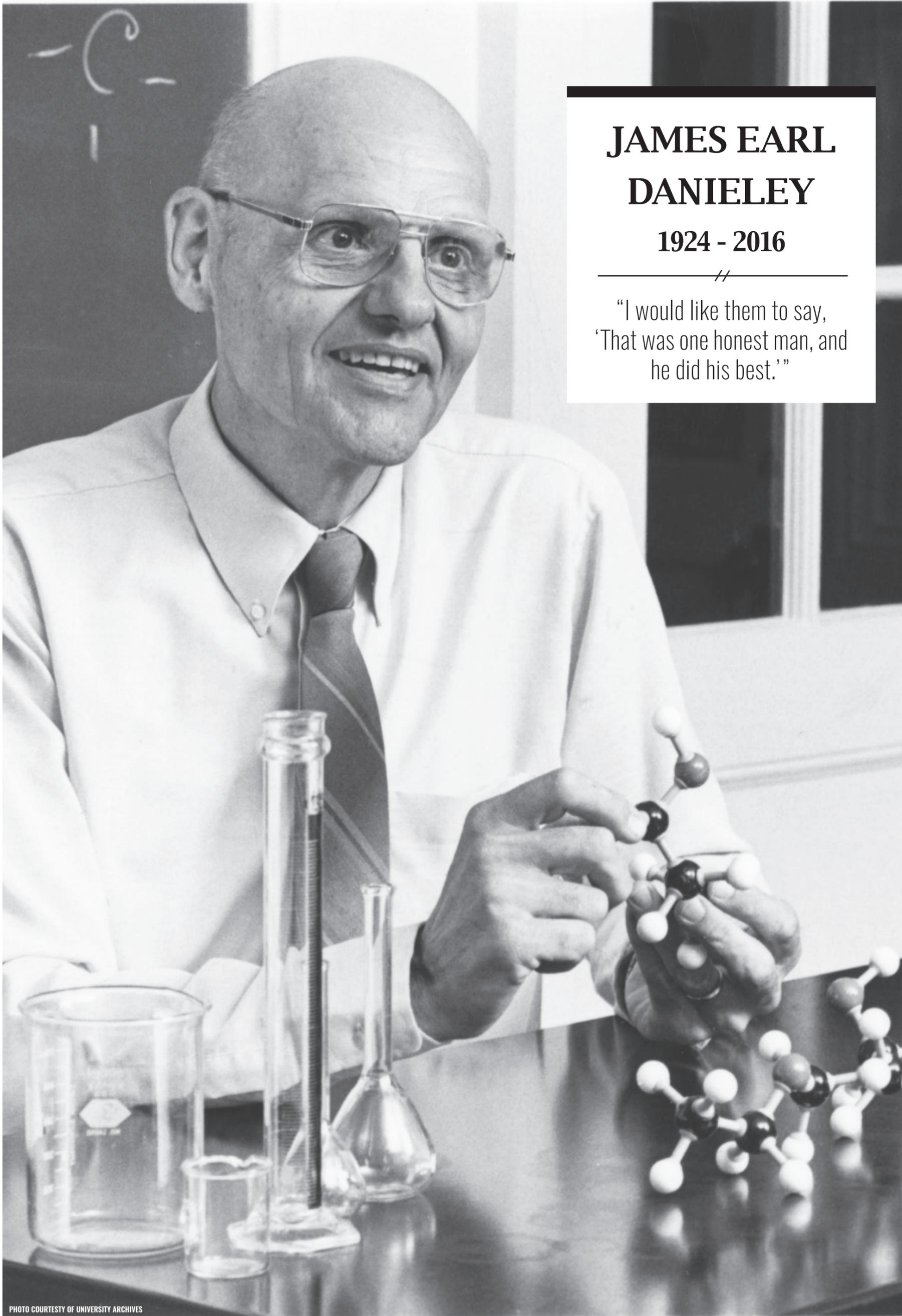


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THE PENDULUM



JAMES EARL DANIELEY

1924 - 2016

“I would like them to say,
‘That was one honest man, and
he did his best.’”

The sturdiest oak in Elon

Danieley's impact on Elon to be felt for decades

Tommy Hamzik

Executive Director
@T_Hamzik

His time at Elon spanned more than 75 years, during which he expanded the university, enacted social change and touched the hearts of countless members of the community.

In every sense of the word, J. Earl Danieley was a legend of Elon University and the surrounding area.

Danieley, president emeritus, died Tuesday at 92 of various health issues. He'll be remembered at Elon, which he graduated from in 1946, for everything from his smile to his teaching to his presence at basketball games.

"I struggle to find words that are adequate to describe the impact of Dr. Danieley's life on Elon and the tens of thousands of students, faculty, staff and friends who loved him," Elon President Leo Lambert said in a statement announcing Danieley's death. "... It is no exaggeration to say that Earl Danieley was a unique figure in American higher education."

That he was. He took a job teaching chemistry at Elon College upon graduation, and never left.

Between then and his retirement in spring 2016, he taught thousands of students in his chemistry courses, went to lunch with many of them and waved his towel at hundreds of basketball games.

He served as dean for four years, then reluctantly accepted the presidency in 1957. During his 16 years leading Elon, he admitted the first African-American student, grew the faculty and improved the academic standards.

And after stepping down in

1973 to devote more time to teaching, he maintained his presence as a constant supporter of the university.

When there was backlash over changing the name of the mascot, Danieley was there as sup-

port. When the university held a groundbreaking ceremony for the Schar Center in October, he was there holding a shovel. And he continued to attend men's and women's basketball and volleyball games up through mid-No-

vember.

"Every occasion, he was always for the university advancing," said Smith Jackson, dean of Student Life. "You could always count on him, always having people's back, supporting every-

one. He was a wonderful leader. He brought the university through times that distinguished the university to become what it is today, which is a great university."

Danieley is credited with starting the women's athletic program and the Elon College Sports Hall of Fame. He served 12 years on the North Carolina Board of Governors and five years as director of planned giving for Elon.

His impact reached far beyond Elon, visible in the reaction after his death. North Carolina Gov. Pat McCrory, Sen. Thom Tillis and the Alamance County Republican Party all released statements commending Danieley's contributions.

His love and spirit for Elon was infectious. He sat in a special chair in the Danieley Neighborhood, named for him, each move-in day to greet new students.

Danieley lived with basketball players at times during his final years, and kept in touch with many of his former students.

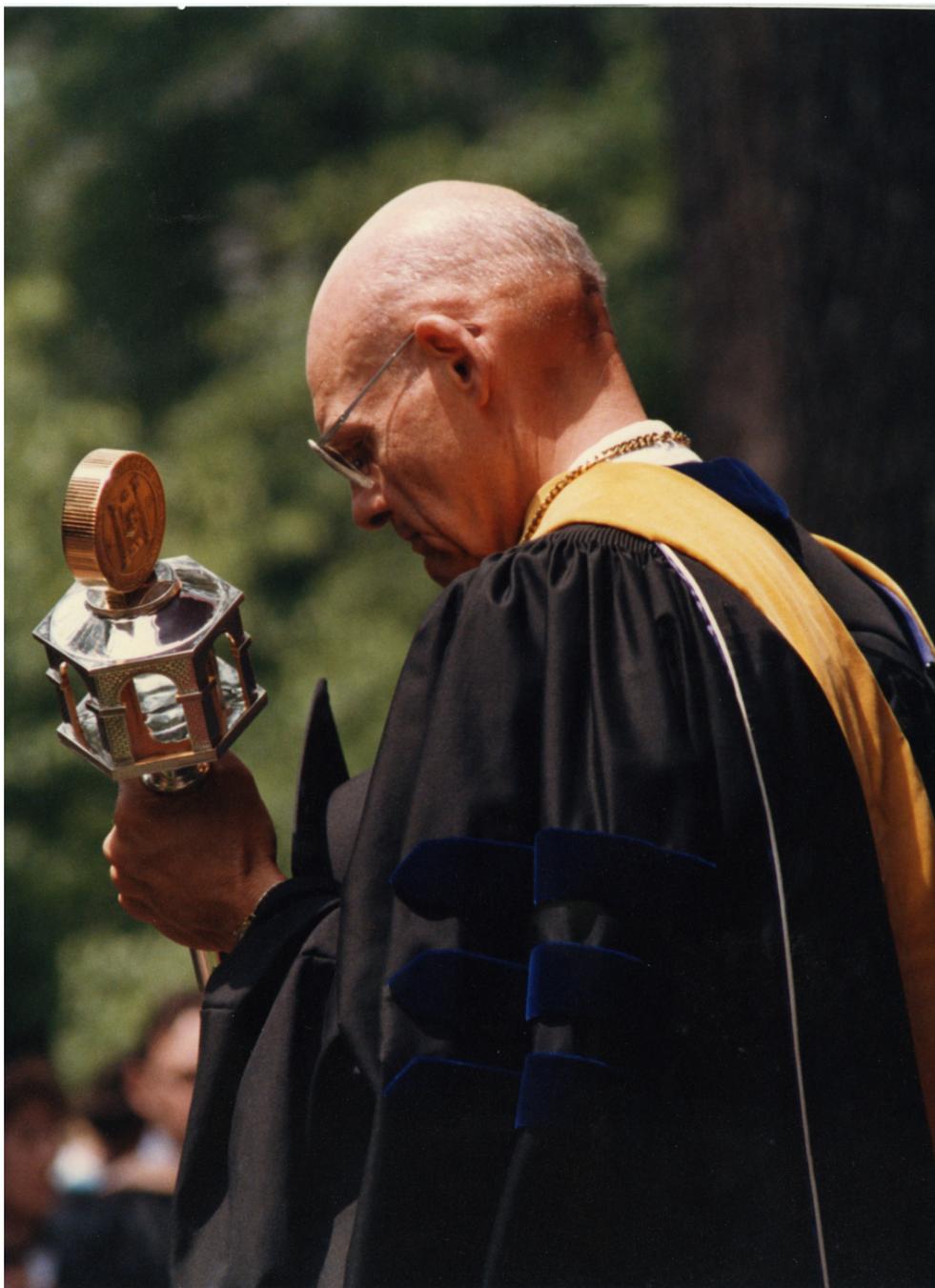
"We love Elon here — I think everybody has an affinity for Elon," said men's basketball coach Matt Matheny. "That's one of the great things about this school and this community. I think you could feel that when you were in the presence of Dr. D."

Danieley's legacy is hard to quantify, largely because of how colossal it is. Lambert said Danieley's name "will last around here for a very, very long time to come."

Through his eyes, it's simple, yet powerful.

"I would like them to say, 'That was one honest man, and he did his best,'" Danieley said. "I don't want anything else. I don't need anyone to brag on what I did or anything if they say I did the best I could. That suits me alright."

Paige Pauroso, senior reporter, contributed reporting.



President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley bows his head in a procession in 1995.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

CELEBRATING DANIELEY

FRIDAY, DEC. 2

NOON | NUMEN LUMEN PAVILION

Dr. Danieley's body will lie in state for members of the community to pay their respects.

5-8 P.M.

Visitation hours hosted by the Danieley family.

SATURDAY, DEC. 3

2 P.M. | ALUMNI GYM

A memorial service for Dr. Danieley will be held in Koury Athletic Center, open to the Elon community.

Following the memorial, there will be a College Coffee reception in Moseley Center.

CHEERING FOR
DANIELEY

DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor
Students wave rally towels during the men's basketball game against Florida International University in honor of Danieley Wednesday, Nov. 30.

Tommy Hamzik
Executive Director
@T_Hamzik

The moment was coming, no matter if senior Luke Eddy wanted it to or not. He was dreading it, knowing how that time was usually reserved for one man, and that man wouldn't be around to experience it.

"That media timeout will be extremely difficult," said Eddy, the guard for Elon University's men's basketball team.

The under-eight media timeout of the second half, that is, when the student section cranks up its "Doctor Danieley" chant in honor of President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley, the team's biggest fan and the most transformational figure in the university's history.

"Somebody's going to have to do something," Eddy said. "That's his time. He's the only person I've ever heard get their name individually chanted at Alumni Gym.

And so, a day after Danieley died at 92, the time came during Elon's game against Florida International University. And with palpable emotion, and his seat clad with flowers, the fans chanted.

The band started it. The students and fans joined in. And the cheerleaders and dance team stood on the floor, waving the towels.

A video of Danieley appeared on the video board, and cheers erupted. Then, after the silence, the chant started back up.

His presence was prominent.

"I think the towel wave is our external symbol of what he did," said Adam Constantine '10, social media manager and former basketball player. "But everything that this place stands for is who he was."

It was fitting, in a way, that the first true gathering of the Elon community after Danieley's death came at a basketball game. He was a mainstay at basketball and volleyball games throughout his 75 years at Elon, and had a heavy hand in the formation of both the women's athletic program and the Elon College Sports Hall of Fame.

There's a painting of Danieley at the entrance of Alumni Gym. Elon players wore a Dr. D patch on their jerseys, as they'll do the rest of the year.

And each seat was donned with a white towel before the game, a symbol of the rally towel Danieley

would wave when the students chanted his name.

"There's a yearning for us all to be in the same room because we lost an icon," said head men's basketball coach Matt Matheny. "We lost our guy. ... I'm sure there's a lot of people who would come to our games, and part of their ritual was to come by and talk to Dr. D."

After each game, that's exactly what the men's basketball team would do. They circle the court, shaking fans' hands.

But they'd stop for a little longer by Danieley's chair.

Eddy first met Danieley his freshman year because then-senior Jack Isenbarger '14 was close to Danieley. Isenbarger was one of a number of basketball players who lived with Danieley at times during the last few years.

Eddy shared meals with Danieley many times, and even went to his house to help move furniture.

But nothing compared to those moments after games, moments that Eddy and others cherished.

"After the game, that's something we always look forward to," he said. "A firm handshake and a sloppy kiss."

On Wednesday, a 30-second



DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor
Danieley's daughter, Jane Shutt waves a rally towel in honor of her father at the men's basketball game against Florida International University Wednesday, Nov. 30.

video tribute to Danieley played before the game, and a moment of silence was observed. Those in attendance wore stickers that read Dr. D, and the game's program had a photo of Danieley waving his towel.

Afterward, both the men's and women's basketball teams and the volleyball team walked over to Danieley's chair together and placed their towels on the seat.

And with that, it was clear. Danieley's memory will hang over those teams for days, years, decades to come.

"He was one of us," Eddy said. "We're going to go out there and fight in the same ways we have been. But he'll be in the back of our heads the whole time."

Kailey Tracy, senior reporter, contributed reporting.

Danieley towel wave will be absent from Elon basketball games

Alex Hager
Contributor
@awhager

Played within the intimate confines of historic Alumni Gym, the Elon University men's basketball games tend to be an exciting affair. Although players and opponents have changed from year to year, one tradition has cemented itself as an unmissable part of any Elon game in the last decade.

Without fail, after the under-eight media timeout in the second half, students begin to chant, "Dr. Danieley."

And without fail, in response, President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley stood up and waved a towel to appease the crowd.

It's a tradition that started in 2005, ac-

ording to a Pendulum article from 2008. Although the chant has become an iconic part of every game in Alumni Gym, nobody quite knows why students first called Danieley's name.

Danieley was one of Elon Basketball's most dedicated fans. His Elon pride was a part of his personality every day, but his passion for Elon athletics was unmatched on game nights inside Alumni Gym.

While Danieley was a fan favorite in the stands, his presence was also felt by players on the court.

"For me, it was a reminder that somebody was there that cares about you, cares about the team, and cares about the university in general," said Adam Constantine, who played on the men's basketball team

from 2006 to 2010.

Head coach Matt Matheny, who has been at the helm since 2009, watched Danieley build relationships with generations of Elon basketball players.

"To sit courtside, to have the towel in his hand, to be there after games, to give our guys a hug and a handshake, it's really really special," said Matheny. "He's been to practices, you know, for us to practice and have Dr. D on the sideline watching us practice, I think, wow, how fortunate are we to be able to share time with Mr. Elon."

The chant and ensuing towel wave became so legendary that they were commemorated on multiple occasions when fans attending an Elon game received rally towels bearing a silhouette of Danieley wav-

ing his own.

On Wednesday night, as Elon took on Florida International University in Alumni, Danieley was not there to watch, and was not there to hear students chant his name. But his legacy was celebrated.

At the game against Florida International University, Danieley was honored with a moment of silence before the game and a moment of silence and a chant during the under-eight media timeout. Fans in attendance, as well as athletes from various Elon sports teams, left rally towels on Danieley's favorite seat.

With Danieley's death, Elon basketball has lost one of its most vocal supporters, and the second row of seats in Alumni Gym will be missing a familiar face.

'COLOR DIDN'T MATTER'



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM CONSTANTINE
Social Media Manager Adam Constantine '10 hugs President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley at Homecoming.

Legacy of Danieley's move toward inclusion still felt by black student community

Emmanuel Morgan
News Editor
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When almost every college looked and acted the same, Elon University President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley dared to be different.

During the height of the civil rights movement, in 1963, the first black student was admitted to Elon College under Danieley's presidency.

If the move toward inclusivity had backfired, it could have had severe consequences. But he did it anyway, because he believed it was right.

And in the wake of his death, the black community thanks him.

The combined ages of Adam Constantine '10 and Doug Spencer '16 fall well short of Danieley's, who died Tuesday at 92 years old. But the two black Elon alumni spared no words when describing their admiration for Danieley.

"This was a man who loved me for me," said Constantine, social media manager and former Elon basketball player. "Knowing that there is someone that grew up in the

era that he did and has that amount of love for me, not in spite of my race but in addition to my race, that means a lot."

After a trailblazing and iconic seven-decade career, Danieley died following battles with several health symptoms. But the determination and grit he displayed in his last years matches the persistence which he championed social justice causes and charges for equality.

In a bold yet tenacious move, Danieley didn't consult the Board of Trustees on enrolling Glenda Phillips Hightower. She was the first black student, but didn't graduate at Elon because of familial issues. Six years later, Eugene Perry became the first black student to receive an Elon degree.

"Glenda was perfectly qualified to attend college," Danieley said in a 2014 interview. "Most people around the community and around campus did not know she was here until she marched down Main Street in Burlington as a member of the band."

In recent years, Elon has honored Hightower and Perry for their courage with portraits hanging in upstairs Mosley Center. Also in honor of them, the Phillips-Perry Black Excellence Award is bestowed to black students who earn at least a 3.0 GPA for each semester.

In a speech at the portraits' unveiling in February, Hightower said the journey wasn't easy for her as



Doug Spencer '16 stands in front of Hightower and Perry's photos after receiving the Phillips-Perry Black Excellence Award.

PHOTO COURTESY OF DOUG SPENCER

WITHOUT DR. DANIELEY, THE FIRST BLACK STUDENTS WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN AT ELON, AND WITHOUT THEM, I WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN AT ELON.

DOUG SPENCER '16
ELON YOUTH TRUSTEE

a pioneer, but she is honored to be remembered as one of Danieley's greatest accomplishments.

"It was decided by the very wise people at that time, since integration was going to happen at that time, why not do it peacefully, why not do it pragmatically, why not do it so that no one gets hurt and everyone benefits," Hightower said. "I'm so happy they did and they chose me."

Doug Spencer received the "Phillips-Perry Black Excellence" award this past spring and is currently serving a two-year term as an Elon Youth Trustee on the Board of Trustees. Even though he was more than 200 miles away in Arlington, Virginia, he struggled to process Danieley's death when he first heard it, saying he and all other Elon students owe him a debt of gratitude.

In 2015, Spencer sat with Dan-

ielely at a football game, and in the modest stands of Rhodes Stadium, Danieley imparted lifelong wisdom and guidance on him. Spencer now uses that wisdom in his new marketing job at CenturyLink.

Danieley's decision to admit the first black student — and his risky decision to keep the Board of Trustees in the dark about it — shaped Spencer's bright future. And he can't thank him enough for it.

"Without Dr. Danieley, the first black students wouldn't have been at Elon, and without them, I wouldn't have been at Elon," Spencer said. "I see a connection and a sense of knowing that Dr. Danieley thought it was important for them to be there. It speaks to him as a person and his belief that Elon is a place for students of color and students of different backgrounds."

Constantine doesn't want to speculate what Elon would be like without Danieley because it's "unimaginable to think about because he's always been here."

Spencer agreed and said it is up to the older generation to keep his legacy afloat. Whenever Spencer comes to Elon again for homecoming, he said he hopes new young students who will never meet Danieley will eventually appreciate the magnitude of the man that was just lost.

"Though they wouldn't unfortunately get to meet him, he is at the heart of what is Elon is," Spencer said. "He is responsible for the foundation of modern Elon. They should understand that this was his vision. He saw this before anyone else did. Color didn't matter to him because he built something for us all."

FILE PHOTO BY EMILY STONE
Danieley and Lambert joke and discuss Danieley's life and Elon's history during Convocation April 2, 2012.



LAMBERT REFLECTS ON DANIELEY'S LEGACY

Remembers Danieley as 'beloved and irreplaceable figure'

Bryan Anderson
Enterprise Manager
@BryanRAnderson

He and his wife arrived at The Village at Brookwood Sunday night expecting to see Dr. Danieley approaching his end. When Elon University President Leo Lambert paid a visit the day before, he saw Danieley was not the same person.

"I think I just said goodbye to Earl," Lambert told his wife after Saturday's visit.

But on Sunday night, there was a glimmer of hope that Danieley would return to his old self.

"Daddy, Leo's here," said Jane Shutt, Danieley's daughter.

"He woke up and we had a marvelous conversation," Lambert said. "He was his old self, I mean, it was unbelievable."

Danieley spoke with Lambert about some of his favorite memories, sharing stories of Elon's basketball team and his daughter's wedding.

"It was remarkable," Lambert said. "His memory, the clarity was crystal clear, and I thought to myself, 'Wow, maybe he will get back to another basketball game.'"

Two days later, Danieley died at the age of 92.

"He lived a vibrant, vibrant life right up until the very end," Lambert said.

For Lambert, Danieley was much more than a colleague. He was a mentor and a dear friend.

"To have somebody who has had that experience and be your very good friend and adviser over 18 years just has meant so much to me," Lambert said. "I can't even begin to form the words to tell you how much I'm gonna miss him."

It was a sunny April afternoon and Lambert was leaning back in his chair. He kicked his feet on top of his desk, sorting through the many memorable moments that came to mind when thinking about the experiences he has shared with President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley.

"He's just one of the most remarkable human beings I've ever met, and certainly a beloved and irreplaceable figure in this community," Lambert said in an interview earlier this year.

When Lambert was named president, Danieley and his late wife, Verona, invited him to join them at church one Sunday and go out to brunch afterwards.

When Ike Belk wanted to donate a large sculpture, Lambert and Danieley teamed up to try to convince Belk to provide funds for a track

instead. Shortly after the three of them had a meeting, the university got both the track and the sculpture.

When Lambert decided to change the nickname from the Fightin' Christians to the Phoenix within his first six months as president, he received backlash from several people. But during an annual faculty/staff golf tournament, Danieley showed up proudly wearing a Phoenix T-shirt to give his blessing.

These are just a few of the countless memories that Lambert said came to mind when reflecting on Danieley's

HE LIVED A VIBRANT, VIBRANT LIFE RIGHT UP UNTIL THE VERY END.

LEO LAMBERT
ELON PRESIDENT

legacy.

Lambert feels blessed to have had the opportunity to get to know Danieley, and is saddened by the fact that future students will miss out on some of the experiences he has had. Even so, he said he believes Danieley's legacy will stand the test of time.

"Future generations of students are not gonna experience Earl's hugs and his gigantic hands and seeing him at basketball games," he said. "I already feel it as a loss. Undoubtedly,



FILE PHOTO BY CLAIRE ESPARRROS

Lambert poses with Danieley during new student move-in day 2012.

his name will last around here for a very, very long time to come."

He also described Danieley's challenges in building up Elon College's reputation. The institution was in poor financial shape when Danieley took over as president in 1957 at the young age of 32, and lacked a strong academic reputation.

Lambert remembers the story behind Danieley's appointment as president. Danieley was at John Hopkins doing the dishes with his wife. He got a phone call and returned to tell his wife that Elon named a new president.

"She said, 'Oh really. Who did they name?' Lambert recalled. "And he said, 'Me.' The story that he famously repeats is that she had a two-word response, which was, 'Poor Earl.'"

During Danieley's time as president, he created a stronger sense of stability, which is how Lambert categorizes the 'Danieley Era.'

"When Earl left the presi-

dency in 1973, and turned the institution over to Fred Young, the institution had moved from this place of struggling financially and academically to a place of balanced budget. He had established a much, much more secure footing for the university," Lambert said.

But Danieley was a professor at heart and in recent years continued to teach classes as a member of the faculty of the department of chemistry.

"He really loves this community," Lambert said. "He could've gone somewhere else to be a chemistry professor. But he loves Elon."

Though he lost a "very dear friend" on the day of Danieley's death, Lambert was happy Danieley's last days were as reflective of the passion of his life.

"He was at a basketball game just a short time ago, and you know, we can all only hope for that two days before you die you're as lucid and as loving as you can possibly be, and that was Earl," he said.

FOREVER PHOENIX

PERSONAL CONNECTION, ENTHUSIASM DEFINED
DANIELEY'S COMMITMENT TO ELON ATHLETICS



Alex Simon
Sports Director
@alexsimon99

Senior Associate Director of Athletics for Business and Operations Kyle Wills '81 has been at Elon for a long time. Wills was 12 when his dad was hired as an athletic trainer in 1970, so he's been here ever since. He even stuck around after he graduated and took a job with the college.

And yet, he knows his four decades cannot compare to the career of President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley '46.

"I can't imagine Dr. D not being around this campus," Wills said. "He is Elon, in my opinion. I don't know if there's anybody in the country that's been a part of an institution for the length of time that that man has been here."

Wills' imagination became a reality Tuesday morning. Danieley died at 92, succumbing to a number of health issues that hindered him in his final years.

Danieley's impact on Elon's campus is well-known, but within athletics, it's clear as can be that Elon would not be near where it is today with him.

Learning late

Danieley grew up just north of Elon College in rural Alamance County and went to Altamahaw-Ossipee High School, a school that didn't have a football team.

In a 2008 interview with the Pendulum, Danieley said he had never attended a football game until he became an Elon student in fall 1941. But after World War II started in 1942, the majority of the football team went to serve, so the football coach asked Danieley to join the team.

"He had not asked, 'Are you interested in ball? Do you anything about football?' He just saw a healthy 300-pounder and he figured that would stop up part of the line," Danieley said.

Danieley made the decision to try out for the team. But before he stepped on the field, the school's board elected to cancel all sports during the war. Danieley liked to joke that their decision saved his life.

He graduated Elon in 1946 and quickly joined the faculty as a chemistry teacher, spending 10 years there before being elected president of Elon College July 1, 1957.

Making a presidential impact

The first time Jerry Tolley met Danieley was in a job interview. Tolley was being asked by newly hired football coach Shirley

Danieley hired some of Elon athletics' most influential people, including Jerry Tolley, Shirley "Red" Wilson, Alan White and Bill Morningstar.

"Red" Wilson to come to Elon as an assistant football coach, but Danieley had to interview him first.

"In those days, Dr. Danieley actually interviewed everyone that worked for Elon," Tolley said. "He was a very impressive man the first time I met him, and back then he was a mammoth of a man. But he was very, very cordial and seem to know what he was talking about."

As Danieley interviewed everyone who came on campus, he was the one who hired some of Elon's most influential people. Names like Tolley, Wilson, longtime

athletic director Alan White, even longer-time golf coach Bill Morningstar and many more all came to Elon during his presidency.

Wilson remembers Danieley as open, honest and quick during the hiring process.

"I knew about Elon, but I never did know much about Elon — just that it was a fine school and that they'd had a good reputation in sports and everything," Wilson said. "They were looking for a coach, and then I met Dr. Danieley. We didn't meet for very long, we bid each other goodbye and, within two or three days, he said, 'We want to hire you at Elon.'"

Wilson remembers that Danieley went on the road with the team as Elon faced highly-ranked Presbyterian College in 1967, the third game of the season and of Wilson's career at Elon. The Fightin' Christians pulled off a 21-20 upset.

"We were not supposed to win, but we won, and I said, 'Dr. Danieley, I want you to ride with us on the bus,'" Wilson said. "That was the first time we had ever been that close together for the length of time on that bus ride... He had a chance to observe how we work together as a team and with the other coaches and players."

Danieley would soon name Wilson as athletic director, and throughout the time that Wilson said Danieley went well above and beyond what he could have expected to help the athletic teams.

"Dr. Danieley was doing everything he could to help," Wilson said. "He was so generous, and he'd help us anyway he possibly could."

Tolley, who became head coach in 1977 when Wilson left Elon and is still the football team's head coach emeritus, also remembers Danieley as a devout supporter

of the athletic teams as a president, which can be seen through Danieley's founding of the Elon Sports Hall of Fame in 1972.

"He was the biggest fan," Tolley said. "He came to all the football games and all the basketball games. He was the biggest fan of athletics, but especially those two."

Starting women's sports

Once he became president, Danieley said he saw athletics as an area where the university could improve, particularly with regard to women's sports.

"Elon was co-ed from day one. When I became president I was aware of the fact that in many ways women were equal in the eyes of Elon College, but in athletics they were not," Danieley told The Pendulum in 2008. "And I thought this was an inadequacy, it was a weakness and it was something we needed to do something about. And it worked."

It took a while once he became president, but in 1971, Danieley hired Gibsonville, North Carolina, native Kay Yow as women's athletics coordinator and head women's basketball coach, adding head volleyball coach to that title a year later. Wilson remembers that Danieley was the one who pushed for her hire.

"He would always come consult with me, but he hired a really fine lady," Wilson said. "Kay was a wonderful coach and a great person who grew up just two or three miles away. We got a long quite well — I knew her dad, and I knew Kay was a fine lady, and I knew what type of people they were. You could never ask for a better fit."

For Kay Yow's younger sister, Susan '76, her older sister's arrival at Elon gave her a reason to attend the university. She



JACOB LAPLANTE | Director of Broadcast and Video Production
Danieley waves a rally towel during an Elon basketball game.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ADAM CONSTANTINE
Danieley hugs Social Media Manager and former basketball player Adam Constantine after a basketball game.

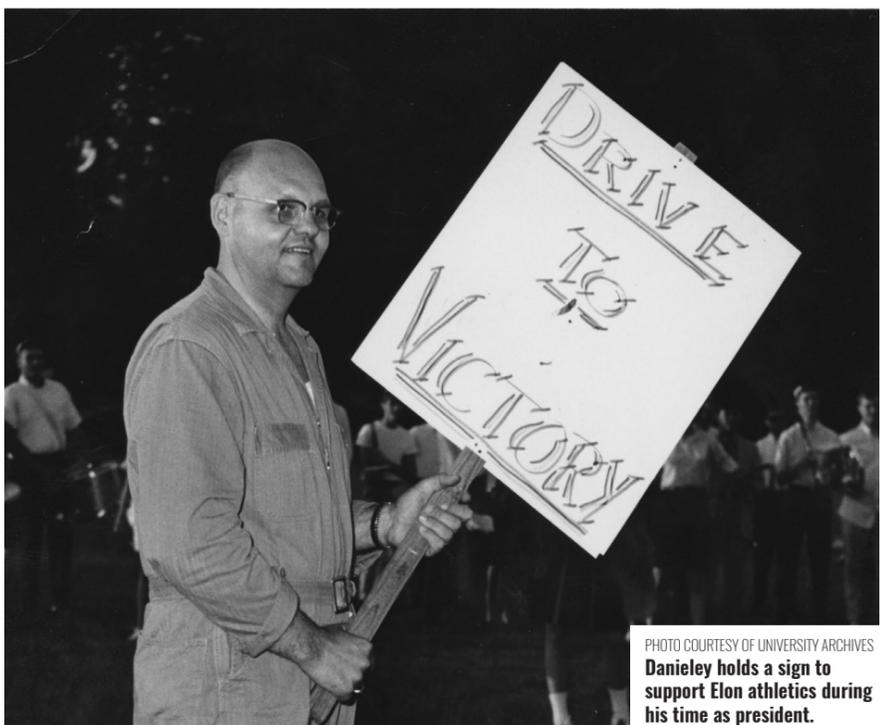


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
Danieley holds a sign to support Elon athletics during his time as president.

remembers Danieley fondly from when she was a student, arriving just as Danieley stepped down from the presidency.

“The thing I remember most about him was how gracious he was with people and how he just made you feel very special to be in his presence,” Susan Yow said. “He was very supportive of our teams — I played volleyball and basketball, and he was very, very supportive of the teams and of Kay.”

Still felt after presidency

Danieley stepped down as president in 1973, leaving President Emeritus J. Fred Young to take over. But Danieley didn’t leave Elon, returning to the classroom as a teacher and taking over a few smaller roles.

And when President Leo Lambert stepped up, Danieley’s history with the people of Elon became especially important to Lambert’s transition. Danieley’s support for Lambert became especially important at the turn of the millennium, when Elon changed its mascot from the Fightin’ Christians to the Phoenix.

“I know Earl was getting phone calls from people saying, ‘You need to stop this from happening,’” Lambert said. “We have a faculty/staff golf tournament at the end of every year. Which happened, that year, just one or two days after the release. We had a

big ceremony out there to release the name of the new mascot and hand out gear and all that kind of stuff.

“He showed up at that tournament wearing a Phoenix T-shirt. It was sort of his very quiet, subtle way of blessing this and saying, ‘I’m totally fine with this.’ I’ve always appreciated that act of leadership on his part.”

Lambert also remembers how much help Danieley was when Lambert was just getting started at Elon, leveraging his influence to help get Irwin Belk to donate money for both a Phoenix sculpture and a track. The athletic department honored his impact on Elon sports by inducting him into the Elon Sports Hall of Fame in 2008, the same Hall of Fame he founded in 1972.

But it wasn’t just with the people of Elon’s past that Danieley connected with. Through his teaching, he was able to connect with the students — especially the student-athletes — at Elon throughout the years.

“A lot of people took his ‘History of Elon’ class,” Wills said. “Athletes took the class because of the interest over the history of Elon. Caycee [Crenshaw, assistant director of athletics for Academic Support Services] tends to put kids in that class on purpose, so they can understand where the school came from and where it’s headed.”

Bonding with basketball, volleyball

Danieley seemed to connect even more closely with the volleyball and basketball teams. Social Media Manager Adam Constantine ’10, who played basketball for Elon all four years of his undergraduate career, took Danieley’s class and interacted with him frequently after games.

“He is Elon’s history, as far as I’m concerned,” Constantine said. “He uses an outline in class for him to keep track, but he doesn’t need it because he was here and lived it. He knows it because of how much he immersed himself when he first got here and when he was asked to be president.

“The passion that he has is hands-down, and I think that’s what drew us so close. I was very passionate for the game of basketball, so I was passionate for the name on the front of my jersey, and he appreciated that. He saw it was authentic, and his was authentic. We bonded over that.”

That bond that Constantine shared with Danieley is something that many in the basketball and volleyball programs had. Lambert sees the personal connections as the key to the love.

“That’s a big part of his interest in athletics,” Lambert said. “He really gets to know the players. He’s there for a more intimate, personal reason, which is to support the players he loves. That

comes across as a very genuine thing.”

Constantine agreed, adding, “He has authentic relationships with each one, so it will be that he knows you and he talks with you. But he remembers. He knows about me, he knows about my parents, he knows what I’m doing, he knows where I was playing overseas, and he tells his family about that. Yes, he has relationships with a lot of people, but it’s authentic. It’s very real.”

An impact that carries on

That authenticity has been clear to head men’s basketball coach Matt Matheny, who remembers seeing Danieley when Matheny was an assistant at Davidson College. There, Matheny called Danieley “the towel guy” after the Elon fans’ chant for Danieley after the under-eight media timeout. Once Matheny said he built a tight bond with Danieley at College Coffee, like so many before him.

“I have great memories spending time with him at College Coffee,” Matheny said. “To see him there, he could be across the way, but I’m immediately drawn to him. He’s got a magnetism about him. I remember great times when I’d just sit and learn from him at College Coffee.”

Matheny has loved hearing about the history of the institution from Danieley, learning from

Danieley just like so many of the Elon students of the past. In the end, Matheny says he feels special to have spent time with Danieley, who he says “is Elon.”

“He’s seen how far this school has come, from Elon College to Elon University and from NAIA to Division II to Division I. He’s seen all of the people that have come through here, and he’s been a part of it,” Matheny said. “To sit courtside, to have the towel in his hand, to be there after games, to give our guys a hug and a handshake, it’s really, really special.”

“He’s been to practices, and for us to practice and have Dr. D on the sideline watching us practice, I think, ‘Wow, how fortunate are we to be able to share time with Mr. Elon.’”

Until the very last day, Danieley continued his support of the Elon athletic teams, attending the men’s and women’s basketball doubleheader Nov. 14 and sitting near the students, like he had done for nearly 60 years since becoming president.

At the under-eight media timeout, the students chanted, “Dr. Danieley,” like they had so many times since the tradition began in 2005. Danieley stood, leaned over his seat, and waved his towel to applause. It was the last time he would hear it, but it certainly won’t be the last time Danieley’s presence will be felt by the athletic teams.

A handshake and a hug in the North Carolina heat

President emeritus greeted new students on move-in day

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New students stand in a lot of lines their first day on Elon University's campus — long lines for orientation packets, desk hutches and room keys snake through residential neighborhoods.

But for those moving into Danieley Neighborhood, at the end of the longest line sat the man the neighborhood was named after: President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley.

"He would just be sitting in his armchair and just cracking jokes and asking people where they're from, and then honestly making small talk just to make them feel better," said Evan Skloot '16. "And then give out some nice big hugs."

A 'way with connecting'

Skloot was an Orientation Leader in the Danieley Neighborhood his sophomore year and was then in charge of Danieley Neighborhood move-in his junior year as a Head Staff team member. In that time, he sat next to Danieley at orientation lunches and introduced the president emeritus before his annual speeches to orientation staff.

But though those lunches and speeches meant a lot to Skloot, he said nothing was more important to orientation than Danieley sitting outside in his faded red

armchair, the most important friendly face in a sea of orientation and residence life staff.

"Dr. Danieley just has this way with — I won't even say way with words, just way with connecting with anyone," he said. "He just understands. He's been here for 70 plus years. He has seen every type of student, every type of parent, of family — he gets it.

"He knows what to say, what to do to make them feel better."

Even toward the end of his life, Danieley still stuck it out — even in the steamy North Carolina August.

Jaimie Biermann, current community director in the Oaks Neighborhood, was community director for Danieley Neighborhood for the past three years. In her first year in that role, she said she was shocked that Danieley could stay outside in the heat.

"My first year it was so hot outside during move-in, and he was just smiles the entire time, shaking hands," she said.

Skloot remembers that move-in day, too. He was an orientation leader working move-in day in Danieley Neighborhood then.

"[Danieley], despite being a 90-year-old in brutally hot weather in the middle of a North Carolina summer, you could not tell," Skloot said. "You would not know that he probably was incredibly uncomfortable physically."

Skloot remembers moving into Danieley Neighborhood his first year at Elon and shaking Danieley's hand, but he has no idea when the tradition started. As far as he and Biermann remember, Danieley

has just always been there.

"It was just a thing," Biermann said. "I don't even know when it started, it was just like, 'This is a thing that always happens.' Dr. Danieley's chair is gonna be outside, it's gonna be waiting. So they'd set that up ahead of time."

Beyond move-in

Biermann — who was still community director in Danieley Neighborhood in 2014, the last time Danieley was able to sit outside during move-in day — said she has seen the impact the move-in day conversations with Danieley has on new students.

"I think through those conversations [with Danieley], students have better understood the impact that they can have during their experience here, even if it's not as long as Dr. Danieley's been here," Biermann said.

Skloot is one of those students who was forever changed by his interactions with Danieley.

"When he spoke this past summer during orientation

leader training, that was actually the moment when I realized that I really wanted to go into higher ed administration," he said. "When he was speaking about their community and the relationships he's built and the amazing life that he's had, I realized at that moment that that was what I wanted to do."



FILE PHOTO BY CLAIRE ESPARROS
Danieley was always stationed near Danieley K on new student move-in day.

Faye Conally matched brother J. Earl Danieley's commitment

Courtney Campbell
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Faye Conally knows the ins and out of almost every Elon University building like the back of her hand. After following the footsteps of her brother President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley, Conally graduated Elon in 1961 with a degree in secretarial science.

"Options for young ladies in those days were so limited that you could be a secretary, a nurse or taking care of children," she said. "I wasn't ready to settle down, so I took to secretarial science."

The day after she received her certificate, she was hired full-time as a secretary in the registrar's office. Conally worked there until 1967 when she and her husband moved to High Point, North Carolina.

But Conally could never fully escape Elon, still attending the Elon basketball games against High Point and watching her brother from the other side of the court. She knew she would return.

"My brother was a freshman when I was born, so I had Elon in my blood for years," Conally said. "They told me when I was little, I used to cheer 'E-L-O-N.'"

The couple came back in December 1976, and Conally returned full-time to Elon, this time working as a secretary at the treasurer's office, the business office, accounting office and personnel office.

During this time she became close with many Elon employees.

"Back then we had approximately 300



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES
Faye Conally, President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley's sister, stands in front of Elon Baseball memorabilia in 1991.

employees — faculty, staff, physical plant — there was 300," Conally said. "We all knew each other by name. It was a good experience. I enjoyed it very much."

With a staff that small, they could celebrate birthdays together with cake in a single office, and their holiday faculty/staff lunch-ins were held in McEwen Dining Hall.

During one of the lunch-ins, Conally was encouraged to sit on Danieley's lap for a photo when he was dressed like Santa Claus. She still has the picture.

Though sometimes she stayed across the hall from Danieley, he treated her equally and just as another employee. She often didn't see him unless they passed each other in the hallway.

"I worked at the office across the hall,

but he treated me no differently than anyone else," Conally said. "I was just one of the secretaries."

She watched her brother lead the school, sometimes needing to be strict but still beloved by returning alumni and students in years to come.

"He enforced rules," Conally said. "He was good. But he has very high values and moved in and sought to it, even if he had to send a student home for a whole year, and some of them would come back."

Conally left again in 1996, which she originally thought was her last.

"Shortly after I left, I got a call, 'Could you fill in for someone?' And I said, 'Well, I hadn't thought about this, I guess I could,'" Conally said. "So I filled in."

For the next 10 years, Conally bounced around as a temporary part-time employee, filling in as a secretary to various offices, including admissions, advising, health services and the president's office.

In January 2006, Conally switched again to a part-time position working Elon's switchboard in the afternoon while previ-

ous full-time switchboard operator Dottie Bar would work mornings.

Working at the Technology Service Desk, she would be the contact to transfer employees into communications with other offices on campus. Often she would be the first contact that people calling in made with university, so she needed to make a good impression.

Calls ranged from driving directions to general questions about the university. But some calls were more quirky than others.

"There's lots of interesting, fun, weird calls from time to time," Conally said. "I should have made notes — unbelievable the kinds of questions we've received on switchboard. Every day was different. You never knew what people were going to be asking."

Michelle Woods, manager of the Technology Service Desk, said it was a pleasure working with Conally and that she set high standards for future switchboard operators to come by encouraging everyone to be polite, professional, use proper grammar and provide excellent assistance.

Her co-workers also loved her homemade brownies.

"There were many times that Faye would go above and beyond to assist a faculty or staff member, student, parent or an outside community member," Woods said. "Faye is very polite, friendly and she always takes the time to ask you how you are doing."

Conally retired from Elon for good in January 2016, but employees at the Technology Service Desk had her promise to visit every couple of weeks. She still stops by to check on the plants.

She also stays connected with the school by attending sporting events, especially the basketball games.

"It's a wonderful school," Conally said. "I'm so proud of it. Those of us who attended college are really proud it's a university. I never dreamed it would grow like this."

LASTING LOVE, LASTING LEGACIES

Danieley couple continues to inspire Elon community

Leena Dahal

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When J. Earl Danieley was asked how he met his late wife, Verona Danieley, at the 2014 Spring Convocation, his eyes lit up. He smiled, readjusted himself in his iconic chair and began to recite the story — that is, until, he was interrupted.

A member of the audience loudly declared, “Ugh, I love this story! This is my favorite,” capturing the adoration many Elon University community members have for the couple.

It wasn’t the first time he was interrupted when telling the story.

In a 2008 interview for a three-part series that documents J. Earl Danieley and Verona Daniels Danieley’s 60 years of marriage led by University Archives, he began in a similar way — with lit-up eyes and a big smile.

But instead of continuing, he turned to his wife and asked, “Are you going to tell this one or am I?”

To which she responded, laughing, “You tell it, it’s your favorite story.”

With a smile still plastered across his face, he continued, recounting how on one Saturday afternoon in the fall of 1946, he was passing through the halls of Alamance when he noticed a young lady in the office of the secretary of the president, standing on a chair.

“I walked in and saved the young damsel. Then I took her to a football game at Guilford,” Danieley said. “And everywhere else with me from then on.”

Whether it the story of how they spent their first date on a hayride, their memories of sharing meals together in West Parlor with the lights off to conserve electricity or how they referred to each other as “permanent roommates,” these accounts of their relationship are cherished and often remembered by the community.

Their relationship, which began and flourished at Elon, and their combined passion for the growth of the institution is written into Elon’s history and landscape.

Whether through the Danieley Neighborhood or joint initiatives they have spearheaded in the years, their fierce love for each other and the university has led to lasting legacies.

When J. Earl Danieley assumed the role of president in fall 1957, for example, Verona Daniels Danieley devoted her time and energy to building community across campus.

Jerry Tolley, former Elon football coach, remembers her for her efforts to create community among the wives of professors at Elon.

“She really took the wives of staff and faculty members at Elon under her wing,” he said. “My wife especially loved her all through her time.”

Together, they would also host faculty dinner gatherings — inviting professors into the warmth of their homes to foster deeper relationships.

“I can remember seeing them walk through campus holding hands,” Tolley said. “Their relationship was inspiring for all professor couples on campus.”

In 1972, the Danieley couple also jointly established the Daniels-Danieley Award for Excellence in Teaching, the university’s



President Emeritus J. Earl Danieley, Verona Daniels Danieley and their children pose in front of their home, the current Holland House.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

highest teaching honor, in memory of their parents. The award has recognized the outstanding contributions of more than 40 faculty to date.

Stephen E. Braye, who received the prestigious award in 1998, said it served as an affirmation that he was heading in the right direction.

“I was honored to be nominated,” he said. “It re-energized my commitment to teaching.”

Following the opening of the Danieley Center in 1999, university trustees unanimously approved the naming of Lake Verona in 2004 — adjacent to the neighborhood — to recognize Verona Daniels Danieley’s many contributions to her alma mater and the community.

Nancy Midgette, professor of history at Elon University who retired in May 2016, said she remembers the two being inseparable.

“You didn’t separate them in your mind — they were always Dr. D and Mrs. D,” she said. “They were just a pair.”

After more than 60 years of marriage, Verona Danieley’s death in June 2011 left a gaping hole in the community and in the life of her widower.

“They always came to campus events together,” Midgette recalled. “After Verona’s death, it was clear that he remembered fondly and missed her dearly but that he was accepting.”

When asked what the secret for their lasting marriage was, J. Earl Danieley had a clear answer: respect and honesty.

“I think that one of the secrets is having respect for each other,” he said. “I think people who fail do because they fail to respect each other.”

Verona Daniels Danieley concurred.

“I would hope that they see in us, the proper attitude to take towards themselves and other people and to be respectful.”



Veronica Daniels Danieley reads to her children in the 1960s.

PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

July 28, 1924 - Nov. 29, 2016

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

Meg Malone and Sonya Walker

Assistant News Editor and Contributor
@megretjeane and @Sonya_A_Walker

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.

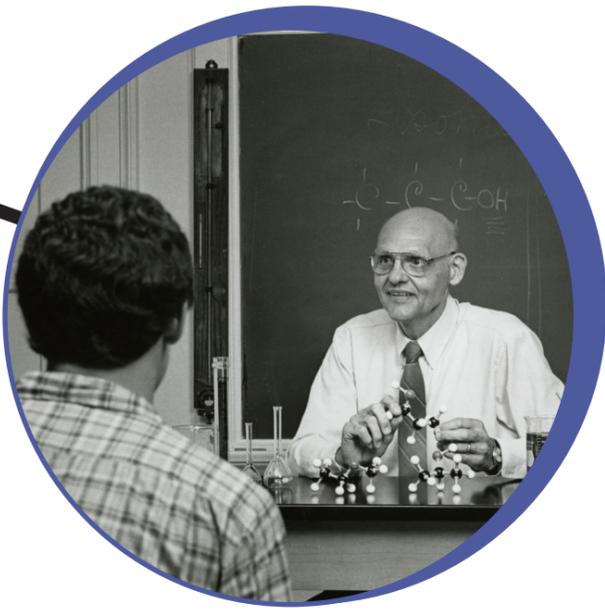
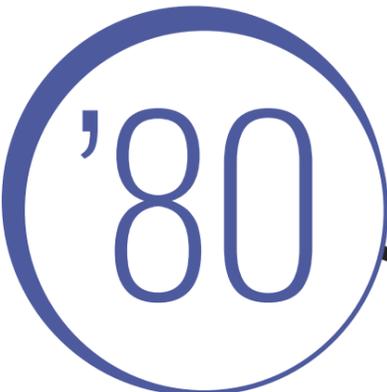
"It is hard to imagine Elon without him, but he has spent a lifetime setting an example of how we should move ever forward to a positive future."

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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



"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



'60



"The duties of the office have been interesting, challenging, and satisfying. However, I have always looked forward to the time when I could return to my first love – the classroom and full-time teaching."
- Danieley's retirement announcement Oct. 18, 1972



'70



since
2000



2016



FILE PHOTO BY CAROLINE OLNEY



DIEGO PINEDA | Photo Editor

FILE PHOTO BY CLAIRE ESPARROS

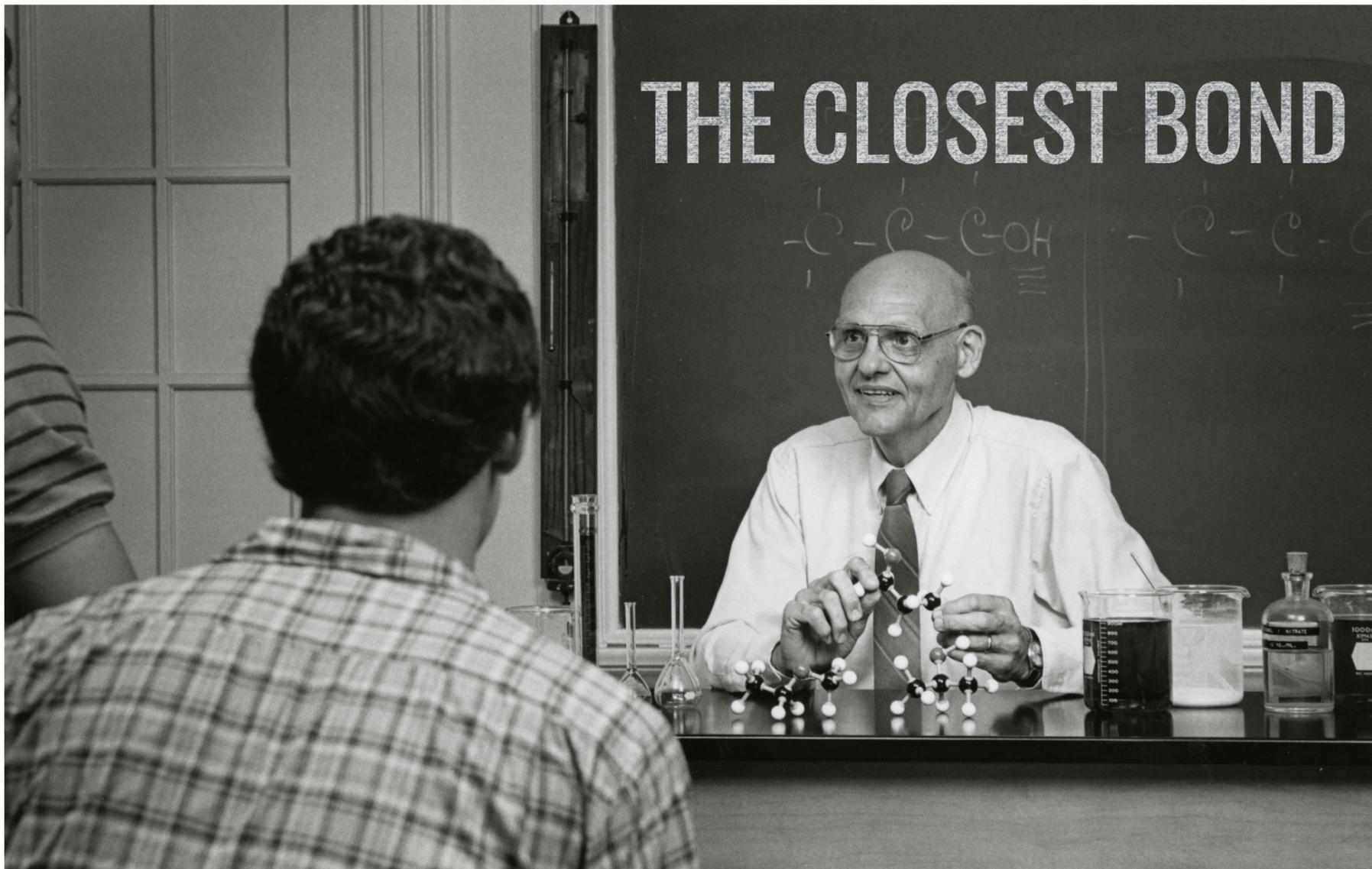


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THE CLOSEST BOND

Danieley's commitment to chemistry classroom remembered by faculty, students

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It wasn't long after graduating from Elon College that J. Earl Danieley came right back to the classroom. And between then and spring 2015 when he finally retired from teaching, the chemistry department — and so much more — was forever changed.

"When he [first started teaching at] Elon, chemistry was a service department that didn't really have majors — it was just to serve other departments," said Karl Sienerth, professor and chemistry department chair, who joined Elon's faculty in 1998. "He was one of the people who helped transform it into a department that would stand alone."

Gene Grimley III, professor of chemistry, former department chair and longtime friend of Danieley, came to Elon in 1987 to assist Danieley in his overhaul of the chemistry department.

"He had lab drawers full of papers," Grimley said. "All these old tests. I looked at them and said, 'Oh my gosh.' He put some tests out there — they were long tests."

For the 10 years following, Grimley and Danieley — along with Ray Covington, who was also assisting in the revitalization of

the chemistry department — went go to the YMCA together at 6 a.m. before morning classes.

"You get close to people early in the morning," Grimley said.

If anyone had a question or concern about the chemistry department or the university as a whole, they knew they could ask Danieley — and he would have an answer.

"He was a good, sage, wise person who you could go to," Sienerth said. "He was humble."

Sienerth recalled how, unlike many chemistry professors who teach to non-majors, Danieley never glazed over the tough stuff.

"He would not [shy away from the math-oriented stuff]. He stuck to his guns," he said.

"In terms of his teaching, he was rigorous and he felt that students should understand how the world works."

Junior Alessandra Brainard took CHM 130: "Introduction to Chemistry" with Danieley and recognized the expectation he had for his students.

"He would call every student to the board to perform chemical bonds far outside of our spectrum of knowledge," she said. "He desired everyone to face a challenge and aspire to rise above the occasion as well as demonstrate a passion that he

Danieley works with a chemistry modeling set while teaching a class in 1986.

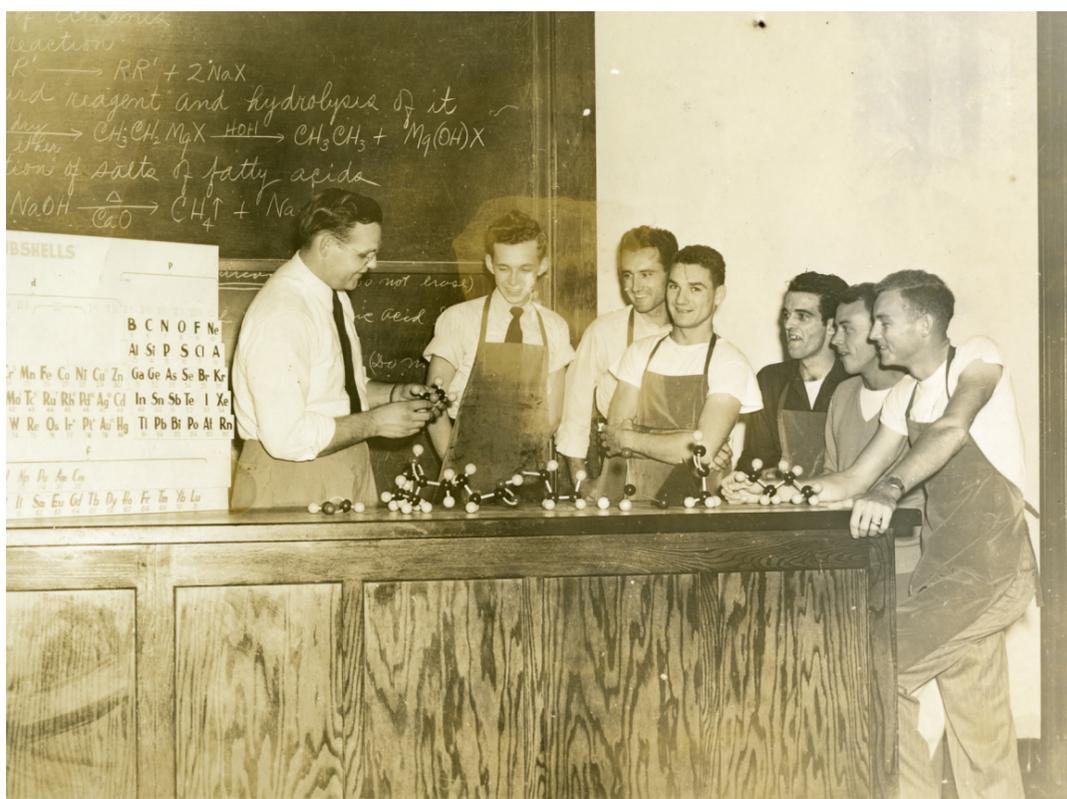


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Danieley teaches chemistry to a group of students during the 1949-1950 school year.

exuberantly possessed within the subject of chemistry.

"In turn, students pushed themselves everyday with a desire to meet the Doctor's standards and demonstrate to him their comprehension in order to impress him."

Senior Jade Marson said that Danieley taught like no other teacher she had had before. Throughout the semester, Danieley would take each student out to lunch, and Marson remembers her turn, when they ventured to a local hot dog restaurant.

"When we sat down, I didn't ask a single question I had prepared because Dr. Danieley had immediately starting asking about me," Marson said. "He genuinely wanted to hear all about my life, my family, my friends and my past"

Sienerth believes that of Danieley's Elon legacies, the most important is rooted in Elon's students and faculty.

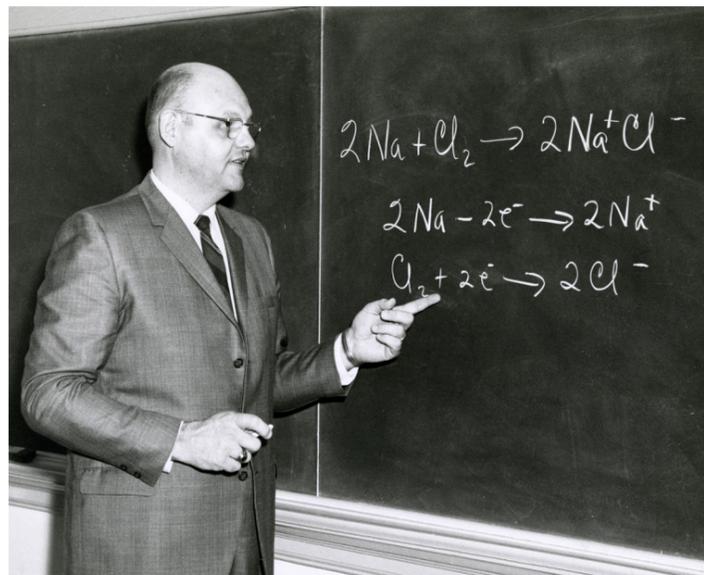


PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Danieley explains chemical equations in a chemistry class sometime between 1958 and 1969.

"I think a lot of what we call the 'Elon Personality' was created or engendered by Earl," he said. "Keeping Elon a giving and welcoming place [as well as] broadly

welcoming and diverse. Continuing to strive in those areas would be keeping him alive in terms of who he was and how he impacted the university."