

40 Years

Danieley began teaching career at Elon in 1946

By Jane Kidwell
Editor

At 61, Dr. James Earl Danieley, Powell professor of chemistry, is beginning his 40th year on the faculty at Elon. He has served as academic dean and was the sixth president of the college, serving from 1958 to 1973. Since he is also an Elon alumnus, he has been associated with Elon for a total of 44 years.

Danieley began teaching here in September of 1946, only four months after graduating from Elon with a major in chemistry. He explained that with World War II veterans entering colleges that year, there was a great need for professors. Elon had to take someone without a graduate degree, so college officials decided to take someone they knew, he said.

They hired Danieley, and at 22, he found himself teaching students with whom he had recently been in school. He said he had no problems with that because he was a lab assistant as a student and often gave lectures.

Young Generalist

"In those days, you didn't teach just your little specialty," said Danieley. "I taught college algebra, trigonometry, physical science, public speaking, debating and parliamentary procedure." He said he taught 15 classroom hours and 12 lab hours per week.

Danieley attended UNC-Chapel Hill in the summers, earning a master's in educational administration in 1949 and a doctorate in organic chemistry in 1954. He also served as a visiting professor there for three summers.

Danieley was academic dean of Elon from 1953 until 1956 when he became a postdoctoral research associate at The Johns Hopkins University.

Surprise Election

While at Johns Hopkins, Danieley received a phone call from a member of the Elon Board of Trustees. The trustee said that Danieley had been elected president of Elon.

"You are crazy!" Danieley said to the man.

"I did not apply for the presidency," he said. "I did not know I was being considered."

At first, Danieley was not especially interested in the job. He said his wife had been secretary to the previous presi-



Dr. Earl Danieley

dent and was thoroughly familiar with the pressures and work load of the position. But after thinking it over, the 32-year-old Danieley accepted the job.

"(My wife and I) were both committed to Elon and felt it was something we needed to do," said Danieley. "And we're glad we did."

During Danieley's administration, many new buildings were erected on campus, including Brannock, Hook, Sloane, Staley and Moffit residence halls, Harden Center, Jordan Gym, McEwen Library, Powell building and the president's house. Alamance, Mooney, and Duke buildings were completely renovated.

"I enjoyed the first 12 years of the presidency," Danieley said. He said he enjoyed the challenges and excitement. "The last four years were more routine. There were more meetings, more pressures and more paperwork," said Danieley.

"One thing about the presidency was I could never, never be completely free of it," he said. "I like to work, but there was just never any time. I was never off duty, there was always something."

Return to Classroom

After serving as president for 16 years, Danieley announced his retirement. He laughed and said, "I didn't want to be selfish; I wanted to let someone else have the fun."

"I had never been a full-time teacher after receiving my doctorate until after retiring from the presidency," said Danieley. "And I had always wanted a

teaching career."

Danieley said he is glad he returned to teaching. He plans to stick with it four more years before retiring. He said when he does retire, he may go to work in the nursery at his son's landscaping business.

Another possibility is that Danieley will run for a public office after his retirement. An active Alamance County Republican, he said he has a "partly unsatisfied political interest" that he would like to fulfill if he is in good health, perhaps by running for the state legislature.

Among his other activities, Danieley sometimes serves as a parliamentarian for various clubs and organizations. He is registered with the National Association of Parliamentarians. He is also a member of the University of North Carolina Board of Governors until his term expires in 1991.

As often as possible, Danieley speaks before clubs and groups about diabetes, a disease which he developed during his term as president. After joining a study group researching diabetes at UNC, Danieley lost about 70 pounds and, as a result, was able to stop taking insulin. He said he now feels good about himself. "I have a desire to help others enjoy not only longer, but better quality lives," he said.

Danieley, aside from devoting 40 years to Elon, has been very active in church, civic and community affairs. He has received several honors, including honorary degrees from Catawba College and Campbell University.

Amtrak

Continued from page 5

destinations, primarily due to rock-bottom airline prices.

Because in-state success of the Carolinian was offset by low ridership past Raleigh, Amtrak estimates it has lost \$800,000 on the route.

Amtrak has said it would consider continuing the train another year if the state would increase its subsidy above the \$436,000 subsidy it made last year.

Another onlooker, Gus Bailey, said he was sorry to see the train go. He had hoped to ride it to the state fair in October, he said.

Don Lashley, a Burlington photographer, along with his wife and children, rode the train to Raleigh and back to Burlington on its last run.

The Lashleys said they were sorry to see the train go, but they were all glad they had the chance to take a ride on the Carolinian while it lasted.

Brittain

continued from page 5

lungs and liver. She received chemotherapy treatments once a month for the next year. Then, when doctors performed exploratory surgery on her, they could find no trace of cancer. Everything seemed fine for about a year, several friends recalled, but during the summer of 1984 doctors found that Brittain had developed cancer of the colon.

She underwent surgery before classes began for the Fall Semester and was not able to return to her teaching until the Spring Semester.

"During the Fall Semester there was a student who came to me three or four times asking when Dr. Brittain was coming back," said Mackay. "He was in a class that she was supposed to have taught and he said that if he had known that she wasn't going to be able to teach it he would have dropped the class."

"I was always impressed by her steadiness and calmness in dealing with her illness and how she continued to remain very professional in her work," said Richard McBride, school chaplain. "She was so upbeat that

sometimes you forgot that she even had cancer."

In July, Brittain's husband, Gene, died of a heart attack. Even though she was extremely weak because of surgery and the cancer itself, she insisted on flying down to Texas to be at Gene's graveside service. "They were an extremely close couple," said McBride. "In fact, I guess you could call them the best of friends."

"Gene always went to educational conferences with her and they would just look at it as a vacation," said Mackay. "They did everything together. In fact, one time when she took a cake decorating class, he decided to take it too, just to be with her." Six weeks after her husband's death, Mary Brittain died of cancer.

"She displayed an open and warm spirit to the very end," said McBride. "We were all drawn so close to her because she was a model of the virtues we admire, both in her professional life and her family life. She set the pace for how an advisor and teacher should relate to students."

F. Scott's



GIVE YOUR
HAIRSTYLE SOME
FIZZ.

Fizz styling foam gives your hair the body, shine and styling power it needs. Shake up a can and shake up your hair.

F. Scott's
"Professional Hair Designers"
Edgewood Village Shopping Center
584-0600