

Seniors consider futures, reminisce over school days



Kathy Spelman

by Loukia Louka
News Editor

On May 22, less than two months, some 500 students will be graduated from the ivy covered brick walls of Elon. Many of these students have spent four years completing courses in their majors for a slip of paper that declares them college graduates.

Two Elon students that will be graduating in May are Kathy Spelman and Gary Parker. Each student voyaged to great, but different lengths since they ventured from their homes, slightly under four years ago.

Spelman, of Washington, D.C., chose to attend Elon because its size is small, like that of her high school. Spelman explained that Barry Bradberry, who is now associate director of admissions, had visited her high school several times during her senior year, recruiting students to attend Elon.

Not A Number

"I went to a small high school with only about 400 students. I knew all the students and I liked that a lot. It made me feel like I was somebody instead of a number," said Spelman, her

blue eyes filled with memory.

She remembers her freshman sophomore year as "the toughest emotionally" because of the separation from her family and getting used to dorm life.

Spelman declared herself a human services major at the end of her sophomore year. "I wanted to get into a field that had to do with people," said Spelman.

For the past three summers she has worked in a savings and loan as a teller. "That's been a good experience. I enjoyed it, but it let me know that I don't want to work a nine-to-five job in an office building.

"I want to be outside working with people. I want to take what I've learned and go to graduate school and get a masters in residence life work, counseling or guidance, and work in a student affairs office. I like that type of atmosphere and being around college students."

As part of her human services major, Spelman completed an internship in the Office of Student Affairs. Of the experience she said, "It was fantastic, and I think that's what made me decide that that was the field I wanted to go into."

Grad Schools

Although she won't be attending graduate school this fall, Spelman has been looking at various schools, including Appalachian State, University of North Carolina - Greensboro, and North Texas State University. Also,

as part of her career interest, Spelman has been a resident assistant (RA) for two years.

Last year, Spelman was an RA in West to nine women, and presently she is an RA to 38 women in Maynard Hall. Of working on a larger hall, Spelman said, "It's harder to get them to do things together because they are in different suites and have different groups in each one so its like having five different halls.

"I think it's difficult at times to enforce the rules, but that's the job that I've taken and it's something I knew I was going to have to do if I took the position.

"So far as enforcing them, I explained the rules to the hall and told them about the penalties if they didn't abide by them, but I also let them know I was going to be their friend and someone they could come and talk to."

Besides being a resident assistant, Spelman also works in the cafeteria and is a member of Phi Mu sorority. All these duties take up a great deal of her time.

"I'm happy that I'm working and I'm busy. I'm glad I'm not just sitting around doing nothing, but sometimes I wish I had more time to spend with my friends. I don't think there's anything I've been involved in that I regret, I've learned a lot from the things I've done."

In retrospect, Spelman feels that if she hadn't attended college, "I would have missed out on a whole lot."

Best Experience

"Going to college is the best experience anyone could have. It's a time when you're away from your parents but you still have people looking out for you, helping you along. If I had gone to work, I don't know if I would have been able to learn so many things."

On getting out of college, Spelman said she is "nervous" but "confident" about graduating. "Half of me doesn't want to leave and half of me is anxious to get out there and start working. I haven't really been to any interviews, but I have the rest of my life to worry about whether I'm going to find a job or not."

Senior Gary Parker heard about Elon through a high school teacher and from several friends who went here and played baseball. Born in Southern Pines, Parker now lives in Richmond, Va., and is a business major here.

"At first, I didn't like Elon because I thought it was too small and that there wasn't much to do. After I found things to do, it was alright."

"I think there are things at Elon to do. It's prevalent at a big college the things to do. Around here, people just have to go out and find them, whereas at a big school things come to them. Here they don't; you have to go get them whether it's the Greek system or anything else.

"Since you're here there's no use in complaining about it unless you're going to



Gary Parker

transfer. You just have to go out and find things to do."

Things To Do

At the end of his freshman year, Parker became a member of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity. "People will be bored if they don't get involved somehow in something. The fraternity gave me something to do; there's always something going on; not just within the fraternity, but you come in contact with everyone involved in the Greek system because we're always doing things together or competing.

Parker has applied to Georgia State, UNC-Greensboro, and the University of Richmond for graduate study in business. "If I don't get into graduate school, somehow I'm going back to school. I'm not through, and this isn't my last swing. I'd either pick up an extra major or something, but right now I'm planning on graduate school.

"I'm glad I'm planning on going back to school; I don't have to get out and work right now. I'm kind of sorry to be leaving here because you wonder how it all went by so fast."

Dorm RA Kastings governs men and women

By Carol Nix
Staff Writer

Co-ed Dorms at Elon?

Not really, but there is one situation on campus that compares to it.

Gretchen Kastings, a senior from Long Island, N.Y., is a resident assistant (RA) in the new dorm, Colclough wing. Just like another other RA, she is responsible for keeping her hall in order, managing hall projects, issuing toilet paper, and fulfilling other duties for her hall students. But Gretchen's hall is different from other dorm halls at Elon. Not only does it contain a girls' suite, it also contains several boys' suites.

"We have one suite with eight girls and four suites with 30 guys," Kastings said. "It's a lot of fun!"

As a student trainer for football and soccer, Gretchen said she enjoys being

around "all the guys." "They're just like my big brothers," she said. "If they need advice, (about dates, classes, etc.) they'll ask us girls, and the same goes for us."

Kastings said that living next door to a suite full of guys makes it "easier to meet people of the opposite sex." She said that it is convenient to have them there to party with, to study with, and just to talk to.

This type of co-ed living seems to agree with the guys as well. "It made my freshman year more enjoyable," said Tony Miller. "I think it'll work if Elon continues it."

"She (Gretchen) treats us right!" Freshman Scott Howard exclaimed. "It'd be more fun if they were living in the suite!"

Gretchen said that she especially enjoyed freshman guys "because they're new to the area and the people."

She sees the unique living situation on her hall as a means of helping them "break out of their shell." Hall projects and events, such as intramurals, have been helpful in bringing them closer together. "It's really a big-brother and little-sister type of relationship," Kastings said. "In January, we played intramural water polo, and that really helped us to get to know each other."

How does a girl handle problems in a boy's suite? "If a crisis arises, I'll go in the suite if I have to," Gretchen explained. "It's really not much different from having an all-girls hall." Kastings said that her hall generally works together well so there "aren't very many problems."

As an RA, Gretchen is required to plan hall projects and programs that are both social and educational. With "diverse interests" between

the two sexes, planning can sometimes be a problem she said. "It's hard to get a program together to fit all interests and time schedules."

Kastings took the job as a resident assistant in an attempt to "change some of the residential atmosphere. I felt like I could add something to residential life here at Elon," she said.

In addition to her duties as an RA and an athletic trainer, Gretchen works in McEwen cafeteria at breakfast. She said she does not mind getting up early to go to work. "It's really nice because I get to see the sun coming up."

Kastings said that she likes working with athletes as a trainer, but she also likes to participate in athletics herself. Since Elon does not have a women's track team, she continued her track career by running for the Elon men's team. Gretchen

said that the guys "helped her out," but some "gave her a hard time at first." "Some of them thought I wouldn't make it," she said. "But you're not racing against them, you're racing against time." Kastings did run against some women, but she competed mostly against men. "I ran track in high school, and I wanted to continue running in college," she said.

Gretchen visited Elon after she heard about it from some friends. "It was a dreary, rainy day when I came here to visit," she said, "but I loved it."

Kastings, a history major, said that this year's living situation has made her last year even better. "We've really formed a community that I think no one else on campus has," she said. "The way I see it, our hall is just like anybody else's, only ours is just a little more unique!"