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# Letter From Jen Shillingford to Eleanor Snell, April 19, 1970

Jenepher Price Shillingford  
*Ursinus College*

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## Immaculata College

April 19, 1970

Dear Eleanor,

For all my glibness with words, I find now that the most difficult things to say are those that mean the very most. I have been wandering about the house for days muttering to myself and find now that for Paul's and the children's sake I must sit down at my typewriter (you never could read my writing, but then it was mutual) and write to you about the immense affect you have had on my life.

I must start first with a complaint. I came to Ursinus.....a quiet, somewhat reticent student with not a great deal to offer. Never would I have dreamed of "creating ripples on a pond" and it was several days before I could decide on a comment in class. However I left Ursinus, after your astute tutelage, firmly stating my opinions.....and have been in some sort of trouble ever since. You certainly projected me from apathy to involvement. No longer do I worry about the "ripples created on a pond", but rather I wait for a tidal wave to take me down. But what a great way to live and how I should hate it if it were otherwise.

I thank you for showing me the wisdom of objectives, the tenacity to seek the right ones, the courage to live according to them and the knowledge that I had only to evaluate myself in terms of my own objectives and not by the opinions of others. Most especially I thank you for the knowledge of flexibility in life and its multitude of uses.

Surely the greatest testimony to you and to your years of work must be the hundreds of physical educators now teaching to others what you have taught to them. No matter how far they roam, it seems the the ideals, the philosophies and the abilities to cope with life remain a part of each student. It must be a great satisfaction to you that every student of yours has taken more than



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a Liberal Arts Education from Ursinus. They have a bit of you, your philosophy with them which seems to become stronger with each passing year and which will continue to grow and be spread.

Gratefully,

*Jean Shillingford*