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## FROM THE EDITOR

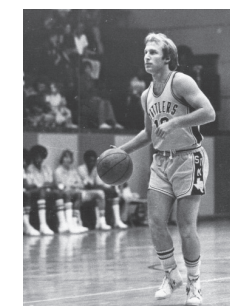
A lot of institutions talk about being “mission-driven.” It’s become a ubiquitous catch phrase, but what does it really mean? To me, it means the mission that St. Mary’s articulates—academic excellence, service and civic engagement within a faith-filled Catholic and Marianist community—permeates students’ lives while they are here. But it also means that the values, intellectual gifts and social conscience developed in our students will be carried out into the world when they graduate.

That belief is exemplified in so many of the features in this issue of *Gold & Blue*. There’s the recent law grad who has partnered with a comprehensive homeless campus and the county to help some of the most marginalized individuals in our society. Other alumni return to St. Mary’s every summer to teach in the Prefreshman Engineering Program (PREP) for promising middle and high school students because they, too, attended the program as youngsters and were mentored and educated in how to be successful academically and in life. Part of what they learned from PREP and as students at St. Mary’s is the importance of giving back.

I’m a 1978 graduate of St. Mary’s. I’m also a sports fan, and Rattler basketball is a favorite of mine. Two alums featured herein played on the men’s squad while I was enrolled. Their paths were not the same, with one carving out a successful business career, and the other becoming the leader (and cheerleader) of one of San Antonio’s poorest school districts. I can still see Robert Jaklich (B.A. ’80)—he was Bobby back then—racing down the court, blond hair flying. As point guard he was a leader, with quick hands, tenacity and unmatched enthusiasm. Today, as superintendent of Harlandale Independent School District, Jaklich carries forward St. Mary’s mission to serve while exhibiting that same resolve and zeal as he champions education for every child, in every classroom, every day.

Since the summer *Gold & Blue*, all of the offices in St. Louis Hall have been temporarily relocated across campus while we eagerly await completion of the renovation of our signature building. And, while there have been many updates to Assumption Chapel over the years, I think you’ll agree that its new transformation is striking. Stop in when you’re on campus.

— Candy Kuebker



**Walking on Eggshells** Students from middle and high schools in San Antonio participated in the Egg Shoe Race as part of the Prefreshman Engineering Program (PREP) on the St. Mary’s campus over the summer. Read more about their foray into engineering on page 14.