



MARQUETTE
UNIVERSITY

College of Education
Office of the Dean

Hello Education Majors —

Have you ever come across one of those special issues of *People* magazine which celebrate the 50 Most Beautiful, Sexiest, or Best and Worst Dressed among us? Well, I've compiled my own list of 50 people below, in rough alphabetical order, and I invite you to examine it thoughtfully. Take each name that you know and reflect on it briefly. When you're done, decide on the best title you can give to a special issue of *People* that featured stories about these individuals.

- Abraham
- Jane Addams
- Susan B. Anthony
- Clara Barton
- Buddha
- George Washington Carver
- Cesar Chavez
- Shirley Chisholm
- Confucius
- Marie Curie
- Jesus Christ
- Leonardo Da Vinci
- John Dewey
- W. E. B. Dubois
- Thomas Edison
- Albert Einstein
- Queen Elizabeth
- St. Francis
- Paulo Freire
- Betty Friedan
- Indira Gandhi
- Mahatma Gandhi
- Bill Gates
- Mikhail Gorbachev
- Hippocrates
- St. Ignatius of Loyola
- St. Joan of Arc
- Steve Jobs
- Pope John Paul II
- Martin Luther
- Martin Luther King
- Abraham Lincoln
- Nelson Mandela
- Gregor Mendel
- Mohammed
- Maria Montessori
- Moses
- Sir Isaac Newton
- Jesse Owens
- Rosa Parks
- St. Paul
- Jean Piaget
- Plato
- Jackie Robinson
- Eleanor Roosevelt
- William Shakespeare
- B. F. Skinner
- Mother Teresa
- Harriett Tubman
- The Virgin Mary

To decide on a title, you have to determine what it is that all of these people have in common, right? They all qualify as being well known, but in many different ways for many different reasons.

Looking down the list we see: religious figures, inventors, activists and reformers, world leaders and politicians, founders, educators, scientists, psychologists, entrepreneurs, philosophers, athletes, and literary figures. They come from many diverse races, genders, cultures, ethnicities, faiths, time periods, socioeconomic classes, continents, and family structures. Apart from being famous and human, this group shares few apparent similarities.

What I would argue binds these people together is that they've all made a significant impact on humankind. So, one title I might choose is *"50 People Who Made A Difference in the World."*

Whoa, wait a minute you might say. Where is John the Baptist, St. Peter or St. Augustine, and the Dalai Lama? How about Socrates and Aristotle, Queen Victoria, Winston Churchill, Anwar Sadat, and Horace Mann? What possessed you to overlook John Lennon and Paul McCartney, Mozart, Mohammed Ali, Florence Nightingale, Christa McAuliffe and Neil Armstrong, Wilma Rudolph, George Washington, and a host of others?

And, you'd be right to ask. In fact, that's the beauty and irony of a list like this one. There are simply too many deserving people to include.

So, what's the lesson in this for all of us? After all, the people who have made a difference in the world weren't necessarily the biggest or the strongest, the most beautiful or handsome, the richest and most powerful, the smartest, the most charming or best dressed, the most skilled, or even the most likely to succeed.

However, all of them seized the purposes in their lives and used their God given talents, principles and beliefs, and courage to fulfill their promise and destiny. They have demonstrated, in undeniable terms, that *one person can indeed change the world.*

And so can you. Take up our challenge in the College of Education to "Be The Difference in the World." And when you doubt your

capacity, remember that one of the people on my original list, a poor and lowly Jewish laborer, changed the course of human history forever.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bill Henk". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "B" and a trailing flourish.

Dr. Bill Henk, Dean