

ESPN covers Elon's NASCAR racing class

Erick Gill
Editor-In-Chief

Benny Parsons and an ESPN camera crew appeared at Elon College Monday to shoot footage and do interviews about Elon's NASCAR Racing class.

Janie Brown, professor and chair of HPEL, taught the NASCAR class this past winter term. About 25 students studied all aspects of NASCAR racing, from marketing to actually riding in a race car at the Charlotte Motor Speedway.

Two Elon graduates were the focus of both the class and the ESPN segment. Chany Sabates and Keith Parsons graduated from Elon College in 1991 and both are involved in NASCAR racing.

Sabates is a business manager for the SABCO Racing Company, which looks after the Mellow Yellow and Kendal Motor Oil racing teams.

Since Sabates's job includes taking care of team sponsors, from complaints to travel. He said his political science degree has helped him along the way.

"I deal with people everyday and associate that with business," Sabates said. Sabates said most of the time the sponsors are people "who are mad at you one week and love you the next."

Sabates, from Charlotte, N.C., said that his father was the person who got him interested with racing.

"When I was a kid my dad used to drive stunt cars in some of the Elvis movies," Sabates said.

Sabates involved himself in racing, before he graduated from Elon.

"I never had any weekends (at Elon). I was always at the race track," Sabates said. "From day one I have been into racing."

As of now, Sabates doesn't have any immediate plans to change his career.

"I'm only 25; I'm still young. I think I might stay here (in auto racing) and see what happens," Sabates said. "I would like to see my son go into racing one day."

Keith Parsons got into racing the same way Sabates did, through his father.

Parsons is 24 and grew up in Ellerbe, N.C. watching his father drive race cars. "He got me involved with racing," Parsons said.

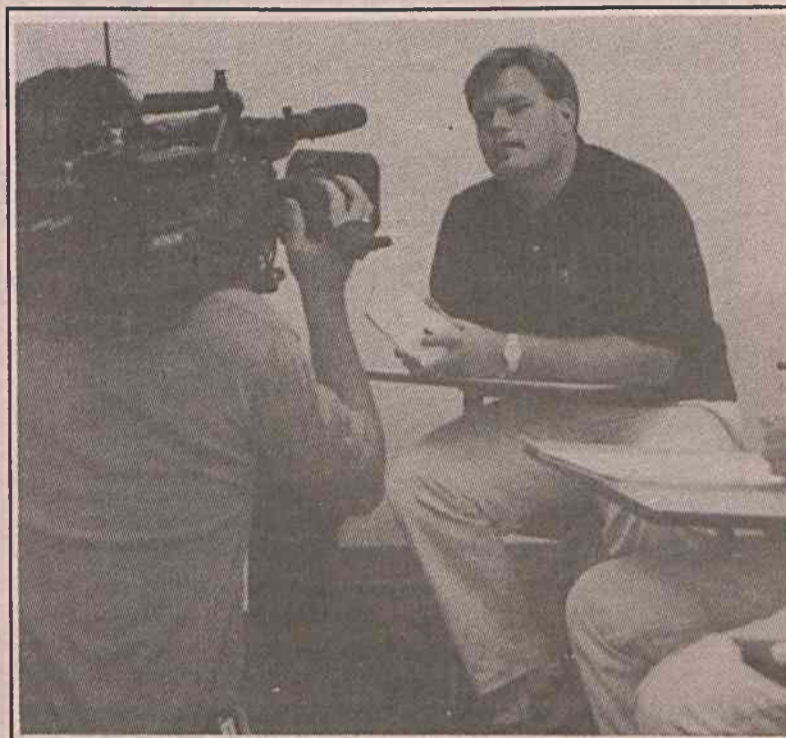
Now Parsons watches his father, Benny Parsons, talk about driving race cars. Benny has covered auto racing for ESPN since 1988.

Parsons graduated from Elon with a degree in journalism in December of 1991. Currently, he works in public relations for McLean Marketing.

Parsons handles publicity for the Citgo Oil/Morgan Shepherd racing team. "I go to all the races and generate publicity," Parsons said.

"It's the premier job. Well, it's my premier job."

While Parsons was at Elon, he



Erick Gill/The Pendulum

Elon Alumnus, Keith Parsons, goes back to class for an ESPN segment.



Erick Gill/The Pendulum

Janie Brown sits through an interview with Benny Parsons of ESPN about the NASCAR racing class.

worked for *The Pendulum* as a sports writer.

"I've always loved sports, but doing public relations for racing is great," Parsons said.

Sabates and Parsons both credited Elon for preparing them for the real world.

"I think Elon's great," Parsons said. "It helped me get better prepared. I went to Chapel Hill for a year, but here I got more hands-on

experience."

Sabates said Elon has a "family aspect" to it which is much like NASCAR racing.

Sabates and Parsons said with NASCAR everyone knows everyone else; it is a close network, much like they had at Elon.

The ESPN segment featuring the class and the Elon grads is scheduled to air during a race sometime in mid-August or early September.

First woman landscaper adds diversity to Elon College staff

Heather Anderson
Staff Reporter

Elon College has a new edition to its landscaping crew: a woman.

Wendy Gammon is the first women landscaper the college has had.

She has been with the college since July and said she likes her job because she loves landscaping.

Fred Feudale, landscape supervisor, said, "It's been excellent having her on board. She fits in really well and we're happy that she's here."

Originally from Caswell County, North Carolina, Gammon worked for Danieley Nursery before coming to Elon.

The Gammon did residential and commercial landscaping for Danieley Nursery.

However, Gammon likes working at Elon better, because there are set hours and benefits.

"It's nice working up here because you get a lot of praise and everyone's really nice," Gammon said.

She also likes the fact that the people she works with "try to treat her like one of the guys."

One of Gammon's goals is to one day start her own business.

Right now she is buying equipment and trying to get her contractors license, which she will take a test for next month.

She said she plans to never leave North Carolina though.

"I'm still playing, I haven't grown up yet," Gammon said.

Her mom is one person that got her interested in landscaping she said. "My mom is a garden nut," she said.

Aside from her mom, her horticulture class in high school helped foster her love for the plants and outdoors.

When she's not landscaping at Elon, she goes to NASCAR races with her boyfriend.

Gammon plans to move to Burlington next month.



Erick Gill/The Pendulum

Wendy Gammon, first female staff member of Elon landscaping.