

## Jack Edie

If you have read the Homecoming brochure, you would know that Jack Edie was teacher here at Blake. In fact he taught here for 37 years. He taught American History, Contemporary Civilization, Debate, Ethics, International Relations, Economics, and Beginning and Advanced Speech.

You would also know that Jack was the headmaster. In fact, from 1971-74 Jack guided us through the difficult and often controversial years of the merger.

You would also know that he was a coach, a baseball coach in particular. He is a student of the game, and I would add that he is a strategist as well. I have often suspected that his eloquence and gift for argumenation was acquired at the expense of many of the umpires that worked his games. However, I can't prove that, Jack, and thus will drop that allegation.

You would know in addition that Jack created and coached the Varsity Debate Team for 30 years. In that time he took our teams to state, regional, and national levels of competition.

What is most important is that which is not in this brochure. In fact it is impossible to capture the essence of Jack Edie in 10- 12 lines of a brochure. As I was thinking about presenting Jack this morning I realized that many of you in this auditorium don't know who Jack Edie is. All the more reason to celebrate, honor, and introduce him this morning.

There are some things beyond the credits and statistics that you need to know about Jack Edie. He, more than any other person alive today, is woven into the fabric of this institution. He constitutes a significant part of our history, as well as the traditions that we carry on. Even today he defines in part who we are, what we do, and how we do it. Let me give you a few brief examples.

Long before it was popular to think about Global Education, Jack, as early as 1945, was preaching to this community and beyond the importance and the need to develop a global view of the world, based on a solid understanding of the interdependence that unites us all on planet earth. In fact after he retired from Blake he was instrumental in creating an organization called Global Education Minnesota (GEM) that impacted not only our school, but schools all over the state of Minnesota.

I mentioned that Jack was the headmaster from 1971-74. What impressed me most was that Jack created a leadership style that provided the students, parents, faculty, alumni channels of communication that allowed this community to talk to each other, debate, and share their concerns on the many controversial issues that faced us at the time of merger. Very characteristic of Jack, he created the most democratic style of leadership in the history of the school, not in times of ease, but at the most difficult juncture of our recent history.

Those of us on the faculty need to be reminded that the Sabbatical program that we enjoy today is in large part due to Jack's vision and commitment to this faculty.

Finally those of you in Debate know that we will be hosting the 30th Annual Edie Debate Tournament, an event by which we honor Jack's contributions in this area. You also realize that each year at Awards Day we present the Edie Cup.

Jack's leagacy to us is a rich one. It is one of vision, leadership, and loyalty. There is no one more loyal to this school than Jack Edie. Yet his loyalty never prevented him from challenging the institution and the people in it to do what is right, what is good, and what is best for the institution and its people. Jack has always represented the best of what there is in education, and the best of what there is in Blake. Would you join me in welcoming and honoring Jack Edie.