

Parents Newsletter

FOR PARENTS AND FRIENDS OF PHILLIPS EXETER ACADEMY



PEA Students Bring

Gifts

From

MANY MILES

November 2003
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The *Parents Newsletter* invites comments from parents and friends. Please email editor Janice Reiter in the communications office at prnl@exeter.edu. The *Parents Newsletter* is published three times a year and is distributed free of charge.

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Design: PEA Communications Office

In his opening Assembly address, Principal Tyler Tingley offered some perspective on the impact individuals make on a school's culture. After explaining the tradition that requires him to speak about John Phillips 1781 Deed of Gift at the start of each new year, he described two 19th-century Exonians who possessed neither wealth nor polish, but who contributed personal characteristics of mind, body and spirit to the betterment of the Academy.

On Parents Weekend, Tingley summarized for parents what he had told their children back in September—about John Vinton, 1823, who walked 566 miles from his New York home to Exeter, choosing the school for its financial package, and about the rough-around-the-edges William Boyce Thompson, 1889, who came from the wilds of Montana with an obvious skill for winning at cards, although other talents soon became apparent.

Students today come from backgrounds just as "unique, important and diverse as Vinton and Thompson," said the principal, with "personal histories and talents that create the community of this school and the 'impressions'—to

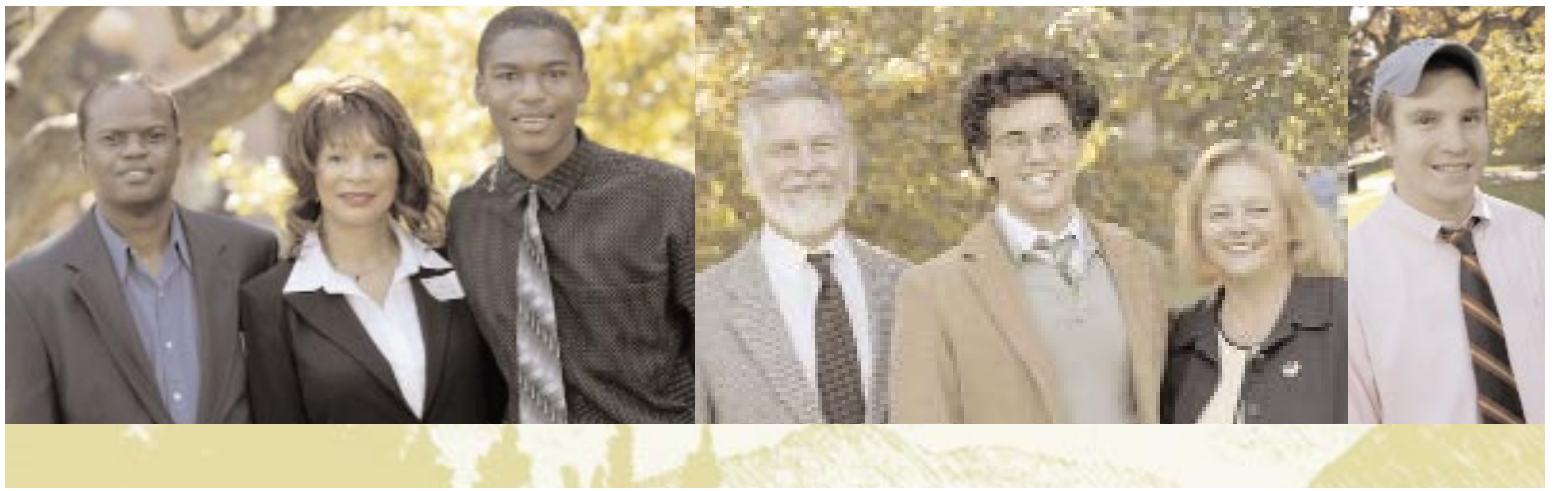
use John Phillips term—that help the collective minds of this school to grow and learn and flourish." That today's students are intelligent and motivated in the classroom is just the tip of iceberg, for not only around the Harkness table do students contribute to the education of their classmates, but also in their daily lives.

On Parents Weekend, the *Parents Newsletter* met and talked with parents to find out what they believe their child is currently contributing to Exeter. Many of their responses would have pleased John Phillips.

Mary Barbee from Lakeland, FL, mother of Jonathan '04: "Jonathan exemplifies Exeter's philosophy of goodness and knowledge. At the Harkness table, Jonathan speaks in a different voice, which challenges the thinking of his peers and teachers. He has an ability to shed new light on old themes. But where does the goodness come in? Those who know him know that Jonathan's compassion and caring guide his view of others and the world. Therefore, when he challenges his peers, it is to bring all to a higher level."

Janet and Edward Caylor from Hampton, NH, parents of Rachel '04: "Rachel is very gifted vocally; in an environment of such talented students her vocal ability is probably not her great-

Continued on page 2



Parents Weekend was a time of mutual appreciation for Exonians and their families. A small sampling of the families who visited Exeter on October 10–11 includes: Page 1, left to right, Rebecca '04 and John Luster; Robert, Michael '06 and Maura Scalise; Jonathan '04 and Mary Barbee; Pages 2–3, left to right, Welton, Barbara and Welton Blount '05; Mark, Stephen '05 and Suzanne Lukas; David '05 and Peter Lebovitz; Savannah '04 and Lucy Sachs; Kathleen, Joe '04, Erin and Joseph Metcalf.

est contribution to the Exeter community. She sends email cards to people when she knows that they are upset or unhappy. In this community of so many different personalities, her little deeds may occasionally cause someone to smile.”

Donna and Jeffrey Duelfer from Exeter, NH, parents of Stefani '04: “She has always been amazingly compassionate, caring and kind and shown a keen interest in making the world a ‘kinder’ place. Her latest accomplishment is the founding of the club Random Acts of Kindness. In this club, we believe she has found her ‘gift’ to the Exeter community.”

Sushama and Gopal Jaisingh from Montville, NJ, parents of Ashwini '04: “Ashwini has brought to Exeter a spirit of giving at the time of need and a gentle, quiet leadership. Soon after the 9/11 tragedy, she rallied her classmates to fold 1,000 paper cranes, basing her idea on a memorial in Hiroshima. She took the folded cranes and, with the help of her friends,

school. He has enriched others through his involvement and enthusiasm for both academic and extramural activities.”

Sigrid and Stephen Lindo from Upper Montclair, NJ, parents of Sam '04: “Sam can be counted on as a friend . . . He is unpretentious, and has an unusual ability to relate well to people from different backgrounds, cultures, nationalities and generations. Part of this comes from Sam’s unwavering sense of fairness, and part of it from Exeter, which has nurtured Sam and steadily expanded his horizons since the day he arrived.”

Sarah and John Luster from Natchitoches, LA, parents of Rebecca '04: “Rebecca’s gift to Exeter would be gentleness. She is a nurturing and caring person. People she meets don’t comment on her intelligence, her beauty, her aggressiveness. They uniformly comment on her politeness and gentility, which is not a left-handed compliment where we live.”

Kathy and Joseph Metcalf from Knoxville, TN, parents of Joe '04: “Joe definitely brings a Southern perspective, particularly an Eastern Tennessee Appalachian point of view. He has an innate sense of fairness. He is a quiet leader who leads by example. He learned from those before him and now gives back to the younger guys in his dorm and on his teams by mentoring and helping them.”

Lucy and Reynold Sachs from Lincoln, MA, parents of Savannah '04: “Savannah is not one to ‘toot her horn’ but quietly goes about her day without any conceit. Her quick wit and highly efficient approach to her tasks help her keep up with the rigors of Exeter.”

Suzanne and Mark Lukas from Kennebunk, ME, parents of Stephen '05: “Stephen has a sincerity that is apparent in both his attitude toward work and in his interactions with peo-

Having lived overseas all his life, Martin mixes well with fellow students inside and outside of the dorm and understands the differences, problems and also opportunities that come from an interationally diverse student population.

Richard Yates, father of Martin Yates '04

hung them up at Ground Zero with the sign ‘from PEA students.’ She mostly stays in the background but when there is a need, she helps in any way she can.”

Sophie and Euan King from Litchfield, CT, parents of Rory '04: “His greatest contribution to Exeter is his passion and enthusiasm for the



ple. He gives an earnest effort to everything he undertakes. His motivation is genuine and springs from within. In his dealings with people he genuinely cares about their happiness and has empathy for their problems.”

Barbara and Welton Blount from Dendron, VA, parents of Welton '05: “Early on, Welton began to demonstrate a love of learning. He has developed a strong sense of ethics and sense of compassion for others. Even though he has only been here for a short time, he has adjusted to life on campus, has made many friends and is involved in several extracurricular activities.”

Janet and Peter Lebovitz from New Canaan, CT, parents of David '05: “Start spending time and talking with David and you'll discover a depth of caring and thoughtfulness that you wouldn't necessarily expect from a 17-year-old boy. If you are fortunate enough to be his friend he expects a lot from you, but the level of caring, depth of feeling, support and sincerity that he gives in return is almost immeasurable.”

Gina and John Leahy from Exeter, NH, parents of Jenna '06: “Jenna offers the Academy her positive attitude and her great desire to learn about and reach out to others. She has very much enjoyed meeting people from different parts of the country and the world. They have increased her desire to learn and care about world events.”

Maura and Robert Scalise from Nahant, MA, parents of Michael '06: “His gift is that he values the totality of the Exeter experience. He strives to do well academically, while pursuing a high level of competence in three varsity sports. His pride and enthusiasm for Exeter comes through whenever he competes in an Exeter uniform and when he talks to others about the school.”



Above: Shuh-Juan, Albertine, Elisa '04 and Shih-Chin Chen;
Left: Gopal, Sushama and Ashwini Jaisingh '04.

The entire text of Principal Tingley's address can be found at http://www.exeter.edu/opening_assembly.html.

Additional pictures from Parents Weekend can be found on the Parent Portal.



<http://blackboard.exeter.edu>

What's in a Name?

It's Now the Lamont Health



Above: Student Health Advisory Board members Andrew Koch '04 (center) and Kathleen DeTeso '04 (right) visit nutritionist Pam Stuppy (left) outside her new office in the Lamont Health and Wellness Center.

Right: Dr. Myra Citrin, the Academy's director of medical services, talks with Whitney Gosnell '06.

Below: The renovation of Lamont included the addition of a third classroom for health education. All preps and incoming lowers take a required health course. This fall, a total of 244 kids are enrolled in health classes.

“Better than *infirmary*, better than *health services*, the name *health and wellness* reflects what we do in the new Lamont Health and Wellness Center,” says Dr. Myra Citrin, the school's director of medical services. “In Lamont, we offer a wide spectrum of medical services and the individuals we are treating are just as likely to be ‘well’ beings as ‘sick’ beings. Treating the ‘well’ goes far beyond doctoring a person when he or she is ill.”

When Dr. Citrin came to the Academy a decade ago, professional medical services, from round-the-clock nursing to consultations with Boston-based specialists, were in place. But

creating an environment where the theories of health and wellness could evolve into life-long practices took time. Programmatic study over the past several years has made this a reality. Additionally, recent renovations have given professional personnel who administer to Academy students a facility that is conducive to their mission, “fostering the life of the mind, instruction and activity promoting fitness and health.” Says Citrin, “We are mission driven.”



Today, when Dr. Citrin talks about how her team ensures that students stay well, she speaks not only on a medical level. She also talks about services that help students develop as healthy individuals and members of society. “More and more of what we do is give ‘anticipatory guidance,’” she says. “Nutritionist Pam Stuppy makes recommendations on lifelong dietary practices; athletic trainers, led by Gordon Coole, focus on lifelong fitness, teaching kids about resting heart rates and what target ranges ought to be; Jeanne Stern and the counseling staff do a lot of stress management; and health educators teach skills and proper practices that can be used lifelong.”

In the years that Dr. Citrin, a board-certified pediatrician, has directed the Academy's medical services, the school's health education program has expanded. A mandatory health education course for incoming lowers was added to that required of preps in 1994. In the last few years, “The Human Pursuit of



and Wellness Center



Euphoria” and “A Study of Human Sexuality”—health and human development electives taught

in the winter and spring by faculty members Carol Cahalane and Rob Morris respectively—became part of the department’s curriculum. Morris also advises Leaders at Exeter Abstaining from Drugs, a group now in its seventh year, and Cahalane leads a peer health education program.

While much of the recent renovation of Lamont has been in the queue for several years, a good deal of it was accomplished under the direction of William White, the administrator of the Health and Wellness Center who joined the staff of the center last winter after working for 30 years in ambulatory medicine. The reconstruction improved both the interior appearance and the efficiency of the facility. It also added a third classroom, which aids flexibility in scheduling. Other highlights of the renovations were new cabinetry, furniture and equipment for Dr. Citrin’s examination room; updates to the bathrooms, including two that were designed to be universally accessible; and replacement tiles and flooring throughout.

Students were quick to notice that Lamont is brighter and more cheerful, the once-dingy hallways and walls now sparkling clean and freshly painted. Andy Koch ’04 was part of a representative group of students who toured the facility last spring and checked items he would like to see remedied over the summer. The group, the Student Health Advisory Board, chaired by nurse practitioner Jane Savage, wanted a facility that was more student friendly, up-to-date and homier. This fall, Koch was happy to see that colorful quilts cover the beds in students’ rooms, snappy valances frame the windows and artwork hangs on the walls. “I am impressed with the improvement,” he says.

While justly proud of the cosmetic work and modern furnishings, Citrin, White and the 30 staff members who administer to Academy

students’ health needs have higher aims. “These improvements are only a start,” says White. “We would like to be instrumental in making health and wellness programs blossom into other aspects of the school curriculum.”

Integrating health services into campus life has been ongoing for years, with links between the medical staff and the physical education department being particularly strong. Kathy Nekton emphasized lifelong fitness while chair of the department of physical education from 1980 to 1989. In the fall of 1998, her successor, Dana Barbin, established a sports science lab to help students set up exercise programs based on sound scientific principles, again with the goal of lifelong fitness. Current director of athletics Dave Hudson is extending this vision. “The physical education curriculum promotes good health and fitness by teaching skills in diverse physical activities. The ultimate outcome is the development of lifelong fitness skills, attitudes and behaviors. Together with health services and the health education department, we are trying to deliver this powerful message in a unified and comprehensive way.”

White concurs 100 percent with Exeter’s need to teach lifelong skills. “To graduate students who can do mathematics, who are informed about the sciences and who can write clearly and thoughtfully is crucial, but we are missing an educational opportunity if we do not also send our graduates out into the world with an understanding of the role lifelong health and wellness skills play in their lives, now and in the future.”

—Janice Reiter

Left: Rob Morris, chair of the department of health education, teaches one of the department’s elective courses, in addition to prep and lower health. He is head of Wentworth Hall and a JV football coach.

Below: Instructor in Health Education Carol Cahalane (left) teaches preps and lowers like Miriam Posner ’06 (right). Cahalane is a former associate dean of students and current head of Lamont Hall.





Dear Parents,

The days when parents dropped off their children at boarding school and expected little contact until Thanksgiving break have been over for a while. The installation of phones and Internet access in all dorm rooms has made connection between parents and students, sometimes continents apart, almost instantaneous.

This burgeoning technology has also provided teachers, advisers and other administrators an easy and efficient way to be in contact with parents. Those of you who had children here during the tense days after September 11, 2001, may remember that I used the Academy's homepage, www.exeter.edu, to keep you abreast of activities here. Dean of Students Ethan Shapiro and Academy physician Dr. Myra Citrin used an all-parent email to keep you apprised of our policies concerning the SARS outbreak last winter and spring. On a happier note, many of you now use the Academy website to check schedules, learn sports scores and even see what is being served in the dining halls.

As our technology evolves, we will continue to explore ways to be in touch with parents. At Parents Weekend, I announced our latest effort to keep the virtual lines of communication open and active. The Parent Portal (discussed on page 12 of this newsletter) will provide you with easy access to the information you need to be up-to-date about Academy activities. When the site is complete (probably in the winter of 2005) you will be able to access data that is specific to your child. The site is a work in progress now, but it can be reached by a common all-parent user-name and password, available from the dean of students office, (603) 777-3411.

Connection is a term I use often in my contacts with you, as well as in discussions with students, faculty and alumni/ae. This new tool will never take the place of the face-to-face exchanges that we all value and thrive on. However, it will be a convenient and quick way to share information. It can provide us with a set of common facts and help us develop a mutual language that will enable our connections to become broader and deeper.

I also see this tool as a way to reach parents in a timely way to acquaint you with concerns or impart information in case of an emergency. The site is not as public as our current homepage and thus a better venue in which to share more detailed and sensitive information.

Please visit the new portal and give us feedback on how it can help you stay connected to your child and with all of us at PEA.

Tyler C. Tingley '48, '64, '01 (Hon.); P'99
Principal



My Exeter

See
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<http://blackboard.exeter.edu>

Jim DiCarlo and the Helicopter-o-meter

College Admissions Weekend Set for February 27–28, 2004

I hope that all parents of uppers are saving the weekend of Friday, February 27, and Saturday, February 28, 2004, to attend the Academy's College Admissions Weekend. Beginning Friday evening, the College Counseling Office (CCO) will host a reception for parents that will introduce them to the many resources of the college office.

One program feature will be a tour of the CCO website. In addition, a panel of current seniors will give you details of their own experiences with the college admissions process at the Academy. Saturday's schedule includes a keynote address by Bill Mayher, author of *The College Admissions Mystique*; group meetings with your child's counselor; and mock selection committees led by college admissions deans. The Academy's trustees attended a similar mock session during their fall meeting and found it a valuable way to begin to understand the college admissions process.

During the morning break, representatives from summer and alternative-year programs such as City Year, Action Quest and AFS will be present for a college fair-type event. The day's program will conclude in time for you to enjoy some time visiting with your child.



—Elizabeth Dolan
Director of College Counseling

MAYHER TO DEMYSTIFY COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Bill Mayher returns to Exeter for the fourth consecutive year to introduce a new set of Exeter parents to the college process. Known for his sensible yet sensitive approach to college admissions, Mayher has a personal style that is dashed with humor. His talk is scheduled for Saturday, February 28, at 8:30 a.m.

Now living in Maine, Mayher is a former director of college counseling at the Hackley School in Tarrytown, NY, and the Noble and Greenough School in Dedham, MA. He has been a frequent panelist and keynote speaker at meetings of college admissions professionals. In addition to authoring *The College Admissions Mystique*, he has published writing in the anthology *Fathering Daughters* and in several New England magazines.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS WEEKEND, FEBRUARY 27-28, 2004

"This was my first-day-of-school-so-let's-get-on-with-it activity. I was looking for a hands-on way to introduce the idea of describing motion graphically. In 30 seconds, using scrap paper and paperclips, the students constructed helicopters. They then dropped them from the upper level of the Science Center to collect data on how the flight time of their 'copters depended on a few different variables: release height and number of paperclips (weight). Additionally, they were able to use their helicopters and performance graphs to determine the weight of an 'unknown' paperclip. I called the exercise the helicopter-o-meter."

—Jim DiCarlo
Instructor in Science



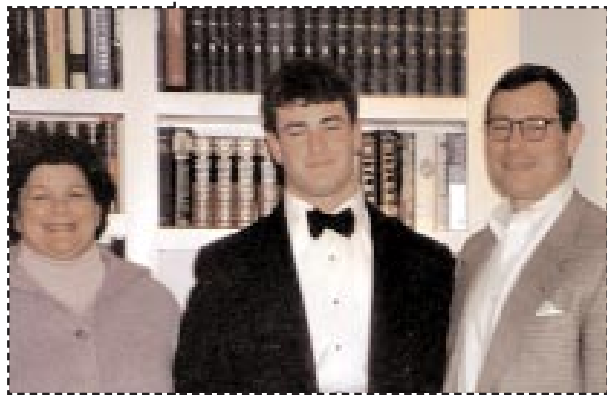
Parents Connect WITH EACH OTHER and EXETER



the educational fund-raising world, participation rates are as significant a measure of success as dollar totals. Exeter's Parents Fund enjoyed record-breaking success on both counts during the 2002–03 year, when present and past parents and grandparents raised \$2,311,533 in gifts and pledges to the Academy. More than 80 percent of present parents made a contribution to the fund—a significant increase over the previous year's already robust participation rate of 72.9 percent—and their gifts ranged from



\$10 to \$1 million. This year, the fund hopes to raise \$2.5 million from present and past parents and grandparents, and is aiming for 100 percent participation from present parents.



Another measure of Exeter's strength is the number of dedicated parent volunteers who give their time and energy to fund raising for Exeter. Thirty-six parents or couples served on the Parents Fund Committee,

chaired by Scott and Brenda Meadow P'05 of Chicago, and more than 75 participated in regional phonathons around the country. "We had a great committee last year of very competent people who really dug in and did the work well," says Brenda, who, with Scott, is again chairing the committee this year. Notes committee member Dan Hoefle P'06 of Rye, NH, "It isn't easy to raise money, and I have

been struck by the passion that Exeter parents bring to this endeavor."

What do these numbers mean for Exeter? First and foremost, they are testimony to the support Exeter has from parents and grandparents. "There is no better barometer as to the health of the institution than participation rates in the Parents Fund," says Director of Annual Giving Wayne Loosigian, who distinguishes parent support for Exeter from that of alumni/ae who give out of loyalty to their alma mater. "Parents give to Exeter because they are happy with the school," says Brenda Meadow, who notes that her son's experience of living far from home has been extremely positive, thanks in large part to the teachers who have been his family away from home. "Scott and I believe wholeheartedly in the Parents Fund campaign of the last two years." She also notes, "The Exeter tuition cannot possibly cover the extra things that our kids are getting. Every child in the school benefits from our participation in the Parents Fund."

Like last year, this year's Parents Fund will support both the school's operating budget—which includes such essentials as scholarships, academic, residential and athletic programs, and faculty salaries—as well as the Faculty Housing Endowment Fund, part of the school's master plan to provide the best possible residential experience for students and teachers. Theresa Braun P'05 of Holland, OH, and Dan Hoefle are two members of the Parents Fund Committee who are not only pleased with what Exeter has meant to their respective children, but also committed to the fund's priorities. Theresa says, "My husband and I feel strongly that we need to do what we can to help keep the cost of an Exeter education as affordable as possible for as many people as possible." She adds, "Our daughter couldn't be happier at Exeter, and she has indicated that it would not be the place it is if it were not for the faculty. Improving the quality and availability of facul-

Top: Dan Hoefle (center) with his children, Sam and Sarah '06

Below: Scott and Brenda Meadow P'05 with son Jack

THROUGH THE EXETER PARENTS FUND

ty housing helps with recruiting and retaining good teachers; these are worthwhile expenditures.” Says Dan, “I live on the New Hampshire Seacoast, and I know what the housing market here is like. This is a very difficult place for faculty members to buy the kind of homes in which they want to live and raise a family. The Faculty Housing Initiative is a well-thought-out incentive that gives Exeter an edge in recruiting new faculty.”

For these parents, fund raising for Exeter has a philosophical dimension as well. Theresa Braun says, “I think that many families whose children attend private school feel an obligation to support the school in any way they can beyond tuition, to nurture the environment in which our children are thriving. We all have different levels of time, energy and resources to give, but being involved is part of what we do.” Through her work with the Parents Fund, Theresa has enjoyed the opportunity to connect with parents she would not have met otherwise, since her daughter is a boarding student. “When I call parents to ask them to give to Exeter, I enjoy learning about them, what led them to Exeter and what their kids like about it.”

Brenda Meadow recalls joining the Parents Fund Committee during son Jack’s first year as an Exeter student, right after the attacks on the World Trade Center. “Morale was low, and many of us felt the world was upside down. Last year felt even more precarious given the economic situation, and I was hesitant to ask people I didn’t know to support Exeter. But I think we all needed something to build morale around, and education is a great place to start. We protect ourselves by investing in our kids’ education and looking to the future. Even if people give less in troubled times, they seem more willing to give.”

Says Hoefle, “The transformation and growth that Sarah has experienced at Exeter has been astounding. Through clubs and sports she has made friends from all over the world. I

know that to have forged friendships like these at an early age will enrich her life forever. She has discovered a lot about herself, developed a new level of self-confidence and a whole new awareness of possibilities in life for work, further study and things to explore.” He adds, “We all work hard to provide for our children. I believe this to be the best investment in my daughter’s future that I could possibly make.”

—Laura Chisholm
*Assistant Director
AA&D Communications*



“I think that many families whose children attend private school feel an obligation to support the school in any way they can beyond tuition, to nurture the environment in which our children are thriving. We all have different levels of time, energy and resources to give, but being involved is part of what we do.”

—Theresa Braun

The Braun family—Ray, Raymond, Hillary '05 and Theresa—reunited at Exeter this fall.

Club Night



Decked out in eye patch, tunic and boots, Brendon Randall-Myers '05 is prowling Elm Street looking for a few good pirates.

Together with fellow swashbuckler Thomas Guertin '05, he is trying to recruit new members for the Pirate Club, an organization dedicated to entertaining the campus with whimsical pranks. "We can't actually pillage and burn things," Randall-Myers says, but "pirating has a rich and wonderful history. We are trying to keep that alive, making general mischief the order of the day."

Randall-Myers and Guertin do face some competition in their quest for recruits. There is one of more than 100 clubs and organizations vying for student attention on Club Night, held this year on September 21. Spirits are high on the early autumn afternoon and Elm Street Dining Hall is packed with students, who overflow onto the lawns. The clubs they have to choose from are varied. Some offer training, like Technical Theatre Exonians; others, like the Sailing Club, allow students to continue pursuing a hobby from pre-Exeter days; others open the door to cultural activities; while working a publication such as *Broadside*, *Pendulum* or *Spiral* provides an outlet for ideas, or promotion of a cause.

The three-year-old Pirate Club has lots going for it. Open to everyone, the club has wide parameters, allowing students to participate often or only occasionally in activities that range from designing a pirate T-shirt to

a full-fledged pirate-themed dinner "complete with *no* utensils," Randall-Myers explains, "because pirates didn't use them!"

Even the much-committed Lois Beckett '05 decides to sign up. Beckett is a member of the Concert Choir; writes for a couple of publications, including *The Exonian*; serves on the Dramat Board; represents her dorm at Student Council; attends meetings of the Gay/Straight Alliance; and debates and competes on the Academy quiz team. "And then there's the Pirate Club, which is pretty zany," she says.

Today, Beckett is on the lookout for drama enthusiasts. A co-president of the Exeter Shakespeare Society, she had written to Joanne Lembo, director of student activities, in late summer and asked for a visible location on Club Night. She got one—namely, the balcony of the Davis Student Center. So students approaching the dining hall are greeted by the sight of Beckett and Chris Johnson '04 performing the balcony scene from *Romeo and Juliet*.

If Shakespeare is too literary an interest for some, there are plenty of other options available to students, from aptly named groups such as the Fromage Aficionados and the Exeter Kendo Club to the more enigmatic Afterburners Club, which meets regularly to discuss and launch model rockets on the sports fields.

Inside the dining hall, students move freely from table to table, but the mouth-watering aromas emanating from Fencing Club's booth draws one of the largest crowds. Just why is a club dedicated to teaching the finer points of swordplay serving chicken teriyaki and bruschetta, fragrant with garlic, shallots and red and yellow peppers? It is an obvious pairing for Alex Buckle '04, who leads not only the Fencing Club but the Culinary Society as well. Computer science teacher and club adviser Matthew Brenner sketches out the Culinary Society's plans for the year: "We'll experiment with recipes over the next several months, working up a menu of mostly Asian dishes that we will cook and serve to the parents of one of the club members as a fun fund raiser."

In this presidential primary year the Seabrooke Room, where the political clubs are assembled, is buzzing with excitement. "The kids want to get involved," says Jacquelyne Weatherspoon, adviser to the Democratic Club. "Each time they come back they bring in more friends."



Michael Finnerty '04, Pirate Club co-founder, gives the camera his fiercest look as he talks about some of the clubs upcoming activities with Day Student Program Coordination Jan Trueman (left) and Director of Student Activities Joanne Lembo and daughter Madeline (right).



With the New Hampshire presidential primary scheduled for January 27, adviser to the Democratic Club Jacquelyne Weatherspoon (left) and club co-president Eli Covington '04 (right) anticipate an eventful year.



Guitarists Peter Maxwell '04 (right) and Chris Chen '04 (second from right), officers of Composers and Songwriters at Exeter, provide entertainment on Club Night. Members of the club write and perform their own original pieces.

One of those energizing the room is Democratic Club co-president David Schapiro '04, who “advocates for all the Democratic candidates.” Along with other political club heads, he helps run the nonpartisan Exeter Political Union. “The EPU’s major responsibility this year is to showcase the candidates. We are inviting all the candidates to visit campus and present their views in an open forum, a format that should be informative for all,” he says.

Some Exeter organizations are steeped in history—the Branch-Soule Debating Society, the PEAN and WPEA, for example. Others are fledglings, like the Amhranai Celtic Singers. Founder Braden Curtis '06 is at Club Night looking for four to six new members. On a leather band around his neck is an ocarina, which he describes as a “fired-clay wind instrument whose chiefly Eurasian origins date back more than 12,000 years.” The Celtic singers perform a capella and will explore their interest in authentic instruments, he says.

Musical performances at Exeter take many forms: the Academy is blessed with at least a dozen singing and composition groups—not counting large ones like the symphony orchestra and glee club—and almost as many dance ensembles. One of the newest is the Chinese dance troupe Cai Hong, which means “rainbow” in Chinese, according to founder Qian Tang '06. Prior to coming to Exeter, Tang danced in the colorful costumes and ribbons associated with this art form. “Once here, I was on my own, performing solo at the dance assembly and dance concert. Last spring, at the urging of others interested in exploring culture through dance, I founded the ensemble.”

Stopping for a moment to chat with co-organizer and day student program coordinator Jan Trueman, Joanne Lembo explains how

clubs come into being. “A club needs an adviser and, in its mission and activities, it can’t duplicate an existing group. Nor,” she adds with a chuckle, “can it be dangerous to anyone.” A club is initially sanctioned for a year; if it flourishes, it is recognized as an official Exeter club in its second year. Surveying the organized chaos around her, Trueman remarks that this much early excitement “bodes well for the coming year.”

On Club Night, the cornucopia was overflowing with organizations that would satisfy any Exonian’s recreational and intellectual needs. This diversity of activities raises the obvious question: Just how *do* students decide what they want to do. Says Lembo, “A fun way to spend time? Acquire new skills? Develop friendships? Whatever they want, it’s all here on Club Night.”

A list of student clubs can be found at <http://www.exeter.edu/publications/ebook/studentcluborganiza.html>.

—Janice Reiter



Kimberly Strovink '04 (left) and Anu Vasudevan '04 (right) have co-founded a club to promote Animal Rights Awareness.



Under the leadership of founder Stefani Duelfer '04 (second from right), PEA’s Random Acts of Kindness Club gave out 850 carnations to parents and students on the Friday of Parents Weekend. One of the most popular clubs on campus, it has a membership of more than 220 students, including Tommy Smithburg '06 (left) and Sarah Paine '04 (right). By completing at least one official club-sponsored Act of Kindness per week, the RAK Club hopes to make the campus and surrounding community happier places to be. Some of RAK members’ “acts” have been to hand out 1,400 “Have a Great Day!” cards and candies to students, faculty, staff and townspeople; bake 550 chocolate-chip cookies for PEA staff members; and surprise the staff at the Library, Health Center and Deans offices with roses. These large-scale Random Acts have led to many smaller-scale activities among members of the Academy community and local residents.



My Exeter

A Virtual Room for PEA Parents

"Think of a web portal as a doorway into a virtual room with shelves of resources," said Principal Tyler Tingley, explaining the newest way for parents to stay connected to Exeter and the lives of their children. Addressing his audience on Parents Weekend, Tingley directed PEA parents to "My Exeter," a Blackboard community portal, available over the Internet at <http://blackboard.exeter.edu>. "No technology could begin to replace the face-to-face connections made at the Harkness table, on the paths, on the playing fields and in the dormitory," he said. "But this site gives all of us an easy way to get the basic facts that can make those exchanges richer."

Visiting the site, parents find a navigational bar with several options: "Welcome Parents," "What's Happening," "Parents Newsletter," "From the Dean's Office" and "Using Blackboard," especially helpful for those unacquainted with portal technology. The links on these pages provide access to a wide range of information. Clicking on "What's Happening," for example, gives viewers a list of public events and student activities events, the Assembly programs planned for the week and Thursday's meditation speaker.

"The current view is just the beginning," says Vi Richter, a member of the Blackboard implementation team and an academic technology support coordinator with the Academy's IT/Telecommunications department. "The portal is still under development.

Parents can expect to see continued growth and change." Its advantage over a standard web page, says Richter, is that its contents can be customized. "The Academy homepage, <http://www.exeter.edu>, is a public website," she explains. "It can be viewed by anyone interested in the Academy. The 'My Exeter' portal, however, is a way of giving parents password-protected access to a defined set of materials over the web without making them accessible to the entire Internet. It will allow the school to get critical information to parents quickly and keep them abreast of developments on campus." Says Tingley, "I hope, in the future, to use this area often to communicate with parents and give them news of the Academy."

The portal can currently be accessed by selecting "My Exeter" from the drop-down menu on <http://www.exeter.edu> or by going directly to <http://blackboard.exeter.edu>. PEA parents should call the dean of students office, (603) 777-3411, for the generic user name and password to enter the parent area of the portal.

Dean of Students Ethan Shapiro is excited about the Internet's potential to improve and enhance communication with those who can't be on campus. "We see this portal as an important new vehicle for keeping parents connected to Exeter and Exeter to parents," he says.

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