Seven women are attending Washington and Lee this year under the Cooperative Exchange Program with seven colleges that began this fall. The other participating colleges are Davidson, Hampden-Sydney, Hollins, Mary Baldwin, Randolph-Macon, Randolph-Macon Woman’s, and Sweet Briar. Two Washington and Lee juniors, Ronald W. Abrams of Roslyn, N.Y., and John F. Larmour of Pändome, N.Y., are spending the year at Hollins under the program.

As one of the girls attending W&L remarked, “You know this isn’t really coed; it is like going to school with boys.” But the presence of girls in classes is providing the University with a limited experience in coeducation.

Soon after classes began, the seven W&L “coeds” were interviewed and were asked essentially the same questions: why they decided to come to W&L? how they like it so far? and what they plan to do?

Excerpts from their replies follow:

MISS ANN RED
Chappaqua, N.Y.
Randolph-Macon Sophomore
Major in Art

I heard about Mr. Ju [artist-in-residence], and I wanted to study under him, especially after I met him. I have a lot of good friends over here, not really dates, just friends, and I visited classes with them. I was influenced by the feeling of the school as a whole. I like being able to go to school and talk to teachers as friends. I like being able to go home and not living in a dorm. I enjoyed being in a woman’s college last year. I just found that you miss about 50 per cent of all opinions in classes. Classes are more exciting than having all girls. I imagine that 50-50 would be the best way. I am not any more uncomfortable than I would be in any new situation—I mean entering as a freshman in an all-girl’s school or anything else. I am excited about being here and having so many people to talk to. It is like having 40,000 brothers or something. A lot of freshmen here have gotten to know me, and they tease constantly. It is kind of nice, I guess. It makes them feel more at home and makes me feel more at home, too. I have no fixed career plans, except I would like always to stay around a school. I like books—perhaps teach. I think I could do it.

MISS RITA ENNIS
Louisville, Ky.
Hollins Sophomore
Major in Politics

I have always had a great interest in journalism, and I had been thinking seriously for some time of going to graduate school with some sort of focus in journalism. But Hollins didn’t provide this at all for me, and I really liked Hollins. When the exchange program came up, Mr. Davis [professor of journalism at W&L] thought it would be a very good idea for me to attend Washington and Lee for a year so that I wouldn’t have to transfer away from Hollins and that is what prompted my decision. In class I don’t feel nearly as uncomfortable as I do out of class. I have gotten very involved on the Ring-tum Phi staff. I am really interested in that, and that has taken away any gloominess that I had temporarily.
Miss Doolittle

But the attitude of many professors and many of the men I have encountered is very opposite to the attitude that I have. They seem to think that I am here as a dumb broad out for a good time, and that is not it at all. If somehow I could change their attitude, I would like to, but as long as the exchange program operates on such a limited basis, I can see very well why the boys have that attitude. And the prospects look good for the rest of the year as long as I stay involved in something I am interested in. I find Washington and Lee a very good place for education. It is very much the same as Hollins. It is a very easy atmosphere to adjust to. I am interested in urban studies, and one way or another I would like to go to graduate school and have something to do with urban studies.

MISS CATHY DOOLITTLE
Greensboro, N.C.
Randolph-Macon Junior
Major in Psychology

I was interested in getting a different approach to psychology and getting into a different department. I thought about transferring to Carolina, but I decided that was a little big. So I decided to try something new. This exchange program is new, and I thought it would be interesting to be here with so many boys. In a sense, I was just tired of seeing all-girl classes and always getting girls' opinions and ideas. It is nice to be able to get different professors and their ideas. The department is so small at Randolph-Macon that I have had all the professors two or three times. There are several psychology courses here that I am particularly interested in that are not offered at Randolph-Macon, and some of W&L's sociology courses and art courses interested me. In all my classes, I am the only girl, and I feel a little uncomfortable, more worried about what they think about me being there than anything else. I am kind of shy, and it is hard. I hope as I meet more people, things will calm down and I will relax more. I am pretty tense walking across the campus even. I plan to go to graduate school in psychology, but I'm not sure about my field—child psychology or clinical psychology or something like that.

MISS ANNE RAGLAND
Winsted, Conn.
Hollins Junior
Major in Art History

I have been going to a girl's school for a long time, and I thought it would be interesting to go to school with boys. Also I can get some courses here I couldn't get at Hollins. It wasn't the art because I could get that at Hollins, but there were some other things—like some history courses here that I can't get there, comparative literature courses and other things. Everybody is very friendly and helpful. This is good because if they were hostile and said to the girls, "we don't want them around here," it would probably be horrible. I am encouraged about the remainder of the year, especially academically. I don't care that much about the boys. It is nice to meet them, and it is nice to talk to them because they think differently than girls. But I am really encouraged about my courses. I think it is going to be really good. My father thought that this would stimulate me academically. That's what he said. He thinks this is a great idea. I don't know what I will do when I finish college. No, I am one of these people who will probably wait until May of my senior year before I decide to do anything.

MISS DALE MATTHEWS
Durham, N.C.
Hollins Senior
Major in Philosophy

There are several reasons why I came. I decided it would be interesting just to be in classes with men and see if they thought any differently, and if they did, how? But it sounds like a bunch of baloney when you try to pin down all the reasons because when I make a decision I very rarely know what goes into it. Part of it is just sort of a dare. It's an opportunity to find out something new about yourself. I don't know whether staying at Hollins would have been more of a challenge or coming here. It is just a chance. I am taking three philosophy
courses and a sculpture course. They are good classes, and I am working hard. So far, in class people have reacted to me the same as if I were at Hollins. I really thought I would be more nervous than I am. But it is different. In some ways, it is like being a freshman. You don't realize how much you have gotten to know a college until you leave it and go to another college. I think I want to go to graduate school. I don't know what in—English or philosophy. I might not want to do that for several years. I am not sure.

MISS SUSAN ELLETT
Richmond, Va.
Mary Baldwin Junior
Major in Economics
I have never been to a coed school before. I just decided that I wanted something different, and yet I still wanted to graduate from Mary Baldwin. I came here during Coed Week last year. I took economics and political science, and I found the courses to be more stimulating, or something, than they were at Mary Baldwin. I don't know whether it was having boys in the class, or what, but I was really interested in it. I had looked in catalogues of Hampden-Sydney and Davidson, but I found the Economics Department here was better than those. If I can ever get over my fears—I don't know what you call them—the boys kind of stare at you when you walk around the campus. It's not so bad in class, but I guess after they get used to us, and we get used to them, they will be what I expected. Sitting in class, I guess, isn't any different except that I am the only girl in there. I hope maybe to go into banking or something like that, but right now I am really not too sure. I don't plan to go to graduate school.

MISS LESLIE FOX
Boston, Mass.
Hollins Junior
Major in Biology-Psychology
I came to W&L because academically it is giving me an opportunity to do things I wouldn't be able to do at Hollins. I have a senior independent study in which I am experimenting with teaching emotionally disturbed children in an elementary school, working with a speech therapist and a reading disabilities teacher as well as a case worker; and I have files available to me here that would not be possible if I were working in Roanoke. I feel that people are paying a lot of attention to me—or they are very indifferent. It's not so much that their questions are hostile sometimes, but that they are trying to get me to make a certain response that they would expect a woman to make in an academic discussion. I feel that there are some very intelligent people here, and I'm glad to get to know them. But I don't think W&L should go coed any more than Hollins should. I don't want men in my science building using the equipment that is available to me as an undergraduate, and I don't want them in my student government. No, I have no firm career plans. One of the reasons I am experimenting in the course I'm taking in independent study is that I get a chance to work in my three major fields of interest—reading disability, speech therapy, and teaching mentally retarded—and hopefully I can decide at the end of this term what I want my career to be.