

NATHANIEL BUTLER '64 RECEIVES FOUNDER'S DAY AWARD

At assembly on May 20, the Academy honored Nathaniel Butler '64 with its Founder's Day Award. Established in 1976, it is given annually by the General Alumni/ae Association (GAA) in recognition of exceptional and sustained service to the Academy over time.

President Jean du Pont '78 characterized Butler as a longtime leader and staunch supporter of the Academy. "For over 30 years," she told him, "you have thrown yourself into a host of volunteer roles for Exeter: class agent, class president, director of the general alumni/ae association, and reunion and regional committee membership. Since 1991, in an unofficial capacity, you have helped the Academy reconstruct its relationship with gay and lesbian alumni/ae, and been both a catalyst for, and a witness to, profound changes at the school. The breadth of your service to Exeter and its people, and the depth of care with which this service has been rendered, are exemplary."

Butler described his work for the academy as his "avocation," and said he drew inspiration from the "courage and idealism of the 1960s." At Exeter and in the country as a whole, "there was," he said, "a sense that things could be made better."

In addition to his many volunteer roles, Butler also established the Butler Scholarship Fund in honor of his late father, Jonathan Butler '35, and he makes a point of visiting the recipients on campus at least once each year.

In 1994, Butler received the President's Award for service to Exeter in recognition of his work as a liaison between the Academy and its gay and lesbian alumni/ae. He continued in this role for another seven years, and continues to participate in Academy programs on gay and lesbian issues today.

A resident of Boston, Butler was a four-year student at Exeter before matriculating at Harvard, where he earned a bachelor's degree in government. He spent three years in the Navy, serving 16 months in Vietnam before earning an M.B.A. from Harvard in 1975, and a M.S.W. from the Simmons School of Social Work in 1982. His career has been in the field of health-care management.



Nat Butler '64 (center) was honored for his exceptional and sustained volunteer service. Presenting him with the Founder's Day Award are GAA President Jenny du Pont '78 (left) and Principal Ty Tingley (right).

DAN COURTER

Two Exeter Seniors Named Presidential Scholars

Not one, but two members of the class of 2005 have been chosen for one of the highest academic honors given to graduating high school seniors. Elizabeth MacFarlane, of Oxford, England, and Gordon Powers of East Kingston, NH, were named 2005 Presidential Scholars this spring by the U.S. Department of Education.

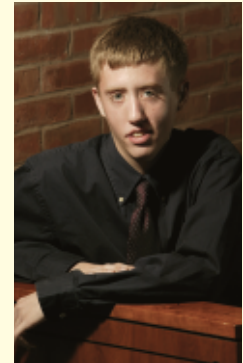
MacFarlane and Powers were chosen on the basis of test scores, as well as their personal characteristics, their leadership and community service activities, and personal essays they each wrote. In all, just 141 Presidential Scholars were chosen from the more than 3 million eligible high school seniors.

Rare as this honor may be, Powers is not the first member of his family to be named a Presidential Scholar. In fact, he first learned of the national academic competition from his cousin, who was named a Presidential Scholar last year. "I was both surprised and grateful to learn I had won," says Powers, who will attend Harvard. "It's an honor to receive this award after all the hard work I've had in my studies." That hard work has included the challenges Powers faced because he is hard of hearing and has a speech impairment. "But this is Exeter," he adds, "and everyone works hard." (For more on Powers, see page 26.)

MacFarlane will delay her early acceptance to Princeton to spend next year living and working in Ireland at Ballytobin, the residential program for people with special needs that was co-founded by an Exeter alumnus. MacFarlane says the award validated a decision she made early on at Exeter to focus on subjects that most interested her, even as teachers and advisers counseled a more general approach. "It shows the choices I made earlier in my high school years were good ones—that is, good for me," she says.



Elizabeth MacFarlane



Gordon Powers

BRIAN CROWLEY (2)