



AT COMMONWEALTH



Conor Detwiler '07

IN THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|
| Strategic Planning | 1 |
| Malone Grant | 2 |
| Excerpts from the Graduation Speeches | 3 |
| Profiles | 4-5 |
| Student Activities | 6-7 |
| Art News | 8-9 |
| Sports | 10 |
| Events of the Year | 11-19 |
| Comings & Goings | 20-21 |
| Alumni/ae Association; Reunions | 22-25 |
| A Celebration for Charles Merrill | 26-27 |
| Admissions; Parents; Trustees | 28-29 |
| Development Report; Annual Giving | 30-36 |
| Class Notes | 37-65 |
| In Memoriam | 66-68 |

Long-Range Planning: Ensuring the Legacy

WILLIAM D. WHARTON

WE OWE GREAT THANKS to all who put in countless hours these past two years to craft Commonwealth's Long-Range Plan, which the Board approved in May. The planning took as its premise that the School should remain true to Charles Merrill's vision of "a diverse community deeply committed to equity and social justice, that respects and practices careful analysis, and that breathes life into ideas by encouraging students to take on responsibilities in the world outside the School." At the June luncheon honoring Mr. Merrill, I was struck as speaker after speaker bore witness to the power of that vision (see article on page 26). The celebration highlighted the central role of individuals—exceptional teachers and promising students—in creating and sustaining Commonwealth.

I am, therefore, delighted that the draft Long-Range Plan focuses on the people—teachers and students—who make Commonwealth an exciting school that fulfills its founding vision. The plan lays out initiatives in five overlapping areas—Faculty, Diversity and Financial Aid, Admissions and Competition, Program and Facilities, and Finances—that will ensure our ability to build on the School's current strength and lay the groundwork for long-term success. This strength has been recognized, and our efforts for the future have been given a rousing start, by the award of the \$2 million grant for financial aid from the Malone Family Foundation (see box on page 2).

THE BEST TEACHERS

The ability to attract and retain career teachers who combine significant intellectual achievements with passion for teaching is crucial to Commonwealth's long-term suc-

cess. We must increase faculty compensation and create innovative benefit and professional-development programs to attract and retain the best faculty in Boston. Establishing a stronger salary scale and endowing faculty chairs and the sabbatical program—which is second to none among independent schools—will give the School's compensation program the strength and consistency needed to cultivate the next generation of lead teachers.

YOUNG PEOPLE OF PROMISE

Mr. Merrill's pioneering commitment to diversity is Commonwealth's legacy. Today Commonwealth continues to seek young people of promise from communities that have not traditionally had access to private education and to prepare them for work and leadership at the highest level. Attracting more teachers of color is critically important to ensure that students (and teachers) of color feel fully a part of the community. We must further bolster the School's financial aid program and be among the leaders in attracting students from diverse backgrounds. These efforts will require the creation of a part-time outreach position to recruit students and teachers as well as the full support of the Board of Trustees, alumni/ae, and parents.

RAISING OUR PROFILE

Though it has significantly improved outreach and admissions over the past decade, Commonwealth is still among the least well known of Boston's independent schools. We have crafted a clear and convincing message that conveys our distinctive strengths, and we are also developing a new web site and publications with an eye toward a visual vocabulary that will reinforce the message.

We must now fashion a comprehensive marketing strategy and a strong communications plan that will keep Commonwealth families, and alumni/ae, informed about the School, raise our public profile, and draw applications from all area communities.

FIRST-RATE PROGRAM AND FACILITIES

Commonwealth recognizes the academic program to be its heart and soul, so we are always evaluating and improving our courses. With the growing sophistication of research tools that technology has made available, and the corollary demand for students to become more skillful researchers in all media, there is a clear need to institute coherent library and technology programs, and to that end we have hired a librarian. We continue to build up curricular and extracurricular programs including Health and the Community, projects, community service, sports, summer advising, and exchanges.

These programs thrive at Commonwealth despite space limitations. With the current enrollment at 145 students, we recently moved some administrative offices into nearby leased space to make room for classrooms and program needs. We are developing a long-term capital expenditure plan with the goal of upgrading current facilities to optimal standards, and have also begun analysis of potential new facilities, from leasing to purchase, that would alleviate space constraints and enhance programs.

By all measures Commonwealth is healthy. The grant from the Malone Family Foundation has strengthened our endowment. That endowment, our vigorous annual giving, and a tuition that remains competitive with those of peer schools have enabled us to run a first-rate program while balancing budgets and maintaining a strong balance sheet. Our work in the coming months and years will increase that strength, give Commonwealth financial flexibility to meet the needs outlined above, and so ensure its rich legacy for years to come. We hope you will join us as we move forward. Stay tuned. ▣



Jennie Brown '04, Boston Globe competition, honorable mention



Olivia Harris '06

Two Million Dollars for Scholarships

ON MAY 17, Commonwealth became the second school in New England and the first in Massachusetts to receive a \$2 million grant from the Malone Family Foundation of Englewood, Colorado. Intended to endow scholarships for academically gifted students, the award will eventually generate \$100,000 of additional scholarship funds each year, supporting four students over and above the regular financial aid budget.

Cathie Wlaschin of the Malone Family Foundation noted in recommending the school for an award: "Commonwealth has it all, packed into two five-story brownstones connected through common doors and hallways: a strong headmaster; a highly intellectual faculty who would be revered at nearby universities; students who are thrilled to be there, who have a ravenous thirst for knowledge and the required 'street smarts' to navigate the city of Boston as part of their curriculum." The rigor of Commonwealth's program aligns with the goal of the Malone Family Foundation: "to improve access to quality education—particularly at the secondary school level—for gifted students who lack the financial resources to best develop their talents." ▣