



STU TREBELCO

**NO NERVES FOR NEWBIE** Second-year med student Krystina Kiefer roles up her sleeve to donate blood for the first time.

## New partnership with med students aims to increase blood donations

NATALIE CLIMENHAGA  
Senior News Editor

Canadian Blood Services is looking forward to an increased flow of blood donations now that the Canadian Federation of Medical Students (CFMS) has signed on as a national Partner for Life.

CFMS—which represents 13 medical schools across the country, excluding those in Quebec—has committed to achieving a goal of 1000 donations by the end of 2008.

Mike Bevilacqua, who studies medicine at the University of Calgary, explained that when he took over as the national blood drive coordinator with CFMS last year, one of his objectives was to transition from holding once-a-year events to promoting an ongoing year-round series of events.

“We decided that we could maximize our potential to make donations,” he said.

According to Candace Korchinsky, CBS’s communications specialist, the organization will help CFMS maintain awareness about the importance of

blood donations throughout the year by providing the group with speakers and promotional materials.

“We really want to be able to do as much as we can to help those groups meet their goals for the end of the year,” Korchinsky said. “It’s a big national partnership for us, and we’re really excited to have the Canadian Federation of Medical Students on board with us.”

University of Alberta medical student Faiza Somji said that this new partnership will help make CFMS blood donations more of a public initiative.

Somji explained that because of the mumps outbreak late last year, donations are down slightly among medical students in Alberta.

“So our numbers aren’t as high as we hoped them to be for next year,” she said, explaining that they hope to receive 100 donations at the U of A in 2008. At the U of C’s med school, on the other hand, Bevilacqua said they’re aiming for 150 donations.

While friends and family are also encouraged to donate, Bevilacqua explained that in meeting CFMS’s goal

of 1000 donations, the group would like to draw primarily on its own membership.

“We want it to really more reflect the contribution of the CFMS itself, rather than just who can draw the most people off the street to help fill up the number,” he said.

“Canadian Blood Services was very eager to have us on board, so that’s really where the credit has to go—once they saw that that’s what we thought was best, they really made things easy for us,” Bevilacqua said.

Somji added that donating blood is “such an easy way to help so many different people,” and that there’s never a shortage of demand.

“It’s such an easy way to help out that I don’t know why people hesitate sometimes,” Somji said.

“If you consider that each donation helps three people, that’s 3000 people that this one group will be able to help by the end of the year. So it’s pretty amazing; it’s a pretty great goal and we’re looking forward to help do everything that we can to help them meet that,” Korchinsky added.

## Clark remembers his ‘old stomping grounds’

CLARK • CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

But it wasn’t all reminiscing about his time at the U of A, as Clark touched on the challenges of being prime minister and Canada’s current political climate, focusing specifically on the nation’s role on the international stage.

Clark said that during his tenure as PM, Canada’s response to international issues was some of the best in the world.

“Canada responded very well to international challenges. The most dramatic at the outset was the plight of the Vietnamese boat people,” he explained.

“We responded very quickly [...] and the people of Canada responded. We offered to match the support that came from local communities for welcoming Vietnamese refugees and the response was overwhelming,” he recounted, adding that his government had to go back to the treasury three or four times to get the limits increased.

“It was a wonderful chapter in Canadian history.”

After serving at age 39 as Canada’s youngest prime minister from June 1979 to March 1980, he served as Foreign Affairs minister for seven years under prime minister Brian Mulroney.

“We are very different people; we



MIKE OTTO

**NEWSPAPERMEN** Former EIC Joe Clark swings by the office on Wednesday.

were rivals,” Clark said of his relationship with Mulroney, but noted that there was a very strong mutual respect between the two.

“He gave me, as foreign minister, a great deal of latitude. I don’t think any foreign minister had as much latitude as I had.”

While serving in this position, Clark explained that he received a greater respect and vision for Canada’s role in the world at large.

“We should never underestimate the standing of Canada in the wider world or take it for granted. My worry right now is that we’re taking it for granted.”

“When you look at defense spending going way up and spending on

[...] diplomacy going way down, that’s a very major problem for Canada because one of our most important assets is that we are a trusted nation internationally.”

In commemoration of the U of A’s 100th year, the University has invited the six living former Canadian prime ministers and current PM Stephen Harper to take part in a series of conversations with the Honourable Jim Edwards on the theme “Advancing Canada—Changing the World,” concluding the series next winter with the Harper. The next installment in the series will take place on Monday, 5 May with the Right Honourable Kim Campbell.

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