

# Shannon Calls Coeducation Decade's Significant Event

By JOHN EPPS

University President Edgar F. Shannon said coeducation "was probably the most significant development of the decade in relation to both enrollment and to the future of the University," in a special report issued Saturday to the University's Rectors and Visitors.

The 64 page report outlines advances made by the University in the last 12 years with emphasis on the 1971-72 academic year.

With this report Mr. Shannon is reinstating the practice of issuing an annual report, a practice that had been discontinued in the 1950's.

In the report Mr. Shannon said, "the years 1960 to the present have been a period of vital development in academic strength, as evidenced by an increasingly talented student body and a faculty of notably advancing national eminence."

## Enrollment Doubles

During this time, Mr. Shannon says the enrollment at the University has more than doubled and graduate professional enrollment has tripled. Fall enrollment in the 1959-60 academic year totaled 4,760 but by 1970 had risen to

10,852, with coeducation becoming complete.

Mr. Shannon also reports that "During the year (1971) efforts were increased to see that equality of opportunity exists in the administration of minority students and to ensure that all prospective students from minority groups know that the University of Virginia welcomes them."

## Black Undergraduates

"The 96 black undergraduate students entering the University in the fall of 1971 reflected more than four times the number who entered only three years earlier," Mr. Shannon states.

"The University sought to convey to the State at large to the high schools and to the black communities a strong awareness of the institution's commitment to developing the talents of all, irrespective of race, religion, national origin or social circumstances."

"Educational quality has been the central object of endeavor," Mr. Shannon emphasizes. "Greater enrollment for the sake of size has not been the aim of the University."

"But as a public institution, its growth has come as a result of the rising population of the

commonwealth and the nation and because of the University's increasing academic stature."

Mr. Shannon notes in the report that despite rapid expansion of degree programs at other state institutions, the University was granting 20 per cent of all degrees at Virginia four-year public colleges and universities including 52.8 per cent of law and medical degrees and 58.7 per cent of doctorates.

New buildings constructed during the decade include Gilmer Hall, Wilson Hall, Campbell Hall, University Hall and the Alderman Road Dormitories.

## Tuition Rises

The President's report also states that tuition and fees rose at the University in the last year. In-state students had their tuition raised \$53, while out-of-state students are now paying \$125 more than two years ago.

Other highlights of the 1971-72 academic year emphasized in the report are:

- the acquisition of \$2 million of federal funds for restoration of the Rotunda;

- increased financial support of the University's libraries;

- the separation of Mary Washington College and George Mason College from the University;

- the appointment of four new members to the Board of Visitors: William E. Leggett Jr., Warren B. French, Robert P. Buford and William L. Zimmer.

In conclusion to the report Mr. Shannon says the University has become "alert to the enormous challenge of excellence in higher education, strong in its ability to provide educational opportunity for Virginians and non-Virginians, and varied in its extensive service to the Commonwealth and to the nation."