

Marquette University



Golden Eagles

Hello Education Majors –

This past Saturday, as I was driving home from the impressive Marquette basketball win over Georgetown, I couldn't help but think, "This team is *on a mission!*" They had won a very tough game at Notre Dame earlier in the week, and were playing with remarkable intensity. I remember feeling this same way last year when our Lady Golden Eagles proved that they were indeed on a mission to win the Women's National Invitation Tournament.

As a former college basketball player, I know the countless sacrifices necessary to pursue greatness in earnest. The journey requires an unwavering commitment to the goal and a willingness to put in thousands of hours of practice during and after the season, participating in team meetings, watching game films, weight training, year-round conditioning, traveling, and studying extensively to make up for lost time.

To this day, I credit my experiences as an athlete with much of the professional success I've enjoyed – as a secondary English major, an elementary school reading specialist, a doctoral student, a professor, a department chair and now a dean. When the many times that adversity has raised its head in my career, I could always reach down and summon an inner mental and emotional strength that enabled me to persevere against all odds. It's a matter of making an ultimate resolve.

It is fitting then that during Marquette's Mission Week, *I challenge you to be on a mission of your own – to become the very best teacher imaginable.* Like an athlete, such an aspiration will require a steadfast commitment, passion and intensity, a readiness to sacrifice, endless hours of preparation, and a staunch dedication to your professional development. If you have the tenacity – what St. Ignatius would call the '*magis*' or 'the more,' then you will triumph.

Marquette is on a mission to become a world class Catholic university rooted in excellence, faith, leadership and service. The College of Education is on a mission, too. We want to be recognized as a national and local leader in applied social justice – the result of distinguished pedagogy, scholarship, and professional service by our faculty, and the extent to which we can nurture and inspire our students and alumni to “Be The Difference in the World.” If you’re willing to pay the price to achieve your mission as an educator, then you will help the university and the College to achieve ours as well.

And so, on this Mission Week 2009, please accept my invitation to seek and attain greatness together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "William A. Henk".

Dr. Bill Henk, Dean
College of Education

