

# THE PENDULUM

Informing, entertaining and inspiring the Elon University community since 1974

Volume: XXIX ISSUE: 23 DATE: 4/18/02 www.elon.edu/pendulum



Erin Cunningham/ Photographer

Juniors Nate Firgard and Rady Large enjoy the 80 degree North Carolina weather by taking their studies outside. The two sat on the grass in front of Moseley as they did their homework.

## Alumnus represents Bermuda in luge

**Jennifer Guarino**  
Editor in Chief

Patrick Singleton isn't the typical Elon graduate, Olympian or journalist. A financial reporter for Bloomberg Television in Tokyo, he was the only winter Olympian from Bermuda.

Singleton, a 1997 Elon graduate, spoke to School of Communications students last week about being a journalist and Olympian.

Singleton competed in the luge competition in the 2002 Salt Lake City and 1998 Nagano games.

During his presentation, Singleton showed several videos, including one of the opening ceremonies in Salt Lake City, where he was wearing Bermuda shorts. Being the only winter Olympian from Bermuda sets Singleton apart, but he says his actions are aimed at gaining media attention to promote his homeland. "If you do something like wearing shorts or riding on top of your grandmother's car, you will get the media's attention," he said.

Singleton was featured in an IBM

commercial with his grandmother before the Nagano Olympics. The commercial showed Singleton lying on top of the family car to simulate practicing for the luge competition. Singleton said the commercial wasn't true, but IBM was sold on the idea when he promoted it.

"Pat was a winter luger from a vacationer's summer island," said professor Tom Nelson, who introduced Singleton.

While at Elon, Singleton stood out for more reasons than his British accent. One night, he and a friend slept outside Alamance building when temperatures dipped to 17 below zero.

"We wanted to see if we could survive the night," Singleton said.

Singleton survived 17 below zero; after all, he has survived speeding down an icy course at speeds up to 125 miles per hour. Singleton admits that he is a daredevil. "The luge is a bit wild and crazy," he said with a grin.

Singleton has had his own share of injuries, including one that happened when a Japanese cameraman

leaned too far into the course. Singleton hit the camera and received shoulder injuries.

Singleton got his start with luge in Bermuda. His British grandmother made him a natural luge, which is a board with wheels. When Singleton went to boarding school in Scotland, he made the transition to tobogganing.

He made his first luge run in Calgary, Canada. "It was terribly scary the first time I went down," he said. "We put shampoo in our visors to keep them from fogging up, but there was water in the visor, so I couldn't see the whole way down."

After the Salt Lake City games, Singleton has decided to switch from the luge to skeleton. He hopes to make it to the next winter games and go home with a medal.

Singleton has spent most of his life away from his homeland of Bermuda and encouraged students to see the world.

"I recommend to all of you, that you leave the U.S. for a few years to work, and if you can afford it, travel," he said. "And don't go to the easy

## Yow: Reach for dreams

**Jennifer Hildebrand**  
Reporter

Debbie Yow, University of Maryland Director of Athletics, Gibsonville native and Elon graduate, encouraged members of the Elon community to strive for their dreams in her speech, "A Dream Differed is Not A Dream Denied," Monday in Whitley Auditorium. Her speech was sponsored by the women's/gender studies program.

This speech marked the first time that Yow had returned to the Elon campus since 1985, when she was honored as the Young Alumnus of the Year.

Before discussing dreams,

however, Yow stressed the importance of an Elon education and the relationships that she has had with the faculty and staff at the university.

"An education at Elon is special," Yow said. "My abilities are directly associated to the degree I earned here."

With that, Yow got down to the core of her speech, listing the seven reasons that dreams are derailed: tradition, fear, stereotypes, complacency, fatigue, short-term thinking and ineffective communications.

See **YOW**  
page 9



Photo courtesy of University Relations

Patrick Singleton represented Bermuda in the Winter Olympics.

places like London and Paris. Go see the millions of people in Africa dying of AIDS, and the poverty in

China. When you see it, and then you return home, you will be stronger for the experience."

## IN THIS ISSUE

The life of an  
insomniac...page 3

"You Can't Take it With  
You"...page 17

Fore! Burlington offers  
many golf courses...page  
14

Mocking a mock  
draft...page 27