The 1957-58 Session Begins

University of Richmond

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Although the enrollment for the first semester is the largest since 1948, University of Richmond officials were more impressed by evidences that the freshman classes in Richmond and Westhampton colleges are better prepared than any other entering classes in the school's history.

That was the report from Dean Robert F. Smart at Richmond College. That was the report from Dean Marguerite Roberts at Westhampton College. Both optimistic statements were based on the academic ranking of the freshmen in their graduating classes in high and preparatory schools and, perhaps even more important, their prowess on placement tests in mathematics and languages.

Westhampton College, continuing to justify a place among the nation's top-flight colleges for women, opened the 1957-58 session with dormitories jammed and with a number of students living in the homes of relatives and friends off campus. The enrollment of 490 was the highest on record; it could have been much higher had there been dormitory space and other facilities for a substantially larger student body.

Richmond College's student body was a few below last year's total despite the apparent paradox that more old students returned and there was an increase in the number of entering freshmen over the preceding year. The difference was in the sharp decrease in the number of students accepted as transfers from other colleges. Although emphasizing that he was not shutting the door on transfer students, Dr. Smart was adamant in his policy of accepting only those transfers "who clearly deserve a place in our student body."

The approximately 400 freshmen and a few transfers who finally were accepted for admission to Richmond College represented fewer than half of those who had sought admission.

The wisdom of the selection policy was reflected in the placement test grades which were the highest in the testing program of Richmond College.

At Westhampton where the academic level has been established on a very high plateau, freshman grades on the placement tests were again outstanding. Dean Marguerite Roberts was hopeful that the scores in the National College Freshman Program in which Westhampton participates will be up to last year's magnificently high standard.

Among the 77 colleges, men's and women's, which participated in the program, Westhampton freshmen ranked eleventh. Among the women's colleges of the same group it ranked second. On mathematics it ranked fourth among the 77 colleges. Of the 152 colleges, men's and women's, that took the English achievement tests, it ranked eighth, and of the women's colleges it ranked seventh.

It is easy to understand, as Dean Roberts pointed out, why only two of last year's freshmen were placed on academic probation at the close of the first semester. Both of them were able to pull up their grades during the second semester.

Both Dean Roberts and Dean Smart were outspoken in praise of the scholarship program which enables the University to offer (Continued on page 9)

THE 1957-58 SESSION BEGINS with a formal convocation in Cannon Memorial Chapel. Seniors donned academic robes and marched with professors and other convocation dignitaries in a procession that formed at the Boatwright Memorial Library. Marshal Ralph C. McDanel, '16, leads the way. He is followed by Ellis West, president of Richmond College Student Government, who carries the University mace.