

Donating to save a life

By Rebecca N.

Jolly Roger staff writer

To many students, saving a life means differing things. To over 70 Jack Britt students, giving blood fits their definition. Cape Fear Valley Medical Center set up camp at Britt and the end of last month for their fall blood drive—drawing about a pint of blood from each donor.

“I want to save a life,” said senior Samantha C. Like her, many students had the same mind set, often commenting that they were doing this to save a life.

“I’m saving a life today. Yes, I was scared, but I was talking the whole time. It was fun, I enjoyed it,” said Christian M, a senior.

The experience in itself may seem scary at first, having your skin pricked with a semi-large needle, but the staff helped students focus on the benefits rather than the pain of the donation process itself. They offered sweets and drinks and gave students the opportunity to remain in the donor buses if they felt light headed or dizzy.

“Yeah, this is really enjoyable,” said CFVMC staff member Shirley, one of the many mobile staff who tended to the students on the buses.

In addition to working for the blood drive, the staff often gives their own blood when stores run low. “We give 8 gallons of blood over a number of years,” said Shirley.

The collected blood goes straight to those who need it, such as cancer and trauma patients. Shirley said only 10 pints of blood can save the life of one person, depending on how the blood is processed and sorted in the lab.