

Yeah, so that was different. When I got here, it's a lot different than when you come as a prospective, cause you're not living it.

*Tell me in what way.*

Well, for one thing, in a lot of my classes I'm the only black student. And, like in my lab now, I am the only black student, and it's hard cause people aren't always as receptive to you. Like in lab, I was the last person to get a partner, because everyone - they didn't even know each other, but it was just that everyone's apprehensive. They don't know how to approach me. On the colonnade there's the speaking tradition. And that weekend, I came, everyone was -I had my little blue folder - everyone was "Hey, How're you doing?" They knew I was a prospective. But when I got here, I can look you dead in your face and I'll speak and I don't always get a response, or people will do everything but look my way so they don't have to speak. So, that was different. That was hard for me freshman year, but I got over it. That was one of the big differences.

14. Please describe what you consider to be your greatest challenge at Washington and Lee. How have you dealt with it?

I think my biggest challenge here is trying to remain focussed, because it's hard going here as a student. We don't have a lot of people that we can turn to - as a minority student that is - We don't have a lot of people that we can turn to outside of ourselves. And, on the weekends there's nothing to do. so everyone's like, well let's go to this school or that school, and usually they're an hour away, and that's an hour out of my study time just to get there, and then an hour back. It's so easy just to sit around and just harp on all the negatives about the place. And that's hard too, cause you need to remember that you're only here for four years and just deal with it. So I think that's probably the hardest thing is trying to stay positive.

33. *In general how do you think about yourself first at Washington and Lee -- as a member of a particular racial/ethnic/national/gender group, or as a student?*

*Please explain.*

Boy, at Washington and Lee, sometimes it's hard to believe I'm actually going here. um...

In what way?

Well, because I'm not the norm, as far as the main stream school. I guess a lot of minorities aren't, but particularly for me because I went to a majority black school and I live in a majority black community where the type of things I see down here I would never see at home, never. Like with the Rebel flag. It's like flagrant here. That's the type of thing that I see here that I know I wouldn't see at home. Cause I live right outside of DC and no one would try that at home. It's not even thought about. So, I mean, and here I'm a real minority, whereas home I knew I was as far as the whole American nation was, but it was never in my face like it is now.

So does that mean you think of yourself first as...? as black?

Because I have to. Only because I know other people see me that way. Yeah. I pretty much have to.

Have to because it's in your face, or to protect yourself? What do you mean?

Well, when I walk in the classroom I realize that I'm not perceived, well I think that I'm not perceived as just a student here. I'm a black student. The only black student in this particular class. And in most of them. So that's the only reason why. If I were at another school I'd just be a student, at least probably. But here I'm a black student, I'm not just a student.