

# U.S. ENGINEERING CO.

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SINCE 1893

December 8, 1983

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Norfolk, Virginia 23501

Dear Peter:

After reviewing the various correspondence, white papers, and other opinion gathering forces such as the Ring Tum Phi and its letters to the editor, and subsequently, reflecting upon my own prejudices, opinions, and "gut feel", I have reached a conclusion that can be communicated to the appropriate parties.

Surpassing all other considerations is the question: What is best for Washington and Lee University, not only in the near future, but also in the next decade, two decades, and beyond? What is our future with co-education or without it? The next question is: Will co-education affect the air or aura of why W & L is the way it has been to all of us - the greatness, the code of conduct, the feeling that possesses us as we walk by the Colonnade?

The world is changing dramatically and at a much faster pace than in previous generations. W & L cannot ignore the change. Women have become an important part of our careers, whether it is in law, medicine, advertising, journalism, or construction. If we are to provide a liberal arts education in an environment which is conducive to positive experiences whether they be social, economic, intellectual, or political, women must be a part of W & L's existence.

In business, I find that many problems are a result of poor communication and the inability of relating to people, either through listening to someone or reading between the lines as to what the other person is truly expressing. To ignore the contribution which women can have inside and outside the classroom is to ignore reality. Combining this opinion with the numbers which W & L is facing in the declining high school population makes it quite evident that we cannot strive only to "hold our own" but we must be aggressive in marketing W & L attributes so that highly attractive men and women will desire to attend our University.

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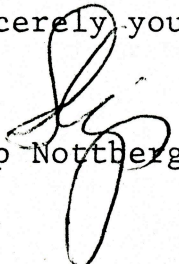
Mr. Peter A. Agelasto, III

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I cannot accept the fact that W & L is an institution of excellence and honor because we are male. We are a result of the experiences developed by personal relationships with friends, classmates, faculty, and administration. The feeling of pride and the traditions which have been perpetuated are a result of the quality of the student who chooses to attend W & L. If we dilute the quality, we threaten the improvement and advancement of the University and the very principles upon which we place such hope. Co-education, in my opinion, will aid in strengthening the quality of the individual, man or woman, who chooses to attend W & L.

I believe that Robert E. Lee would place great emphasis on the realities of the world as it is and what it will be. W & L must pro-act, not react in our world that is rapidly changing. To proceed with co-education is the correct decision, in my humble opinion.

Sincerely yours,

  
Skip Notthberg

SN/skb