoiled, could get anywhere, really. Hundreds of hill and intervale farmers within a few hours’ wagon ride of Colebrook’s depot responded extravagantly to the new market opportunities unleashed by the arrival of the railroad. Soon they were shipping two million pounds of dairy every year.

“Among the Notches” by Tom Wessels

Old-growth forest in the White Mountains might sound improbable to people who know the region’s history. Weren’t all of the Whites clear-cut in the late 1800s and early 1900s? The answer to that question is a qualified yes. Although the majority of the White Mountain region was clear-cut, a number of areas were spared the rapacious removal of 50 million trees. One of the largest and most easily accessible of these protected stands lies adjacent to Route 302 at the foot of Crawford Notch. Nestled between the highway and the National Forest border, and stretching north from the Dry River Trail almost to the Webster Cliff Trail lie over 300 acres of old-growth, northern hardwood forest. Dominated by stately, hoary barked sugar maple, the stand also supports numerous old yellow birch, beech, and hemlock. A walk north from the Dry River Trail on the Saco River Trail takes hikers through the heart of this forest where trees exceeding 300 years in age began growing long before the state of New Hampshire came into being.

“Voices from the Forest” by Sylvia Smith

Another logging professional who’s seen both sides of mechanization is William “Bill” Thomas, age 74. Both his grandfathers worked in logging. Brown Paper Company hired Bill to work the river from Errol to Berlin in 1953. Using a three-and-a-half-foot pickaroon, a tool resembling an axe with a hooked blade, he snagged logs on the banks and dragged them into the river. At the time, softwood pulp generally was transported to the mill by river. Hardwood, most of which doesn’t float, was trucked. That September, Bill was offered a clerk’s position. He declined, saying, “I’m not an inside person. My mother could never keep me in the house.”

From top to bottom: Tourists arrive by train at Colebrook, New Hampshire, c. 1900; old growth forest; and logging drive on the Ammonoosuc River.
FPU’s Green Earth Proposal: Cultivating Green Buildings and Business

In its quest for sustainability and a strong commitment to place at Franklin Pierce, the Board of Trustees is reviewing an ambitious proposal to make environmental issues a central focus of the institution. The Green Earth proposal outlines a number of important transformations for the university, including offering a Certificate in Sustainability Studies, creating a 350-acre wildland area, designating a number of outdoor learning laboratory areas, hiring a sustainability coordinator, and making future buildings and renovations “green buildings.”

The Green Earth Sustainability Certificate would be an experiential program, whereby students would choose specific sustainability projects and work on them within the context of their major programs. For example, a student majoring in Mass Communications might conduct some investigative reporting on a local environmental topic over several semesters, or a Psychology major might design a project to apply behavioral psychology to convince students to turn off computers and appliances at night. Over 25 faculty members have designated one or more of their classes as having “green content” or assignments that could be used to work on such sustainability projects.

On the heels of President George Hagerty’s signing the Commitment to Climate Neutrality, the Green Earth proposal forms a next logical step in our commitment to reduce greenhouse gas production as much as possible, and to find ways to offset unavoidable climate-warming gas releases. This exciting venture, along with the recent nationwide focus on energy and the environment, has sparked a flurry of activity on the Rindge campus, and to a lesser extent on the satellite campuses. We finished our first Greenhouse Gas inventory this past fall (see pie chart, below left), and we have already taken serious actions to reducing energy use. This summer, Franklin Pierce will replace three of the largest heating systems with wood-fired gasification boilers, which will eliminate 158,000 gallons of oil and propane, saving thousands of dollars and tons of carbon dioxide.

Designing campus buildings with a commitment to energy reduction is also in Franklin Pierce’s future. Since most of our facilities were constructed in the 1970s, they are ripe for renovation, both to accommodate growth in programs and enrollment, and to improve energy efficiency, reduce environmental impacts, and improve the setting for teaching and learning. Our hope is to undertake a LEED-certified renovation of Marcucella Hall and Crestview Hall by 2014, using recycled and local materials.

While the Green Earth proposal does ask for two new faculty positions (in the areas of energy, water, or economics) the linchpin of the proposal is the position of Sustainability Coordinator. This individual will be charged with taking on specific tasks to “green” the campus, and will work with students, faculty, and staff to integrate the concepts into the curriculum. The Sustainability Coordinator would also assist with events such as the Green Business: The Next Generation forum that took place on April 21 as part of the campus Earth Week events.

One of the boldest statements that an individual or institution can make is to protect land. Franklin Pierce is working with the Northeast Wilderness Trust to explore the possibility of placing a “forever wild” conservation easement on a 350-acre parcel of land just south of the main campus in Rindge. This parcel has already been identified by the Rindge Conservation Commission as an area of exceptionally high conservation value. Should the Board of Trustees recommend implementation of the land protection project, a fundraising campaign will ensue to purchase the development rights, and the funds raised will go towards green building renovation and other aspects of the “Green Earth” proposal.
Student Research Contributions Enhance Film Histories

Last year, students in the Introduction to Public History course completed research reports for the Reflections Oral History Project, which focuses on the Monadnock region. Franklin Pierce student Cory Atkinson (Anthropology and Public History) then completed a summer research internship for the project. His work on historic images contributed to the first oral history documentary film for the Reflections project, entitled The Hurricane of 1938. This academic year Cory is continuing his research for three additional films in the series: rail travel in the Monadnock region, Pisgah Park, and regional textile mills. Cory is also joined by his fellow students Maribeth Côté (History and Public History) and Cara Tamiso (Anthropology and Public History). Maribeth and Cara are currently researching images for the Cheshire County Farm complex film. The two researchers will also contribute to a final film in the Reflection series, focusing on theaters in the Monadnock region. The film will premiere in spring 2010.

Trolleys, Trains, and Flyers: Rail Travel in the Monadnock Region

On Sunday, April 19, the second documentary film in the Reflections series premiered at the Colonial Theatre in Keene. Individuals who serve as local repositories of community memory recall dressing up for a ride and then being covered with soot, watching the circus trains pull into town, eating lunch at the kitchen table with traveling hobos, and witnessing the slow demise of the iron horse in the second half of the twentieth century. The program included film footage of the sleek Cheshire pulling into the downtown station, and featured original music composed by Franklin Pierce graduate Alex DiCicco.

Last fall, on September 21, seventy years after the Great Hurricane of 1938 struck the Monadnock region, 850 local residents filled the Colonial Theatre to relive the dramatic events of that day. In the first of our five-part series, the members of the Reflections Project, and Cheshire Television director Lee Perkins in particular, edited and organized the stories of personal recollections about the hurricane and its aftermath. Keene residents described in detail the arrival of high winds, the snapping of trees, the inundation of roads, and the prolonged period of cleanup after the region’s most notorious storm.
Support the Monadnock Institute

The MINPC is supported in part by Franklin Pierce University, but the bulk of its operating funds come from grants and donations. You can help support the place-based educational work of the Institute with a tax-deductible donation. Go to http://www.franklinpierce.edu/monadnockinstitute/join.html and follow the instructions to make an online contribution, or you can send a check, made out to Monadnock Institute at FPU, to the address above.