Statement from Dr. Phillip C. Stone

President, Bridgewater College

Coach Leatherman’s retirement brings to a close a highly successful coaching career, one that not only produced winning programs but programs which helped shape the character of several generations of young men. His record of 335 victories during his 23 years at Bridgewater College has made him the winningest men’s basketball coach in the school’s history. His record includes multiple NCAA playoff appearances. Coach Leatherman, respected as one of the best students of the game, has always had a remarkable talent for winning even in years of rebuilding or after the loss of a key player. In 2006, he was awarded the Guardians Award for Advocacy by the National Association of Basketball Coaches; the highest recognition that can be presented to a member of the National Association of Basketball Coaches.

Coach Leatherman’s greatest coaching achievement however is in the effect he has had on the young men who played for him. They were required to dress up for games and behave as gentlemen; they had to play by the rules; team play prevailed over individual interests; no showboating or bad sportsmanship was tolerated; and students were required to attend class and keep up their grades. He has taken immense satisfaction from the fact that almost every Bridgewater College player he coached has earned his degree.

Bill was also the inspiration behind the start up of the College’s Eagle Club to support athletic teams. He has been its director since it started in 1995.

Because Bill and his wife Nancy are relocating to North Carolina, we shall not have the pleasure of their regular presence on campus. But they take with them our gratitude for work well done and our best wishes for a healthy and fulfilling retirement.

July 29, 2008