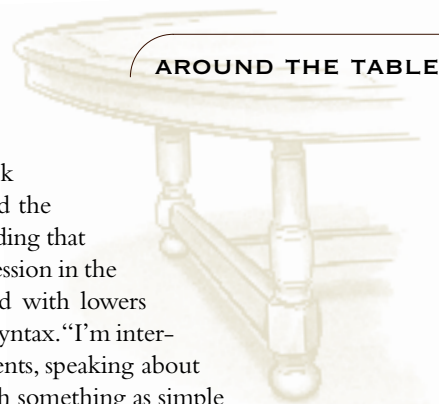


LAMONT POETS CARL PHILLIPS AND BILLY COLLINS



AROUND THE TABLE



On April 20, Exeter welcomed **Carl Phillips** as the first of the Academy's two Lamont Poets. A finalist for the National Book Award for his seventh collection of poems, *The Rest of Love*, and the author of a recent volume of criticism, Phillips gave a public reading that night, and the next morning conducted a question-and-answer session in the Academy Library and visited an English class, where he talked with lowers about matters ranging from autobiography to poetic imagery to syntax. "I'm interested in the way the poem drives down the page," he told students, speaking about the innovative way he uses line-breaks. A poem "might start with something as simple as an observation," he explained, "a grackle, say, stepping into sunlight, or a bee banging itself against the window's glass. Then the reasoning animal, the human, the observer, steps in and begins to make sense."

—Todd Hearon



Well-known (and loved) for the humor that infuses even some of his most serious poems, **Billy Collins** has titled his upcoming book *The Trouble With Poetry*. But on January 26, Collins' troubles weren't with poetry, but with a major snowstorm that kept him from traveling to Exeter for his scheduled reading with the Lamont Poetry series. Fortunately, his visit was rescheduled and on May 4

the former U.S. Poet Laureate read to a large and appreciative audience from his work, including his collections *Nine Horses* and *Sailing Alone Around the Room*.

HAPPY CAMPERS

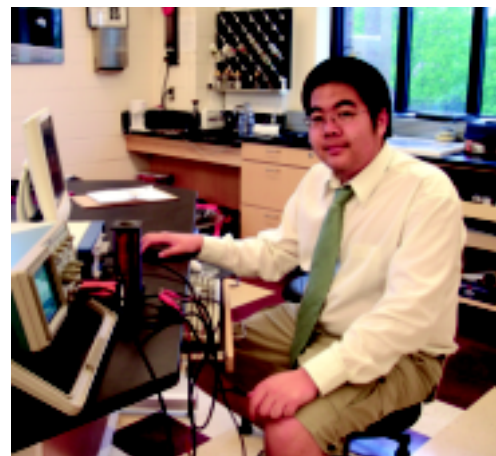
EXETER STUDENTS SELECTED FOR PHYSICS OLYMPIAD TRAINING CAMP

Camp came early this year for three Exeter students who were chosen from more than 1,000 of the nation's top physics students to participate in the 2005 U.S. Physics Olympiad training camp. Yingyu "Daniel" Gao '08, of Hockessin, DE, Sherry Gong '07, of San Juan, Puerto Rico, and Kevin Modzelewski '06, of Princeton, NJ, were among just 24 students selected for the prestigious weeklong training camp, based on their high scores on two national physics exams.

"This is the first time in the history of the Academy that three students—all underclassmen—were selected to participate in this program," says physics instructor Scott Saltman. "This is truly remarkable."

Held at the University of Maryland-College Park from May 14 to 21, the training camp prepared students to compete in the International Physics Olympiad. As part of their training, Gao and Gong conducted lab experiments, took exams and heard presentations from prominent scientists. And while neither was selected for the international team, they still enjoyed themselves thoroughly. "I had an awesome time," Gong says. "I met a lot of new people with whom I'm still in contact, and I learned a lot of physics, both in theory and in labs."

Adds Gao, "It was very challenging and there were lots of really



Three underclassmen qualified for the U.S. Physics Olympiad training camp this spring: (left) Kevin Modzelewski '06 and Sherry Gong '07, and (right) Daniel Gao '08. Modzelewski was also selected for the USA Computing Olympiad.

smart kids. But it wasn't a completely competitive atmosphere. We also played cards and threw Frisbees around."

Modzelewski, meanwhile, was something of a double medalist. He not only qualified for the U.S. Physics Olympiad camp, but also for a similar program for the country's top computer science students, the USA Computing Olympiad, and opted to attend the latter, held June 1 to 9 in Colorado Springs, CO.

"I enjoy physics, but I like computer science more," says Modzelewski. "When you have a problem in computer science, first you have to solve it and then you have to write that solution into the program."

BRIAN CROWLEY

TANYA WATERMAN