

# July 28, 1924 - Nov. 29, 2016

A timeline of the career of President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley

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James Earl Danieley's Elon affiliation began when he enrolled as a student in 1941. After graduating in 1946, Danieley took some time off to help on his family's farm and pursue a job as a school teacher. But prospect of a higher wage enticed Danieley back to school to pursue his graduate degree in organic chemistry. While teaching freshman chemistry at Elon, he earned his master and doctoral degrees in organic chemistry at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. In 1953, he became the Dean of the College of Elon University.

In 1957, Danieley was named Leon Edgar Smith's successor and took up the mantle of Elon College President. He oversaw numerous changes to the college during his time in office, including the expansion of women's athletics, the implementation of winter term and the construction of seven academic buildings. Danieley was the first president to accept black students to the college and to require that an SAT score be submitted for admission. In 1973, Danieley resigned as president and went back to the classroom.

Danieley would return to his "first love" — teaching — and taught as the Thomas E. Powell, Jr. Professor of chemistry. He taught full-time until 1982 when he reduced his teaching hours to serve as Elon's director of planned giving in the development office until 1992. The same year, he was named president emeritus, and though he took a step back from his administrative duties, Danieley did not give up teaching.

In 1983, he was elected to the University of North Carolina Board of Governors and served as a member until 1995.

Students who did not have the opportunity to learn from Danieley in the classroom still recognized him as a pillar of the Elon community. Students could enjoy one of his bear-like hugs while he strolled around campus, cheered on the Phoenix at a basketball game or welcomed new students to the Danieley neighborhood on move-in day.

Danieley's many contributions to Elon were honored during the university's 125th anniversary celebrations in 2014. During Spring Convocation, Danieley told Elon University President Leo Lambert, "Being involved in the lives of young people is probably the noblest calling that a person can respond to." Danieley continued to teach until May 2016.

At an event in Danieley's honor after his retirement, Elon University President Leo Lambert said, "He is Elon's biggest fan ... always along for the ride as we soar even higher."

On the afternoon of Nov. 29, 2016, it was announced to the Elon community that Danieley had passed away at the age of 92.

"From his humble beginnings on a farm in Alamance County, he emerged as a brilliant man with a singular focus on education, expressed through a lifetime of work at his beloved alma mater," Lambert said.

"It is hard to imagine Elon without him, but he has spent a lifetime setting an example of how we should move ever forward to a positive future."



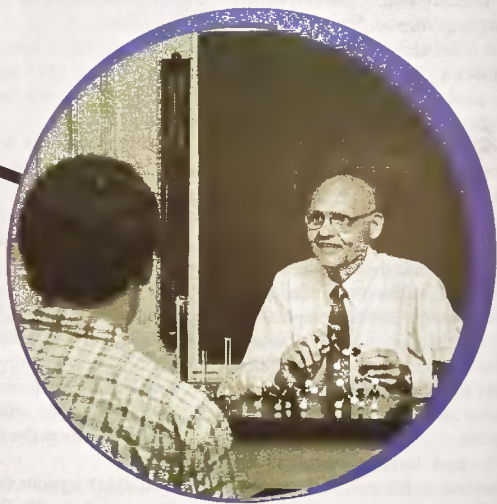
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"There is much to be done. In assuming the presidency of Elon College I recognize that there are many responsibilities, many problems, and almost unlimited opportunities."

- Danieley's inaugural address  
The Burlington Daily Times-News,  
March 11, 1958



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"I quit being president after 16 years for primarily three reasons. One, I had accomplished basically what I had set out to do. Number two, I was tired, and number three, I wanted to teach."

- Danieley  
The Pendulum, Sept. 10, 2008



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