



Spring brings 2 blood mobiles, yields 80 pints

By REBEKAH L. HICKEY

The Red Cross held 2 blood drives on campus spring semester, yielding 63 total pints of viable blood.

WCC did not meet the Red Cross's combined goal of 80 viable pints for both blood drives.

Don Best, director of blood services for the local American Red Cross, said that the renovations to the student lounge might have affected donor turnout this spring.

Usually the blood drive is set up in the student lounge, a high traffic area on campus.

On Tuesday, April 20, 2004, the mobile blood unit was on campus for about 4 hours and received 28 usable pints of blood. Of 32 presenters, 3 donated for the first time.

At an earlier drive on Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2004, from 9 a.m. until 1:30 p.m., 40 students, faculty, and staff members responded to the American Red Cross Blood Drive held on campus in the blood mobile bus.

Out of 40 presenters, 35 resulted in productive units. Four donors gave blood for the first time.

The Red Cross will be back on campus on July 14 from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the newly renovated student lounge.

Best explained that donated blood goes to a testing lab in Charlotte, where each pint undergoes tests for viability.

The vials attached to the blood bag contain the samples to be tested, leaving a full pint in the bag.

He said the blood is tested for red cell antibodies, antibodies to hepatitis viruses, syphilis, antibodies to HIV, HIV antigens, and antibodies to HTLV-1, a rare retro virus. The blood is also tested for West Nile virus, during spring and summer months.

Units with unusual results are discarded after samples are submitted for further testing.

Donors receive letters advising them to see their family physician if the tests reveal a health condition.

The viable blood is then shipped as whole blood, plasma, red cells, and platelets as needed to surrounding hospitals.

Red Cross nurse Victoria Reay, left, checks on WCC student Tiffany Stover at the first of 2 blood drives this spring. PHOTO: APRIL MARSHALL STEVENS

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AIDS highest in South

By ASHLEY L. CHASE

Wayne Community College held its annual AIDS Seminar on Tuesday, February 3, 2004, in Moffat Auditorium before a full-house audience of 400 at 7:00 p.m.

The moderator, for the seminar, was Dr. Ed Hogan, a WCC psychology instructor.

Dr. James Atkins, local oncologist of Southeastern Oncology Center, began the seminar with a lecture integrated with a power point slide presentation that featured the history of AIDS, current statistics, symptoms of AIDS and HIV, and worldwide trends.

An April 13 News-Argus article cited Atkins.

For the past 2 years Atkins has been listed on the "Best Doctors" website as one of the top oncologists. About 4 percent all of U.S. doctors are selected for this honor.

AIDS stands for Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome. Between 800,000 and 900,000 people in the United States is currently living with HIV.

An estimated 40,000 people per year in America become infected with HIV, a number that has remained relatively stable for much of the past decade.



Dr. Ed Hogan

As many as 300,000 Americans may be infected with HIV, but don't even know it. Half of all new HIV infections in the United States are among people under 25, and the majority of young people are infected sexually.

The South has 7 of the 10 states with the nation's highest AIDS case rates.

Anyone can receive free testing for STD's or be tested confidentially for HIV at the Wayne County Health Department.

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