

FALLING FOR FOLLIES: FACULTY DANCE, SKATE AND LIP-SYNC



(A) History Instructor Andy Hertig '57 and other faculty members ran the skating gauntlet onstage. (B) Dean of Academic Affairs Jane Cadwell disciplines Victor von Dööm (Nicholas Unger '90, classical languages) and his band—guitarist Dieter von Dööm (Duncan Holcomb, English), guitarist Thorn (Todd Hearon, English), drummer Vlad (John Blackwell, science/astronomy) and percussionist Yoko (Susan Bielski). (C) Faculty Follies culminated with The Temptations, starring Dean of Residential Life Russell Weatherspoon (front) and (left to right) the Rev. Robert Thompson '72, Eric Bergofsky (director of studies, math), Harold Brown '74 (alumni/ae affairs) and Rick Mahoney '61 (financial aid).

A small number of students had already sniffed out what was going to happen on that last Tuesday in February, but most Exonians sitting in the Assembly Hall remained unaware as they waited for that morning's speaker. Then, history instructors Bruce Pruitt P'95, P'00, Steyer Distinguished Professor—dressed in a Hawaiian shirt, shorts and sandals—and Jack Herney '46, '71, '92, '95 (Hon.), Robert Shaw White Professor—walked on stage. The gig was up. Cheering and clapping greeted the two masters of ceremonies, and students knew they were in for a treat: the biennial spectacle of Faculty Follies.

"You will see faculty here in ways you have not seen them before," explained Herney to an already laughing audience. "What you are about to see will be dignified, understated, tasteful and cerebral," he added. "This is, after all, Exeter."

This year's event kicked off with a video entitled "Dean of What?" produced and directed by Fermín Pérez-Andreu, William Woodbridge Teaching Chair and modern languages instructor. In the film, faculty members audition for a coveted new position—the dean of fun for Exeter—by dancing and trying to act funny.

Live acts followed, including a skit where Zuming Feng, Stephen G. Kurtz Teaching Chair and math instructor, tried to help a prep, played by Dean of Students Dan Morrissey, manage his math coursework. Follies moved next to an energetic send-up of Opening Assembly—normally a suitably formal affair—with faculty roller skating through the aisles and ending up onstage in a riot of skating and skateboarding antics.

The variety show ended with two musical performances. A heavy metal band, Dööm-grinder, first took the stage, led by leather-clad Victor von Dööm (Nicholas Unger '90, classical languages instructor), before The Temptations performed two closing numbers. The dynamic quintet convincingly lip-synced as they performed choreographed, synchronized dance steps. Students swayed to the music, clapping and singing along to "My Girl," before delivering a rousing standing ovation over the final notes.

To view more pictures from this year's Faculty Follies, visit www.exeter.edu/facultyfollies09.

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