The ECU chapter of the Honor Society Phi Kappa Phi, and the Ph.D. Program in Coastal Resources Management, sponsored the final Executive-in-Residence of the semester on December 3rd and 4th, 2002.

On Tuesday, December 3rd, 2002, distinguished guest, Dr. Joshua Reichert, Director, Environment Program, The Pew Charitable Trusts, Philadelphia, PA, gave a formal presentation on “Science and Conservation Policy.” Reichert also presented an informal seminar on “The Role of Non-Profits, Foundations, and Government in Shaping Conservation Policy.” He led an open discussion focusing on the distinct roles played by various sectors including government, non-profit conservation organizations, business, scientific and research institutions, and foundations in shaping conservation policy.

Reichert argued that there is a need for scientists to play an increasingly significant role in the public debate over conservation, to review the challenges they face in doing so, and to describe the contributions that scientists have and can make in the field of conservation policy.

Reichert completed his undergraduate work in applied behavioral sciences at the University of California, Davies, and earned his MA and Ph.D in social anthropology from Princeton University. Under his leadership, the Trusts have quintupled their investments in environmental programs since 1990.
Fall 2002 Initiates

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* indicates all students enrolled in the University Honors Program
Chapter Spotlight: Eldean Pierce, RN, MSN, FNP

The ECU Chapter of Phi kappa Phi is fortunate to have as its secretary, Eldean Pierce, a family nurse practitioner and assistant professor in the School of Nursing. The eastern North Carolina native was inducted as an East Carolina University student member in 1974.

Pierce’s early nursing education was at The Watts Hospital School of Nursing in Durham, North Carolina. After receiving her diploma from that institution, she worked in Virginia, Massachusetts, and Florida, before returning to ECU to complete a Bachelor of Science in Nursing (1974), a Master of Science in Rehabilitation Counselling (1977), a Master of Science in Nursing (1979), and a certificate as a Family Nurse Practitioner (1998). As a Nurse Practitioner, Pierce is approved by the North Carolina Board of Nursing and the North Carolina Board of Medicine.

Upon graduating from East Carolina, Pierce began teaching at ECU’s School of Nursing, and during the late 1970s and early 1980s became active in Phi Kappa Phi as a faculty member, serving on various committees and eventually being selected as secretary—her present position, which she holds concurrently with her position as Chair of the Chapter’s Initiation and Banquet Committee.

Pierce Comments, “There are many things that I like about being a part of Phi Kappa Phi. PKP’s “member for life” policy really creates a sense of connection with the larger academic community. And PKP’s interdisciplinarity is a genuine plus. Working with people outside my own discipline is always enriching.”

An enthusiastic teacher, Pierce is listed in Who’s Who of America’s Teachers, is regularly named by graduating seniors as “most influential” during their student years, has received multiple teaching awards from within the university, and was named 1994 Nurse Educator of the Year by the North Carolina Nurses Association. These testimonials reflect her own commitment to students at all stages of education. “I love the first year students. If you tell them to wash their hands for five minutes, they’ll do it. They are so eager and ready. But I also enjoy seniors. These students are on the threshold of the profession—and working with them is really working with the field’s newest colleagues.”

In a world often driven by over-specialization, Pierce sees a degree in nursing as a jumping off place for a number of career tracks. Certainly, one can nurse in the traditional roles, but education in this field provides a strong foundation for careers in insurance or in the pharmaceutical industry.

Eldean Pierce and her husband, Hal (a retired high school physics teacher), live in Winterville, North Carolina.
For a full story on ECU’s Wall of Honor, see the Spring 2002 newsletter.

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