

EXETER RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ITS ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS



Exeter's sustainability programs earned a Leading Edge award from the National Association of Independent Schools. Shown here at the NAIS Annual Conference are (from left) NAIS President Pat Bassett; Assistant Principal Tom Hassan; NAIS Director of Membership Vivian Dandridge-Charles, who oversees the Leading Edge program; environmental education fellow Jennifer Wilhelm; trustee Paul Goldenheim '68.

sents 1,200 private boarding and day schools throughout the United States.

The NAIS Leading Edge Program recognizes select member schools for their creativity in developing programs that can serve as models for other schools. Exeter was singled out for the significant strides it has made during the past four years in formalizing environmental programs and implementing sustainability policies and practices schoolwide.

Once a school where a few committed environmentalists did all the work, Exeter has evolved to a point where sustainability is an endeavor shared by students and staff, faculty and trustees. "Our objectives are both short- and long-term," says Assistant Principal Tom Hassan, who chairs Exeter's Environmental Task Force.

"As we work to improve our current practices, we're also committed to building a more sustainable future through teaching and modeling environmental awareness and responsibility."

Among the Exeter programs and initiatives recognized by NAIS were:

Our student environmental proctors (E-proctors), who oversee recycling and conservation in dorms and classrooms;

Our faculty, who introduced two new environmental science courses, as well as a class in environmental history;

Our trustees, who, with faculty and student input, produced an Environmental Mission Statement in 2004;

Our environmental education fellow, who coordinates campus sustainability efforts;

Our facilities management department, which has made energy conservation and waste reduction checklist items on all projects, including the choice of building products and systems on both new construction and renovations;

Our dining services department, which has introduced the PEA Sustainable Dining Project to increase the use of local and organic foods.

NAIS

Thumbs Up for the Green Cup

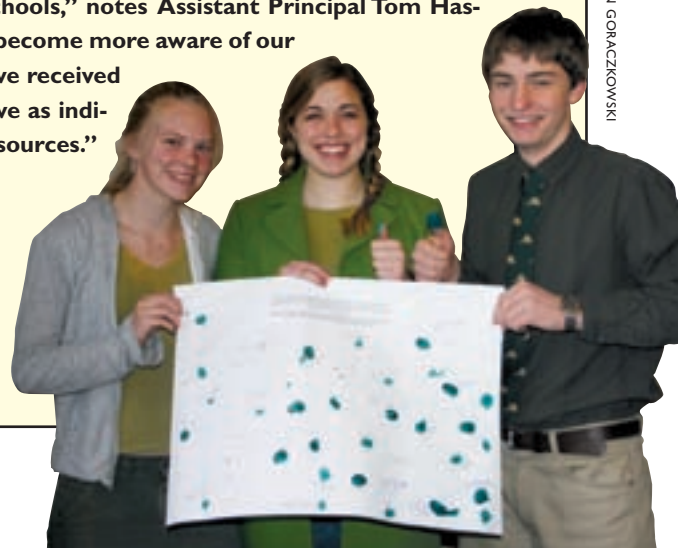


Exeter's annual electricity-conservation competition, the Green Cup Challenge, took a giant step forward this winter when the contest was expanded to include the Lawrenceville School in New Jersey and Northfield Mount Hermon in Massachusetts. The goal: to make students, faculty and staff at all three schools aware of their electricity usage and to encourage conservation. Over the course of the four-week competition, Exeter cuts its electric usage by 10.67 percent (or 138,759 kilowatt hours, for a savings of \$20,000 in energy costs), finishing just a hair's breadth behind the winners, NMH.

"The challenge was a lot of fun and a great way to connect with other schools," notes Assistant Principal Tom Has-

san. "But the results went far beyond that. As a community we have become more aware of our energy use. We were especially pleased with the many suggestions we received from students, faculty and staff on ways the school as a whole and we as individuals could cut down on our use of electricity and other energy sources."

(Above) Exeter kicked off the electricity-conservation competition with a special "Dining in the Dark" night at the dining hall. (Right) Exeter students Laura Tabor '06, Elise Morocco '07 and Justin de Benedictis-Kessner '07 signed a green-thumb pledge to reduce their energy consumption during the Green Cup Challenge, with Lawrenceville and Northfield Mount Hermon.



SUSAN GORACZKOWSKI