

# Peter Amershadian Faculty Leadership Program

BY JERROLD I. KATZ, *Head of School*

*True to the spirit of teaching excellence that Peter Amershadian embodied, The Peter Amershadian Faculty Leadership Program will provide Park teachers with the opportunity to look outside Park's walls, wherever excellent teaching is taking place, to find, to study, to understand, and to bring back to Park classrooms the most compelling ideas about teaching and learning.*

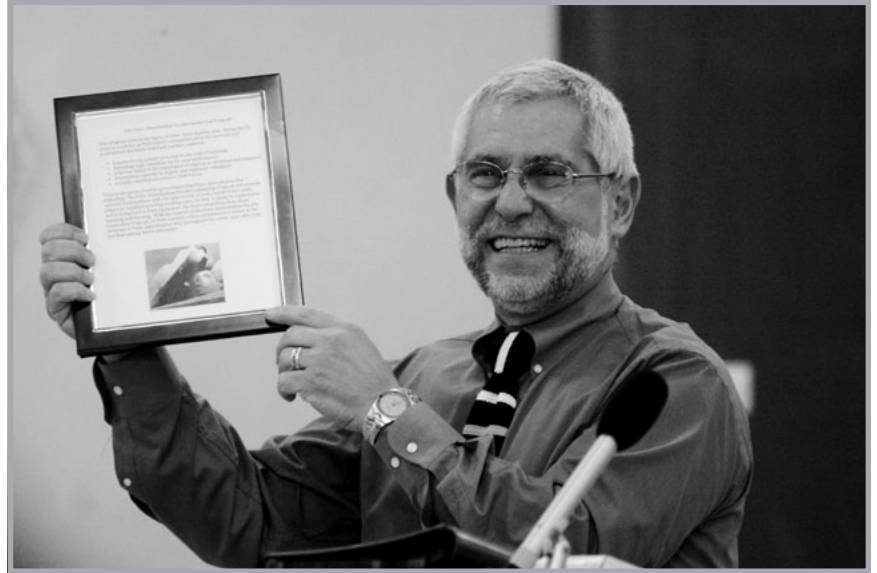
**T**he teaching profession offers little in the way of a "career ladder" to talented educators who are not interested in exploring a move from the classroom to school administration. At Park, we have designed a new program to give selected teachers the opportunity to apply for fellowships that will allow them to take on a major leadership initiative in service of program innovation and the mission of the School.

The Park School already offers significant support for faculty professional development. Named to honor Peter Amershadian, who retired at the end of the 2010-11 school year after 23 years of extraordinary service as head of our modern language department, The Peter Amershadian Faculty Leadership Program is intended to enable motivated individuals to provide leadership outside of their present faculty roles. Work may be in areas identified either by the administration or by applicants themselves, as long as the proposed project is recognized to be critical to the fulfillment of the School's mission.

During the program's initial year, the administration has encouraged proposals to address any of the following strategic priorities:

- Identifying new approaches to faculty supervision and evaluation
- Weaving 21<sup>st</sup> century skills throughout the curriculum
- Building a comprehensive, integrated approach to multicultural education throughout the curriculum

Initially, two teams of teachers per year will be awarded leadership grants of \$10,000 per person. Each leadership team will have access to an additional \$2,500 per person for travel to attend national or international conferences and/or to visit other schools. The program year will begin on July 1, and leadership fellows will



**Peter Amershadian taught French, Spanish, Latin, Social Studies, and Growth Education at Park from 1988 – 2011. Described as the "epitome of a Park teacher," the Faculty Leadership program is a fitting honor. The new award was announced at Peter's retirement celebration in June.**

be expected to commit substantial time to project work over the summer and the ensuing academic year. Specifically, it is expected that applicants will submit a plan for project work that includes a minimum of 30 days over the summer, on weekends, and/or during vacation periods. During the school year, each fellow will need to manage his or her time and ongoing teaching responsibilities in order to complete leadership tasks, while working under the supervision and with the support of the head of school. At the completion of their projects, fellows will be expected to provide written reports, including recommendations for further action, and they will be asked to make presentations to colleagues, administrators, and/or Park trustees.

Recipients of 2012-13 Peter Amershadian Faculty Leadership Awards will be announced early in 2012. Park students surely will benefit from this opportunity to empower our teachers and to bring "the most compelling ideas about teaching and learning" into our classrooms. 🌱

*P.S. Readers wishing to celebrate Peter Amershadian's legacy at Park are encouraged to send a gift to The Park School directed toward the Peter Amershadian Faculty Leadership Program. The School hopes that donations made to Peter's program will be in addition to your continued Annual Fund support.*