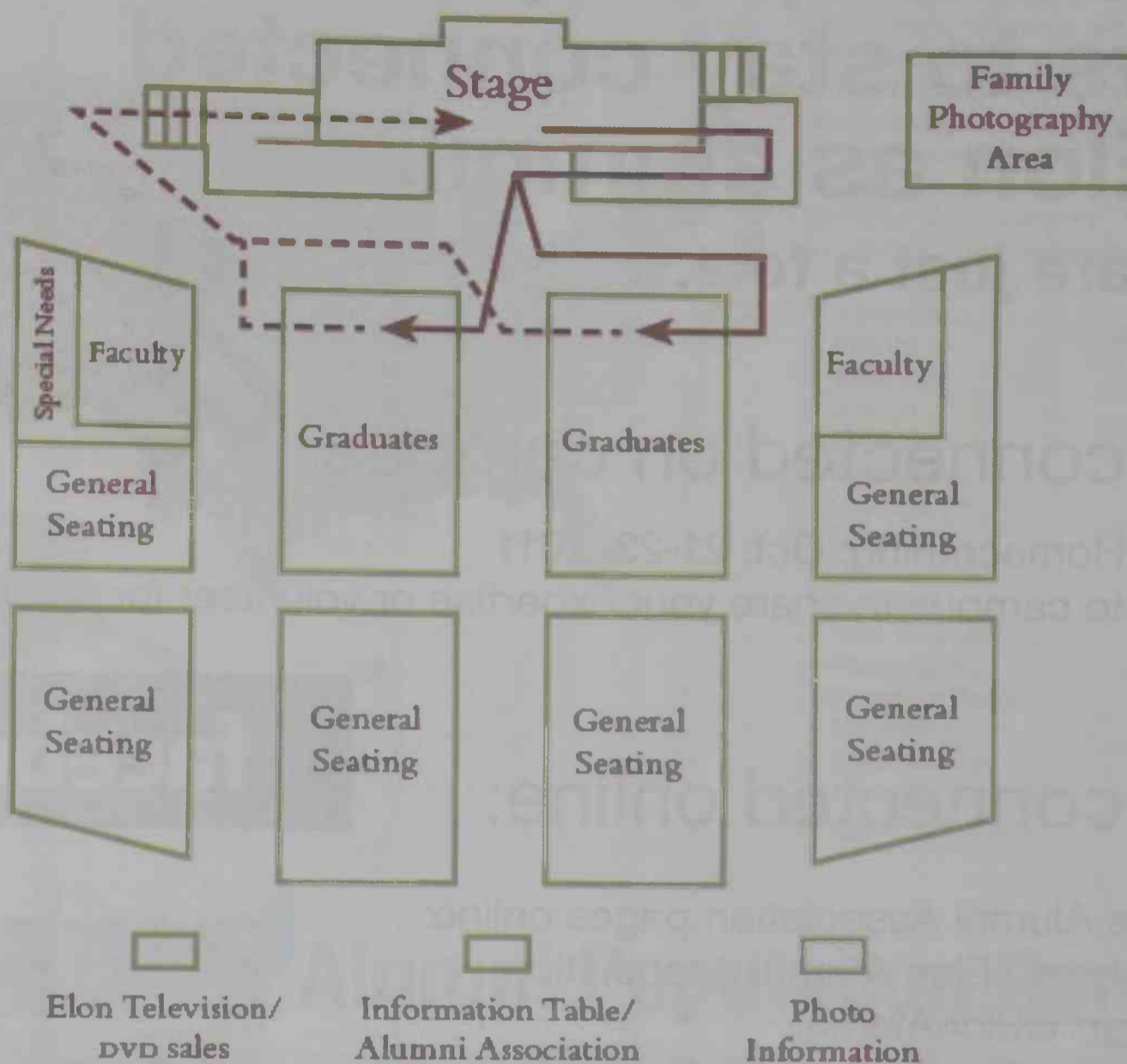


Commencement Seating



The site for Elon's 121st Commencement Exercises is Under the Oaks. Initially, this area was the front lawn for the women's dormitories on campus. In keeping with customary residence hall codes, it became a popular meeting place. Co-eds walked the grounds during calling hours under the careful watch of their housemothers until the "evening bell."

Elon's first outdoor commencement occurred at this spot in 1923 after a fire destroyed much of

the campus including the main building where the the auditorium, library and most classrooms were located. By the next spring, Whitley Auditorium was completed and became the commencement location for many years. In the 1960's, the ceremony moved to Alumni Gym to accommodate an increased number of graduates and guests. In 1987, commencement returned to the lawn Under the Oaks and has remained since.

Under the Oaks is currently home to nine

different species of oak. The oldest oak has been standing more than 140 years and predates the university. Many of the plants and trees in this area are labeled with botanical and environmental data. In 2004, the Elon University campus, with its extensive and diverse collection of plant life, was declared a botanical garden to be planned and maintained as an educational, environmental, and aesthetic resource to benefit the university and the surrounding community.

Comfort Stations and Other Assistance

Comfort stations are located at the back of the seating area in the Whitley parking lot and are also equipped with changing stations for infants and small children. Additional restroom facilities are located in Long and Alamance building.

The information table at the back of the seating area will remain staffed throughout the ceremony. Lost items will be held at this location. Following the ceremony, all lost and found items will be taken to Campus Security in 216 McCoy Commons, The Oaks on Williamson Avenue.

Complimentary water stations and the first aid station are also located at the back of the seating area.

Photography during Commencement

A professional photographer will take photos of each graduate receiving his or her diploma. Proofs will be sent to home addresses within two weeks. Many in the audience will also want to take photographs as the graduates receive their diplomas. Staff at the Commencement Photographs tables will provide sales information and accept orders.

Elon Television will produce DVDs of all Commencement exercises including the awarding of degrees and the Baccalaureate ceremony. Staff at the Elon Television tables will provide sales information and accept orders.

A family photography area is beside the stage (audience right). Please wait to approach this area until the respective degree (Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Fine Arts, Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Science/Business Administration) and first letter of the graduate's last name is displayed by the entrance. When leaving your seat, please go to the back of the seating area and along the sidewalk along Whitley (audience right) to the family photography area. Please return along the same route.

Special Needs

Wheelchair accessible seating area for guests with special needs is located audience left. Seating is plentiful and reservations are not needed in advance. A family with a special needs guest may sit together in this area. Wheelchair accessible restrooms are located in McEwen Dining Hall and McEwen Communications Building. A live broadcast for guests with special needs is also available inside the McEwen Communications Building.