



NEW ACADEMY CENTER TAKES SHAPE

Progress continues both inside and out on conversion of the former Thompson Science Building into Exeter's first Academy Center, which is scheduled to open in spring 2006. The building now sports new entranceways, both front and back, and a completely reimagined interior that brings together a wide variety of campus-life essentials and activities—the Grill; the Post Office; an expanded day student center; office space for *The Exonian*, *The Pendulum*, WPEA and other student clubs and organizations; a 199-seat forum; and plenty of space for recreation and relaxing. (For more on the Academy Center, see the Report of Giving.)

Some changes you can't see, but which are nonetheless vital to the Academy Center's success: the top-to-bottom updates made to the building's mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems. In some respects, says project manager Guy Conrad, of PEA's facilities management department, "that was the most challenging part of the job, because older buildings don't have a lot of space for these things." The update required two solid months of planning and then, once the actual work was completed, Conrad notes with a chuckle, "it all gets covered by sheetrock and no one even realizes it's there!"

CORRECTIONS

We have three mistakes to clean up from the summer 2005 *Bulletin*: Nat Butler, who received the 2005 Founder's Day Award for his sustained and exceptional volunteer service to the Academy, is



DAN COURTER

Nat Butler '64



BRIAN CROWLEY

Nicole Wilson '05

not a member of the class of '68, as we claimed, but rather the class of '64. And in our Commencement coverage, we misidentified a photo of Nicole Wilson '05. Our apologies to both Nat and Nicole, and to David Walsh '05 and Addy Fuller '05, the subjects

of our Table Talk interview, the final line of which was inadvertently dropped. Here, in full, is David's parting thought about the Exeter Ballytobin/Callan Program, which offers two PEA seniors the chance to live and work in a residential therapeutic community for people with multiple disabilities: "It really makes you realize what's important in life, because you see what's really important to someone else."



Our Back Pages: The Science of Poker

Thompson Science Building (1932) was one of a series of buildings made possible by Colonel William Boyce Thompson, class of 1890, including Thompson Gymnasium, the Cage and Jeremiah Smith Hall. (Such generosity was a family trait: funds for the Exeter Inn were given by Thompson's wife and daughter.)



A Montana native who made his fortune in mining, Thompson had a keen appreciation for all the sciences, once remarking that he "was interested," the April 1930 *Bulletin* noted, "in anything and everything that came from the ground."

But he probably would also have enjoyed the Academy Center, whose goal is to give students, faculty and staff a central place to connect and relax together. During his own student days, Thompson liked to do his relaxing over a hand of cards, judging by an anecdote from his biography that *Bulletin* editor Myron Williams quotes in *The Story of Phillips Exeter*. Told there were "a couple of Boston poker sharks in the barber shop," Thompson made a beeline for the game, despite warnings from his roommates. When he returned at midnight, pockets bulging with his winnings, his friends were astonished. "Shucks," Thompson is reported to have said. "They teach poker in Sunday school where I come from."