

10 Highlights from Exeter in 2007–08

Every year is full of events that demonstrate the vitality of Exeter's academic programs and community. Certainly this reflects the caliber of Exeter students and faculty, but such vitality is also due to the generosity, volunteer efforts and general good will of Exeter's alumni and alumnae. Quite a cause for celebration—last year and every year!

1

As a result of the success to date of The Exeter Initiatives, the Academy announced that it would offer a free education to qualified students whose family income was \$75,000 or less. The Academy also offers substantial aid to middle-income families whose income is between \$75,000 and \$200,000. President of the Academy Trustees Chuck Harris '69, who announced the new threshold to the community, said, "Financial wealth should not determine access to the best education, nor should it shape a learning community."

2

Exeter now has a student-run organic garden, one of the latest sustainability projects on campus. The brainchild of JY Lee '08, who responded to a call for sustainability proposals, the garden is located adjacent to the playing fields. Using chemical-free practices, student gardeners launched the garden with five crops: corn, squash, beans, potatoes and carrots. Campus-grown produce is delivered to the Academy's executive chef and served in the dining hall alongside other local produce.

3

The Jan and Frederick R. Mayer '45 Art Center celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2007-08. When it was built, the center transformed the visual arts at Exeter by creating new studio and gallery spaces. Exhibitions at the Lamont Gallery during this anniversary year included *RedHouse: Architecture for Art*, featuring photographs and architectural plans of the Mayers' remarkable Denver home alongside selections from their extensive collection; *Art x 7*, featuring works by members of the Exeter art department; *Frida Kahlo: Images of an Icon*, a series of photographic portraits of the artist taken throughout her lifetime by master photographers; and an end-of-year exhibition featuring works in all media by members of the graduating class.

4

Exeter students had ringside seats to New Hampshire's January 8 Presidential Primary. Most of the Democratic and Republican candidates visited campus and interacted with Exonians. Members of the Exeter Political union and the Democratic and Republican Clubs also took advantage of the opportunity to volunteer on several Presidential campaigns.

5

John Azubuike '09 and Meeta Prakash '09 were the first Exonians to spend a term at the Island School, a one-of-a-kind outdoor environmental school for 10th and 11th graders on the Bahamian island of Eleuthera. The Island School's program is tailored to its location, and students focus on the living environment through all academic disciplines. The program also includes community service and a challenging physical education component.

6

Exeter students distinguished themselves in a number of national and regional competitions. Twenty-one students were recognized for exemplary work in the visual arts by the 2008 Regional Scholastic Art Awards program, twelve with Gold Keys, 11 with Silver Keys and two with Honorable Mentions for works in a wide range of media. Noelle Bodick '08 of Indianapolis, IN, a Gold Key winner, was also a finalist in a competition sponsored by the National Foundation for Advancement in the Arts. Ashwin Suresh '08 was a semifinalist in the 2008 Siemens Competition in Math, Science and Technology. He and his research partner, who began their project as summer interns at MIT, entered a microfluidic chip that detects the presence of HIV by measuring a patient's white blood cell levels. Alex Katz '08, a day student from Exeter, NH, was one of 139 students in the US to be named a Presidential Scholar.

7

As part of the 2008 Robbins Memorial Symposium, *National Geographic* explorer-in-residence Wade Davis presented a talk at Assembly about his journeys among vanishing cultures. Also presenting during the three-day symposium were Dr. Greg Anderson '85, linguist and Director of the Living Tongues Institute for Endangered Languages, and Abe Waldstein, Community Development Specialist and former instructor of anthropology at Exeter. Anderson is the subject of the documentary, *The Linguists*, which was shown on campus.

8

The boys and girls varsity crews, both of which were New England Champions, stayed on campus for two weeks following graduation to train for the Nationals. The teams traveled to Cincinnati, OH, in mid June to compete against crews from across the country. The girls placed third and the boys fourth in their respective grand finals. Other 2007-08 New England Champion teams from Exeter were: boys and girls cycling, boys swimming and diving, and girls swimming and diving.

9

The Lamont Poetry Series brought distinguished poets Dave Smith and David Ferry to campus to give readings and discuss their work with Exeter students. Smith, for many years the co-editor of *The Southern Review*, is Elliott Coleman Professor of Poetry at and chair of the department of writing seminars at Johns Hopkins University. Ferry, a translator as well as a poet, is the Sophie Chantal Hart Professor Emeritus at Wellesley College.

10

Exeter's Concert Choir and Chamber Orchestra undertook a joint tour to California during the March break, giving concerts in Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Atherton and San Francisco. In addition to singing and sightseeing, the group spent a half-day volunteering at the Food Bank of Monterey County. Video from a campus performance of the tour program is online at www.exeter.edu.

For more information on any of these highlights, visit www.exeter.edu, and especially the Lion's Eye feature, for a glimpse into life at the Academy.