

TRUSTEE ROUNDUP

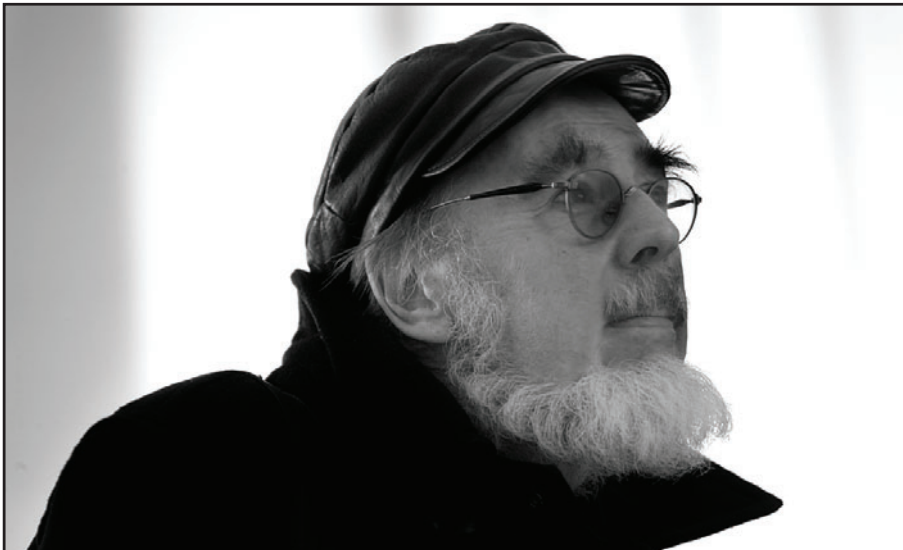
The trustees met for their winter meeting on January 24 to 27. Much of the discussion concerned financial matters related to the decision to set tuition for the coming academic year. The trustees approved tuition of \$36,500 for boarding students and \$28,200 for day students.

The Buildings and Grounds Committee heard reports on the status of the buildings damaged by the spring floods and summer hail storms. Much of the most critical repair work has now been completed, although it will be summer before all the roofs are completely repaired. They approved going forward on the building of two out of three faculty houses planned for the vacant lot at 42 Court Street. These homes will be built with green materials and will conserve energy to a great degree. It is anticipated that they will use only 50 percent of the energy consumed by the new houses built in O'Neil Court just a few years ago. Both new homes are funded by gifts to The Exeter Initiatives. The committee also allocated money to take the plans for the proposed Health and Wellness Center to the next stage of design and development.

This past summer, the trustees established the "Youth From Every Quarter Task Force" (YFEQ), composed of faculty, administrators and trustees, and charged it with looking at Exeter's financial aid policy and methods of outreach to potential financial aid applicants. Because of the great success of The Exeter Initiatives in raising endowment

for scholarships, the Academy is seeing dramatic increases in its financial aid budget. YFEQ is charged with defining strategies for helping to ensure that Exeter finds the most able students from varied socioeconomic backgrounds, especially those who would not normally apply to Exeter.

As part of its research, YFEQ has been interviewing college admissions personnel at institutions with academic standards similar to Exeter's and who are currently offering need-blind admissions. During the trustees' Saturday session, the group invited William Fitzsimmons, the dean of admissions and financial aid at Harvard, to spend the morning with the trustees. Fitzsimmons spoke about Harvard's very active recruitment program, the effects of its dramatic change in financial aid policy two years ago and the decision made this past fall to drop early decision. He emphasized the importance of educational institutions



BRIAN CROWLEY

Lamont Poet Eamon Grennan

On February 21, poet Eamon Grennan gave a public reading as part of the Lamont Poetry Series. Born in Dublin in 1941, Grennan has established himself as a preeminent voice in a generation of Irish poets that includes Seamus Heaney, Michael Longley, Derek Mahon and Eavan Boland. His collections of poetry include *The Quick of It* (2005); *Renvyle, Winter* (2003); *Still Life with Waterfall* (2002), winner of the Lenore Marshall Award; *Selected & New Poems* (2000); *Relations: New & Selected Poems* (1998); *So It Goes* (1995); *As If It Matters* (1992); *What Light There Is and Other Poems* (1989); and *Wildly for Days* (1983).

ensuring a robust mixture of students from every socioeconomic class, as well as every other type of diversity. It was a stimulating presentation and Fitzsimmons was most complimentary of the Academy's efforts to prepare its students for the next stage of their education.

In addition, the trustees met in small groups for a Thursday night pizza dinner with upper and senior boarders on financial aid. They asked the students how they had heard about PEA and made the decision to apply, and what they have experienced since they matriculated. It seemed clear from the discussion at the trustees' Friday session that the students are very happy and collectively made a very positive impression on the trustees. As always, the trustees expressed their appreciation to the staff, faculty and students for the welcome provided to them on campus.