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**Be The Difference.**

May 12, 2009

Dear Education Majors –

**I love Marquette.** There, I said it. Fact is, I love God, my family, my friends, and yes, I most definitely love Marquette University. And, if you haven't figured it out yet, I love the College of Education, our faculty, administrators, and staff, as well as you – our amazing students.

In this message, my last one of the academic year, I wanted to leave you with no doubt about these feelings. One hope I've had all along as I've written to you this semester is that by gently inspiring your professional, personal, and spiritual growth, greater honor would accrue to the institution I love so deeply – *through you*.

So, "Why the love affair?" you might ask. The answer is simple, but there are a multitude of factors that contribute to this sentiment. The short version is this: **Marquette has a soul.**

Put another way, Marquette's mission is a noble one that is firmly embraced by its people. When the many virtuous aspirations of the university become realized through the efforts of our Marquette family, *a unique and powerful synergy emerges*. Clearly the members of our academic community take to heart the solemn responsibility to put such bold tenets into practice as:

- *ad majorem Dei gloriam* -- For the Greater Glory of God
- *Cura Personalis* -- Care for the Whole Person
- Men and Women for Others
- Excellence, Faith, Leadership, Service
- Be The Difference

Other grand ambitions include educating the heart as well as the mind and making the world better through our graduates. Honoring our Catholic, Jesuit identity and applying the principles of social justice are equally honorable objectives.

It would be one thing if these lofty aspirations were mere rhetoric, but what sets our institution apart is that *Marquette people LIVE THE DIFFERENCE*. So, in the end, it is the faithfulness of our community to the university mission that makes Marquette truly special. As you grow older, you'll come to realize that in life, it's always about the people, and that's exactly the way it should be.

So, not surprisingly, in recent weeks we've celebrated a host of deserving individuals both within and beyond Marquette who have taken up Gandhi's challenge to "*Be the difference you wish to see in the world.*" We've honored students, alumni, cooperating teachers, public and Catholic school partners, community education champions, human service agencies and foundations, and both adjunct and full-time faculty.

These events lift our spirits as we recognize people who are indeed making a difference in the world. But one of the most surprising and satisfying aspects of these ceremonies is to hear the recipients express their enormous love for Marquette and their *gratitude for everything the institution has done to help them realize their dream of helping others*. It really is a remarkable phenomenon to behold, and one that intensifies and enriches my pride in our university and my enduring love for it.

It should also come as no surprise that I have a very special fondness for our College of Education, and my regard has been amplified by the stellar year we've enjoyed. Our achievements have been numerous and significant. What's important to keep in mind, though, is that the common denominator in every accomplishment is the people at the root of them - our Education majors, faculty, administrators, alumni, and friends. All of them have, in effect, abided by our new College maxim, namely:

**See The Difference.  
Be The Difference.  
Live The Difference.**

It has been an incredible honor for me to interact with such extraordinary human beings over the past five years. Working individually or as part of teams, these outstanding professionals and civic leaders have grasped, internalized, and actualized our social justice mission in ways that have made society significantly richer. I salute each and every one of them. And I salute you for what you have already become and what you will be. *No wonder I love Marquette; and, my heartfelt hope is that you love it, too.*

To all seniors who are graduating this weekend, please accept my congratulations on achieving this major career milestone. I hope that you're looking forward as much as I am to hearing Coach Terri Mitchell, a master teacher and motivator, give the keynote address at our College of Education graduation event on Saturday. I look forward to seeing you then, and again on Sunday at the Bradley Center.

And, to all other Education majors, I hope you have a wonderful summer and that God's blessings be with you now and always. Until next year...

Sincerely,



Dr. Bill Henk, Dean  
College of Education