Tom O’Connor ’68 is chair of the NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship Committee
Have you ever filled out an NCAA bracket, for fun of course, in an effort to predict which team will win the NCAA Division I Men’s Basketball Tournament? If you do so this year, some of the colleges you pick will appear on the bracket due to Tom O’Connor ’68. Assistant vice president/director of athletics at George Mason University (Fairfax, VA), this year Tom will chair the 10-member Men’s Basketball Championship Committee, deciding which colleges to invite to participate. Tom will manage and run Committee meetings and serve as a media representative. Last year, he served as vice-chair of the Committee. He is the first chair of the committee from a non-football member institution.

For 12 years he has served as AD at GMU, after similar positions at three other colleges, preceded by two stints of coaching men’s basketball. In June, Tom received the Southeast Division AD of the Year award from the National Association of Collegiate Athletic Directors for his commitment and positive contributions to his campus and its surrounding community. Only 29 athletic directors were honored from more than 1,600 institutions in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Under his guidance, GMU was one of the nation’s first 15 schools to complete the NCAA certification process. As a result, GMU perennially ranks among the nation’s best in the Equity in Athletics Disclosure Act survey.

A four-time Associated Press all-New England selection on some of Assumption’s most successful basketball teams, Tom scored 1,121 points to finish his career as the third-leading scorer in the College’s history (currently 25th). He was inducted into AC’s Alumni/ Athletics Hall of Fame in 1998.

Tom served on Assumption’s Athletics Capital Campaign Committee for the Multi-Sport Stadium and is a member of the Washington, DC Area Regional Alumni Club. He and wife Barbara have four children and eight grandchildren, and reside in Fairfax, VA.