

Under The Oaks



The fire of 1923 forced the graduation ceremony of that year to be moved outside, and Administrators decided to hold the graduation Under the Oaks. The following years the ceremony was moved back indoors until the ceremony of 1987. From 1987 until 2016, graduation ceremonies were held in this sacred space, Under the Oaks. Increased graduation student numbers and construction forced the ceremony to be moved to Schar Center. Today, each fall, this area still hosts the New Student Convocation.

Although many of the original oaks have been replaced through time, young oaks have been planted in their place. This is symbolic of the renewal and growth of the university. Remembering the past and tradition of the space but being resilient and focused on the future. There are 14 different species of oak in this area along with 11 other types of trees. The White Oak (*Quercus alba*) is the species that inspired Elon's oak leaf logo.