



ART DURITY (3)

*Thomas Hassan (center), a member of the faculty since 1989 and assistant principal since 2001, will become Exeter's 14th principal. Hassan's appointment was announced on October 24 at an all-school assembly by Chuck Harris '69 (left), president of the Academy Trustees, and Principal Ty Tingley (right), who will retire in June 2009.*

## **THOMAS HASSAN NAMED EXETER'S 14TH PRINCIPAL**

At their fall meeting, the Trustees of Phillips Exeter Academy announced the selection of Thomas E. Hassan '66 (Hon.); P'11 as Exeter's 14th principal instructor.

Hassan, the Academy's assistant principal since 2001, was chosen following an intensive eight-month search process. Hassan succeeds Tyler C. Tingley '48, '64, '68, '01; P'99, who will retire in June 2009 after 12 years as principal.

"As Exeter's first 'home-grown' principal since Bill Saltonstall '24, Tom Hassan brings to the position a deep and thorough knowledge of the institution, as well as a breadth of experience in administration and in teaching," said Charles T. Harris III '69, who announced the decision at an all-school assembly on October 24. "He is uniquely suited not only to build on the legacy of Principal Tingley, but also to implement his own vision for Exeter's future. As a leader, Tom knows how to build consensus, and having worked with him during his time as assistant principal, I know he also has the ability to make difficult decisions."

Hassan's tenure as assistant principal included serving as acting principal from August 2005 through March 2006, while Tingley was on sabbatical.

News of Hassan's appointment was greeted by a thunderous standing ovation that lasted for several minutes.

"Good morning, Exeter!" said Hassan, smiling, as he addressed the students, faculty, and staff gathered in Assembly Hall. "It feels great to say that today. I have stood on this stage many times, but I have never been as excited or as humbled as I am today." Hassan said he was "deeply honored" by the trustees' selection and by "the opportunity to serve Exeter and to work with the Exeter community to forge a vision that builds on the strengths and traditions established by the previous 13 principals, and that sustains the Academy into the future."

Hassan thanked Tingley, whose “friendship and mentoring have meant a great deal to me.” He also thanked his late parents, who, he said, pushed him to discover the greater world; his wife, N.H. State Senator Maggie Hassan, for the example of her passion and integrity; their son, Ben, for teaching him about resilience; and their daughter, Meg ’11, for her “joy and kindness every day.”

A graduate of Brown University, Hassan earned his master’s and doctorate degrees at Harvard University. He joined Exeter’s faculty as the director of college counseling in 1989. An experienced administrator and teacher, he has also served the school as dean of admissions.

At Exeter Hassan teaches mathematics and is a faculty member in the Junior Studies program. He is a dorm affiliate and the adviser to various student organizations, including Best Buddies and the Random Acts of Kindness club. He has spearheaded several of the school’s key initiatives, including Universal Access, which has made the campus and its buildings accessible to all members of the Exeter community, and Exeter’s sustainability efforts, which have been a model for secondary schools across the nation. In addition, he teaches a course at the Harvard Graduate School of Education on independent secondary school administration.

He began his career at Brown, where he served as an admissions officer and as associate director for alumni relations. While at Harvard, he worked as an assistant dean of freshmen, a graduate assistant, a teaching fellow, and an undergraduate financial aid/admissions officer. In his final doctoral year, he served as consultant to the Rockefeller Brothers Fund in New York.

Hassan has presented at numerous conferences, including the National Association of Independent Schools conference in 2006, where he spoke on “Jumpstarting Environmental Efforts at Your School,” and has also published several articles. Most recently, he and Exeter’s current principal, Tyler Tingley, co-authored an article in *Looking Ahead: Independent School Issues and Answers* (2004) entitled “The Administrator as Member of Your School Community.” This winter, an article he authored about universal accessibility in independent schools will appear in *Independent School* magazine.

The search for Exeter’s 14th principal was led by a 10-member committee consisting of five Academy trustees, four faculty members and one member of the school’s administration. Trustee Leigh Bonney ’76, chair of the Principal Search Committee, said more than 150 possible candidates responded to the job posting or were identified by faculty, alumni/ae, parents and friends. Approximately half were contacted, and information was gathered to determine their qualifications. “Subsequently, a smaller group was identified and invited to interview. They included sitting heads and administrators of exceptional secondary schools, as well as deans of small liberal arts colleges and Ivy League universities,” Bonney said.

At the assembly, Principal Tingley presented Hassan with the Principal’s Flag, a red banner with the Exeter lion rampant, which had been given to him when he was appointed principal in 1997. “Nothing could make me happier,” Tingley said. “I have worked with Tom Hassan for a long time and relied on him in many challenging situations.” ●



(Above) Hassan and his wife, N.H. State Senator Maggie Hassan.



(Left) Principal Ty Tingley presented Hassan with the Principal’s Flag at the all-school assembly. “This flag has good karma,” Tingley said.