



Principal Tyler C. Tingley '48, '64, '01 (Hon.); P'99

THE *Exeter* INITIATIVES

A Message from Principal Tyler C. Tingley '48, '64, '01 (Hon.); P'99

On October 30, 2004, our campus community celebrated the official public launch of The Exeter Initiatives, the Academy's first comprehensive fund-raising campaign in more than two decades. This special edition of The Exeter Bulletin is devoted to the Initiatives and how they will advance our vision for Exeter's future. This issue also celebrates Exeter's past and the remarkable people—students, teachers and staff—who have defined Exeter for over two centuries.

As you will see in the pages that follow, the campus launch of The Exeter Initiatives marked an extraordinary moment in Exeter history. I am happy to say that it was the first in a yearlong series of gala celebrations that will be held in cities across the United States. Our hope is that the spirit of fellowship among Exeter people and the genuine excitement for Exeter's mission that characterized our campus celebration will spiral out from the Academy and inspire all who join us for our regional events.

The campus launch held many highlights, but none more stimulating than our keynote speech given by Pulitzer Prize-winning historian David McCullough. Mr. McCullough eloquently reinforced for us the value placed

on education by the founders of our country. In fact, in a poignant anecdote about founding mother Abigail Adams, he related how she had once written to her son, John Quincy, about the importance of combining head with heart, knowledge with goodness. The resonance with Exeter's own Deed of Gift was powerful for our school community. It was the perfect message to remind us all of the timelessness of Exeter's mission in our country and the world.

Founded nearly 225 years ago, the school that John Phillips envisioned and then created has not only borne witness to the evolution of American high school education, it has actively participated in it. Never satisfied with the status quo, Exeter has often pursued change, not only

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for the sake of becoming a better school, but also to provide a model for what secondary school education can be. Exeter has been able to seize these moments over the years because of the remarkable commitment of its students, faculty, staff, alumni/ae, parents and friends. This issue of the *Bulletin* features some of these historic moments in a special series of photographs, “Moments That Shaped Us.”

With the launch of The Exeter Initiatives, we have reached another such moment in Exeter’s history. After several years of reflection and planning, the Academy has forged a strategy to respond to critical challenges and remain firm in its commitment to the highest standards of high school education. Over the next five years, we seek to raise a total of \$305 million to renew and retain our talented teachers; to ensure that no qualified student is turned away from the Academy based on a lack of family resources; and to make certain that our facilities support all the needs of our residential school community, where teaching occurs in “every quarter” of this campus.

This is an ambitious goal to be sure. In fact, Exeter is the first secondary school in America to take on a comprehensive fund-raising campaign of this magnitude. Yet the enthusiasm for this endeavor, as demonstrated by early volunteer and philanthropic leadership, gives me confidence that our goals can be achieved. During the campus launch ceremony, it was my pleasure to announce that leadership donors had already contributed nearly half our objective with gifts totaling \$143 million. Since that time, we have received even more positive responses. I am happy to announce that, as of this writing, our progress toward the overall goal stands at \$151 million.

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faculty, students and staff. More than any other factor, these individuals shape the character of education at the Academy. Throughout this *Bulletin* you will read stories that display their ongoing commitment to the highest standards of scholarship, leadership and community service. You will discover examples of teaching and learning all across campus, not only in classrooms but also on playing fields, in dormitories, dining halls, the art gallery, Phillips Church, and even, in the case of Jack Herney’s history students, in Blackboard chat rooms. I encourage you, in particular, to read the enclosed Prospectus of The Exeter Initiatives, which describes in further detail how the interrelated objectives of The Exeter Initiatives will support the remarkable people who are central to Exeter’s educational mission.

Beyond the borders of this campus, our alumni/ae, parents and friends are equally vital to Exeter’s ongoing work in the world. Through your loyalty, insights, volunteerism and philanthropy, you help ensure that Exeter never sways from its core purpose, while also allowing us to explore new paths that will surely make us a better, stronger institution.

As we move forward with The Exeter Initiatives, I hope that your excitement for this endeavor will inspire you to remain engaged with the Academy, or to become engaged in ways you’d never thought possible. By joining together, we will be able to celebrate, five years from now, all that this campaign has accomplished for Exeter. We will have shaped the history of the school we treasure, and we will offer its rigorous academic standards and its humane values of service and *non sibi* as a gift to the Exonians of the future. ●