

PIERCE

| The Magazine of Raven Nation • Winter 2025 - 2026 |

Climbing Higher

Joshua Sigsworth B.A. '07, D.P.T. '10
creates a stairway solution for patients
in need. PHOTO BY LUKE NEWMAN '21, M.B.A. '23





ACHIEVE

At Franklin Pierce, curiosity meets discipline and outcomes. Here, a liberal arts foundation opens minds, while professional coursework and experiences shape futures. Our graduates don't just find success; they forge it with wisdom, resilience, and purpose.





PROFILE

12 | Innovation on the Stairs
Alumnus Joshua Sigsworth B.A. '07, D.P.T. '10 turns a clinical insight into a groundbreaking mobility solution.

- 4 |** President's Message
- 6 |** Ravenings
- 12 |** Alumni & Program Profiles
- 20 |** Athletics
- 24 |** Presidential Perspectives
- 26 |** Events
- 30 |** In Memoriam
- 31 |** Honor Roll of Donors

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23



28

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Marissa Colcord
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Patty Farmer
Myra Fontaine
Danielle McCarthy

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Marissa Colcord
Ed Collier
Ben Conant
Ethan Cote '25, M.B.A. '27
Jay Dodson
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Myra Fontaine
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Shane McFalls
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President's MESSAGE



Raven Community:

Pierce Magazine has always focused on the accomplishments of our many alumni and students - and this issue is no different. Our students and alumni represent the best evidence that Pierce provides an effective, personalized, and entrepreneurial environment in which learners develop relevant and lasting strengths and capabilities.

Our cover story on Dr. Joshua Sigsworth is a good example of how many of our students pursue and achieve a successful career via a direct pathway from an FP undergraduate degree to an FP graduate program. Josh's story also demonstrates how FP is fertile ground for those who work hard, persevere, and possess an entrepreneurial bias for action. We continue to deliver these and other opportunities through our residential campus in Rindge, our graduate centers in New Hampshire, Arizona, and Texas, and our online programs, and we continue to change lives.

However, we must also acknowledge the daunting challenges facing not only Pierce but almost every college or university in the higher education industry, particularly in the Northeast. In this issue, you will see that our past is not so different from the present. Former Pierce President Dr. George Hagerty offers a reflection on his early years at Pierce when an economic recession and a competitive higher education landscape required new thinking and creativity about programs and our business model. Sound familiar?

As we move forward through present-day and projected business model challenges (see my accompanying Q&A on page 23) you'll read about various ways Pierce is addressing and navigating these realities. This includes creation of new undergraduate and graduate programs, investments in our physical environments, and true assessment of how FP needs to be structured to achieve our ultimate objective, which is financial stability. We also acknowledge and thank our generous friends who have supported FP's fundraising initiatives, including the yearly Pierce Fund and our important Preserve, Prepare, Propel comprehensive fundraising Campaign.

We need your continued help and support as proud Ravens. Now is a time of stress for FP and similar institutions. Yet, Pierce has always evolved and adapted; sometimes Pierce has changed slowly, sometimes in bursts. Institutions with the ability to adapt, the willingness to make sacrifices, those places whose DNA encodes the plans to emerge stronger, will succeed. Pierce, through its past and present, and its emerging strategic plans, will make it to a stronger future.

Sincerely,

Peter Eden, Ph.D.
President | Franklin Pierce University



RAVENINGS

Navigating Change in Global Media: Mickie Steinmann '92



MICKIE STEINMANN '92 (LEFT) AND COLLEAGUE IN FRONT OF THE HISTORIC WARNER BROS. WATER TOWER.

After nearly two decades leading Warner Bros. Canadian Operations, **Mickie Steinmann '92** has stepped into retirement. His career in media has spanned the globe from Paris and London to Hong Kong and Toronto and while guiding Warner Bros. through the rise of digital streaming services. But it all began on a small campus in rural Rindge, New Hampshire.

When Mickie Steinmann arrived at Franklin Pierce, he was drawn to the rural setting, the ski hill, and the close-knit community. He worked campus jobs in the gym and residence halls, both during school and over the summer. He was head referee for intramurals under the guidance of then-athletic director Bruce Kirsh. Those experiences taught him discipline, teamwork, and organization. Skills that helped set him up for a successful career.

After graduating, Steinmann entered international television sales before joining Warner Bros. in 1999. By 2006, Steinmann was leading Warner Bros.' content licensing division in Canada and was later promoted to Managing Director and Senior Vice President. Under his leadership, the company launched Cartoon Network Canada and brought *The Bachelor* across the border; but perhaps what stands out most is how he guided Warner Bros. through the transition from traditional television to the streaming era, navigating a rapidly shifting entertainment landscape.

In 2009, Steinmann ushered Warner Bros. through an early Advertising-based Video on Demand (AVoD) partnership. Two years later, he expanded that vision by overseeing the launch of the WBTV Film linear channel alongside a Subscription Video on Demand (SVoD) service. Steinmann champions the multicasting media approach, delivering content through both traditional television and digital platforms.

Married with two adult children, Steinmann looks forward to skiing the slopes of Wyoming and biking around Toronto in retirement. Reflecting on a career defined by constant change and innovation, he notes: "Change is always on the horizon. Many industries will be experiencing significant generational shifts, and it's important for this generation to gain experience and be prepared before those transitions occur."

Mickie's advice to students is, "Take your time to develop your skills and abilities. Listen to those around you no matter what their title, position, or rank is. Get to know people in all roles within an organization."

From sweeping the gym floor after a basketball game in Rindge to leading innovation with Warner Bros., Steinmann's story shows how small beginnings can grow into remarkable journeys. His story is a reminder that with openness to change and a willingness to learn, opportunities can extend far beyond what you had imagined. ■

New Leadership and Momentum in the School of Business

The School of Business is experiencing a new chapter of growth under the leadership of Assistant Dean and Director of the School of Business **Todd Herrmann**. Appointed in 2023, Herrmann earned his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Dartmouth College and an M.B.A. in healthcare management from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. He has over 25 years of experience in healthcare management along with a strong academic background from Simmons University, where he taught undergraduate and graduate business students for eight years.

Herrmann wasted no time shaping Business at Franklin Pierce. He spearheaded the creation of a stand-alone finance major, giving undergraduates greater clarity and opportunity. At the graduate level, Herrmann and others are guiding a major redesign of the M.B.A. program. The revised M.B.A. will be streamlined from 39 credits to 30 and shift to eight-week terms. This will allow graduate students the option of completing their program in 12 months, rather than the previous 18 months. The revamped M.B.A. program will introduce new concentrations in marketing and finance, while continuing concentrations in accounting, leadership, healthcare administration, and sports management. These changes are designed to make the program more flexible, affordable, and competitive while maintaining rigor.

As the School of Business grows, new faculty members bring deep expertise and a real-world perspective to their students. **Dr. Marc Lewis**, Associate Professor of Accounting, has more than 20 years of experience as an analyst and consultant, and 10 years teaching in higher education. Lewis earned his bachelor's in Accounting and Master's in Business Administration from Albertus Magnus

College. He earned his doctorate in Business Administration from Wilmington University.

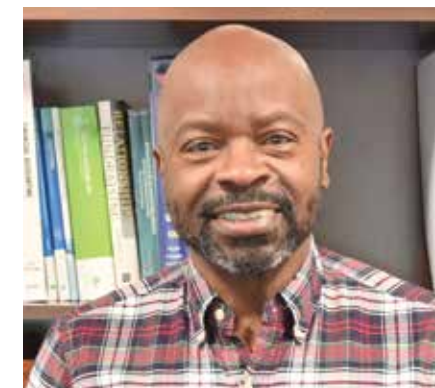
Kate Reed, Executive-in-Residence and Visiting Assistant Professor, has 35 years of leadership as a healthcare executive, consultant, and NICU nurse. With a Wharton M.B.A. and extensive experience launching healthcare technology startups, she channels her career insights into mentoring future leaders. Reed has always been driven by the need to make a difference; she hopes to nurture the next generation of caregivers. "My lesson plans are deeply woven with threads of my experience as a clinician and a leader," says Reed.

Ensuring their students gain experience beyond the classroom is equally important to the School of Business. All undergraduate business majors must complete either an internship or a senior project. The Small Business Advisory Group offers students the opportunity to consult with local companies. "Our goal is to provide the best possible experience for our business students," Herrmann says. "That means innovative courses, strong connections to the region, and preparing students for the professional world they're about to enter."

As the School of Business builds momentum with new academic pathways and a growing team of experienced faculty, Herrmann looks ahead to strengthening the school's connections with regional industries, expanding academic offerings, and ensuring that every business student graduates ready to lead in an evolving marketplace. The program remains a cornerstone of Franklin Pierce, poised to grow, adapt, and prepare graduates to thrive in a rapidly changing business landscape. ■



TODD HERMANN



DR. MARC LEWIS



KATE REED



PHOTO COURTESY OF BROWN COMMERCIAL REALTY.

Pierce's New Hampshire Physician Assistant Program Receives Grant and Upgrades Facilities

It has been an exciting year for the Lebanon-based Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) Program, as it received grant funding and moved into a new space that will better serve students.

The consortium that received the grant is made up of The Northern New Hampshire Area Health Education Center (AHEC), Southern New Hampshire AHEC, Southern Vermont AHEC, and the Franklin Pierce University Physician Assistant program. The partnership was awarded a training grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), funded at \$400,000 a year for the next four years.

The consortium will design, develop, and implement the Vermont/New Hampshire Rural Behavioral Health Workforce Training Network (VT/NH RBHWTN) across the Northern Border Region rural counties of Vermont and New Hampshire to mitigate the effects of opioids, and the FPU MPAS program is poised to lead the training effort, which includes didactic and clinical experiential instruction to educate more than 100 Physician Assistant (PA) students in behavioral health and

substance use disorder competencies over the four-year project period.

The goals for the program include expanding the rural health workforce by providing behavioral health services and treatment through placing graduating, certified and licensed students in a variety of healthcare facilities in the rural counties in the service area.

The PA program also made the move to its new home in Lebanon in October, now located in Centerra Parkway, positioning Pierce's program much closer to Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center. Program Director Jeffrey Waldron, MS, PA-C notes the move offers space for the Simulation Lab, made possible by Congressionally Directed Spending, which will not only draw more students to the Pierce PA program, but ideally will become a hub for others to emulate. The lab will support specialized equipment for the MPAS program, with a focus on rural and medically underserved communities, and incorporates biofabrication lab space to support regional training in regenerative medicine as part of the Re-Gen Valley Tech Hub. ■

Celebrating Alumni



MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 1975 CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH REUNION.

This summer, the Franklin Pierce University Alumni Association, in partnership with the University, added a new way to proudly recognize alumni who have gone above and beyond—making their mark on the world and bringing pride to their alma mater—with the Alumni of Distinction Recognition program.

Located in the Barbara and Alfred Marulli, Jr. '69 Alumni Welcome Center in Peterson Manor on the Rindge Campus, a permanent display now honors these inspiring alumni for all visitors to see. The presentation can also be viewed online at franklinpierce.edu/distinction.

So far, the Association has welcomed 18 outstanding alumni as the very first members of its Alumni of Distinction Recognition program, working in careers spanning industries such as business, healthcare, academia, entertainment, science and technology, media, and humanitarian service—each one representing the very best of what it means to be a Raven. ■



Do you know someone who belongs among this distinguished group?

We are accepting nominations for future Alumni of Distinction honorees! Nominees Must:

- Be a Franklin Pierce University alumnus/a (per Alumni Association by-laws)
- Have made significant contributions to their profession and/or have recognized achievements
- Have meaningful involvement and made contributions within their community

To nominate someone, please contact alumni@franklinpierce.edu and include the name of the nominee, their class year, and brief highlights of their career and accomplishments.

A special thank you to **Henry Ellis '69**, **Art Fink '72**, **Marcy Fink '73**, and **President Peter Eden** for helping make this recognition program possible. And a special shout-out to **Chris Trombetta**, husband of Alumni Association Board member **Lindsay Trombetta '14**, for his generous graphic design and technical expertise in creating the alumni display.

Preserve, Prepare, Propel: The Campaign for Franklin Pierce University

Franklin Pierce University launched its bold **Preserve, Prepare, Propel Comprehensive Campaign** less than one year ago, with an ambitious goal of raising **\$10 million** to deliver a strong and sustainable future for our students. Today, we are proud to share that in the first year of the campaign, donors have already given **\$1.2 million** in outright gifts, pledges, and bequest intentions for the campaign priorities.

This milestone reflects the generosity and commitments of our alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends who recognize the importance of Franklin Pierce's mission: preserving our great campuses, preparing the next generation of Ravens, and propelling the University toward new opportunities.





The campaign is focused on three pillars as funds are received:

Preserve: Modernizing the Rindge Campus by upgrading student housing and other areas, building new sports facilities and spaces. These enhancements will enrich community life and student satisfaction, while also leading to energy savings.

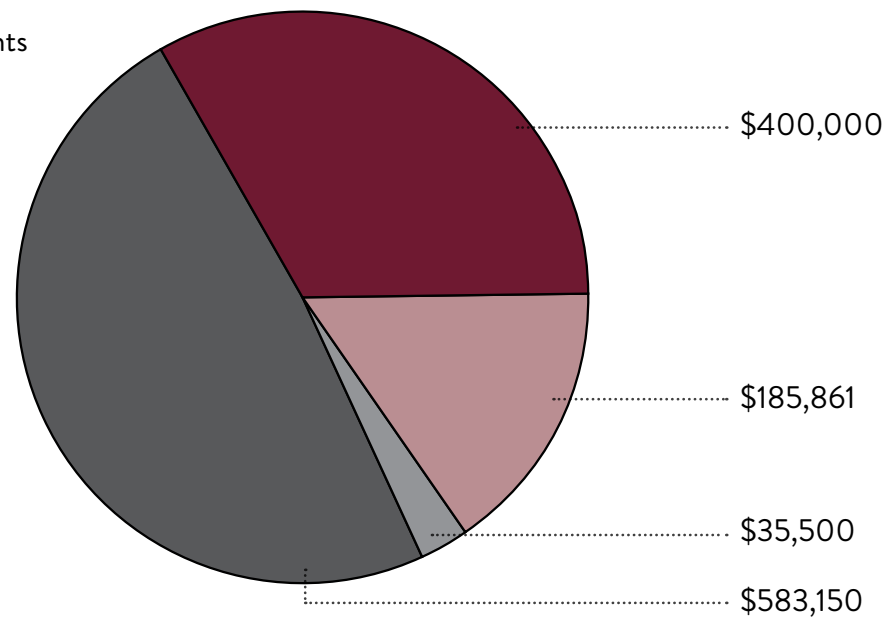
Prepare: Building the capacity of Career Paths@Pierce to boost student employment and career readiness (through guaranteed internship opportunities and more), and to construct unique academic pathways. We will also continue to invest in the health professions programs at our Academic Centers in Texas, Arizona, and New Hampshire, as well as advancing the priorities of the **Dr. Kim Mooney '83** Student Success Center to strengthen academic achievements of all students.

Propel: Ensuring access to a Pierce education through scholarships, and strengthening the endowment for long-term financial sustainability and growth.

Every gift—large or small—moves this campaign forward and makes a meaningful difference in the lives of our students. As we recognize this first-year success, we also look ahead with determination. With \$1.2 million already secured, the Campaign is building momentum on the path to our **\$10 million goal.** ■

-  Improving Physical Environments
-  Career Readiness Initiative
-  Scholarships
-  Endowment

COMMITMENTS & CASH



Meet the Alumni Association Board of Directors



LEFT TO RIGHT: DENNIS CALLAHAN '80, KIM KENDLE '92, ROCKY RAVEN, GINA-MARIE KAJANO '14 AND NICHOLAS MARINUZZI '19

The Franklin Pierce Alumni Association Board of Directors (AABOD) oversees efforts to advance, support, and foster lifelong bonds between alumni, students, and the University. The AABOD is composed of volunteers who demonstrate service, leadership, and Pierce Pride, along with a strong understanding of the mission of the Alumni Association and University.

The AABOD works closely alongside the University Advancement Office to plan Alumni Reunion Weekend, Homecoming and other Pierce events, alumni and student activities, and much more!

AABOD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Nicholas Marinuzzi '19, *President*
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 Gina-Marie Kajano '14, *Vice President of Academic Relations*
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The work of the Alumni Association is carried out by committees composed of both alumni volunteers and members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors. The committees meet throughout the year. Interested alumni can volunteer for any committee at any time by contacting the University Advancement Office at alumni@franklinpierce.edu.

Dear Fellow Alumni,

We as alumni hold a great responsibility to keep the legacy of our university alive, and it starts with involvement. Whether you can donate to The Pierce Fund, your favorite sports team, or a scholarship that helped you get through school, every dollar you give goes directly to helping our great university thrive. The AABOD has acknowledged that alumni engagement is a priority, and we are driving methods in order to keep everyone involved from the classes of 1966–2025.

I encourage you to check out the monthly alumni e-newsletter for important updates. If you are not signed up to receive it, you can update your contact information on the Pierce website. It is easy and costs you nothing.

We chose Pierce because of the beautiful campus, the community, and personable faculty. It is now our time to give back any way we can.

With gratitude,
 Nicholas Marinuzzi '19
President, FPU Alumni Association



Update your contact information:
franklinpierce.edu/alumni/events/info-update.html or scan the QR code.



JOSHUA SIGSWORTH (LEFT) AND DR. OLGA MCSORLEY

Transforming Mobility ONE STEP AT A TIME

Franklin Pierce alumnus Joshua Sigsworth B.A. '07, D.P.T. '10 is elevating patient care with the StairAssist Walker.

| WRITTEN BY MARK DIPIETRO • PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUKE NEWMAN '21, M.B.A. '23 |

A clinical rotation more than 15 years ago revealed a gap in rehabilitative care that **Joshua Sigsworth B.A. '07, D.P.T. '10** was determined to fill. Sigsworth was in Franklin Pierce University's Doctor of Physical Therapy program on his second clinical rotation, working on an orthopedic floor at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas.

"I was this really excited DPT student working with patients who had leg fractures, and hip/knee surgeries. I asked, 'How do we get these patients up and down stairs if they can't walk?' The answer was, 'Oh, we have them go up and down on their butts.'"

It was the first of many similar encounters with mobility impaired patients through the years. Collectively, they inspired Sigsworth to take action. "Being a physical therapist, I saw people with all sorts of injuries, surgeries, and comorbidities who were essentially trapped inside their homes and couldn't get out unless they were transported by emergency medical services, or purchased a costly stair lift or wheelchair ramps," Sigsworth said in a recent interview. "Currently, in rehabilitation medicine we do not have durable medical equipment (DME) specifically designed for stairs and walking. It's a huge gap in patient care that impacts discharge and readmission rates for hospitals and other healthcare institutions."

Fast forward to today. Sigsworth has formed a company called StairAssist Walker Inc., which has just unveiled a new product called StairAssist Walker (SAW) that helps patients up and down stairs, with caregiver assistance. It's a simple and intuitive idea that transforms a stair mobility device into a traditional rolling walker. The Boston Business Journal designated Sigsworth one of its "40 Under 40" honorees last year based on his innovation with StairAssist Walker (SAW).

"We went through years of iterations and so many prototypes," Sigsworth said. "It's a pretty basic concept that turns a stair mobility device into a rolling walker. However, that basic concept turned into quite the undertaking because no one had done it before."

Sigsworth has received three United States and Patent Trademark Office utility patents for SAW. It took him eight years to develop its soon-to-be-commercial unit, for which he raised several million dollars in seed funding from investors. Neither product development nor entrepreneurship were in Sigsworth's wheelhouse when he started out as an undergraduate biology major at FPU, but they both became essential skills he knew he needed to nurture and grow.

Sigsworth had been recruited to FPU's men's hockey team in 2004 after attending Greenfield (MA) Community College for two years while playing junior hockey for the Springfield Junior Pics.

"I liked that Franklin Pierce's campus had that 'home' feeling, being someone who didn't really grow up in a big city. I knew they had a Doctor in Physical Therapy program and by then I'd been inspired by my Aunt Liz, who was a physical therapist. She always helped heal me back to normal whenever I got injured in hockey, so I started shadowing her and realized that's what I wanted to pursue."

Sigsworth's undergraduate studies became his priority over sports, and he ended up leaving hockey to focus more on schoolwork. He joined the medical club on campus, and this community got him involved in medical volunteerism with organizations like the Special Olympics and the Boston Marathon. That carried through to his professional path as a physical therapist, which was a smooth transition from FPU undergrad to the DPT program that was then centered in Concord, NH. (Today, the DPT program is based at FPU's Graduate Center in Manchester, NH.) "My parents instilled the importance of volunteering from a young age, and I've been consistently volunteering since I was 14," he says. That has continued into his professional career, including spending a month with Therapists Without Borders in Cusco, Peru, where Sigsworth treated pediatric PT patients and helped establish medical and educational protocols for disabled children.



THE STAIRASSIST WALKER HELPS PATIENTS, WITH ASSISTANCE FROM A CAREGIVER, TO CLIMB 6-INCH OR 9-INCH STAIRS.

Much of Sigsworth's inspiration at FPU came from **Dr. Olga McSorley**, one of his DPT faculty. "She really allowed me to spread my wings and do some interesting work while I was in the program," Sigsworth says. "Olga provided guidance and confidence by allowing me to choose the hardest clinical rotations I could and doing everything in her power to make them work. This allowed me to challenge myself in multiple different ways and grow into the PT I am today. It was an amazing experience."

Those rotations included an outpatient physical therapy center at Southern Maine Health Care in Biddeford, Maine; the orthopedic floor at Baylor University Medical Center in Dallas, Texas; and New York Eye and Ear Infirmary of Mount Sinai in New York, NY, working in outpatient vestibular care to help patients experiencing issues with balance and vertigo.

"I went from a small town to Southern Maine, which wasn't that big a deal, but then straight into the heart of Dallas and then commuting into New York City, figuring out bus and train schedules without a smart phone."

McSorley says Sigsworth was so outgoing and engaged that she privately thought of him as "Mr. Mayor" during his time at FPU. "Josh was president of the Student PT Association and was the first student from FPU's program to attend the American Physical Therapy Association (APTA) National Student Conclave," McSorley says. "He networked like crazy and represented FPU well."

After graduating from DPT in 2010, Sigsworth became a traveling physical therapist, working as a home health clinician. That led to his first foray into entrepreneurship in 2016.

"I was using this one-strap shoulder bag to carry equipment and supplies, and I noticed it was hurting my shoulder and

back," he says. "I couldn't find things in my bag easily because it wasn't organized." Taking a break at a Dunkin'® in Dorchester, MA, Sigsworth looked up the manufacturer of the bag and decided to call them—repeatedly. "They were finally like, 'Why do you keep calling us?' I said, 'I think I have a good idea for your bag and I'd like to see if we can work together.' They asked for my feedback, and I got things into place—I had an attorney create a non-disclosure agreement—and I ended up making a pitch to them for an ergonomic backpack specifically for home health practitioners."

The Hopkins Home Health Pro Backpack is still in production today, drawing royalties that assisted Sigsworth in funding SAW. An entrepreneur was born.

"I'd see people wearing it in the field, and I knew it was a big deal, but it doesn't have the impact something like the StairAssist Walker can have."

The longer Sigsworth worked in the field, the more he was exposed to patients with a range of mobility hindrances, many of which he calls "heartbreaking," including a 12-year-old cancer patient who kept falling and whose parents had to carry him up and down stairs, and a police officer stuck in his home for three months who needed his friends to carry him from place to place. One of the most indelible was a 67-year-old man with pancreatic cancer who couldn't climb more than two or three steps at a time. Sigsworth wrote about that patient on his LinkedIn profile in September, when he announced the launch of StairAssist Walker: "During one session, he looked at me, tears in his eyes, and said: 'This disease is so horrible, the only thing that makes me feel human is a shower, and I can't do it anymore.'"

"I knew the medical part, but I needed engineering, I needed marketing, I needed legal . . . I needed all sorts of stuff because I knew this would be a heavy lift."

Sigsworth's first imagining of a device resulted in a crude, stick figure drawing that he brought to his patent agent who said, "You can't patent a stick figure drawing." Sigsworth knew he had to build a team to help him achieve a solution.

"I knew the medical part, but I needed engineering, I needed marketing, I needed legal—I needed all sorts of stuff because I knew this would be a heavy lift."

He set about recruiting partners and building a clinical advisory board, which includes StairAssist Walker Inc.'s co-founder and chief operating officer, Matthew Gringas, a computer engineer and a former junior hockey teammate.

The team conducted market research revealing that 20 percent of hospital patients are medically cleared for release but can't go home because they won't be able to navigate stairs; and almost half of U.S. homes require climbing stairs to enter. "Some patients get discharged home via ambulance and then they don't come out of their house for weeks or months or, worst case, sometimes years," he says.

With caregiver assistance, patients can adjust SAW's legs to navigate 6- or 9-inch stairs. It took eight years and dozens of prototypes, as well as a stress test reminiscent of the 1980s-era TV commercial where a gorilla does its best to destroy American Tourister luggage.

"We tested StairAssist Walker to be sure it meets current DME standards for safety and durability," he says. "This includes destructive testing, including dropping it from various heights and kicking it down eight steps onto pavement. This came from my experience as a home health physical therapist, where I saw patients throw their walkers down the stairs because they couldn't use them there."

Sigsworth launched the StairAssist Walker website in September, with company headquarters at his home in Scituate, MA, which he shares with his wife and two children.

"It's been great to watch Josh mature from 'Mr. Mayor' to a doting husband and father without ever losing that sparkle in his eye that belies his curiosity and desire to make the world a better place," McSorley says. ■



TOP: CREATOR JOSHUA SIGSWORTH, B.A. '07, D.P.T. '10 DEMONSTRATES THE STAIRASSIST WALKER TO SECOND-YEAR DPT STUDENT BRADY SICKEL.

BOTTOM: FOLLOWING YEARS OF PROTOTYPES, THE STAIRASSIST WALKER HAS BEEN PATENTED AND IS READY TO HELP ADDRESS A RANGE OF MOBILITY ISSUES.



Learn more and see the StairAssist Walker in action at stairassistwalker.com



FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER: Career Paths@Pierce is shaping future educators

| WRITTEN BY MARK DIPIETRO • PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHANE MCFALLS |

Career Paths@Pierce is Franklin Pierce University’s unique model for offering all undergraduate students multiple experiential learning experiences, including internships. FPU’s School of Education provides a potent illustration for this philosophy at work, through its partnerships with school districts throughout the Monadnock Region, including the Jaffrey-Rindge Cooperative School District (JRCSD).

“In the last three years, we’ve developed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with JRCSD that allows our students to be mentored within the school district, starting in their sophomore year, and to become tightly ingrained in the school community,” says **Dr. Joan Swanson**, director of FPU’s School of Education.

Earlier this year, Swanson and JRCSD Superintendent Reuben Duncan co-authored a paper that was published in the journal *School-University Partnerships*, detailing the originality of the FPU-JRCSD partnership.

“Practical implications, simply put, are that such collaborations serve to strengthen the teacher workforce and instructional quality,” wrote Swanson and Duncan. They explained that the collaboration not only enriches FPU students’ experiences through hands-on mentoring and individualized guidance but also benefits the K-12 students they work with. At the same time, mentoring teachers gain valuable leadership experience, creating a stronger teacher pipeline and helping future educators build the confidence and skills they’ll need to stay in the profession.”

LEFT: GAVIN GIOVAGNOLI '25, WAS ONE OF FPU'S INQUIRY SCHOLARS AND IS NOW AN INTERN AT THE JAFFREY-RINDGE COOPERATIVE SCHOOL DISTRICT AS HE EARNS HIS MASTER'S IN SCIENCE EDUCATION AT FPU. RIGHT: SIMEON MILLS '25 WAS A STUDENT TEACHER AT JAFFREY GRADE SCHOOL IN SPRING 2025, AND IS NOW A 7TH GRADE TEACHER IN RAYMOND, N.H.

Deirdre Mullin, a senior, has been part of the JRCSD internship program since her sophomore year at FPU. “I’ve known since fourth grade that I wanted to teach high school history,” Mullin says. “I wanted to come to Franklin Pierce since I was a sophomore in high school, both because they have an education major and to play lacrosse here. Professor Swanson is just the best. I have never felt so supported, and she’s so honest about the realities of being a teacher—the good, the bad, and the ugly. I think I’ll come out of here extremely prepared to become a teacher.”


Another unique aspect of the School of Education’s partnership with JRCSD is called Inquiry Scholars. **Gavin Giovagnoli '25** graduated from FPU with a Bachelor of Science in Science this past spring, intending to pursue an advanced degree and a career in medicine, but his involvement with Inquiry Scholars convinced him that a career as a science teacher might be in his future instead.

“I have always viewed myself as a ‘people person,’ motivated by the thought of helping others,” Giovagnoli says. “Inquiry Scholars showed me a path to do that. Helping fourth- and fifth-graders use their passions and interests to ignite curiosity on a deeper level made me wake up excited for Tuesdays and Thursdays, when Inquiry Scholars was.”

Through Inquiry Scholars, FPU undergraduates serve as mentors to Jaffrey Grade School students on science research projects. Giovagnoli got so much out of that experience that he is now an intern at Conant Middle High School while he pursues a master’s in science education at FPU.

“My long-term plan is now to teach science,” he says. “As an undergraduate from Enfield, NH, I saw FPU as a great in-state option to have a direct pathway to its Master of Physician Assistant Studies program. I stayed because FPU offered me the opportunity and encouragement to figure out my path. Classmates, professors, mentors, and even the president never discouraged me from any path that came to mind, rather offering me insight into what the next steps would be. Also, this university is equipped with brilliant professors who teach the content valiantly but also offer support and often have an open door when they’re not in class.” ■

Watch a video about the School of Education’s partnership with JRCSD at youtu.be/ASe6QNY5bx0 or scan the QR code.





Nursing and Physician Assistant Students Team Up for HANDS-ON LEARNING

| WRITTEN BY MARISSA COLCORD • PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARISSA COLCORD & MYRA FONTAINE |

This summer, Franklin Pierce's New Hampshire-based physician assistant studies and nursing programs met on the Rindge Campus to participate in a multi-disciplinary Mass Casualty Incident (MCI) training. MCI trainings help prepare emergency responders to handle situations where the number of casualties overwhelms local resources. These trainings are crucial for effective triage, treatment, and transportation of patients during large-scale emergencies, and involve developing skills in areas like the Incident Command System (ICS), triage, treatment, and communication, often incorporating realistic drills and simulations.

The full-day event offered immersive and hands-on training for students, including two afternoon moulage scenarios, which incorporated realistic mock injuries, illnesses, or other physical conditions using makeup and special effects for training purposes, particularly in medical and emergency response fields.

"A mass casualty incident can occur anywhere, and we all need to be prepared. Whether it be a flood, mass shooting, pandemic or other issue, rural areas can be hit the hardest, often due to a lack of response resources," shares **Betsy Piburn, DMS, PA-C, CAQ-EM**, Director of Clinical Education and Assistant Professor for Pierce's Lebanon Master of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) program. "I have seen, firsthand, how everyone, regardless of their place on the team, needs to be able to step up during such an event. Our MCI training series has become a cornerstone of preparing our PA students for the realities of practicing in rural communities, using a team approach in a profoundly stressful situation."

A driving force in organizing this training series, Piburn knows these curated training scenarios not only allow students to sharpen their clinical skills, but also stress patient care in high-pressure environments. "It's critical for caregivers to learn how to communicate with their teams under duress," said Piburn.

This hands-on and immersive learning exercise had an impact on her students, too. "MCI training gave me the chance to step into a high-stakes scenario in a safe learning environment, building both confidence and respect for the many professionals involved in disaster response," said NH-MPAS student **Stephanie Caraballo, PA-S2**. "It highlighted how preparation and communication are crucial during an MCI to find moments of order in the chaos long enough to save lives."

This exercise also involved students from the Master's Entry Program in Nursing (MEPN), Pierce's accelerated 18-month program which provides students with a general foundation in nursing as well as master's level courses that will impart the necessary skills for their future success in key nursing leadership roles, which will improve patient outcomes in healthcare.

Catherine Cuchetti, PhD, MSN-Ed, RN, CNE, Associate Professor and Director of FPU's School of Nursing, knew this would be a new experience for her students. Some had expressed feelings of intimidation, unsure of how their knowledge and skills would compare to those from other disciplines, and unsure that different disciplines would be able to work together. "As the event progressed," said Cuchetti, "open communication and teamwork fostered mutual respect and understanding between students. By the end of the session, nursing students reported feeling more confident and engaged, appreciating the power of collaboration across disciplines in a low stake setting. In traditional clinical education settings, nursing and physician assistant students rarely work together, so this was an important activity to engage them in a way that will help towards preparing them as future professional colleagues in various healthcare practice settings."

The MEPN students echoed Cuchetti. "The Mass Casualty Incident training event offered a valuable opportunity for PA and nursing students to collaborate in a realistic, simulated emergency scenario," said Taylor Holzshu. "Thoughtfully organized, the event allowed us to practice critical skills, including triage, prioritization, and effective communication, before applying them in a comprehensive MCI simulation. I'm glad I had the opportunity to take part in something so hands-on and collaborative. It made a lasting impression."

Another highlight of this program has been the integration of interprofessional education (IPE) with nursing students and the mental health team, which has greatly enriched the learning experience, according to Piburn, supported by Pierce's rural hospital partners, whose collaboration will continue to support growth in these training opportunities in the future. ■

LEFT: PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT AND NURSING STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN THE MCI TRAINING ON THE RINDGE CAMPUS IN JULY 2025.

RIGHT: PA AND NURSING STUDENTS COLLABORATE TO ADDRESS MOCK INJURIES DURING THE TRAINING EXERCISE.





ATHLETICS

Addressing Needs in Our Athletic Facilities

This past summer marked a season of progress for Franklin Pierce University Athletics, as multiple facility upgrades were completed to better serve both student-athletes and fans. These enhancements reflect the University's commitment to creating an environment that supports Raven pride and elevates the overall athletics experience.

Inside the Fieldhouse, visitors are greeted by a striking new look where new banners honoring the accomplishments of men's and women's basketball, track & field, golf, and women's volleyball proudly line the walls, creating a visual showcase of the programs' achievements. The biggest enhancement, however, comes in the form of new, retractable bleachers, replacing the old wooden seating. The crimson bleachers not only modernize the space, but also provide greater flexibility, making it easier to accommodate athletic contests, campus events, and community gatherings.

Sodexo Field also received an upgrade with the installation of a second scoreboard located on the far end of the field. This addition significantly improves sightlines for fans in all seating areas—especially those in Raven Row—by providing clear, real-time score and game information without obstructed views. The new board complements the original scoreboard, ensuring a comprehensive fan experience no matter where you sit. All of these improvements were kicked off and directed by Franklin Pierce President Dr. Peter Eden in 2024, to recognize the importance of our athletic facilities.

Beyond the Fieldhouse and Sodexo Field, banners across all outdoor fields were updated to highlight team accolades, including NCAA tournament appearances and championship seasons. This visual celebration of program history serves as a reminder of the tradition of excellence that defines Franklin Pierce Athletics. The banners were conceived and produced by Ben Rosenfeld, Senior Associate Athletic Director—Marketing, Outreach, & Operations.

Collectively, these upgrades represent more than cosmetic changes—they enhance school spirit, honor the achievements of past and present Ravens, and create a first-class atmosphere for athletes and fans alike. ■



NEW BLEACHERS IN THE FIELDHOUSE AND ADDITIONAL SCOREBOARD AT SODEXO FIELD.



THE 2025 WINNING TEAM.

Annual Rocky Classic Golf Tournament Tees Up Another Year of Success

The 2025 Rocky Classic Golf Tournament, presented by Franklin Pierce Athletics, once again brought Raven Nation together for one of the most anticipated summer traditions. Held Monday, July 14, at the scenic Northern Spy Golf Club in Townsend, MA, the 36th annual event welcomed alumni, corporate partners, friends, and supporters for a day of friendly competition and FPU spirit.

With blue skies overhead and plenty of summer energy, teams hit the course ready to compete—but it was the **Seppala team** that stole the show once again. **Sam, Mack, and Jeremy Seppala**, along with **Jamin Somero**, defended their title with a winning score of -16, resulting in back-to-back Rocky Classic victories. Close behind, the team of **Matt Johnson, Kerry O'Sullivan, Anthony Keane, and Stephen Tarquinio** finished at -15 to secure second place.

The tournament wasn't just about golf—it was a full-day celebration. Players and guests enjoyed a post-round cocktail hour, awards ceremony, and a raffle featuring exclusive prizes like Red Sox and Woo Sox tickets, Boston College/Clemson football passes, and complimentary foursomes at premier courses across the region.

Thanks to the generosity of sponsors and participants, the 2025 Rocky Classic raised vital funds to support Franklin Pierce's 24 NCAA athletics programs. These contributions enhance facilities, resources, and opportunities for Raven student-athletes to succeed both on the field and in the classroom.

A date for the 2026 Rocky Classic will be announced soon, and Raven Nation will once again gather for another memorable day on the links. ■

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White Cap Coffee



Meet FPU Athletics' Newest Hall of Fame Inductees

Franklin Pierce University proudly welcomed five new members into its Athletics Hall of Fame this fall, celebrating their remarkable contributions to Raven history. The 2025 class—**Dage Minors '17** (Track & Field), **Lauren Miller '14** (Volleyball), **Eric Cavers '12** (Baseball), **Angelika Johansson '10** (Soccer), and longtime men's basketball head coach **David Chadbourne**—was formally inducted on Friday, November 7, followed by on-field recognition during halftime of the Ravens football game against Southern Connecticut State University. Additionally, Dr. Mark Sibley, a now retired orthopedic surgeon, who practiced in the Monadnock Region, was also recognized for his “initiative to pioneer a sports medicine team to work in collaboration with FPU’s athletic training staff,” according to the plaque presented to him by President Eden.

Minors is among the most decorated athletes in school history, earning six All-America honors, nine NCAA Championship berths, and 21 NE10 titles between 2013–2018. The only Raven ever to sweep NCAA East Region Indoor and Outdoor Athlete of the Year honors in the same season, he also set seven program records before representing Bermuda internationally, including a bronze medal at the 2023 Central American and Caribbean Games.

Miller, a defensive cornerstone for women's volleyball, graduated as the all-time leader in service aces (175) and ranked second in digs (1,784), among the best numbers in program history. A 2013 NE10 Co-Libero of the Year and three-time Academic All-Conference honoree, she helped lead the program to the NCAA East Regional.

Johansson's prolific scoring made her one of the most feared strikers in Division II, tallying 29 goals in her sophomore season to lead the United States, including five hat tricks and eight game-winners. A three-time All-American and 2008 NE10 Player of the Year, she also earned Academic All-America honors.

Cavers, a two-time All-American and 2003 NCAA Division II Player of the Year, helped elevate Franklin Pierce baseball to national prominence and guided the team to its first College World Series appearance. Drafted by the Houston Astros, he went on to play professionally before moving into coaching.

Chadbourne led the men's basketball program from 1999–2022, amassing 310 wins, four NCAA Tournament appearances, a 2011–12 NE10 regular-season title, and an Elite Eight run in 2013. Known for his ability to recruit and develop talent, he coached more than 30 All-Conference players and multiple All-Americans.

This year's Hall of Fame celebration honored decades of achievement and the enduring legacy of five Ravens who continue to inspire future generations to strive for excellence on and off the field. ■



Jayson King Inducted into NE10 Hall of Fame

One of the most decorated figures in Franklin Pierce University Athletics history reached another milestone in 2025, as former head baseball coach **Jayson King** was officially inducted into the Northeast 10 Conference Hall of Fame. King becomes just the second baseball coach in league history to receive the honor, joining former Bryant University head coach Jon Sjogren, and the 11th representative from Franklin Pierce to be enshrined.

King's tenure at Pierce was nothing short of extraordinary. Over 18 seasons, including 16 as a member of the NE10, he guided the Ravens to nine NE10 regular-season championships, five conference titles, seven NCAA Regional crowns, and seven appearances in the NCAA Division II Baseball Championship. Under his leadership, Franklin Pierce became a national powerhouse, posting seven 40-win seasons, including a program-best 49 victories in 2007.

During his time in the NE10 Conference, King amassed 616 wins, the second-most in conference history, and earned Northeast Region Coach of the Year honors seven times. He was also named Division II Coach of the Year on seven occasions. His program produced 31 All-Americans, 87 All-Region selections, 128 All-Conference honorees, and 28 MLB Draft picks—a total that ranked third among all New England programs at the time of his departure.

King's influence extended beyond the diamond. He played a key role in fundraising for the construction of Dr. Arthur and Martha Pappas Field, which opened in 2005 and has since hosted numerous NCAA Regionals, Super Regionals, and NE10 Championships. ■



COACH KING PREPARES TO CELEBRATE A WIN WITH THE TEAM.



The Measure of a Raven

The NCAA has named Aino Martikainen '25, M.B.A. '27, a three-year starter for Franklin Pierce women's soccer, the Division II female recipient of the prestigious 2026 NCAA Impact Award. The award, part of the NCAA Honors program, recognizes current and former student-athletes whose achievements exemplify the spirit and values of collegiate athletics.

FPU Director of Athletics Matthew Johnson, who also coached Martikainen, said “Aino was one of those rare student-athletes we were all so fortunate to have had come through our program.” He added, “Aino was a tremendous human being who treated everyone with respect and genuinely cared about her teammates and coaches.”

A team captain and defensive anchor, Martikainen started all 65 matches in her career, helping the Ravens become one of the nation's top defensive programs. She was twice named both a D2CCA and United Soccer Coaches First-Team All-American, earned three All-Region and NE10 First-Team honors, and became only the second Raven ever to win NE10 Defensive Player of the Year twice. Under her leadership, FPU captured two NCAA East Region titles and advanced to the 2024 NCAA Final Four.

Off the field, Martikainen graduated with a 3.90 GPA in psychology and earned an M.B.A. in health administration with a 3.66 GPA. She was a two-time Academic All-America First Team honoree, received the NE10 Presidents' Award, and served two years on the Student-Athlete Advisory Committee, promoting mental-health awareness and peer mentorship.

Earlier this year, she was named the 2025 NE10 Woman of the Year, becoming only the second Raven in school history to earn that honor. Martikainen and her fellow 2026 NCAA Honors recipients will be celebrated at the NCAA Convention in January. ■



PRESIDENTIAL PERSPECTIVES

Standing the Watch

Dr. George J. Hagerty, President Emeritus, Franklin Pierce University

Independent colleges and universities like Franklin Pierce have always lived with a vigilant spirit—ever mindful of the shifting winds of the economy, demography, and public confidence. Ours has never been an easy enterprise.

When I arrived at what was then Franklin Pierce College in Rindge in 1995, higher education was already restless with change. The headlines then, as now, spoke of affordability, access, sustainability, and the enduring value of a liberal arts education. Yet where some saw exigency, I saw opportunity. I inherited an institution of uncommon promise—one ennobled by the imagination of its founder, **Frank DiPietro**, and the steady statesmanship of Governor Walter Peterson. They had dreamed Franklin Pierce into being; my charge was to help it grow into maturity.

The preceding years had been challenging ones. New Hampshire, like much of New England, was slowly emerging from recession. The instinct for austerity ran deep, yet the demographic winds were briefly at our back: high school graduation rates were rising, and continuing education remained strong. I was convinced that Franklin Pierce could not cut its way to vitality—it had to grow its way there. Every presidency has its moment, and ours demanded both determination and invention.

We began with first principles. Renewal, I believed, begins with vision, is sustained by academic strength, and culminates in financial health. The newly adopted core curriculum—*The Individual and Community*—became our compass, expressing the College’s twin commitments to intellect and character. We sought to make these ideals not merely the centerpiece of study but the foundation of institutional identity.

Growth required investment, through both fundraising and prudent bond financing. The Rindge campus’s academic and social spaces needed renewal to match its ambitions. The Northwoods Airframe joined the Fieldhouse as a year-round venue for recreation and community. New residence halls rose to welcome a growing undergraduate population, while renovations to Marcucella Hall and the

DiPietro Library heralded a new era of construction, including Cheney Hall, the Fitzwater Center for Communication, and later, Petrocelli Hall.

Technology, too, was reshaping the nature of learning. When I arrived, only three campus buildings were wired for computing; within a few years, Franklin Pierce was fully connected—first by cable, then wirelessly—embracing a future where access to information would soon surpass the possession of it. Graduate and Professional Studies, beginning with the 1995 inauguration of the MBA, deepened our mission and extended our reach, most notably into the growing fields of healthcare and education. New Graduate and Professional Studies campuses and online platforms soon took root, offering the flexibility and access demanded by adult and post-baccalaureate learners.

These advances did not come easily. Like many of New England’s private colleges, we inherited significant deferred maintenance—an obligation that could not be ignored. Over the next decade, we addressed these challenges systematically, revitalizing academic, residential, and social spaces. The College regained its footing and its allure. Expansion in intercollegiate athletics and study abroad further enhanced the Pierce experience, strengthening both reputation and reach.

Thirty years have passed since that beginning, and the challenges facing higher education remain formidable. Yet I am certain that Franklin Pierce University will continue to prosper—not by retreating from the storm, but by standing the watch under President Eden’s capable direction, with courage, innovation, and devotion to ideals greater than ourselves. ■



FPU President 1995–2009



Q&A with President Peter Eden

When **Dr. Peter A. Eden** became Franklin Pierce University’s seventh president in July 2024, he brought a clear-eyed understanding of higher education’s challenges and a commitment to the University’s enduring strengths. Now, as colleges nationwide face the long-anticipated “demographic cliff” and other market shifts, President Eden is guiding Pierce through a period of adaptation. Here, he discusses how the University is meeting these changes head-on, to ensure that Franklin Pierce continues to thrive for generations to come.

Q: The demographic cliff has been dreaded for years, and now it’s here in 2026. Can you explain a bit about what that phrase means and why it’s potentially damaging for higher education? What does it mean for FPU?

PE: The term “cliff” has been used, but that’s a misnomer. For about 8 years now the demography in the Northeast has been such that there are fewer individuals of college-going age (i.e., 18-25) as the birthrate started to decline when the Great Recession, around 2008-2009 began. Therefore, colleges—particularly in New England—have felt the effects of fewer potential students for some time, and it is in full force now. Importantly, institutions need to know that this decline is not going to bounce back quickly, so places like Pierce have evolved to find students in other ways, in other areas, et cetera. But, like many rural colleges, FPU has absolutely experienced the demographic decline in the number of undergraduate students.

Q: What other market factors are affecting how FPU is approaching the next few years?

PE: Competition is intense. Other colleges and universities like Pierce—that is, those without many years of history, without a huge endowment, and not close to major metro areas—face challenges and are getting more and more competitive and creative in trying to attract students. Enrollment strategies such as automatic admission, which guarantees qualifying students admission to college without having to apply, to “free” college, to other approaches, mean that Pierce must continually adapt to market forces and deliver strong messaging and value to prospective students. On top of that, recent federal decisions to eliminate or limit loan programs and more only pressure places like Pierce further, given our important and successful graduate programs.

Q: What is FPU’s greatest strength going into these challenging times, as well as its greatest vulnerability?

PE: Our greatest strength other than our people is our recognition that, unlike more established institutions, FPU will continually evolve. We do not have a lot of institutional inertia. Added to this is the Pierce community’s commitment to student success, which drives alumni loyalty, and together they form the foundation of our resilience. FPU has a history of adapting and surviving, made possible by the remarkable Pierce people of the past and present.

Q: What has already been put into place that’s strengthening FPU’s position?

PE: FPU’s existing graduate programs have been a major asset, and we’re more focused on them while launching new ones. New undergraduate programs in areas like Biotechnology and Sports Psychology are in development, along with a concentration in Data Analytics. Our strong online capabilities further support growth. Over the past year, we’ve launched a \$10M fundraising campaign to strengthen Pierce and introduced our Career Paths@Pierce initiative, which guarantees every undergraduate two internships or the equivalent, both aimed at improving enrollment and retention. We continue to intentionally solicit student feedback and respond with physical plant upgrades such as better water quality, new dorm flooring, and dining hall improvements. ■



EVENTS



Alumni Reunion Weekend

Alumni Land at Rindge: Alumni from the Pioneer Classes through 2025 returned to the Rindge Campus for Reunion Weekend, June 6–8, 2025, to reconnect, reminisce, and hear more about what’s next for Pierce. Save the Date: June 5–7, 2026.



Arizona MPAS Students Celebrate at White Coat Ceremony

Franklin Pierce University in Goodyear, Arizona held its White Coat Ceremony on Saturday, August 16 at the Glendale Civic Center for the Master of Physician Assistant Studies Class of 2026. The cohort, comprised of 43 students, celebrated the halfway point of the program. After receiving their white coats, students recited the White Coat Oath in front of Dean Mable Smith, friends, family, and faculty in attendance.



STEP Days/Move-in and Orientation

You Are Cleared for Landing . . . in Raven Nation: After hosting two STEP Days in July for new students and families to help future Ravens get ready for college life, we welcomed the newest class at move-in on August 23. New students moved seamlessly into orientation, complete with a host of educational and social activities, capped off by the 22nd annual Cardboard Boat Regatta.



Family Weekend & Homecoming

Pierce Hosts Family Weekend & Homecoming: On September 28-29, Raven Nation welcomed alumni, family, and friends to campus for Family Weekend & Homecoming, complete with a home football game and tailgate. Attendees participated in a variety of fall activities including kayaking on Pearly Pond and a tailgate lunch on Pappas Field. The weekend also saw the first of three Tour & Tailgate events where prospective students toured campus, heard about academic programs, and learned more about admissions and the financial aid process.



We Remember Well IN MEMORIAM

Francis “Frank” Moriarty, Professor Emeritus
January 17, 2025

Professor Moriarty began teaching History at Franklin Pierce College (now University). He taught there for thirty years and during that time wrote on topics of Latin American history and society. Over those years, he led groups of Franklin Pierce students on many trips in the US and abroad, including Washington, DC, Rome, Mexico City, Bogota, and the Amazon. In the 1970’s, he studied and wrote on the Theology of Liberation in both Colombia and Venezuela. He was voted Outstanding Faculty Member by the Student Senate in 1976 and 1977 and received the Alumni Student Service Award in 1992. He retired in 1998.

When asked about his many years of teaching at Franklin Pierce he said, “I have always been elated and rewarded when, over the years, I have received visits, letters, and cards from former students. They attest to the fact that the work of a teacher has no boundaries and goes on in endless directions. That they have allowed me to enter their lives for even a brief moment is a reward and a challenge and an opportunity that no other profession could begin to offer. By touching their lives, my own life has become more meaningful, and for that, and to them, I will always be grateful.”

Richard Rettig ’71
March 19, 2025

A proud and beloved member of the Class of 1971, Rich is fondly remembered for his unwavering support of Franklin Pierce throughout his life. He served Pierce in many meaningful ways, as a dedicated staff member, Alumni Association Board member, and Trustee from 2003 to 2013.

Rich’s generosity, enthusiasm, and commitment left a lasting impact on the Franklin Pierce community. One of his most memorable contributions was the donation of his business, the Benjamin Prescott Inn, to the University in the early 1990s, a powerful testament to his enduring loyalty and belief in the institution.

Robert R. Baril, Jr. ’93
July 30, 2025

Geoffrey W. H. Beckett ’71
May 27, 2024

Avril Beveridge ’84
May 13, 2025

Charles Blair ’69
December 16, 2024

Alphonse R. Bottazzi ’75
December 6, 2013

**Frederick T. Burton
A.A. ’96, B.S. ’98**
June 1, 2024

Susan H. Caro ’73
March 16, 2025

Arthur J. Casey ’79
November 30, 2024

Jeanne A. Coty ’84
April 25, 2025

**Margaret A. ‘Peggy’ Collum
Former Faculty/Staff**
October 29, 2025

Katherine E. Davis ’04
January 8, 2025

Karen A. Everette ’91
July 9, 2025

Jeannine M. Everitt ’07
June 29, 2025

**Melyssa M. (Montecalvo)
Flaherty ’96**
November 18, 2024

Hunter S. Frederickson ’13
November 4, 2024

John T. French ’78
October 20, 2024

Ronald R. Gaudette ’85
June 11, 2025

Paula A. (Turner) Graham ’87
January 15, 2025

Matilda A. Guinard A.A. ’99
March 14, 2025

Theodore Halvorsen ’88
January 28, 2025

Jean Halvorsen A.A. ’87
March 30, 2019

Earle L. Heckerroth, Jr. ’69
March 18, 2023

Gerald W. Houser ’87
August 14, 2020

Michael P. Hurley ’80
June 24, 2025

**Richard “Dick” Hurley
Former Faculty/Staff**
July 1, 2025

**Lawrence W. Kabat
M.B.A. ’01**
October 21, 2022

Shawn K. Kelsey ’84
November 5, 2024

William Knaus ’07
July 6, 2025

Celia A. Kujawski ’92
December 31, 2024

Linda E. Lamothe ’92
March 16, 2025

Roland Lamy, Sr. ’98
February 23, 2025

Mary I. Lehnert A.A. ’94
June 17, 2024

Corinne D. Lord ’84
April 22, 2025

Peter C. Lorenz ’89
September 9, 2024

Michael D. Mahoney ’91
June 20, 2025

Lawrence A. Mallat ’80
January 6, 2025

**Annette H. (Ingham)
Martellini ’89**
October 25, 2024

Joseph M. Mendonca, Jr. ’87
October 11, 2024

**Ms. Ramona S. Miller
A.A. ’95, B.S. ’97**
August 13, 2025

David L. Mitchell ’89
February 3, 2021

**Frank J. Moriarty
Professor Emeritus**
January 18, 2025

Joseph M. Morrison ’97
July 1, 2025

Tammy (Thetonia) Neter ’82
August 29, 2024

Charles I. Nielson ’71
April 24, 2025

William T. O’Dowd ’74
May 2, 2025

Miriam C. Ortiz ’69
June 7, 2021

**Robert L. Palmer
A.A. ’90, B.S. ’97**
January 17, 2025

Vincent A. Palumbo ’69
June 16, 2025

**Earl Patria, Jr.
Faculty Staff**
November 21, 2024

**Stanley Polan
Professor Emeritus**
March 12, 2021

**Elizabeth (Horvath)
Ramsay ’76**
September 10, 2024

**Michael K. Reed
B.S. ’95, M.B.A. ’98**
April 13, 2025

Richard L. Rettig ’71
March 19, 2025

Albert J. Robbins ’91
January 20, 2025

Carolyn A. Root ’88
December 14, 2024

John J. Ryan ’75
November 19, 2024

Michael O. Serard ’93
December 3, 2024

Christopher D. Staake ’02
January 31, 2025

William H. Tarver ’05
February 20, 2025

**Charles D. Tousley
Former Faculty/Staff**
February 1, 2018

**Debra A. Tucci
A.A. ’97, B.S. ’99**
June 14, 2025

Everett “Skip” Vallorano ’70
June 20, 2025

Kathleen S. Wagenbrenner ’06
April 10, 2025

Arthur W. Wiggin ’98
January 27, 2025

Janice F. (Paranto) Wilson ’84
October 23, 2024



FY25 Honor Roll of DONORS

We deliberately recognize the generosity of donors who supported Franklin Pierce University during the 2025 fiscal year from June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025. The contributions made during this period have strengthened our mission to provide students with transformative educational experiences and opportunities for success.

Every gift—whether to where the need is greatest, or to scholarships, academic programs, athletics, and other areas—helps us enrich the student experience and helps shape the future for Franklin Pierce. This Honor Roll of Donors celebrates the alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends whose dedication and support make a lasting difference in the lives of our students and the entire University community.

THE PIERCE FUND

Gifts to The Pierce Fund allow our students to learn in an environment that fosters individual growth and transformation. Through these gifts, our students benefit from the latest in academic innovation, thought leadership, and expanded offerings that will set them on a path to success.

PRESERVE, PREPARE, PROPEL: THE CAMPAIGN FOR FRANKLIN PIERCE UNIVERSITY

In fiscal year 2025, Franklin Pierce University proudly launched the Preserve, Prepare, Propel Comprehensive Campaign, an important initiative focused on four priorities: preserving our campus, preparing students for success, expanding access through scholarships, and ensuring long-term sustainability through endowment growth.

The campaign’s public launch marked an exciting chapter, as alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends came together to invest in the future of our students and campus. Early gifts are already having a meaningful outcome, from improved facilities to expanded student support.

As we recognize the donors listed in this Honor Roll, we acknowledge not only their generosity but their essential role in shaping the future of Franklin Pierce for generations to come.

FRANKLIN PIERCE UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

Scholarships at Franklin Pierce University help students bridge financial gaps, making it possible for them to access and afford a Pierce education. They not only open doors for deserving students, but also offer alumni and friends a meaningful way to create a lasting legacy at the University. Many scholarships continue to grow over time, and additional contributions can be made to any scholarship fund at any time.

This list includes updates reported by family members, newspapers, and other sources as of The Pierce Fund November 5, 2025. If you would like to let the Alumni Office know of someone’s passing, please contact alumni@franklinpiece.edu or call (603) 899-1128.

Below is a list of scholarships that support our students in achieving their educational goals.

Albonizio Family Memorial Endowed Scholarship	Emily Flint Scholarship	Bruce Kirsh '71 Endowed Scholarship	Peterson Fellows Scholarship
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Franklin Pierce University's donor recognition societies honor the alumni, families, faculty, staff, and friends whose philanthropy and dedication make a lasting difference in the lives of our students. These societies celebrate the meaningful ways in which donors support the University and remain connected to its mission.

THE PIONEER LEGACY SOCIETY recognizes individuals who have included Franklin Pierce in their estate plans. This society is named in tribute to the alumni from the University's first ten graduating classes, proudly known as the "Pioneer Classes."

The **1962 LEADERSHIP GIVING SOCIETY** celebrates our most generous annual donors. Members of this society provide vital support that directly enhances the student experience at Pierce. In appreciation, they receive special access to select University programs and publications. Giving levels within the 1962 Leadership Giving Society include:

President's Circle: \$20,000+ | Founder's Circle: \$10,000 to \$19,999 | New Hampshire Circle: \$5,000 to \$9,999

Monadnock Circle: \$2,500 to \$4,999 | Granite Circle: \$1,000 to \$2,499

The **MANOR SOCIETY** honors donors who demonstrate their commitment by giving to Franklin Pierce for five or more consecutive years. Additionally, Graduates of the Last Decade (GOLD) are welcomed into the Manor Society with their first gift and remain members as long as they continue to give annually.

Franklin Pierce is pleased to recognize the following donors who have included Franklin Pierce in their estate plans.

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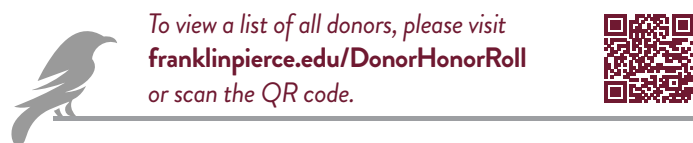
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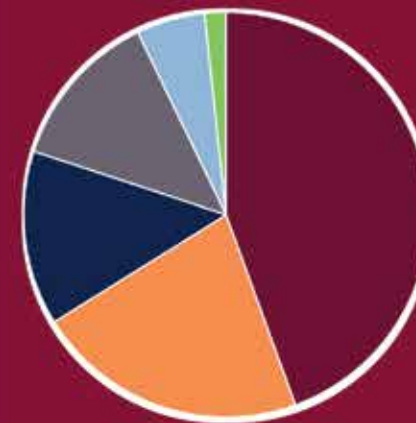


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