

NEW FELLOWSHIP HONORS DAVID AND ROSEMARY COFFIN



A group of Exeter alumni/ae has established a new fellowship to honor both Rosemary and David Coffin, and to recognize David Coffin's lasting, and widespread, influence on a generation of classics scholars.

who also lived in McConnell Hall under the Coffins' supervision and has remained friends with the couple ever since. Zetzel says the lessons he learned at Exeter, particularly in critical methods, approached the level of the graduate classes he would later take at Harvard.

"As a teacher, I know of no greater obligation than to honor one's own teachers," says Zetzel. "David and Rosemary are not the only teachers who made a difference in my life and career, but they stand out first and foremost. There are many extraordinary teachers of classics in secondary schools, and we hope to be able to recognize some of them through the Coffin Fellowship."

For more information about the David D. and Rosemary H. Coffin Fellowship, contact James Zetzel at zetzel@columbia.edu.

In the 34 years that David Coffin '64 (Hon.) taught Latin and Greek at Exeter, he played an influential role in the lives of many students sharing his interest in ancient languages and literature. As it happens, he and his colleagues in the classics department have also played a broader role in the teaching of classical languages in the United States.

"Exeter graduates can be found teaching in a lot of the leading colleges and graduate programs in the country," says James Zetzel '64, himself a professor of classics at Columbia since 1986, and at Princeton and Brown prior to that. "I very much doubt whether there is another secondary school—or another individual teacher—with so great an effect on a single academic subject."

To honor Coffin, who retired in 1987, his wife, Rosemary, and their contributions to the teaching of the classics, Zetzel and fellow Exonians David Potter '75, professor of Greek and Latin at the University of Michigan, and John Bodel '74, professor of classics and history at Brown, have raised money to endow a fellowship in the Coffins' honor with contributions from some 50 Exeter alumni/ae and at least one parent. The David D. and Rosemary H. Coffin Fellowship, to be awarded annually starting in January 2006 by the American Philological Association, will enable secondary school teachers of Latin or Greek to study and travel in classical lands.

"David was interested in not merely teaching grammar, but also in having us begin to think about the texts as literature," says Zetzel,

BRIAN CROWLEY

Environmental Field Trip

As part of the Academy's exploration of the use of biodiesel fuel, members of the Environmental Task Force met with Dorn Cox '91 (right) at his family farm in Lee, NH. Cox recently built a processor in his barn to convert used vegetable oil into biodiesel, which produces fewer harmful emissions than petrodiesel. He hopes to produce several thousand gallons per year, once fully operational. The Academy will begin purchasing biodiesel fuel later this year for use in some school vehicles.



PAT LESLIE