

Andrew W. Hertig '57; '31, '69, '83 (Hon.); P'83, P'86, P'88 — Your humility, integrity and steadfast belief in the importance of the faculty voice helped shape the Academy's faculty into a true community, governed by civility, respect and a sense of utmost care for one another. Over the course of your 45-year career at Exeter, you served as the 1959 Independence Foundation Professor in history, chair of the History Department, dean of faculty and two-time director of the Washington Intern Program.

You arrived at Exeter as an upper from Winchester, Massachusetts, in 1955. Your father worked long hours as a pathologist at Harvard Medical School and your mother — the dominant figure in your early life — thought you could benefit from attending an all-boys boarding school. Accustomed to the coed halls of your local high school, you found social life at the Academy comparatively “grim” and buried yourself in your studies.

At Harvard, failing third-year calculus dashed your early hopes of becoming an engineer, and you channeled an interest in history into a Ph.D. program at the University of California, Berkeley. You decided to become a teacher, and realized you would be hard-pressed to find more curious or perceptive students than those at Exeter. So in 1968 you returned to the Academy as an instructor in history.

You let your curiosity guide you in the classroom, along with your fascination with the “big questions” of life. You dove into ancient Greek history, making texts like *The Odyssey* newly alive and relevant for your students. With colleagues, you developed a course on peace and war, applying the lessons of history to past and present conflicts. Later, you took on the challenge of designing a course on Islam and the Middle East, both subjects you knew little about at the time. Generations of students benefited from your thoughtfully crafted Harkness discussions and your astute guidance when it came to writing. Your deep interest in politics and current events made you the perfect guide as students navigated the nation's capital during the Washington Intern Program, which you led in 1970 and again in 2007.

As chair of the History Department, you embraced technology early on and were “at the forefront of bringing the department into the future,” says one colleague. Fellow teachers benefited from what they call your “honest, careful, excellent advice.” As another colleague puts it: “Andy has that perfect combination of humility and confidence, which is the most crucial thing for a Harkness teacher.”

With your late wife, Anne, you welcomed the first girls into Wheelwright Hall soon after the advent of coeducation at the Academy. A parent to three Exonians, you also nurtured hundreds of others with your warm, caring presence. “You always knew [Andy] was there,” one former Wheelwright girl remembers. Over 16 years, you made the dorm into a true home, presiding over countless elaborate birthday parties and other memorable celebrations. Your extraordinary impact as a dorm parent was recognized in 1988 when Wheelwright alumnae banded together to establish the Anne and Andy Hertig Fund for Dorm Life.

It was as a leader among the faculty, however, where your quiet strength truly shone through. Your voice may be soft, but your will is mighty. Colleagues say you were unfailingly “dogged” when something mattered to you, and you persisted until it got done. On the numerous committees you joined or led over the years, you emphasized action over endless discussion.

You blazed a trail at the Academy by advocating for more women in leadership roles and a more diverse faculty overall. In the pursuit of fairness, you co-led a committee that sought to equalize workload across different departments. As dean of faculty — a role you held for two years beyond the usual five-year term — you expanded support for dorm faculty and introduced the step system, which made compensation at Exeter more transparent and enhanced collegiality among the faculty.

When you stood up in faculty meetings, people listened. Many colleagues still remember your retirement statement in 2013, when you spoke eloquently of the faculty’s duty to help lead the school, and to be thoughtful, honest and caring with students and each other. Policies are important, you argued, but we must never lose sight of the people those policies are created for.

Andy, you have left an indelible mark on the Exeter community as an educator, colleague, dorm parent and leader. Even in retirement, amid a busy social schedule with your equally engaged and civic-minded wife, Jane, you maintain a lasting connection with your colleagues as well as generations of former students. An honorary member of three classes, you have received virtually every major honor given to Academy teachers, including the Rupert Radford Faculty Fellowship Award, the Brown Family Faculty Award and the George S. Heyer Jr. ’48 Teaching Award.

Now, it is our tremendous pleasure to present you with yet one more: the 2022 Founders’ Day Award.