

New oaks planted on west campus

Trees will replace those destroyed in storm, bring graduation back Under the Oaks

Kaitlyn North
Reporter

Four new trees were planted in the Under the Oaks section of west campus Dec. 17 in anticipation of Elon University's graduation ceremony at the end of May. The original trees were fatally damaged in a severe thunderstorm in May 2000, making for an uncomfortable graduation ceremony last year.

"It was brutally hot," said Neil Bromilow, director of construction management. "The trees make you feel as if you were in a room, providing shade for the students and their parents."

Bromilow said that the University spent "thousands of dollars" to transplant four full-grown trees from a South Carolina nursery.

"You could plant an acorn and watch it grow, but it would take a hundred years for it to be big enough to provide shade," he said.

The trees, which include three oaks and one evergreen, were visited by tree sur-

“

The trees make you feel as if you were in a room, providing shade for the students and their parents.

—Neil Bromilow, director of construction management

geons in late January to make adjustments, and are expected to survive in their new environment. Bromilow said that students who are wondering about the trees now should "think forward to May 24 and think about how hot it would be without those trees."

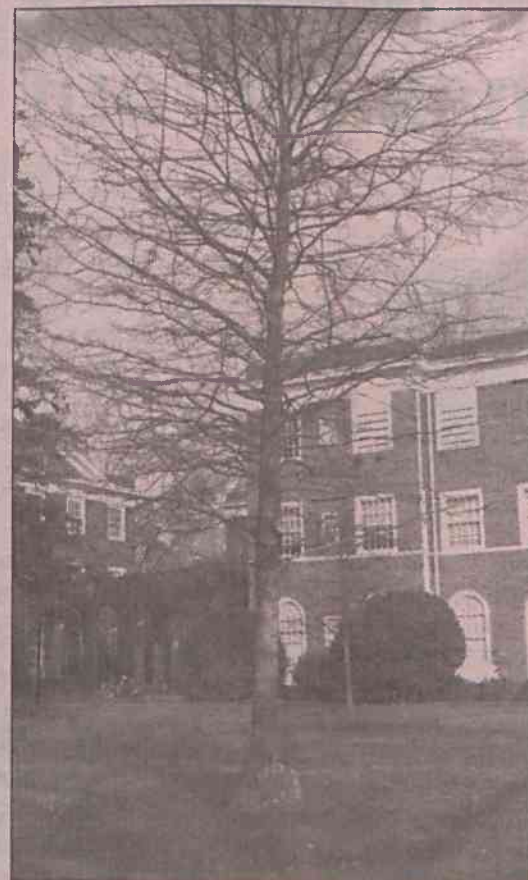
David Hibbard, director of the News Bureau, said, "Commencement Under the Oaks is one of the best things we do here at Elon." The word "Elon" is the Hebrew word for "oak," Hibbard explained, and the oak trees at graduation are important symbols, but are also used for the attendees' comfort.

"Any school can have convocation or graduation in the gym," said Hibbard, but a ceremony Under the Oaks is a "connection

to the roots of the school." The trees represent the graduation ceremonies of not just the current graduating class, but also those of classes past.

"It is nice for the alumni to feel solidarity with the students," said Hibbard, who recalled his own graduation from Elon.

"It was a typical May day; very hot and sticky. I remember thinking how fast it all went. Everyone here might think I'm kind of crazy, but I kind of look forward to going to graduation every year."



Tim Rosner / Photo Editor

This tree is one of four new oaks in West Area.

Contact Kaitlyn North at pendulum@elon.edu or 278-7247.

Join us for a special Valentine's Day Dinner at Harden Dining Hall Thursday, February 13th starting at 4 p.m. menu includes favorites like Strawberry Ginger Chicken, Carved Roast Beef, Specialty Pasta Bar, Creme Brulee and an array of other delicious Valentine's Day desserts!

VOTE!

**SGA Elections
Monday, February 24th
& Tuesday, February 25th
Moseley Center
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.**

SGA Executive Debate

*Wednesday,
February 19th*

McKinnon Hall

5 - 6:30 p.m.

**Student Government Association
We Work for You!**