

Skip Jarocki to retire

On Thursday, February 18, Head of School Rodney LaBrecque announced the retirement at the end of June of Mr. Skip Jarocki, Athletic Director at Wilbraham & Monson Academy since 1996. At School Meeting, Mr. LaBrecque made the following remarks.

Mr. Jarocki has devoted his entire professional career to the glory of athletic involvement. After graduating from Williston Northampton School, he earned a degree in English from prestigious Haverford College. While at Haverford he captained the soccer, basketball, and baseball teams, earning eleven varsity letters in those three sports. After returning to this area, he coached at the Watkinson School in Hartford while earning a master's degree in education from Trinity College. He returned to his alma mater, Haverford, and served as head golf coach, head soccer coach, and freshman basketball coach while working his way to Assistant Director and then Associate Director of Athletics. In 1983 he was appointed Assistant Director of Athletics at the University of Pennsylvania and then served there as Associate Director from 1986 until 1996. It was at this point that the Academy was able to attract him to our school.

Mr. Jarocki has certainly made his mark on the Academy athletic program during his time here. I know he is extremely proud of the work he did to help design the beautiful athletic center addition, and well he should be. He was the key person in making the transitional year during construction work as well as it did, and his ideas about how that space should function were instrumental in the building we enjoy today.

Personally, I have enjoyed working with Mr. Jarocki for the past eight years. He is the ultimate team player, something that is very high on my list of what it means to be a good prep school employee. If you stand in the gymnasium and look around the walls at the many banners which proclaim our athletic prowess, you can appreciate just how many of them came during his tenure here. A skillful athletic director plays a major role in the overall success of a school's athletic program, and I think our record of success owes much to his leadership. We are lucky to have been the recipient of his skill and devotion. His attention to detail and his infectious upbeat personality have made an impact on the coaches and players who have matriculated to and then graduated from the Academy.

I will have more to say about Mr. Jarocki at Commencement, when we honor those retiring from the school. So for now I simply wish to say "Thank you, Skip, for a job well done."