

GOING GLOBAL: STUDENTS ATTEND INTERNATIONAL FORUMS

This spring, students from Exeter's Current Events and International Relations (CE/IR) Club participated in two intensive global forums that simulated diplomatic efforts in the Americas and in Asia.

During the March break, 10 members of the CE/IR club took part in the 2006 Harvard Association Cultivating Inter-American Democracy Conference (HACIA). The association's mission—to further cultural understanding and strengthen civil society in the Americas—is reflected in its name, notes CE/IR club adviser Hunter Farnham: *hacia* means *toward* in Spanish.

"I think it's really important to engage ourselves in affairs outside of our immediate lives," says Serena May '08, one of the students who traveled to Panama for the three-day conference. Joining May

like a knot of conflict."

Although she learned a great deal at the conference itself, Leahy says she may have learned even more from the new friends she made. "International relations is about forming cross-cultural relationships," she explains. "That way, when international conflict does arise you can say, 'I know and value my friend from the other side, and I know we can find common ground.'"

Similar lessons emerged for the nine CE/IR club members who took part in the Education for Public Inquiry and International Citizenship (EPIIC) Inquiry Symposium, held at Tufts University in April. Part of the Tufts Institute for Global Leadership, EPIIC is a year-long multidisciplinary course in which undergraduate and graduate students explore a single global political theme; Inquiry is a companion program for high school students, who spend several months researching how that theme affects a particular country or international organization, and then employ that research in role-playing simulations at the symposium.

This year's topic was the politics of fear, and Exeter students were assigned to explore its impact on China. CE/IR adviser Farnham says he was impressed by how seriously members took their assignment, attending weekly meetings (twice weekly as the conference neared), reading briefing papers, writing analytical responses to study questions and reviewing comments from EPIIC representatives—"all of this outside their regular academic load, for no additional credit," adds Farnham, who worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development in Washington until he and his wife, religion instructor Betsey Farnham, moved to Exeter.

The April symposium drew more than 300 high school students from six states, including Exeter delegates Serena May, Carolyn Gaebler '06, Jared Dick '07, Ki Hoon Kim '07, Xin "Kevin" Liao '07, Carol Chiu '08, Yi Han '08, Seung-kyum "Sam" Lee '08, and Tomi Suchan '08, who took part in small-group sessions on modernization, pandemics, terrorism and human trafficking.

Kid Hon Kim found his entire EPIIC experience an enlightening one. "By focusing on the politics of fear, I came to a greater understanding of politics in general," he says. "I realized that parts of 'politics' are dominated by fear and the imposition of fear among peoples. The research I did for this program helped me to understand how politics really work. I saw what goes on between the lines of dialogue and the lines of the resolutions that finally make their way to paper."



Ten members of Exeter's Current Events and International Relations Club traveled to Panama for a conference dedicated to furthering cultural understanding and strengthening civil society throughout the Americas.

were at the conference were Lauren Hebl '06, Jenna Leahy '06, Scott Taylor '06, Amber Laughton, '07, Patrick Smyth '07, Vincente Lara '08, Jeff Lichtman '08, Aspen Reese '08 and Elif Tasar '08.

Modeled on meetings of the Organization of American States and allied organizations, HACIA brings together 400 student delegates from North, Central and South America to practice what conference organizers call "the basic principles of democratic decision-making, cooperation, consensus and compromise" as they research and debate regional issues.

The 10 Exeter delegates made speeches, argued policy, proposed resolutions and crafted amendments on behalf of the countries they represented, including chagas disease and reproductive health care policy in Haiti; security and human rights issues in Nicaragua; and voting irregularities in Mexican elections. "I debated solutions to the Falkland Islands crisis with students from all over Central America," reports Jenna Leahy. "Together we learned how to negotiate, how to pull out the threads of compromise from what initially seemed