Environmental Studies Degree to be Offered at FPU

Anchored by an enthusiastic and talented senior faculty and a sustainability coordinator, the Franklin Pierce University environmental program will further broaden undergraduate opportunities in 2013 by adding a new faculty member (see related story, at right). This addition will facilitate the introduction of a new bachelor of arts degree in environmental studies to complement the existing bachelor of science degree in environmental science. Entering freshmen in either program will enroll in a required common core of natural science, social science, and humanities courses in their first academic year, and then will choose between the environmental studies track or the environmental science track in their sophomore year. Their decisions will be based on personal interest and aptitude, and on a careful review of career goals and aspirations. The environmental science degree will require additional field and laboratory coursework, whereas the environmental studies major will spend more time with courses on sustainability, environmental law, history, policy, and literature.

Both the Monadnock Institute and the Sustainability Center will play important roles in the expanded environmental program. In addition to sponsoring

see DEGREE on page 5

New Environmental Studies Faculty Member

Dr. Verna DeLauer has been hired as assistant professor of environmental studies for fall 2013. Dr. DeLauer has experience teaching courses such as Citizen Engagement and Sustainable Communities, Social Theories of Environmental Risks and Hazards, and Human Geography. Her research work includes a mapping project of beetles, trees, neighborhoods, and policies in the Worcester, Massachusetts area and a study of the resilience to climate change of coastal communities. Dr. DeLauer has cultivated connections with organizations in central New England and the Monadnock region, and plans to use these connections to strengthen the civic engagement and internship components of the new environmental studies degree (see related story, at left). Dr. DeLauer holds a bachelor’s degree in English literature from Ohio State University, a master’s degree in environmental studies from Antioch University, and a Ph.D. in natural resources management and environmental studies from the University of New Hampshire.

Antioch University Affiliation, More Graduate Study Options

The Franklin Pierce University environmental program is excited to announce an affiliation agreement between FPU and Antioch University New England Graduate School, a nationally recognized environmental education leader. Students who wish to accelerate their undergraduate education can apply to enter a 3-2 program in which they earn a master’s degree in environmental studies from Antioch University in five years from their date of admission to FPU. This rigorous program includes two internships and a senior project before graduation with a master of science degree.

In addition, Franklin Pierce undergraduates who envision careers that help businesses become more
Beyond the Notches: Stories of Place in New Hampshire’s North Country received the 2011-2012 award for Outstanding Book of Nonfiction from the New Hampshire Writers’ Project. Editors John R. Harris, Kay Morgan, and Mike Dickerman were on hand at the New Hampshire Literary Awards in November 2012 to receive the award on behalf of all the contributors to the book.

The award was presented by New Hampshire Writers’ Project Vice President Mary Jo Alibrio. Her remarks included some of the comments made by the judge in nonfiction, Art Winslow: “The symbiotic relationship between the land and its people is the great throbbing heart of Beyond the Notches, rendered close and dear on virtually every page, and without shyness or rancor it engages difficult questions with open-ended answers,” said Winslow, former literary editor and executive editor of The Nation and frequent contributor to the Los Angeles Times and Chicago Tribune Book Forum.

Designed as a project to collect and celebrate essays “with dirt under their fingernails” by North Country writers, Beyond the Notches “manages to wed together historicism and contemporary affairs relatively seamlessly, in a continuum of consideration that balances questions of stewardship, economic necessity and communal responsibility,” according to Winslow.

The book, a compendium of fifty-one new essays by an equal mix of noted New Hampshire writers and new voices from the North Country, brings together the past and present and looks to the future of this unique region. Howard Mosher, noted fiction writer in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom, has called Beyond the Notches “the best anthology of a distinctive American region I have ever read.”

In his foreword to the book, Richard Ober, president of the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation wrote, “It’s not sentimental about the region’s stunning beauty, and it doesn’t flinch from the reality of a boom-and-bust economy. It is, in short, a collection worthy of the singular place it chronicles so well.”

In addition to stunning cover art and five specially commissioned paintings by Bethlehem, New Hampshire resident Amy Delventhal, the book is lavishly illustrated by historic and contemporary photos, maps, and art by the White Mountain School of 19th-century artists.

The anthology project was funded by grants and donations from Jane’s Trust, the Neil and Louise Tillotson Fund, Franklin Pierce University, the New Hampshire Humanities Council, and numerous family foundations and individual donors. Copies of Beyond the Notches are available in bookstores throughout the state and directly from Bondcliff Books in Littleton, New Hampshire.

Mike Dickerman, Kay Morgan, and John R. Harris co-edited Beyond the Notches, recently recognized for its outstanding nonfiction.
During my junior year at Franklin Pierce University, I worked on a project with the Monadnock Institute of Nature, Place and Culture designed to encourage students to get outside and to promote environmental education and sustainability. The campus trails on FPU’s 1,200-acre, ecologically diverse property provide ideal opportunities for students to learn about succession, New England history, phenology, wetlands, and wildlife as well as opportunities for fun and relaxation.

Because many old cross-country ski trails, carriage roads, and logging trails crisscross campus woods, I recognized that a detailed map would be important for safety and so that more students could enjoy these trails without fear of getting lost. Using a handheld GPS unit, I walked the marked routes of the Serenity Trail, Gates Farm Trail, Place Trail, and the newly developed Pond Trail. After transferring the GPS points into GIS map layers for ease of accessibility and adaptability, I transposed my data onto an aerial photograph of the campus property. As a final step in the process, the university invested in a kiosk featuring the map as well as trail brochures that include the map, trail descriptions, and safety information.

As president of the Ecology Club in 2012-13, I have been inviting the campus on weekly trail walks where students share knowledge about our environment, look for animal signs, identify plants, exercise, and have fun. I plan to graduate from Franklin Pierce University this spring with degrees in environmental science and chemistry, and hope to build a career studying ecology. I am scheduled to attend graduate school at Plymouth State University to study wetland ecology next year.

Jennifer Grota Named 2013 Place Scholar

The 2013 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. Grota is interested in exploring the work that former Monadnock Institute advisory board member Peter Sauer submitted to Orion Magazine between 1996 and 2004. She plans to summarize a number of the essays Sauer wrote, and then to write an essay honoring his commitment to Orion and the environmental movement he helped to shape before he passed away in 2010.
Retracing North With the Spring

In 1947 Pulitzer prize winning naturalist Edwin Way Teale left his home in Baldwin, New York, and headed south to Florida in preparation for a 17,000-mile journey north following the progress of spring through twenty-three states. The record of this monumental journey became a best-selling book titled North With the Spring, published in 1951, which is regarded as a classic in the genre of nature writing. Teale’s success was the result of judicious selection of study sites, close observation and meticulous record keeping, and frequent contact with local experts. His journals and photographs, catalogued at the University of Connecticut, record precisely where he and his wife, Nellie, went each day, with whom they conversed, and what he observed in the natural world. Teale visited many important natural sanctuaries on this excursion—including the Everglades, Okefenokee Swamp, Bull’s Island, the Great Smoky Mountains, the Dismal Swamp, the Pine Barrens, Walden Pond, Cape Cod, Lake Champlain, and the White Mountains.

With the assistance of a Whiting Foundation grant, Monadnock Institute Executive Director Dr. John Harris used his first sabbatical at Franklin Pierce University to retrace the journey Teale undertook sixty-five years ago. In addition, Dr. Harris enlisted Franklin Pierce undergraduates to assist him in the research and scholarly activities he undertook between February 20, 2012, and June 21, 2012. A group of eight interested students in first-year environmental science classes responded to questions posted in a weekly blog and assisted with research on specific sites, species, and the effects of climate change. Dr. Harris also took hundreds of photographs and recorded on audiotape ten conversations with local experts he engaged as guides.

As one might anticipate, much has changed in the natural and human world since 1947, and the opportunity to compare Teale’s observations, to assess seasonal changes in plant, bird, and animal species, and to contemplate the role climate destabilization might play in these alterations proved to be the chance of a lifetime. Dr. Harris was able to visit almost all of the locations Teale explored and, in many instances, was fortunate to observe the flora and fauna on the same day in which Teale recorded his observations sixty-five years earlier. All but a handful of these locations have been permanently protected and are now open to the public.

On June 6, 2012, Dr. Harris presented remarks focused on this project at the 7th annual John Burroughs Conference in Oneonta, New York. Since July he has been engaged in writing a book-length account designed to complement Teale’s original publication. The audiences he envisions for this publication are post-secondary students and non-scientists who are interested in wildlife, nature writing, and climate change. The completion of a book-length manuscript will foster a new network of communication and scholarship among environmental scientists, naturalists, and wildlife management officials across New England and beyond.
One of the most successful areas of growth this year for Franklin Pierce University's Sustainability Center has been the Sustainable Lifestyle Housing program, which is co-directed by the sustainability coordinator and residential life staff. For the first time this fall, all six units in Mountain View's E Tower will be designated Sustainable Lifestyle residences. The twenty-two students joining this program have already shown enthusiasm about the opportunities that living in “Eco Tower” provides—building community with others who share their values, exploring what it means to live sustainably as a college student, and taking on a leadership role by creating their own activities and projects. One action being planned by students is a bicycle-powered unit connected to a battery that will store energy for charging their electronics and appliances.

Building a campus garden this spring was another important step in becoming more sustainable because it created an outdoor classroom and gathering space that will be used to grow not only food but community resilience and leadership. As the garden grows, it is hoped that Sodexo will use some of the food in the dining hall, adding further momentum to its ongoing sustainability efforts. To build the garden, the Sustainability Center collaborated with the New England Center for Civic Life and three Freshman Composition II instructors to integrate food and sustainability themes into a semester-long project called “Digging In.” More than 100 students in seven classes participated in research, writing, deliberative dialogue, a public forum, and, as part of the university's Earth Day celebrations, the hands-on work of building two raised beds. The community is invited to use and enjoy the new garden, located on the south side of the Campus Center.

On Earth Day this year, students dug into fresh dirt to build raised beds and plant a campus garden.
Integrating Public History, Environmental Sustainability

Expanding on her role with the National Council on Public History's working group on public history and environmental sustainability, Dr. Melinda Jetté has joined the NCPH’s new national taskforce on public history and environmental sustainability. This committee has been charged with developing a white paper on how sustainability can be incorporated into the mission, work, and future plans of the NCPH. The committee met at the annual public history conference in Ottawa, Ontario, in April to begin deliberations and will present the white paper at the next meeting in Monterey, California, in 2014. As part of her work with the taskforce, Dr. Jetté will draft proposals for partnerships between the NCPH, public history programs at academic institutions, and allied organizations.

2013 Summer Archaeological Field School

The Franklin Pierce University 2013 Summer Archaeological Field School will return to the Nubanusit River in Peterborough and Hancock to conduct additional surveys on six Native American sites. This summer’s work will focus on sites discovered over a decade ago during an earlier survey commissioned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as part of their management of cultural and historical resources around the Edward MacDowell Lake. Earlier work by Franklin Pierce archaeology students took place during the 2007 summer field school, which focused on excavations at the 5,200-year-old Raft Bridge Site (27HB299) where stone tools, pottery, and turtle and beaver bone reflected repeated brief occupations over a span of some 3,000 years.

This summer’s work, taking place with a permit granted under the federal Archaeological Resources Protection Act, will involve eleven Franklin Pierce undergraduates. They will focus on gaining additional information about the age, size, and activities of the other known sites along the Nubanusit River, adding important information to the little-known history of Native Americans in this part of New Hampshire and providing the Army Corps of Engineers with additional information on sites under their jurisdiction.

Flood Waters on the Nubanusit

In partnership with the Monadnock Center for History and Culture in Peterborough, the Monadnock Institute has applied to the New Hampshire Humanities Council for funds to undertake a documentary film project. With a working title of Flood Waters on the Nubanusit, the documentary will tell the story of the devastating Flood of 1936 and Hurricane of 1938—the Monadnock region’s two most significant natural disasters—that wreaked havoc along Nubanusit Brook and the Contoocook River. Townspeople in Antrim, Bennington, Harrisville, Hancock, and Peterborough over the age of eighty have vivid memories of automobiles washed downstream, flooded homes, lines of communication severed, and fires raging in downtown 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. Institute Executive Director Dr. John R. Harris will facilitate story circles designed to introduce the Nubanusit project and gather initial recollections in September 2013, the 75th anniversary of the Hurricane. Dr. Harris will also conduct follow-up interviews with select individuals that fall, and will supervise the writing of a script for this new documentary. Dr. Melinda Jetté, Franklin Pierce history professor 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 project humanist on the Nubanusit project. The critical role of film producer will be filled by Dr. Douglas Challenger, who produced the recent sixty-minute film focused on the history of Franklin Pierce University. In order to ensure broad community participation and historical accuracy, a screening of a rough-cut version of Flood Waters on the Nubanusit is planned at local venues in 2014, several months before a final film is produced.
Support the Monadnock Institute

The Monadnock Institute of Nature, Place and Culture is supported in part by Franklin Pierce University, but the bulk of our operating funds come from grants and donations. You can help support the place-based educational work of the Institute with a tax-deductible donation. Please visit Franklin Pierce’s website at [www.franklinpierce.edu/giving](http://www.franklinpierce.edu/giving) and follow the instructions to designate your gift to the Institute, or you can send a check (payable to Monadnock Institute at FPU) to the address above.

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