

The Montreal College Student Voice W H E T S T O N E

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Students Compile First Field Guide to Mt. Mitchell, Future College Textbook

by Jennifer Kaiser



In the past year, environmental studies majors, Andrew Call, Clay Hanna, Brant Bullock, Tiffany Stoddart, Leah Kelley, and Monica Helderman, researched material for the first Mount Mitchell field guide. Once published, the book will serve as an informational tool for Mt. Mitchell visitors and as a textbook for students learning about the highest peak east of the Mississippi River.

Last fall, six Environmental Studies majors set out to write the first comprehensive field guide to Mt. Mitchell. Now, seven months later, they are nearing the end of the second phase of this project.

Under the leadership of Environmental Studies Professors Dr. Brad Daniel and Dr. Mike Sonnenberg, Leah Kelley, Clay Hanna, Tiffany Stoddart, Brant Bullock, Andrew Call, and Monica Helderman hope to publish a book that will be helpful to future Montreat students and visitors to Mt. Mitchell.

In Fall 2002, Brad Daniel suggested that students consider creating a field guide for Mt. Mitchell which, despite being the highest peak east of the Mis-

issippi River, has never had a field guide published about it.

"The real significance of this book," says Daniel, "is that no book of this type exists on Mt. Mitchell."

This field guide will be a comprehensive collection of information relative to the Mt. Mitchell State Park. There will be sections devoted to the history, geology, and hydrology of the park, as well as information on the plants, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles found in the area. The team estimates the book at about 250 pages long, complete with extensive photographs of native wildlife.

Sonnenberg says, "these students are not just trying to enrich their lives, but the lives of the

people who will read this book."

Environmental Studies majors are required to complete two semesters of a project-oriented class, called Naturalist Practicum. For this course, they can select and tackle an environmental project of interest to them. This year, six out of seven of the students decided to work on the Mt. Mitchell field guide. For the fall semester, these students

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Writing Center Attendance Dips and Stabilizes

by Batchimeg Sambalaibat

Early this semester, the number of visitors to The Writing Center (TWC) dropped compared to previous spring semesters. But finals and end of year assignments propelled involvement and compensated for the initial lull.

The consultants typically service more students, especially freshmen, in the fall semester than in the spring. Kortney Blythe, two-year TWC veteran consultant, attri-

butes this to the fact that, "as the year progresses, freshmen gain confidence in their work and many students procrastinate more and more, leaving no time for visiting The Writing Center."

Writing Center Director and English Adjunct Betty Sue James attributes this decrease to faculty members who have gotten away from requiring or strongly advising students

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Seniors Sarah Tangalakis and Rob Breinich danced the night away at the Spring Formal held on April 3, 2004 at the Biltmore Estate. For more Spring Formal pictures, go to www.montreat.edu/whetstone.

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What's Inside
Bouldering Snags Student Interests

VERSE of the WEEK

"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."

- Galatians 2:20 NIV