Beyond Bow Ties
A Digital Humanities Project on Coeducation at Washington and Lee University
Melissa Coggins ’16, Kelsey Cotter ’14, Christian Martine ’14, and Patrick Ozark ’17
http://BeyondBowTies.academic.wlu.edu

Statement of Problem
Washington and Lee University’s decision to admit women is a hallmark of the institution’s history and legacy. However, no collective and easily accessible resource exists containing artifacts from the era of coeducation.

GOAL: To compile and curate a database to reflect on and learn from the coeducation decision and that can be used as a model for future projects.

Research Questions
1) How did the coeducation decision affect social and academic environments in the years preceding and following implementation on the Washington and Lee University campus?
2) How can our research, collaborative ideas, and use of technology reveal an important aspect of Washington and Lee’s history that can be used to better address difficulties in the future?

Results & Analysis
1) The “mapplication” reveals alumni who resided in “Southern” states communicated the largest proportional dissent of coeducation.
2) Survey data exposes that support for coeducation was substantial, despite outspoken dissent in published media.
3) Text analysis of the Ring-tum Phi from 1983 to 1986 demonstrates the rise and fall of coeducation as a subject matter on campus.

Methodology
- W&L Special Collections
- Cirrus, Voyant Tools
- Mapplication, W&L Forms
- MALLET
- Tesseract
- WordPress
- Facebook
- Twitter

Short-Term Goals
- Acquire New Skills
- Create a Scalable Model
- Recover Knowledge

Long-Term Goals
- Academic Resource
- Comprehensive
- Inspire Additional Projects

Moving Forward
- W&L Alumni Affairs
- Special Collections
- Future DH Classes

Source: Special Collections & Archives Department of James G. Leyburn Library, Washington and Lee University
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