



Panels from the AIDS Quilt were on display in the Atrium before the Seminar began. PHOTO: ALICE REGINA LAPOINT

AIDS Seminar reveals hazards, encourages awareness

By ALICE REGINA LAPOINT

During his lecture at the spring AIDS seminar Dr. James Atkins, local oncologist, said that everyone attending the seminar would have a family member affected by AIDS in the next 10 to 15 years.

Atkins was addressing about 300 students, faculty, staff, and visitors in the Lecture Hall on Tuesday, February 15, beginning at 7:00 p.m.

One of 3 speakers at the seminar, Dr. Atkins shared information on AIDS and HIV, using a slide program filled with charts, graphs, and illustrations of symptoms of the disease.

The other speakers included Rose, whose brother Mark died of AIDS, and Jerry, a woman living with AIDS. Rose and Jerry shared their personal experiences.

Atkins said that 32 is the average age for a person to be diagnosed with HIV.

Not many teenagers are diagnosed, he said, because of the time the disease will take to produce symptoms; consequently, persons who may contract HIV when they are teenagers will not be diagnosed until young adulthood.

Atkins said that most new cases of HIV in Wayne County have been found in African American women, but he cautioned that anyone could contract HIV regardless of gender, race or sexuality. "AIDS is an equal opportunity disease," said Dr. Atkins.

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Low enrollment a concern for some programs

By BRIAN WEEKS

Low enrollment has become a problem for several programs, specifically programs in trade areas and agriculture, according to Dr. Dan Krautheim, Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Student Services.

Livestock poultry science, auto-body, general automotive, real-estate, and dialysis technology are all programs threatened low enrollment.

"No definite answer solves this problem," he said. "There are plenty of job opportunities for students to pursue after they have completed school."

Dr. Krautheim said, "People are not aware of the range of opportunities that these programs have to offer."

Program heads are taking steps to boost the enrollment. Each division has submitted plans for recruitment such as flyers, bulletin boards, displays, web pages, advertising, and billboards.

According to Dr. Krautheim, "The key to terminating a program is a lack of jobs available to the students, not the number of students in the program."

Usually, students are given 2 years to phase through if a program is terminated, he said.

Another important aspect in the recruitment process is the role that the industries themselves play.

Krautheim said, "One answer to this problem might be on-the-site training." Instead of requiring the person to come on campus, a representative from the school would go to the job site and teach.

The industries need to help recruit students as well as show support for a fully educated student, Krautheim said.

One problem is the time frame in which it takes a student to reach certificate level. Industries are looking to hire on the spot, and many are not willing to assure students a job once they are out of school.



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