

**LEON EDGAR SMITH**  
1931-1957

1910 graduate President Smith served the Elon community the longest. He led the school through three campus fires, the Great Depression, World War II and the Koran War. As a recipient of the Outstanding Alumnus Award, he improved a variety of programs and facilities on campus. Smith was the first president to have the title of president emeritus.



President Smith witnesses the unveiling of the Smith Hall plaque.



**JAMES FRED YOUNG**  
1973-1998

Born in Burnsville, NC, Young attended Wake Forest University, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Columbia University. College enrollment doubled during his service while also expanding from 145 acres to more than 500 acres. Many new renovations and majors were added during his time. He was also named president emeritus by the Elon Board of Trustees.



President Young converses with Elon community members by Alamance fountain.

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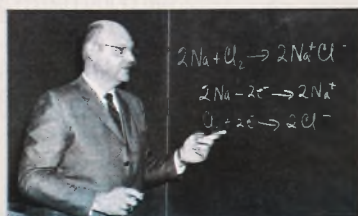
1985

2020



**JAMES EARL DANIELEY**  
1957-1973

As a 1946 graduate of Elon University, Danieley decided to give back and serve as president. Beloved and known affectionately as "Dr. Danieley," he served as president from 1957 to 1973. Then he was a professor in the chemistry department for many years after. He was named president emeritus in 1992 and retired in spring 2016. After his undergraduate studies at Elon, he received a graduate degree from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He died on Nov. 29, 2016, at the age of 92.



President Danieley gestures at chemistry equation written on chalkboard in class.



**LEO MICHAEL LAMBERT**  
1999-2018

Leo Lambert served Elon since 1999. Lambert helped establish the University's Law school, 100 more buildings and 1.5 million square feet of space. Lambert was known for always striving to improve Elon's national model of engaged learning. Under his leadership, the school's endowment quadrupled. Lambert held leadership positions on the American Council on Education, the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, the North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities and more. Lambert was named one of the "most influential leaders" for six consecutive years by the Triad Business Journal.