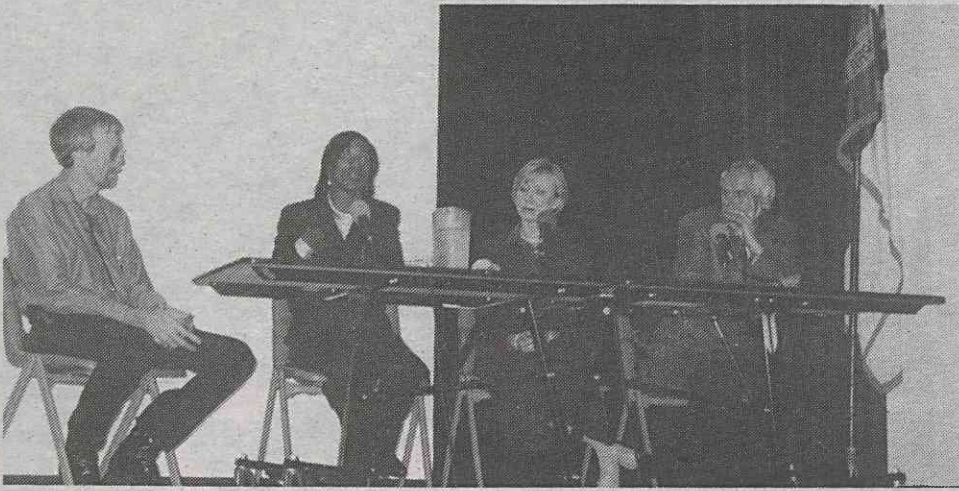


AIDS Seminar elicits concern from audience



Participants in the AIDS Seminar listen as Jeri relates her experiences living with AIDS: from left, Dr. James Atkins, Jeri Barnes, Judge Rose Williams, and Dr. Ed Hogan. PHOTO: BARRY LEWIS

By **ASHLEY DIXON & BARRY LEWIS**

"I can open up all the blinds, turn on all the lights, and I still see darkness," Jeri Barnes said as she spoke on the reality of AIDS.

On Wednesday, January 30 2002, close to 400 people, the majority of them students, gathered in Moffatt Auditorium.

Dr. Edmond Hogan, instructor in the social sciences department, welcomed the audience and announced that after the seminar participants could respond with questions on 3x5 cards.

Dr. James Atkins, local oncologist, and 2 panelists whose lives are affected by AIDS discussed medical and personal aspects of the disease at a seminar that Wayne Community College sponsors each semester.

Dr. Atkins used a Power Point presentation to survey the epidemic, which is 21 years old.

He said that in 1981, young men reported unusual infections that led to the identification of the syndrome, though the virus had taken hold in the United States in 1976.

Now, Atkins said, AIDS is a global epidemic. Other areas reporting large number of AIDS cases include Southeast Asia, Africa, China, and Russia.

Poland has the lowest incidence in the world, perhaps because of education efforts there, a strong emphasis on family, and the influence of Catholicism, Atkins said.

Dr. Atkins provided the audience with ample amounts of information regarding the causes and harsh realities of the HIV.

He said that the virus is transmitted through sexual contact, vertical transmission (from mother to child), and intravenous drug use.

Dr. Atkins said that women make up 30% of the new cases in North Carolina and that North Carolina makes up 30% of total cases.

Other statistics included 90% of AIDS cases are in ages 20-50, and 10% are in ages over 50.

Only a very small percent are those of pre-teens.

Guest speaker Jeri Barnes was diagnosed with full-blown AIDS in 1994.

Jeri, a Wayne County resident, graduated from Eastern Wayne High School and attended ECU, where she has obtained a degree in early childhood and a masters degree in counselor education.

She said living with AIDS means taking lots of medicines everyday and enduring the side effects of the drugs.

She challenged the audience to prevent the spread of the disease by getting tested and becoming educated "Let it begin with you to stop the spread of AIDS."

Rose Williams, whose 30 year-old brother died from AIDS in 1990, shared her family's experience in supporting her brother in the three years from his diagnosis to his death.

She commented on her mother's mission to help other families deal with the disease in many ways, even in the writing of a book, "Keep singing."

She also showed a framed facsimile of the AIDS quilt that commemorates her brother's life with the phrase "Teach us how to love each other."

James Sutton, a student, attending Wayne Community College attended the AIDS seminar and he also resides in Wayne County.

He stated, "I was blind to the fact AIDS was all around me, in my community, in my state, in my world."

WCC web site : A hit!

By **JONATHAN TOLER**

Have you visited the WCC web site lately? It attracted over 2000 hits each weekday during January, according to Network Technician Tim Cawein who designs and maintains the WCC web site. The stats were sent to him through a free tracking service, Webtrends.

Cawein said there have been 42,537 page views, 11,367 unique visitors, and 9,172 first time visitors.

The most active day was January 14, a Monday, and the peak activity occurred between 10:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

People from many other countries have also visited the web site: 20 visits from Canada, 8 visits from Hong Kong, 4 visits from Japan, and 11 visits from 11 other countries.

The top 3 pages with the most traffic are the home page, the distance education page, and the catalog and schedule page.

Many web site visitors found the site through search engines. The top 5 search engine referrals are Yahoo!, MSN, AOLnetfind, Google, and Dogpile.

Building a web site requires a lot of time and skill.

Cawein usually spends a day out of the week to work on the web site.

Self-taught, he is eager to learn more about new web design technology.

Cawein mainly uses Microsoft® Front Page 2000 and Macromedia® Dreamweaver to build the site, and he consults Macromedia® Fireworks and Adobe® Photoshop for graphic design. With an 850 Workstation on a Pentium® III processor he designs the web site.

Cawein's newest project will be adding a new CIS server, which will give those students access to more useful information.

Visit the website: wcc.wayne.cc.nc.us

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