

EXETER APPOINTS INTERNATIONAL STUDENT COORDINATOR



Coordinator Christine Knapp helps identify and address the unique challenges faced by Exeter's 128 international students, who come from 25 different countries.

“Christine will connect with different academic departments and get to know the kids and the faculty,” says Veda Robinson, Exeter’s dean of multicultural affairs. “One of her biggest responsibilities will be addressing crosscultural issues. She will serve as a liaison between the office of multicultural affairs and our international students, identifying the unique challenges they face.”

Those challenges extend to Exeter’s Canadian students. Although they’re not always considered international students, says Knapp, “they, too, sometimes have trouble adjusting to being in a new place so far away from home, family and friends. We want them to have a venue, an opportunity to share their history, their culture.”

Robinson has been working on these issues since her appointment in 2004. This past spring, she surveyed a group of international students; of those who responded, more than 75 percent did not have immediate family living in the United States. As a result, they returned to campus on their assigned check-in date, because they had nowhere to stay prior to the start of school. Close to half said they would not return home for Thanksgiving break and would instead spend the holiday with friends or faculty members, or do something else altogether.

“For many foreign students, large sacrifices are made just to get the student to school,” Knapp explains. “And often there isn’t enough time to travel so far back home during the year. “The student may go home during the two-week breaks between terms, but the shortness of other school vacations doesn’t allow for more trips home.”

Knapp will spend her first year developing the content for an international student orientation program, scheduled for fall term 2008. “We’re hoping to have our new international students return four or five days before school starts,” she says. “Besides offering them an opportunity to settle in

ART DURITY

Remy Trafelet '88 Joins Academy Trustees



At their fall meeting, the Trustees of the Academy welcomed their newest member, Remy W. Trafelet '88.

While at Exeter, Trafelet was captain of the lacrosse team and president of the Ski Club. He also played football and ice hockey. After graduating from Exeter, he earned a degree from Dartmouth College.

Remy W. Trafelet '88 A chartered financial analyst, Trafelet is the founder and managing partner of Trafelet & Company, an asset management firm. Prior to creating Trafelet & Company, he was an officer for Bowman Capital, a technology investment firm. He has also been partner at Kramer Spellman LP, a small private equity fund, and was previously the manager of a Fidelity Select Regional Banks Portfolio.

Trafelet serves as a member of the Campaign Leadership Committee for The Exeter Initiatives. He is also the former president and a current member of Ducks Unlimited, a member of the Cancer Research Institute’s Junior Council and a member of the Alliance for the Arts.

He and his wife, Lara, live in Manhattan with their two children, Remy Jr. and Charlotte.

We Are the World



The sun shone bright on International Day, an annual outdoor food and cultural festival organized by Exeter's student-run International Society, which promotes cross-cultural exchange on campus. In all, Exeter has close to two dozen different international and regional student clubs. To learn more about them, visit www.exeter.edu/student_life/85_532.aspx



before other students arrive, this will give them a chance to learn about the Academy and the town of Exeter, take a few sample classes and reflect on cross-cultural differences.”

Knapp is already generating a list of families who will host students during vacations, so they can “experience the feeling of a ‘family setting’ when they can’t connect with their own families,” she says. Also in the works is an international student advisory board composed of students and faculty.

“I am extremely excited about the work that Christine will do in her new position,” Robinson says. “With her own personal reflections and expertise, I am sure she will quickly get to know the students and work most effectively to address their concerns.”

A sure sign that her work is making a difference, Knapp says, will be when faculty members begin to seek her out for information and guidance. “Then we’ll know we’re really answering a need and answering it well,” she says.

—*Famebridge Witherspoon*