

Successful blood drive at Elon vital to Red Cross

Hannah DelaCourt
Reporter

Elon University held the second of its three annual blood drives Wednesday, Jan. 12. There is a constant need for blood donations to save the lives of accident victims, cancer patients, premature babies and others.

"There are a number of reasons why someone would arrive at a hospital needing a pint of blood," said Andrea Sjogren, an American Red Cross donor recruitment representative. "Yet, there is only one way to have that pint on the shelf at the hospital, and that is from a volunteer blood donor."

According to Sjogren, blood drives at colleges and universities are essential to the Red Cross. "We tend to collect more pints at college and university blood drives because the population we can reach and educate is larger than, say, a church or business," Sjogren said. "Also, young, college-aged

blood donors are a very important part of our future, and college is the perfect place to find and educate this demographic."

Sophomores Hannah Nelson and Dionne Richardson were the Elon Volunteers coordinators of the second annual blood drive. Nelson agreed that it is important to hold blood drives at colleges. "If (students) start giving blood now, they can make it a lifetime habit," she said.

Students who have donated in Elon blood drives agree that giving blood is important.

"I think it's important for everyone to give blood because it's a resource that everyone has, and it doesn't affect you to give it up," freshman Chandler Machehl said.

Sophomore Lauren Culy said she gives blood to help more than one person. "Each person's donation saves more than one life," she said. "The effect of giving is magnified."

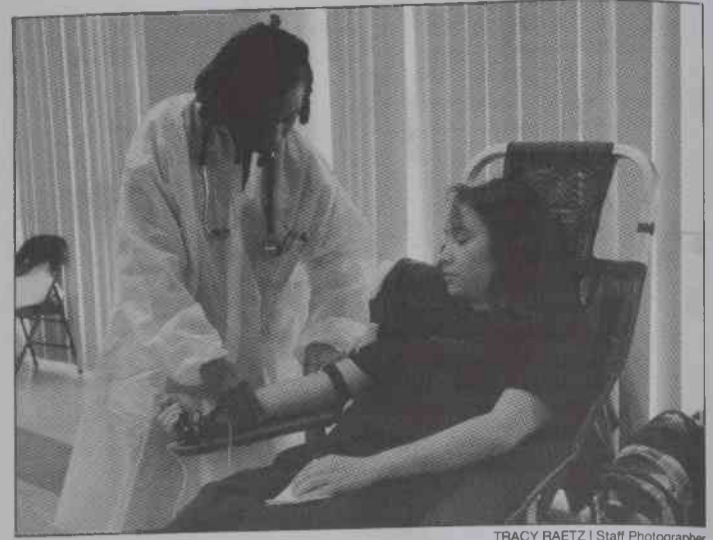
Students also say it is an easy way to help others.

"I think it is something small that you can do, and it makes a big difference," freshman Callan Spicher said.

The American Red Cross is continually working on better ways to market to the college-aged donor base, but they often use the tools that the campus already has, Sjogren said. Elon Volunteers promoted the blood drive with posters, Facebook pages and a sign-up table in Moseley Center. Fraternity Kappa Alpha and sorority Sigma Sigma Sigma also helped co-sponsor the blood drive.

The American Red Cross helps set a goal for each blood drive. The goal for this blood drive was 103 pints. Nelson said that Elon never really has a problem reaching its goal, but because of inclement weather and delayed classes, some people were not able to make their appointments.

Ninety-seven people signed in at this blood drive, including 28 first-time donors, but there were only



TRACY RAETZ | Staff Photographer

Over 120 people signed up to donate blood in the days preceding the Elon drive.

80 usable pints of blood. Even though the goal was not met, Nelson said she still believes this drive was a success.

"We had over 120 people signed up to donate blood, so we believe that with walk-ins, we would have exceeded our goal, had the weather allowed," Nelson said. "Our promotion and sign-up system

with the co-sponsors Kappa Alpha and Sigma Sigma Alpha were very successful, and we still look positively at this drive. (Sjogren) was very thankful we were able to get the 80 pints that we did, as many recent drives had to be canceled due to the weather."

Elon's final blood drive will be held on April 6.

Elon selected to participate in pilot assessment program

Derek Wickham
Reporter

Elon University has been selected to participate in the Excellent Practice in Student Learning Assessment (EPSLA) a program designed to study whether students are actually achieving the learning objectives that colleges claim they will meet.

The pilot was hosted by the New Leadership Alliance for Student Learning and Accountability, a recently formed agency looking for ways to improve higher education.

"We're looking to make something like a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification in education," said David Paris, executive director for the New Leadership Alliance. "LEED changed building practices by certifying people to do things in a way that helped the environment. We want to do the same here by accessing student learning and improving graduate education."

To be certified by this program, colleges would have to demonstrate a very high standard in education. They would have to show clear education

goals, and a long history of students meeting those goals.

"Education is changing," said Mary Wise, associate vice president for academic affairs. "For a long time we said 'here's what you will do.' That has changed to 'here is what students will learn.'"

Instead of listing assignments, professors are now starting to explain what kinds of skill sets students will have after leaving the classroom. Wise said this would aid prospective students in their search for colleges. Students would be able to pinpoint their specific desired learning outcomes and explore colleges that offer them.

"This helps colleges and universities make the big picture clear," Wise said. "We have 10 outcomes we want students to come out of our program with."

According to Wise, these goals include having effective writing and speaking skills, complex reasoning skills, the capacity for ethical decision-making and the ability to view issues from other cultural perspectives. These goals are in addition to any majors and minors that students would complete during their time at Elon.

Several schools across the country were selected to participate in the pilot, including Capella University, the University of Central Florida and the United States Naval Academy.

"We wanted a representative sample of colleges throughout America," Paris said. "We had one for profit, one military, some community colleges, public and private universities. Elon fell into the private sector. We also wanted institutions that were interested in gathering information on student learning and finding out how students are coming out with it. One of our advisers on the board offered Elon (as an option)."

The goal for the EPSLA pilot was not to certify a college. Instead, the New Leadership Alliance used the information gathered to refine the program.

"This program was to help us make reasonable judgments," Paris said. "It was to help provide guidance to help schools to look at what they are doing and to get evidence of student learning."

The New Leadership Alliance would use that information to amend the

process. These changes would help develop the pilot into a program that can accurately judge if a college is giving students clear educational goals and skill sets. Further information on how the program will change following the pilot is not yet available, as the information from the pilot was just submitted in December. Changes to the program are still being considered.

"We are going to revise the forms and host a mini-pilot in the spring," Paris said. "We hope to announce that schools can apply to be certified in the summer."

Certification would show that schools have clear educational goals, and students know exactly what they will learn at that university. It would also hold universities accountable for providing students with a higher standard in education. The exact guidelines regarding preparation for certification have not yet been finished.

"The New Alliance provides questions for schools to look at," Wise said. "To make sure that students will actually leave with the skills that the universities say they should."

Periclean Scholars use grant to promote environmental advocacy

Kyra Gemberling
Design Intern

As the Periclean Scholars Class of 2011 travels to Sri Lanka during Winter Term to promote global outreach, they will also use their recent grant from the Park Foundation, a leading American scholarship program, to support Sri Lankan environmental sustainability.

The scholars were awarded the \$12,300 grant in December to support their investigation of environmental issues in the country and to generate a quality media product to reflect their research.

The group will use the money for a variety of purposes, but mainly for the production of a documentary with an environmental focus.

"(The money) goes toward travel to and accommodations in Sri Lanka," said Tom Arcaro, director of Project Pericles. "Also, equipment is expensive, so the other part will be production costs (for the documentary), from duplicating the DVD, hard drives and so on."

Arcaro said the documentary will most likely focus on environmental issues associated with water and will reflect the themes of the LEAF Summit that the scholars will attend, which examines the tension between environmental stewardship and

CONFIRMED FILMING LOCATIONS

- Kosgoda Turtle Hatchery: charting the changing habitats of aquatic wildlife
- Kanneliya Forest: looking at deforestation soil erosion, and its pollution impact on water bodies and resources
- Pinnawela Elephant Orphanage: in water terrestrial wildlife
- Panangela School: a segment on environmental education and stewardship in the younger generations in Sri Lanka
- Temple of the Tooth: a look into the religious symbolism and importance of water and the environment in Sri Lankan life
- LEAF Summit: footage of keynote speakers addressing environmental issues



SARAH BETH COSTELLO | Graphics Editor

economic development.

"Charles Smith, one of the authors of the grant, has expertise in water, so it will probably focus on water and access to water, purity of water, and water pollution," Arcaro said.

Senior Will Lyle, a member of the Periclean Scholars Class of 2011, said the documentary will also focus on how Sri Lanka is rebuilding itself in environmentally sustainable ways after the country's 26-year civil war ended in 2009. The war caused significant hardships for the population, environment and economy of Sri Lanka.

"(The documentary) is being used to raise awareness, and for fundraising and for helping our partner projects in Sri Lanka," Lyle said.

Lyle said junior Jack Dodson, who is a multimedia editor for The Pendulum, and seniors Jesse Lee and Chas Smith are working on the film. He estimates that it will be completed in three to six months.

"The students who are working on it will be filming during the summit," Lyle said. "They might be showing portions of the unedited film, though."

The documentary will incorporate footage from the conference and will include sound bites to support the narrative.

"The documentary team has been working on the narrative arc," Arcaro said. "The script is extraordinarily important ... we have a lot of expertise for a documentary that will be useful inside the walls of Elon and outside our walls, as well."

This is the fourth time the Periclean Scholars program has received grants from the Park Foundation, and each one has been used for the production of a documentary.

According to the foundation's website, their mission is to support scholarships in higher education, quality media that heightens awareness of critical issues and the protection of the environment.

The foundation also supports raising public awareness specifically about freshwater issues.

Junior Annie Huth, member of the Periclean Scholars Class of 2012, hopes to undertake similar pursuits during her class' trip to India next year.

"Our class is very excited about the summit the 2011's are holding, and we have begun to discuss the possibility of planning a public health summit for Winter Term 2012 in Pune or Mumbai," Huth said.

The class of 2012 also hopes to receive funding from the Park Foundation in order to make the most of their experience in global stewardship.

"In order to fund future work in India, we will certainly apply for grants from the Park and Redwood Foundations, as well as seek out other sources interested in funding our partnership," Huth said.