Sustainability Council Formed
Franklin Pierce has formed a Sustainability Council and is taking important steps towards reducing greenhouse gas production and finding ways to offset necessary emissions. Co-chaired by MI Executive Committee member Catherine Koning and Facilities Director Doug Lear, the Sustainability Council is continuing earlier environmental efforts by conducting an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions, creating an action plan, and working to reduce solid waste production and energy use on campus. FPU Junior Kristen Bean is collating the data for the inventory. As part of its commitment to reduce the greenhouse gases produced by solid waste that ends up in landfills or incinerators, the Rindge campus has been participating in Recyclemania, a friendly competition between 400 institutions of higher learning across the country.

Another example of interest in environmental activism was seen at a recent “Focus the Nation on Global Climate Change” event, organized by MI Executive Committee member Elizabeth Palchak. Despite a coast-to-coast technical glitch that prevented the showing of a live broadcast, more than 70 attendees heard different faculty perspectives on peak oil, climate trends, and earlier movements that created social change. Inspired by the event, a lively group of students has been working to bring back the ECO Club. They put on a successful “open mic” night to promote recycling and sustainability; the event featured campus musical talent, and will be followed by an “Earth Day Forum” on April 23 with more music, speakers, discussion and planning.

2008 Place Scholarship Awarded
Senior Environmental Science major Neel Patel, the recipient of the Monadnock Institute Place Scholarship in 2008, is constructing a Geographic Information System (GIS) map of FPU’s Rindge campus lands. Neel spent the fall walking alongside stone walls on campus and recording data points using a hand-held Global Positioning System unit. He also noted prominent landscape features for inclusion in the map he is designing. Ultimately, Neel’s map will also delineate campus trail sign points of significance, faculty and student research sites, and locations where future development should be welcomed or discouraged.

Symposium Focus is “Green Design: Energy, Architecture, Education”
Friday, November 7, 2008
Spring semester 2008 has seen a resurgence of interest in “greening” the Franklin Pierce Rindge campus. Following President George Hagerty’s signing of the American College and University President’s Commitment to Climate Neutrality, the Monadnock Institute is modifying its traditional format to emphasize a student-centered symposium, focusing on environmental design and ecological education on the Rindge campus. Undergraduates will join community participants to discuss energy conservation measures, green building design, and local climate change initiatives.

Trail Signs Developed by Students
Fourteen students enrolled in “Place, Community and American Culture” at Franklin Pierce developed trail signs for the Gates property, a nineteenth century homestead on the east side of the campus in Rindge. Students read landscape clues and conducted historical research into the following sign topics: water wells, stone walls, blowdown events, invasive species, pasture trees, and old artifacts like an automobile and a bathtub. The new signs will be installed along the trail in May, and the public is welcome to enjoy this addition.

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Franklin Pierce University Provost Dr. Michael Bell welcomed participants to the twelfth annual fall symposium, held at Franklin Pierce University on September 29, 2007. Dr. Bell began with an explanation for the change to university status for Franklin Pierce, and emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary studies and community engagement at the new university. He commended the Monadnock Institute for its success in collecting stories and connecting the communities in the Monadnock region. He also recognized the faculty members who make up the executive committee of the Institute for their outstanding commitment to public scholarship and academic excellence.

Television personality and keynote speaker Fritz Wetherbee provided a synopsis of the historical development of music in the Monadnock region. His far-ranging remarks included the story of a church congregation divided over the sale of a bass fiddle in Brookline in 1835, and the origin of the Temple Town Band in 1797. Fritz also highlighted the Graves Company in Winchester, the premier American manufacturer of wind instruments in the 1820s, and the Hutchinson Family singers, the most popular musical family during the Civil War. He also underscored the importance of several individuals who served as repositories of musical memory: Lina Bourne from Jaffrey, John Taggert from Sharon and Ralph Page from Nelson. Fritz concluded his remarks by calling attention to the importance of Edward McDowell’s music in Peterborough and the formation of the Folkways in the 1960s.

Following remarks by the keynote, Alex DiCicco, the recipient of the 2007 Place Scholarship, introduced four students from the Darrow School in New York who performed an original composition by Alex entitled “Waiting.” Alex composed this song while he was a music major at Franklin Pierce in 2006.

The next performers were Contra dance legends Bob McQuillen and Harvey Tolman. Bob summarized his original interest in Contra dance music, his appearance at New Hampshire’s Smithsonian centennial events, his continued interests in touring and teaching, and his composition of over one thousand Contra dance tunes. Bob played several original compositions at the piano, and welcomed Harvey to join him on the fiddle. After Harvey amazed the audience with his violin virtuosity, he was joined by Dr. Douglas Challenger, who also played several solo tunes.

Following lunch, conductor Carlson Barrett introduced the Westmoreland Town Band. The band played a medley of seasonal and patriotic band tunes, which included an original composition by Mr. Barrett. The Town Band, all of whom are volunteers, includes individuals from age 14 to 84; their music has been featured all over New England and they were invited to perform in Washington DC as part of the Smithsonian festivities.

The final musical performer of the symposium was Alouette Iselin, a folk musician who lives in Nelson and has produced two CDs. Alouette played and sang a number of original folk tunes about friendship and life in the Monadnock region. Alouette’s gentle voice and gracious demeanor provided the perfect coda to a day filled with inspiring music.
Reflections Project: An Oral History of the Monadnock Region

Reflections, the inspiration of Keene Library trustee Sally Miller, is a project designed to collect and preserve the memories of individuals who have lived through and participated in events and activities that have shaped the identity of the Monadnock region. Project partners include Keene Public Library, the Keene Sentinel, Cheshire Television, the Historical Society of Cheshire County, Keene State College, and Monadnock Institute at Franklin Pierce University.

The scope of the project includes informal stories circles, individual interviews, undergraduate historical research, and documentary television programming. The six topics selected by the advisory committee were the Hurricane of 1938, the development of Pisgah State Park, the evolution of the Cheshire County farm, the history of the Washington Street Middle School, railroad travel in the region, and the Faulkner Colony Mill.

Institute Director John Harris will facilitate stories circles on each of these topics and conduct follow-up interviews. By the close of 2008 Cheshire Television plans to broadcast a series of documentaries and generate complementary DVDs focused on each of these significant places or events in the Monadnock region.

FPU Public History Class Visits HSCC

On February 4, 2008, Dr. Melinda Jetté and students from the Introduction to Public History class visited the Historical Society of Cheshire County (HSCC) for an archive workshop facilitated by Tom Haynes, Director of Education. The students are currently working on research reports for the Reflections Oral History Project, directed by the Keene Public Library and supported by the Monadnock Institute. Mr. Haynes introduced students to the various types of archival sources available at the historical society and provided instruction on how to conduct research at the organization. He also guided the students on a tour of the research library, archives, and the museum collections.
Neil & Louise Tillotson Fund Support

Building on the success of our Jane’s Trust “Collecting Stories and Connecting Communities in the North Country” grant, the Monadnock Institute has received $36,000 over the next three years to strengthen community life and enhance regional pride in the northern Coos County towns of Colebrook, Dixville, Pittsburg, Clarksville, Columbia, Stewartstown, Lancaster, and Groveton. Modeled on the publication of Where the Mountain Stands Alone, our network of writers, educators and trained heritage professionals will help identify North Country themes, train oral historians, sponsor informal stories circles, and collect, transcribe, and publish stories that have “dirt under their nails.” Tillotson funds will also provide stipends for teachers and students at Colebrook, Groveton and Pittsburg High Schools to participate in heritage workshops and seminars designed to highlight heritage assets, celebrate special places and people, and preserve the habits and hopes of residents in these eight Coos County communities.

North Country Anthology Progress

During the first week in November, fifteen writers gathered in Crawford Notch to share stories, suggest essay themes and enjoy the White Mountain scenery. The goal of the workshop, facilitated by Jane Brox, author of three nationally recognized books on place, and Paul Hertneky, a contributor of two essays to Where the Mountain Stands Alone, was to develop a preliminary table of contents, cultivate a community of North Country writers, and begin to prepare six to eight manuscripts for publication. By its conclusion, workshop participants, inspired by editor Rebecca Brown, had developed an outline of potential North Country topics, listed in the box at right.

Summer Interns

In July, 2007, two Franklin Pierce University students served as archival researchers in the hub communities of Littleton and Conway. These individuals, Christine Doyle, an American Studies major from Rindge, and Alexander DiCicco, a 2007 graduate teaching music at the Darrow School in New York, lived and worked in these communities for three weeks where they introduced the project to local residents, attended events sponsored by heritage organizations, characterized the collection of materials at local historical societies, assessed distinctive local places and themes, and catalogued historic documents and photographs.

North Country Topics

Discovery
- First people
- AMC trails—first climbers
- First settlers
- Geology—headwaters
- Soundscapes—appeal to senses

Stewardship
- Living on the land
- Weeks Act—national parks
- Natural resource extraction/sustainability
- What does “wilderness” mean—Public-private debate
- Laura Waterman’s efforts in conservation;
  Doug Mayer, AMC
- Rocks Estate

Restoration
- Rewilding
- Iconic wildlife
- Moore dam
- Stories of lost places

Expression
- Frost poetry and preservation of Frost Place
- Local music/art/photography
- Dance halls
- Sports culture

Connections
- Foreign labor
- Politics
- Climate change & Acid rain
- Hunting
- Transportation—railroad/highways
- Community activism

Identity
- Old Man
- Immigration
- Iconic animals
- Postcards
- Logging stories
- Local control
- First in nation
- Rites of passage
Kay Morgan, Project Coordinator, met with principals in six North Country schools, introducing the project and offering professional development opportunities to their teachers. Groups of enthusiastic teachers in Littleton, Whitefield, Berlin and North Conway have participated in this year’s seminar series.

The first seminar focused on reasons for studying and writing about place. In a World Café format, teachers discussed quotations reflecting attitudes towards the White Mountains from colonial times to the present. After the discussion groups, teachers talked about their own attitudes toward place and began to think about effective ways to write about place. Each teacher selected a local place about which they could produce an essay.

At the second seminar, teachers brought drafts of their writing and discussed pieces of writing they had read from Where the Mountain Stands Alone, identifying effective techniques used by the writers. After a discussion of writing conference protocols, teachers shared their drafts and gave each other feedback.

Third seminars will take place in Berlin, Littleton and North Conway in late March and early April, and teachers will be invited to participate in a summer institute sponsored by the Anthology Project and held at the White Mountain School from June 22 - 26th. The institute entitled “Documenting the Past, Imagining the Future,” is partially funded by a grant from the New Hampshire Humanities Council. Teachers will be examining two sites in the Littleton-Franconia area, interviewing local historians about those sites and developing a model curriculum unit based on their study.

Upcoming activities in the North Country include an oral history training day on April 3rd in Lancaster, to which all teachers in the project and historical societies and community members throughout the region will be invited. This day is sponsored by the Anthology Project and the Arts Alliance of Northern NH and funded by the Center for the Humanities at UNH and the NH Humanities Council. Community Heritage Assets meetings will also take place in six North Country communities in northern Coos County, prior to the scheduling of Stories Circles in late spring.

Author Rebecca Brown Named Anthology Editor

As a print and broadcast journalist and author, Rebecca Brown has been an observer of the North Country for nearly 15 years, and is gratified for the opportunity to engage in the region as anthology editor. She sees the North Country as being at a fascinating but very challenging evolutionary point between traditional ways of work and living, and potentially new approaches of people in relation to the land and with each other. She hopes that the anthology project will give voice to many perspectives on the North Country’s present and future, as well as interpretations of its heritage and history.

Rebecca served as a reporter and then editor of The Courier, based in Littleton, N.H., worked as the North Country correspondent for New Hampshire Public Radio, and has written for a variety of outdoor recreation and environmental publications. Her book, Women on High: Pioneers of Mountaineering (AMC Books) was recognized as one of the nation’s best outdoor titles in 2002. With four other women, she reenacted the earliest women’s climbs of Mount Blanc, in the French Alps. She is the communications director for the Connecticut River Joint Commissions and the executive director of the Ammonoosuc Conservation Trust. She lives in Sugar Hill, N.H. with her husband Harry and two dogs, Red and Wily-Mo. She has four grown children.
 Preserving Campus History

When it became clear that the oldest building on campus had reached the end of its useful life and had to be removed to make room for new construction, Franklin Pierce called in a restoration expert to assess the building’s historic and economic value.

“It didn’t seem appropriate to tear down the White House without some sense of preserving its history,” said Dr. John Harris, Executive Director of the Monadnock Institute.

Like most New England homes of 17th and 18th century America, the White House was built using timber frame construction. Restoration expert Steve Bedard, of Bedard Preservation and Restoration in Gilmanton, NH, found that its timber frame was in good condition and that the house still had many original doors and windows.

“It wasn’t worth saving the entire structure,” Harris said, “but we decided we could save the frame and perhaps use it as an entrance to a future campus building.”

In June, Harris organized a work crew of five, including himself and Institute executive committee member Doug Carty, to salvage the frame of the building. For ten days, they wielded crowbars and hammers and managed to save not only the frame but the original doors and windows, a fireplace mantel and various timbers and joists. Some of the granite foundation stones were also salvaged.

Harris explained that timber frame construction involves joining large pieces of wood with woodworking joints using mortise-and-tenon construction. Nails are not used. Instead, a tenon - or projection on the piece of timber - is inserted into a notch in the wood called a mortise. Wooden pegs are then driven through the tenon to secure the two pieces.

Work begins to salvage the frame and other historic structural components of the White House before it is removed to make room for Attilio and Beverly Petrocelli Hall

Dismantling the White House timber frame involved removing all of these wooden pegs. The pegs, as well as the timbers, have been securely preserved on campus. To aid in the reassembly, each piece of wood was numbered so that the frame could be accurately reconstructed as it stood in the original building, Harris said.

The White House was used for various purposes over the years. Most recently, it held supplies for the theatre program. It was built by Revolutionary War Captain Joshua Walker, according to research conducted by FPU undergraduate Kristen Costa. The house and land changed hands many times. From 1853 to 1902, it was owned by the Whitney family, who were prosperous farmers. The family most likely owned most of the land that now comprises the University’s Rindge Campus.

While the dismantling and preservation efforts went according to plan, the White House project did yield an unexpected find. Harris and his crew discovered a child’s leather shoe in the southeast corner of the second floor between the wall and floor. “Apparently, it was a New England custom to conceal a child’s shoe in a house for good luck when it was being built,” Harris said.

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MINPC Officers Travel to Arizona

Following the lead of the successful regional stories anthology initiative in New Hampshire’s North Country, the Monadnock Institute is taking its act on the road once again. This time the road leads to Goodyear, Arizona, in the West Valley area of metropolitan Phoenix. Franklin Pierce University is in the process of establishing a branch campus in Goodyear. A group of local residents had been trying to make headway on a heritage preservation project and were intrigued by the copy of Where the Mountain Stands Alone that University President George Hagerty shared with them.

In December 2007, Executive Director John Harris and Executive Committee Chair Jerry Burns traveled to Goodyear to consult with these residents on their plans. At a meeting of the Three Rivers Historical Society, the two explained how the Monadnock anthology came together, queried the group about their objectives, and offered advice on preliminary steps.

The mission went well. In addition to providing the two Institute reps with a getaway from NH’s winter and a look at a strikingly different natural and cultural environment, the exchange appeared to energize the Three Rivers group. A number of implementing steps were taken to preserve records, artifacts, and stories from the area’s agricultural past, as it gives way to intensive development. Further consultations may take place. Look for Drs. Harris and Burns to start sporting Stetsons around the campus in Rindge!

2007 Archaeological Field School

Under the direction of Associate Professor of Anthropology Robert Goodby, the Franklin Pierce University 2007 summer archeological field school focused on the excavation of two pre-contact Native American sites in southwestern New Hampshire. This work is part of the Monadnock Archaeological Project, a long-term project to locate, inventory, study and preserve Native American sites in the Monadnock Region. At the Prentiss site, situated on a high outwash terrace near a natural spring in Walpole, artifacts found included quartz, quartzite, chert, and volcanic flakes left over from stone tool manufacture. In addition, a few shards of undecorated earthenware pottery were recovered from a deep, well-developed plow zone layer that also contained an array of 19th and 20th century artifacts.

The Raft Bridge Site is situated on an outwash terrace between an area of wetlands and the Nubanusit River in Peterborough on the campus of Boston University’s Sargent Center for Outdoor Education. Field school students unearthed quartzite, quartz, volcanic and chert flakes, a single undecorated ceramic shard, and numerous fragments of burned bone (most tentatively identified as reptile) from an undisturbed subsoil layer below a layer of intact topsoil. Diagnostic stone tools found at this site include Otter Creek, Brewerton, Squibnocket, and Meadowood types, dating to between 5000 and 2000 years before present. A radiocarbon date on a basin-shaped concentration of charcoal from the site produced a date of 5270 years before present.
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. Just 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.

Contributors to Articles: Gerald Burns, John Harris, Robert Goodby, Catherine Koning, Cherryl Jensen, Melinda Jetté, Kay Morgan,
Layout: Amy McIntyre