

ACADEMY CENTER PROJECT RECEIVES FULL FUNDING

When the lights go back on in the now-vacant Thompson building, they will be only one source of the renovated building's illumination. The new Academy Center, slated for opening in the fall of 2006, will become a community crossroads lit up by the intellectual energy and creativity of the students, faculty and staff who gather there.

Thanks to the generosity of a small handful of donors, the \$27.2 million needed to fund the reconstruction has been raised. Construction costs account for \$17.2 million of the total; the remaining \$10 million is in the form of an endowment that will cover the center's operation and maintenance costs.

"The Academy Center is not simply a renovation proj-

the motivation behind the generous gift. "I wanted to support a project that could have maximum impact on the student experience outside the classroom. The Academy Center is going to build on the intense and energetic student culture that we remember and provide a hub for that culture. I believe it will have a profound effect on the connections kids make with one another and on Exeter's sense of community."



ect," says principal Ty Tingley. "It is the spiritual and geographical focus of our pledge to increase connections among the entire Academy community. The Academy Master Plan (AMP) process made it clear that the connections that foster lifelong relationships need a place at Exeter where they can grow and develop. These connections are essential for the future vitality of our community. Exeter has been a campus without a true geographical center. There has been no common place where everyone naturally gathers. The Academy Center will fill that void in our community life."

One of the donors (who wishes to remain anonymous) expressed similar sentiments when explaining

Slated to open in the fall of 2006 in the former Thompson Science Building, the new Academy Center will become a hub of campus life.

The Academy Center will bring together a variety of services, spaces and programs at the heart of the campus and enrich opportunities for learning and teaching beyond the classroom. A ground floor will be devoted to indoor recreation and will house student clubs. The first floor will be the principal crossroads and the new home to the post office and the Grill. The second floor will be the hub of student activities, and the third floor will contain meeting and performance space. A proposed terrace will overlook the Academic quadrangle.