

Elon students
celebrate bin
Laden's death

>> PAGE 2

PHOTOS FROM SUNDAY'S RALLY

WHERE WERE YOU?

Elon students share the memories they have of Sept. 11

>> PAGE 3

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BIN LADEN ANNOUNCED DEAD



Elon University students donned American flags to celebrate the demise of Osama bin Laden. A large group of students marched through campus around 12:30 a.m., chanting patriotic slogans. Mark Rehbein (from left to right), Keegan Johnson, Carolyn Koleszar, Elliot Dawes and Earle Pope cheer from the roof of a car and waved American flags to commemorate the United States' retaliation against the mastermind behind the attacks on Sept. 11.

Al-Qaeda's leader dead, Obama addresses nation

Kassondra Cloos
News Editor

Osama bin Laden, leader of al-Qaeda and decade-long fugitive on the FBI's "Ten Most Wanted" list, was announced dead by President Barack Obama late Sunday night, following years of domestic and overseas efforts toward his capture.

Obama said the operation had been ongoing since August 2010, when he was briefed about a possible lead to bin Laden indicating he was hiding in a compound deep in the north western part of Pakistan.

"It was far from certain, and it took many months to run this thread to the ground," he said in his speech. "Finally, last week, I determined that we had enough intelligence to take action, and authorized an operation to get Osama bin Laden and bring him to justice."

U.S. forces at his direction launched a targeted operation against bin Laden's

compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan Sunday. Although firefight ensued, killing four people, Obama said no Americans were injured. American forces then took custody of bin Laden's body, which has reportedly been buried at sea.

Jason Kirk, assistant professor of political science, said he first learned of the news when he read it in Monday's newspaper. Americans should not make the mistake of making bin Laden's death only about the United States, he said.

"The most important question right now is what this is going to mean for our relationship with Pakistan," Kirk said. "Pakistan obviously is where bin Laden was killed, not far from the capital at all. Did the U.S. help because of, or in spite of, Pakistan? It's simply not credible that he could have been in a place like that. Someone had to know."

Soon after hearing of bin Laden's

See BIN LADEN DEAD | PAGE 3

Student response varies between widespread celebrations, reflection

Caitlin O'Donnell
News Editor

Elon University students expressed contrasting reactions following the announcement late Sunday night of the military strike against Osama bin Laden in Pakistan. Some erupted in celebrations and others quietly paid tribute to those who lost their lives during the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11.

A large group of students, originating in Danieley Center, made its way across campus starting at 12:30 a.m., chanting patriotic slogans and waving American flags. While the participants said the demonstrations were in celebration of revenge against one of the United States' most wanted former fugitives, others characterized Sunday night's events as an unnecessary celebration of death.

Sophomore Elizabeth Nerich lives in

Manhattan and was there on Sept. 11. When she first heard the news of bin Laden's death, she said her mind went blank and she couldn't fully grasp what had happened.

Nerich said she knew many people who lost family members in the terrorist attacks and, while she will never forget what happened that day, the death of bin Laden brings some closure.

"It doesn't really change a lot, but it's good for our mentality," she said. "And it's nice that someone that caused me, my friends, New York City and America so much fear is out of the picture."

Nerich, who lives in Danieley Center, chose to partake in the demonstrations last night, partly to emphasize to terrorists that citizens of the United

See STUDENTS | PAGE 3

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