

# Soldier shares experiences, defends Israel's military actions

Nicholas Zanetti  
Reporter

An Israeli soldier shared his experiences in the Israeli army with Elon University students Feb. 13.

Benjamin Anthony, a reserve sergeant in the Israel Defense Forces, said he has been touring college campuses nationwide, hoping to dispel what he and his organizations view as inaccuracies in the mass media portrayal of the Israeli army.

Anthony founded an organization called "Our Soldiers Speak." His organization "works to separate fact from sensationalism, to distinguish between perception and reality and to compare the media headlines to the truth," as stated on his organization's website.

He recounted harrowing stories of his time serving as a combat soldier in conflicts in the West Bank and told stories of Israeli soldiers who are faced with extremely difficult combat situations at a young age. Like many armies, the IDF has soldiers who are as young as 18 years old.

The last 10 years have seen violent confrontations in the West Bank, Gaza and Lebanon. Although the Israeli army has been the subject of controversy in the mainstream media, Anthony described the Israeli motivation for armed interventions as strictly



PHOTO COURTESY OF ISRAELPHOTOS.NET

Israeli soldier Benjamin Anthony shared his army experiences as a combat soldier with Elon students Feb. 13.

defensive.

"We fight not out of a desire to wage war," Anthony said. "We have no other choice."

Soldiers in the IDF are not motivated by religious ideology, political fervor or political identification, but merely by a basic human desire to survive, he said. According to Anthony, this motivation lies in contrast with those of Israel's enemies, who he believes use religion to justify political and military actions.

Anthony said that while terrorist organizations like Hamas and Hezbollah

fire rockets on Israeli settlements, the Israeli army is one of the most humane fighting forces in the world, protecting the lives and well-being of Palestinian and Arab civilians in war zones. Anthony said that every combat operation of the IDF is carried out in a professional and calculated manner.

Anthony called the existence of Israel as a state and home for the Jewish people important, citing the long history of anti-Semitism in Europe and in all places of Jewish Diaspora. Anthony also spoke of the historical

connection that Jews have with Israel.

"We have no other place to go," he said. "We can no longer afford to be at the mercy of other nations."

Israel has a strong desire for peace, but a peace that is meaningful and lasting will take time, Anthony said.

Anthony stressed the importance of the United States to Israel, which he said was Israel's most important ally in the world.

He encouraged Americans to be fair and objective when analyzing news from the continuing conflict.

## Calendar: Feb. 16-Feb. 22

### FEB. 16

- \* Tips for getting the job you want, 7 p.m. in KOBC 101
- \* Careers for the Common Good, 6:00 p.m., Moseley 103
- \* Wednesday night Catholic Mass, 7:30 p.m., Holt Chapel

### FEB. 17

- \* Celebrate February birthdays at all dining halls, 7 p.m.
- \* From Facebook to Resume: Using Social Networking Tools, 4:15 p.m., McCoy Commons

### FEB. 18

- \* Open casting call for new Elon University admissions video, 2 p.m., Moseley 215
- \* SUB presents Preston Pugmire, 8 p.m., the Zone
- \* Phoenix Phind 2011

### FEB. 19

- \* Evolution of Gospel music, 4 p.m., Whitley Auditorium
- \* Jazz Festival Concert, 7:30 p.m., McCrary Theatre
- \* SUB Cinema presents "Due Date", 8 p.m., the Zone

### FEB. 20

- \* Phoenix Phind 2011
- \* Sunday Worship: Ecumenical Protestant Service, 10:30 a.m., Holt Chapel

### FEB. 21

- \* Nothing but Nets 3 on 3 basketball tournament, 4 p.m., Jordan Gym
- \* Rebecca Solnit, "A Paradise Built in Hell," 7:30 p.m., Whitley Auditorium

### FEB. 22

- \* College Coffee, 9:40 a.m., Phi Beta Kappa Commons
- \* "Business Ethics in the Real World - A Cautionary Tale," 4:30 p.m., LaRose Digital Theatre

**For more dates and information about campus events, visit the calendar on the Elon website.**

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Elon's fifth POWERless competition kicked off Tuesday

Elon's fifth POWERless competition started Tuesday at College Coffee and will involve students living in more than 40 residence halls on campus.

Students will compete to reduce their buildings' total energy usage and prizes will be won by area.

Students who commit to specific energy-saving actions will be entered to win one of two bicycles or one of two Phoenix cash prizes.

The POWERless competition ends March 15. Students can monitor their buildings' progress after the first week of the contest through the building dashboard, [www.buildingdashboard.net/elon/](http://www.buildingdashboard.net/elon/).

### Elon to host 15th annual jazz festival

Elon will host a jazz festival on campus this week for hundreds of student musicians from North Carolina and Virginia high schools.

Students will participate in workshops and performances and will have opportunities to work with top jazz clinicians.

About 400 students are expected to participate in the event and festivities will culminate with a free concert open to the public Saturday night.

The festival is sponsored by the Elon University Department of Music and this year's guests include Swedish pianist Per Danielsson and trombonist Tom Brantley.

### Elon study abroad program at American University in Cairo suspended for fall semester

Following the recent turmoil in Egypt, Elon University has suspended its affiliate program at the American University in Cairo. Students still wishing to study abroad at AUC would not be able to apply for Elon scholarships or financial aid to tuition costs.

"We're hopeful spring becomes an option," said Paul Geis, assistant director of affiliations and exchanges at the Isabella Cannon Centre. "We won't know until after the election (in September)."

### Julianne Malveaux to speak at Elon School of Law

The Elon University School of Law will host Julianne Malveaux, president of Benet College for Women, during its fourth annual Diversity Day Feb. 26. Malveaux is the president of the National Association of Negro Business and Professional Women's Clubs. She is an accomplished author and editor, has both appeared on and hosted several television and radio shows and has held positions in many organizations, including political, women's, civil rights and policy.

Diversity Day is targeted toward minority students but is free to the public and open to anyone considering law school.

### SGA amendments

The Student Government Association at Elon University has proposed several amendments to its constitution for students to vote on when electing new officials Feb. 22 and 23.

Full text of the proposed amendments can be viewed at <http://bit.ly/SGAamend>.

At the weekly SGA meeting Feb. 11, the Senate also discussed and evaluated the Greek Life Summit.

According to SGA Executive President Taylor Martin, collectively members of Greek Life have a higher gpa than that of unaffiliated students.

Nevertheless, the summit said that this is not the case during the pledge period. SGA will release a more elaborate report of the Greek Life summit next week.

At the meeting Nick Livengood introduced the Student Alumni Council, which will form a relationship between the students and the alumni and a lifelong connection between the students and the university.

**Did we miss something? Let us know. E-mail us at [pendulum@elon.edu](mailto:pendulum@elon.edu)**

# LOSE WEIGHT FEEL GREAT!

## BE OUR BIGGEST LOSER!

### E-Fit Weight Loss Challenge Starts FEBRUARY 19, 2011.

*Become the New You!  
Lose Weight and Gain Money!*

## ONLY \$29. PRE-REGISTER AT [WWW.POUNDSDOWNWLC.COM](http://WWW.POUNDSDOWNWLC.COM)

This 12 week on-line program advises proper nutrition and food choices. All money is paid out in prizes.



Do you ever dream about being Edward R. Murrow? You can be!

WSOE's news staff is looking for reporters to contribute to a one-hour news show, as well as help record daily news briefs.

Contact WSOE News Director Jack Dodson at [jdodson4@elon.edu](mailto:jdodson4@elon.edu) for more information.