The purpose of the Outdoor Education Department is to develop Christ-centered Outdoor Education professionals equipped with technical skills, teaching leadership expertise, and an understanding of historical and philosophical foundations.

Greetings from the Outdoor Education Department!

It has been another exciting year for the O.E. department as we welcomed a large freshman class, the fourth cohort of masters in Environmental Education students, and experienced some faculty and staff transitions. We have seen continued growth in our Team and Leadership Center programs for Montreat College groups and public patrons ranging from corporations to schools and churches. We continue to send out groups each May for our signature program, Discovery, which has been utilizing the mountains, rivers and rock faces in western North Carolina to help promote growth in students' lives through a 21-day wilderness expedition. This course is open to anyone with one year post-high school – please consider sharing this unique opportunity with family and friends. We welcome you to visit us on campus and in the meantime, you can access current information through our annual newsletter, visiting the Montreat website, or check out our new page on Facebook! We invite you to help us further the mission of Montreat College and the O.E. department by sharing our unique efforts and opportunities with others. Many students share that they found out about Montreat from an alumnus. Please help us share these opportunities with others.

Montreat College OE Awarded WEA Organization of the Year

Montreat College’s Outdoor Education Department was selected by the Wilderness Education Association as their 2013 Outstanding Organization. The award was presented at the WEA awards ceremony at the WEA Colloquium on Outdoor Leadership held at YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly. Pictured here are current and former Montreat College Outdoor Education students and faculty members Dr. Brad Daniel, Dr. Andrew Bobilya and psychology professor, Dr. Brad Faircloth (who has been collaborating with the OE team).

Montreat was only the second college in the nation to be accredited through the new WEA accreditation process.
Dr. Andrew Bobilya, Associate Professor and Department Co-Chair (Class of 1996)

It has been an exciting year and a half since our last OE newsletter. I am blessed to report that our family (myself, Kirsten, Lilyanne (5.5 yrs) and Anika (3.5 yrs)) and our Chinese Pug, Melwyk, are doing well. Since our last report I had the blessing of spending 21 days in the field co-instructing Discovery – the first time since my student expedition in 1993! It was a wonderful experience to be reminded of much of the core of what our department has held to over its history! Specifically, I stand in awe of the restorative power of extended experiences in God's creation among a small community and with the intent of exploring our relationship with each other and our Creator. I hope it is the beginning of my involvement with more Discovery courses in the future! During the summer months our family has continued to enjoy exploring the region’s camping spots using our pop-up camper (yes, that’s right, a camper!) which has opened my eyes to a whole other side of family camping! I also enjoy keeping my skills fresh by leading kayaking trips for local summer camps. We enjoy being a part of this community and having the privilege of working alongside wonderful colleagues and students. Professionally, I have been fortunate to continue publishing and presenting with my colleagues at conferences and engage in research projects with the North Carolina Outward Bound School. This year brings with it a unique blessing – sabbatical! I am taking the spring 2013 semester to spend more time with my family, complete a variety of writing and research projects, take long walks and visit a monastery – all in the hopes of refreshing and renewing myself. I thank God for the opportunity to serve students and the college in this role and welcome the challenges we are able to tackle as a team in the OE Department.

Ken Kalisch, Associate Professor of Outdoor Education

At the end of spring semester 2013, I will complete my fifth year of teaching courses in the OE Department. Hoo-ray! I am grateful to my loving Father for allowing me to approach this milestone. It’s good to be here! I still consider it a privilege to work on such a great OE Team. We are a good blend of experience, personality, passion and expertise. Teaching courses, staff meetings, researching, and writing for publication fill my time. A highlight this past year was seeing one of my research writing projects get published in a new textbook called, Controversial Issues in Adventure Programming (Human Kinetics, 2012). The textbook is a collection of several authors' work and also includes a paper by Brad and Andrew. Our two papers are designed to be opposing arguments on a controversial risk management topic. Presenting this material as a threesome in debate format at several different professional conferences has been fun and a good follow-up to the publication. My wonderful wife, Fran, continues to be my best friend, and now also serves as the Writing Center Coordinator at the College. Our youngest daughters, Meredith and Keely, continue to attend Montreat and enjoy their Communication studies and weekly work as Writing Scholars. Our other four adult children are currently thriving in San Jose, CA, New York City, Greenville, NC, and Pierre, SD.

Dottie Shuman, Professor of Outdoor Education and Director of the Masters in Environmental Education

What another year has passed? How did that happen? This seems to be my mantra these days. We are only starting my 17th year here! Eric is now a junior at Washington and Lee University and Adam will graduate HS in May. It is hard to believe that my boys are now the ages of college students. Actually, Adam will join the ranks as a Montreat College student, next fall, as a freshman majoring in computer security systems. After spending the summer in the Occupied Territories in Bethlehem, Palestine, Eric will be doing an internship with the Palestinian “Embassy” in Washington, DC this spring and conducting research with his major professor in Lexington, VA this summer.

Jeff has been busy making a small apartment for Adam, since Adam will be living at home while he attends Montreat. I continue to love teaching my classes and being involved in students’ lives. We have reinvigorated the OE 111 (Facilitating Outdoor Experiences) class. I have fond memories of Dave teaching that class and student’s reminding me of the importance of CDDADA!! Do you remember what that stands for??? I missed traveling to DC last year with Environmental Policy and Law, but I am looking forward to taking a group of 11 this year. I also look forward to traveling back to Alaska with the MSEE Cohort #3 group this summer. Last year we were able to meet up with my good friend, Carol McIntyre, Ph.D. (golden eagle researcher) in Denali. As she took us on a hike up Tattler Creek, we were able to see a Golden Eagle being mobbed by a magpie! We had worked together in Denali in 1987-88!! Again, time sure does FLY!! As always, the Shuman’s house is open for visitors. Please stop in whenever you are in town, or join me on campus for a cup of coffee at the Huckleberry!

Brad Daniel, Professor of Outdoor Education and Environmental Studies and Department Co-Chair

It is hard to believe but this marks my 28th year at the college. Where does the time go? I am grateful that this year has brought better health. I continue to present at various conferences including the Association for Experiential Education (International and Regional conferences), Wilderness Education Association, and PEAK. I also conducted my first webinar this year for Green Teacher magazine. To my surprise, there were 278 participants. Overall, it was a very interesting experience. This year I will serve as President-elect of the Environmental Educators of North Carolina (EENC). This will be a three year commitment - President-elect, President, Past President. This Spring I have been serving as Chair in Andrew’s absence. It has been fun to move my office, at least temporarily, to the OE area. I love interacting with our students, faculty, and staff on a daily basis. I enjoy working with this entire team.

The February Wilderness Education Outdoor Education Colloquium, I was pleased to receive, on behalf of the Montreat College Outdoor Education department, the WEA Outstanding Organization award. I continue to publish a few articles each year. I, along with Ken and Andrew, wrote a chapter on whether wilderness staff should always accompany their groups for the newly published book, Controversial Issues in Adventure Programming. We are also collaborating on three additional papers including a state-of-knowledge paper for the Journal of Experiential Education. This past summer I also led, along with Dottie Shuman, a trip for the second MSEE cohort to study the biogeography of South central Alaska. It was a very full two weeks but we had a wonderful time.
**Graduate Degree and Public Program**

Montreat College Outdoor Education Alumni Newsletter, Spring 2013

“Engages school students in environmental explorations through multi-day, science-intensive adventure trips.”

CLIMBE will be taking a break, until we secure further funding. Dottie has been working on a couple of grants to re-fund CLIMBE for the future. We would still like to be a resource to any camps or programs that would be interested in following the expeditionary science model. Please contact Dottie, if you have further questions. For now, the CLIMBE website is not accessible.

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**Earn • Expand • Explore • Examine**

Sample Recent O.E. Faculty Publications and Presentations


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The **Team and Leadership Center** is in its 5th year! TLC continues to serve groups of adults and youth from the community and from all over the south east. Last year we served groups from as far west as Texas and as far east as Northern Virginia. We also served 385 students from Montreat College. We are excited to be partnering with organizations like The Grove Park Inn, Biltmore Estate, The Cove, and Billy Gram Evangelistic Association, and The Adventure Guild. Not only are we offering high quality Corporate Team Building but we are also one of the area leaders in educational team building as well. Because of a recent partnership with The Adventure Guild out of Chattanooga, TN we are also offering training for facilitators that is recognized by both professional certifying bodies, ACCT and PRC. Current programs include Leadership Training, Group Dynamics, Conflict Resolution, and Corporate Workshops. TLC can also customize programs to suit your needs. Encourage your leadership teams to take advantage of these services. To find out more about how TLC can help you meet your team goals, contact John Rogers at: jrogers@montreat.edu, 828-669-8012, ext. 2761 or visit www.tlc.montreat.edu

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Cohort #2, Emily Dunkerton Huguenin, Alexis Zanias, Tomas Randolph and Joey Jarrell spent two weeks in June last summer exploring Alaska. Some highlights were seeing Portage Glacier from a boat, driving through the Whittier Tunnel, taking the Alaska State Ferry to Valdez, kayaking to the Shoup Glacier, flying into Wrangell/St. Elias National Park, hiking up to the tundra in Denali State Park and camping and exploring in Denali National Park. Yes, we did all of that in two weeks and learned all about different ecosystems in Alaska and saw some incredible sites. Cohort #3 has decided to head to Alaska for their ecosystems trip as well. This group is planning more time on the Kenai Peninsula, a whale watching trip and rafting. There are so many opportunities to explore in Alaska.

Cohort #4 begins March 2013!

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**Master of Science in Environmental Education (MSEE)**

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Backcountry Update – Ben Fortson
Not long ago my wife and I had to arrange for the adoption of two of our children. At first, we didn't want to do it. It was heartbreaking - we fretted and prayed and cried. But then, it became obvious that we were clinging – clinging to two of our children that needed a new environment, a new place where they could mature and flourish. It was hard, but we gave up our babies. And so... we allowed two of our Backcountry programs to be adopted. OK... so it really wasn't two of our children. But admit it, you were bit shocked... “You gave up your babies?”

We suspect there will be a similar response to the “adoption” of two our long-standing Backcountry programs, Durham Academy and Rabun Gap – a “YOU DID WHAT!?” response. Frankly, these Backcountry programs were our collective baby (the OE baby), and yes, we gave them up for adoption. And yes, we’re feeling pretty good about it. Let me explain. Durham Academy (DA) and Rabun Gap (RG) have had a long history at Montreat College. A collective 40-years of blood, sweat and fun. Perhaps you are one of several hundred leaders who have invested in DA and RG students. If you’re like most, when you think of these Backcountry programs, fond memories come to mind. I am writing today to invoke those fond memories, and to announce that the DA and RG programs will continue to thrive under the new leadership of Black Mountain Expeditions (BME).

As the year 2012 came to a close, the Outdoor Education Department began to seriously evaluate the financial stability of Backcountry, it's effectiveness under current facilities, and it's potential to grow and impact lives. On every level, it became increasingly apparent that there might be better place for a few of our Backcountry programs to thrive. Through an on-going relationship with Camp Merrimac (owner of BME) we began exploring an adoptive arrangement. Over the past 3-weeks, the OE department and Camp Merrimac have begun developing a working relationship - one that will benefit Montreat students and Backcountry participants. This arrangement will assure that BME operates the DA and RG programs, that BME will have a strong contingent of Montreat student-instructors, and most importantly, BME will have the opportunity to continue the legacy of Backcountry - impacting lives for Christ through outdoor experiences. So yes, we put the babies up for adoption! They’re in good hands! We give God thanks and we encourage you to rejoice with us... we are thrilled with our adoptive parents and the new life these programs will experience under the leadership of BME! Adoptive Note: The DA and RG programs will operate under the parenting of Black Mountain Expeditions, and will have the full use of Merrimac’s facilities, support staff and resources. Montreat College’s Backcountry program will continue to exist on a smaller scale at Montreat College, offering short experiences such as camping trips, paddling, caving and climbing expeditions.

OE Students Lead Two Service Learning Projects
Two groups of OE students taking Professor Ken Kalisch’s course, OE 306: LEADERSHIP AND GROUP DYNAMICS, are working on exciting service learning projects. One group, composed of members Keegan Chavka, Lauren Everett, Jon Floyd, Pete Guillard, Kallie Richards and Megan Sechler, recently presented a major project proposal to the Town of Montreat Board of Commissioners. The project requested funding of $10,000 for the supplies along with the donation of student labor to repair the Greybeard Trail Walking Bridge. Two Commissioners noted that the student presentation was masterfully communicated and approved for funding by the Board.

Another group, composed of members Zach Antill, Malindi Arensen, Lizzie Gumns, Cati Highley, Misty Varnell and Bobby Wilund have undertaken a major campus project working with Jim Neil, Director of Facilities. They are formally proposing a research-based upgrade in outside lighting for the Montreat Campus as well as the Black Mountain Campus. This is a major project and will contribute to both campuses for many years to come.

Congratulations to our students and Professor Kalisch for this successful engagement in service-learning with our Town of Montreat community!
Current OE Department Enrollment (spring 2013)
Outdoor Education Majors: 26
Outdoor Ministry Majors: 6
Master of Science in Environmental Education: 13
Outdoor Education, Outdoor Ministry or Leadership Minors: 12
Total: 57 students

Student Involvement and Awards

Montreat College Outdoor Education and Outdoor Ministry undergraduate students are involved in a variety of class and community related experiences. Below is a sample:

- Two Outdoor Education students received scholarships from Montreat College for exceptional performance
- 10 student interns completed internships at locations from Australia to North Carolina. The department began a formal relationship with Higher Ground Australia where Montreat students serve as field instructors for a 28-day program for a school from Hong Kong.
- Students assisted in the organizing of the Earth Day event and stream clean-up for the communities of Black Mountain and Montreat.
- Students in the Environmental Interpretation Class developed prototype postcard/brochures for the Land care electric vehicle in the town of Montreat.
- Students in the Environmental Interpretation Class will develop prototype interpretive signs for the town of Black Mountain Greenways Commission.

Sample of OE Service Learning Activities

- Philosophy of Leadership students served each semester in various leadership roles on campus, in several area churches, and in the local community organizations (e.g. Young Life) in partial fulfillment of course requirements.
- Buncombe Soil and Water Conservation District, fall and spring - Facilitated an environmental education station for Buncombe County Schools Soil and Water Conservation Education Days – 8 students for 4 - 8 hours for 2 days in the fall and 2 days in the spring.
- MSEE student, Autumn Adams developed a bird house building project in honor of Darren Proppe. Birdhouses were made and put up along the Black Mountain Greenways, in the town of Montreat and around the college.
- Black Mountain Elementary School, 2 – 8 hour days 10 students - Facilitated Environmental Education Programs for 4th graders on the Black Mt. Campus.
- Asheville Christian Academy, one 8-hour day for 6 students - Facilitated Environmental Education Programs for 5th graders at Mt. Mitchell.
- Art Space School, one 8-hour days for 6 students - Facilitated Environmental Education Programs for 5th graders at Lookout Mountain in Montreat.
- Stream Cleanup, Montreat and Black Mountain, since spring 2010 – 4 hours 25 students - Facilitated stream clean-ups of Flat Creek and on the Swannanoa

* Note: All of these have an Environmental Education/Sustainability focus

Stay Involved!

For over 35 years we have offered the Discovery Wilderness Expedition and have since added the Wilderness Journey Practicum courses. With rising costs, program tuition is rapidly increasing. Students pay for their course credit, and also pay a course fee to cover additional instructional costs including field instructors, food, travel, permits, and equipment. These fees can add up to $3,000.

Please consider joining us in supporting students by donating to the Wilderness Expedition Scholarship Fund. All donations will be used to support students.

To donate, please use the enclosed card or contact the college Advancement Office.