

EDGAR FINLEY SHANNON, JR.

June 6, 1984

Mr. Mark B. Davis, Jr.

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for your letter of 25 May sharing with me your experience with attempting to recruit top-flight students for Washington and Lee in the Louisville area. I appreciate also having your view that admitting undergraduate women to Washington and Lee is desirable. Since I have received a number of vehement letters on the other side of the question, it is gratifying to have your testimony.

I couldn't agree more with you that academic excellence should continue to be the primary goal of Washington and Lee. It seems dubious that we can maintain that goal as a single-sex, male institution. There is considerable hard evidence that we have been slipping significantly compared to academic institutions with whom we compete.

Again thank you for your letter.

Sincerely yours,

*Edgar Shannon*

Edgar F. Shannon, Jr.

EFSJr/is

[Mr. Shannon, a W+L graduate, is the former past president of the University of Virginia]