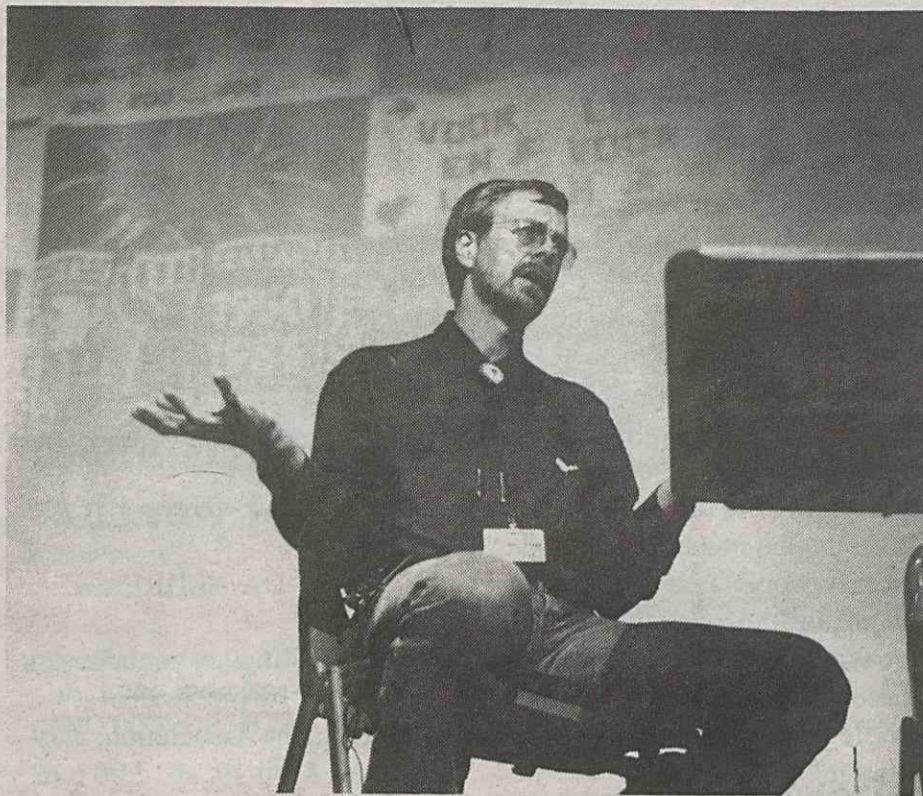


## Speakers share ways AIDS 'turns lives upside down'



Dr. Atkins responds to a question during the last portion of the AIDS Seminar against the background of the AIDS quilt. PHOTO: VERNON CAPPS

By VERNON CAPPS

According to Dr. James Atkins, at least 1 member of every family will contract the AIDS virus in the next 10 to 15 years.

He said already over a half million cases have been identified worldwide, and 16,000 people are infected every day.

The main method of prevention is knowing the facts.

Thus, Wayne Community College welcomes the semi-annual AIDS Seminar to educate the community about the virus.

This semester's seminar held on February 28, 2001, in the Moffat Auditorium consisted of 3 speakers.

The main speaker was Dr. James Atkins, local oncologist and seminar leader since its beginning 13 years ago.

He thoroughly explained the virus and its causes, using visuals such as slides and graphs to help the audience of 350 understand every aspect of HIV/AIDS.

In the panel portion of the seminar Rose was the first guest speaker who shared the way her family dealt with her brother's death from AIDS.

Rose talked about the prejudice against people with AIDS by relating how a funeral home in Raleigh refused to take her brother.

She spoke about how his death changed her life, making her willing to warn young people about this rapidly spreading virus.

The second guest, Diane, who is living with AIDS, spoke about her husband who died from the virus.

He was a guest speaker at seminars in the past. Diane provided the audience with a heart felt message about her life and how AIDS can turn one's life upside down.

Madeline Pitt, an English 114 student writing a reaction to the seminar for extra credit, said, "You would think after so many years and so many cases and deaths because of AIDS that people would be more careful with protecting themselves. The woman who lost her brother to AIDS inspired me a lot. I was very happy to find that she and her family supported her brother."

At the close of the seminar, audience members were allowed to ask questions by writing them on slips of paper.

Dr. Atkins and the other panelists answered every question before the seminar's close.

The questions were about how long AIDS can be in the body before being detected, the places people can go for help who have AIDS, and where one can be tested.



Virnece Beaman, member of the WCC Educational Office Personnel (EOP) group that assisted with the February Blood Drive, places a pin on WCC student Jonna McMillan. PHOTO: VOICE STAFF

## February blood drive yields highest collection since April 1996

By TORKESHIA BELLE

On Valentine's Day, February 14, 2001, Wayne Community College held its first blood drive of the year in the Student Lounge, located in the Wayne Learning Center.

Of the 54 donors, 11 of which were donating for the first time, the American Red Cross collected 52 pints of usable blood.

These donators made up fewer than 2 percent of the population at WCC.

The Educational Office Personnel (EOP) of WCC in an effort to increase numbers, assisted with the February blood drive by signing up donors and serving refreshments.

The EOP publicized the event through CamNet announcements.

Students in the Intro to Journalism, JOU 110, made posters, which they displayed in all campus buildings.

The American Red Cross is dedicated to saving the lives of anyone in need of assistance.

Americans need 22,000 pints of blood a day.

Linda Schrock, Blood Service Director, said in a thank you note "Thank you for your generous contributions of time and talent in helping make the blood drive on February 14<sup>th</sup> at WCC a tremendous success. This is a wonderful boost to the blood supply for our region.

The American Red Cross returned on Tuesday April 24 for a second blood drive.

Again the EOC and journalism students help promote the blood drive through fliers, posters, and CamNet announcements.

The results for the second drive were unavailable at press time.

[see related photo p. 18]

For local AIDS testing, call 731-1000 at the Wayne County Health Department to make an appointment.

Thanks to all donors in February and April!