

THE McGUINN CONFERENCE ON SHAKESPEARE TAKES THE STAGE

On June 27, a much-anticipated revival will open on the stage of Exeter's Fisher Theater—and in nearby classrooms as well.

The weeklong Shakespeare Conference at Phillips Exeter Academy returns this summer after a one-year hiatus, following the untimely death of its founder, Rex McGuinn (see "In Memoriam," page 90).



The McGuinn Conference on Shakespeare offers secondary school teachers the chance to explore a single play in depth.

A Shakespearean scholar and longtime member of the Academy's English department, McGuinn founded the Shakespeare Conference in 2001 to explore the many ways his favorite playwright could be taught in the classroom. It was McGuinn's hope that by giving secondary school teachers the opportunity to examine a single play in depth, the teachers could, in turn, "give their students the skills they need to enjoy and understand Shakespeare for life."

Now known as the Rex A. McGuinn Conference on Shakespeare, the conference will be overseen by one of McGuinn's colleagues, Sarah Ream '75, chair of the Academy's drama department and an experienced theatrical director who has worked at Great Britain's Royal National Theatre and at the American Conservatory Theatre. Other returning faculty members include Sharon Hamilton, chair of the English department at Buckingham Browne & Nichols School in Cambridge and the author of two books on Shakespeare (see page 14), and Adrienne Thomas, voice coach at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts and an accomplished actress who has appeared in numerous regional and West End shows. Rounding out the faculty will be Nita Pettigrew, chair of the Academy's English department, who will work with participants on incorporating Harkness principles into their classroom study of Shakespeare.

For this summer's play, Ream has chosen *Othello*, which is celebrating its 400th anniversary this year. The McGuinn Conference on Shakespeare is open to public, private and parochial school teachers, novices as well as veterans. Financial assistance is available. For more information, contact the conference office at (603) 777-4471, or visit the conference website at www.exeter.edu/shakespeare/index.html.

SUMMER SCHOOL TAKES OFF!

For 85 years, the Exeter Summer School has been bringing students from around the country and around the world to campus. Beginning this summer with the new ON BEYOND EXETER program, the summer school will send some of those same students and their teachers back out into the world for an additional week of off-campus study.

"ON BEYOND EXETER programs will carry summer session students and faculty beyond traditional classroom boundaries and allow for creative educational opportunities," says Summer School Director Doug Rogers, the Cowles Professor in the Humanities. Throughout the program's development process, Rogers says he was intrigued by the question of "on beyond Exeter to where?" Ultimately, he chose five sites, "each of which affords students an exciting opportunity to travel beyond the Exeter campus, where they will continue the hands-on education of their summer school experiences."

From August 7 to 14, 68 students, ages 16 to 18, will engage in an additional week of exploration and discovery. Two of the locations are nearby: Portland and Rockland, ME, where students can pursue service learning and art, respectively. Two will take students outside the United States: to England, to study Shakespearean drama and history, and to the Bahamas, to study marine biology. The fifth will take students out to sea, to learn the fundamentals of both seamanship and maritime literature onboard the *Spirit of Massachusetts*, a 125-foot ship modeled after a 19th-century New England fishing schooner.

Rogers hopes ON BEYOND EXETER will gradually expand to include an even greater variety of disciplines and be open to a wider range of students, including alumni/ae and their families. "The possibilities are limited only by our imaginations," he notes.

Open to all Upper School students, the ON BEYOND EXETER programs immediately follow the five-week summer session, held from July 4 to August 7. The programs are all under the directorship of Academy instructors, have limited enrollments and require an additional tuition that varies with the program and covers all expenses, including transportation, lodging, meals and entertainment.

For more information about the Upper School and ACCESS EXETER summer sessions and the ON BEYOND EXETER programs, visit the summer school's website at www.exeter.edu/summer. Or call the summer school office at (800) 828-4325, ext. 3488.



ON BEYOND EXETER will take summer school students off campus for a week of exploration and discovery.