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A Tribute to Frederic L. Kirgis

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insight that his students loved, I still would have no difficulty in saying to Rick upon his retirement, "my friend, you have succeeded."

Thomas L. Shaffer*

Rick Kirgis hosted my family for nine years at Washington and Lee. We could not have done better. Our daughter Mary and I first went to Lexington from Notre Dame and South Bend as Rick's guests in the fall of 1979. I went as scholar-in-residence in the Frances Lewis Law Center after Rick, the director, invited me for the fall semester; Mary moved as a high school junior who bravely agreed to look after her old dad when her mom had to stay home and look after Mary's brothers. An unexpected dividend of that adventure was that Rick's daughter Julie, also a high school junior, was there to welcome Mary to Lexington's high school and to the charming little town.

Rick set us up in the faculty apartments on Lee Avenue, near city hall, for a comfortable four-month stay. Mary got her driver's license and we were back home in Indiana for Christmas. Then an invitation came to make a permanent move to Washington and Lee (with, no doubt, Rick tending to such minor details as a permanent appointment to the faculty). After the welcome we had enjoyed on the first trip, moving to Lexington was not difficult for Mary and me. The move south was more difficult for Mary's two younger brothers, who she had to talk into leaving their suburban Hoosier high school for rural Virginia. My wife Nancy made the best of it, but I finally had to admit that she, although a Missouri farm girl at heart, did not work out as a southern lady.

When the Shaffer family arrived in Rockbridge County in the fall of 1980, Rick was the consummate host—sincere and generous. He helped us settle temporarily in a rambling 1791 house, Tuckaway, just up the road from Mackey Tavern, where another law school family, the McThenias, lived in the shadow of House Mountain. Julie Kirgis and Paige McThenia helped Mary introduce her brothers to Lexington.

As much as Rick and his family helped us feel comfortable in Lexington, his most valuable contribution during my time at Washington and Lee was introducing me to the joy of watching and listening to major league baseball. It was clear that this great spectator sport, a pastime of Rick's since his days glued

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to the radio in Denver, held a special place in his heart. His willingness to share the experience with a newfound friend is indicative of the easy warmth and openness that are characteristic of Rick's personality.

Now, hearing of Rick's retirement, I find it hard to imagine Sydney Lewis Hall without him standing guard over the Law Center, or in the dean's office, or from some other nearby vantage point. If Washington and Lee is lucky, Rick will continue to play a role in the welcoming committee, making a welcoming place even warmer. Knowing Rick's commitment to the law school there, I have no doubt he would embrace the role.

While those of us that consider Rick a friend and colleague greet news of his retirement with a reluctant happiness, there is one group that cannot help but be saddened by Rick's return home: the Japanese beetles that assault his roses. Rick takes a stern approach to those beetles, removing them by hand, one at a time, without pesticides. Rick's colleagues may miss his advice and guidance, and his students may miss his insightful discussion and caring attitude, but I know that the roses will be very happy to have him around in retirement.

Matthew Z. Earle*

When I arrived at Washington and Lee as a first year student, I was convinced that my interests lay in international law, even though I had no idea what the term actually meant. An utter amateur in the field, I didn't know Dutch scholar and jurist Huig de Groot from Washington and Lee law professor Roger D. Groot. It should come as no surprise, therefore, that unbeknownst to me, Lexington had one of the most important international legal scholars of the last century, Rick Kirgis, in residence.

My first exposure to Professor Kirgis was a glowing recommendation for his U.S. Foreign Policy Law class from my classmate Ahmed Younis, now National Director for the Muslim Public Affairs Council and a veteran of several United Nations internships, who told me "Kirgis is big time—everybody from Sergio De Mello to Kofhi Annan has a copy of Kirgis's book 'International Organizations in Their Legal Settings' on their bookshelf." Duly

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