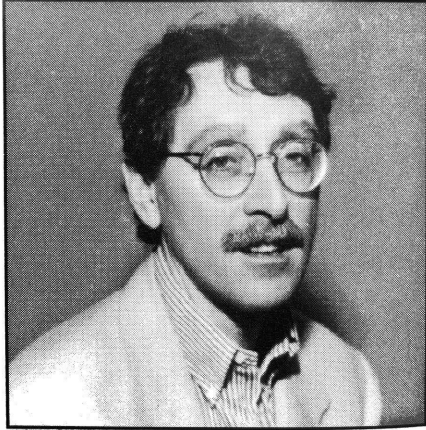


Outstanding Alumni: Dr. Rex McGuinn '69



Dr. Rex McGuinn '69

The Outstanding Alumnus for 1994 is Dr. Rex McGuinn, poet and English teacher at Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, New Hampshire. A 1969 graduate of The Donoho School, Dr. McGuinn received his Ph.D. in Renaissance Literature from the University of North Carolina in 1980 and taught there for five years. He taught at the Quaker School, Moses Brown, in Providence, RI and in the Brown University M.A.T. program. He taught English and coached basketball at Phillips Exeter Academy since 1987. He published two volumes of poetry. Dr. McGuinn visited the campus in March after being named Outstanding Alumnus, when he met with the senior English classes and received his reward.

[Books on Amazon](#)

Obituary from the Boston Globe regarding the impact this special graduate had in the academic world

Rex McGuinn, 51, founder of Shakespeare Conference and English instructor at Phillips Exeter Academy, died suddenly Saturday, September 28, 2002, while jogging. Mr. McGuinn and his wife, Margaret, have been teaching at the Academy since 1987. He was the founder of the Shakespeare Conference at Phillips Exeter Academy which has attracted dozens of public and private high school teachers to the campus each summer. While at the Academy he lived in Bancroft and Soule Halls and since leaving the dormitory has been an affiliate in Soule Hall. Mr. McGuinn also coached junior varsity, organized and supported the Habitat for Humanity student group, and advised PIP (People Interested in Poetry). In 1998, he and his wife led the Academy's overseas program in Stratford, England. His impact on students was enormous and his love of Shakespeare especially contagious. He could find a quote from Shakespeare for any occasion, and he or his students would sometimes stand on a table while performing scenes from Shakespeare.

In recognition of his work in and out of the classroom, the Academy presented him the Brown Family Teaching Award in 1998. His life goals were to attend live performances of all of Shakespeare's plays, and to visit every major league baseball park in the country. Though he fell short on the ballparks, he and Margaret completed their Shakespeare odyssey by seeing all

three parts of Henry VI performed in Stratford, England, during Christmas week 1999. They treasured this trip always. An avid birder, he belonged to the New Hampshire Audubon Society and enjoyed travels that took him to spots as beautiful and various as South Africa, Alaska, North Dakota, and the Southwest. Perhaps his favorite birding spot, however, was his own backyard.

Mr. McGuinn deeply valued connections with family and friends. In the final month of his life, he enjoyed two weeks at Topsail Beach in North Carolina with Margaret, his best friend from childhood, his sister, brother-in-law and their children, his brother, sister-in-law and their new baby, and his mother and stepfather. Two weeks later he sailed on a paddlewheeler on the St. Croix River in Minnesota with 37 members of Margaret's family celebrating her mother's 76th birthday.

A graduate of St. Andrews Presbyterian College, McGuinn received his doctorate from the University of North Carolina. He was an NEH fellow at the Oregon Shakespeare Festival, and an NEH fellow at the Montaigne Institute at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington.

In 1998, he worked with the scholar Vivian Thomas and the actors of the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford, England. He has presented papers on film and performance to the Shakespeare Association of America, the National Council of Teachers of English, the Blackfriars Conference, where he was part of the opening of their new theater, and the New England Teachers Conference. His articles appeared in *Shakespeare in the Classroom*, *Multiethnic Literature of the United States*, and in the *MLA Approaches to Teaching* series. Mr. McGuinn also published several volumes of poetry and his poems have appeared in *Commonweal*, *Kansas Quarterly* (for which he won an award), as well as other magazines.

He is survived by his wife, Margaret; his mother, Hilda and stepfather, Charles Horne; brothers, Michael and Philip; a sister, Patricia; four nephews and two nieces. Funeral services will be held at the First Presbyterian Church in the town in which he was born, Hendersonville, North Carolina, on Thursday, October 3. The burial will take place on a family plot at Pleasant Hill Cemetery in the foothills of the Smoky Mountains.

A Tribute to Rex A. McGuinn - Phillips Exeter Academy Rex A. McGuinn Conference on Shakespeare



Rex A. McGuinn (1951-2002), a member of the English faculty at Phillips Exeter Academy, established the Shakespeare Conference in 2001. His career was devoted to promoting Shakespeare studies among his own students and collaborating with other teachers to advance the study of Shakespeare. His own professional and scholarly endeavors invariably nurtured his students' perception of literature and of self. Rex's life was a daily celebration of Shakespeare and, in that spirit, we dedicate this conference to him.