

## MEET MONIKA KERSCHUS-GRANHOLM

Over the past several years, FCWC has been very fortunate to have Monika Kerschus-Granholtz staffing our Pace University office. The list of activities Monika has admirably conducted is extensive -- interacting with individual members and students, coordinating with member organizations, updating the website and promoting our social media presence, keeping membership information current, answering questions about the organization and our mission, and handling any and all data-entry needs. And all of this on a part-time basis! On the occasion of her departure from this position, FCWC wants to (belatedly) “introduce” Monika to those who didn’t have the opportunity to meet her, to highlight her wide-ranging professional accomplishments, and to acknowledge that she will be sorely missed.

Monika is truly a child of Westchester County; she grew up on the Hall Estate (now the Greenburgh Nature Center) where her parents were caretakers. She has fond memories of playing with her brother on this beautiful property, instilling a love of nature that continues until today. Monika was one of the first interns at the nature center and has kept up her involvement over the years. As a matter of fact, she met Anne Jaffe Holmes, who recommended her for this position, at the center.

A self-described “biology nerd,” Monika attended SUNY Binghamton, graduating with a degree in biological sciences. After college, she spent four years as a herpetologist with the Museum of Natural History in New York City. At this point, Monika took a detour from the environment and pursued a very successful career in data entry, another area that appeals to her logical and organized mind. Monika worked for KLM Airlines for 10 years in the accounting department and spent 16-17 years with Lufthansa Airlines, where she ultimately became supervisor of data and entry and SAP module designer. When Lufthansa moved this division to Mexico City, Monika trained her replacement – and despite her fondness for travel – returned to her family in Westchester County.

She also returned to her first love, the environment, and worked part-time for a small nonprofit, Nature of Things, which provided environmental outreach through teacher training and live animal presentations at schools throughout the state. She joined FCWC as Member Relations and Social Media Coordinator three years ago and as Anne said, “It’s been great fun and a wonderful experience to work with her.”

Finally, Monika is a skilled nature photographer; a lover of classic rock which she listens to at the office, and a newly-confident public speaker (thanks, she says, to her tenure with us). Although she won’t be sitting in FCWC’s Pace University office anymore (Monika has taken a new full-time job with the County Board of Elections), Monika’s commitment to FCWC remains strong and she won’t be forgotten by anyone who came in contact with her. Thank you, Monika, for your outstanding support over the past three years.