

Pathologists promote science behind the hospital

Celebrating Lab Week through April 26

BY KODEE BRINEGAR
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

Medical Laboratory Professionals Week is an annual celebration of medical laboratory professionals and pathologists who play a vital role in health care and patient advocacy.

Baptist Health Hardin is giving recognition to those that perform all the testing behind the scenes, according to Director of Laboratory Services CJ Hayko.

“About 70% of any one’s medical record is composed of information that comes out of the laboratory for the physician to make a



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Dozens of boxes of pizza were donated to workers of Baptist Health Hardin oncologists and pathologists Monday by Barry’s Mission and delivered by Barry Howard, right, to celebrate National Lab Week.

decision-making point of how to treat the patient,” Hayko said. “In pathology, they are the first ones to recognize and stage whatever cancer from the source.”

Hayko said they try

and get any and all information back to the coordinator within five to seven days.

“We’re just trying to be able to provide that information back to them to be able to start that treat-

ment plan as quickly as possible,” Hayko said. “The quicker they get the treatment plan, the better their survivable rate and outcome is.”

Lab Week is a national event that is recognized by the American Society for Clinical Pathology, Hayok said.

To help celebrate those who work in the Lab, Hayok said that pizza was donated from Barry’s Mission to workers of the lab.

“Nationally, we’re trying to recognize not only for what they do, but also help bring folks into this career path,” Hayok said. “We host a variety of different events to where we give people tours and show them all the different areas of opportunity to get into if they want to

be part of the laboratory science program.”

The hospital is working with Elizabethtown and Jefferson community and technical colleges to get interested individuals into a two-year program, Hayok said.

“I enjoy the ability to provide the physician or care-giver the correct information they need to be able to take care of that patient,” Hayok said. “We don’t necessarily get face-to-face contact with the patient, but every tube is basically the patient itself.”

The theme for Lab Week is Mystery Machine of Diagnostics: Another Case Solved by the Lab, according to Hayok.

“When we receive a sample and then a patient gets these num-

bers back, you don’t know the entire process that happen, so it’s kind of the mystery,” Hayok said. “We test about 3,500 results a day just in this lab at Baptist Health Hardin.”

It’s not just blood work the lab receives, Hayok said. The lab also will receive biopsies and surgical resection specimens.

“Pathology is more of the tissue and body parts and whatever products of conception, whereas, the clinical part is more of the swabs, blood and urine,” Hayok said. “We want to show the science behind the work to those who are interested.”

Kodee Brinegar can be reached at 270-505-1413 or kbrinegar@thenewsenterprise.com.

ECTC professor to have a not-so-typical summer vacation



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Kevin Parrett, a professor at Elizabethtown Technical & Community College, receives the Mosal Award during the Phi Theta Kappa National Convention in Kansas City Missouri. Parrett is professor of Physical Sciences, Related Technologies and Business Administration at ECTC and chair of Global Studies and International Partnerships for the Kentucky Community and Technical College System.

Kevin Parrett wins Mosal Award for Phi Theta Kappa

BY GREG THOMPSON
THE NEWS-ENTERPRISE

Elizabethtown Community and Technical College professor Kevin Parrett is planning a summer trip to Antarctica.

Summertime on that continent is around December and January.

“Antarctica is the last continent I have not visited yet,” Parrett said.

The average temperature on the coastal regions of Antarctica is around 14 degrees to -76 degrees in the interior and colder still in the elevated interior of the continent.

“I plan on going during the Antarctic summer

since it is slightly warmer, with fewer storms and most days have close to 24 hours of sunshine,” Parrett said.

Summertime in Antarctica typically averages temperatures around 36 degrees but can reach milder temperatures in the 50s.

The trip is designed not so much as a vacation but as a chance to complete research.

Parrett serves as professor of physical sciences, related technologies and business administration at the college as well as chairman of global studies and international partnerships for the Kentucky Community

and Technical College System.

A trip to Antarctica is not an inexpensive one. Doing a bit of research, Parrett estimates the cost of the trip to range between \$7,500 to \$12,500.

Thanks to being a recipient of the Mosal Award a little more than a week ago during the Phi Theta Kappa Annual Convention held in Kansas City, Missouri, Parrett has been awarded a \$5,000 stipend to complete research and experiential study of the continent.

PTK is considered to be the world’s oldest and largest honor society for colleges and the Mosal Award is considered the highest honor to be awarded to any Phi Theta Kappa advisor.

The Mosal Award was established 31 years ago and is named in honor of Dr. Margaret Mosal, the society’s first executive director.

“I will participate in a research-based educational expedition, engaging with scientists and other experts to observe its geography, climate and ecosystems,” Parrett said. “I will document findings through photographs, interviews and field notes for educational use.”

The ECTC professor will be in Antarctica anywhere from 10 days to two weeks depending on which research tour he is able to secure and join.

By doing so much global traveling, Parrett believes the experiences and his findings through research provide a new

perspective and world view when making international education presentations.

Another reason Parrett chose the continent, other than it’s the only one he hasn’t visited, is because it is the least visited continent and does not have permanent residents, “although a few hundred to 1,000 reside there for a few months each year, primarily for research.”

This world-traveler has been to a total of six continents, 70 countries and 42 states. Parrett plans to continue adding more states and countries to his list each year for visiting.

Greg Thompson can be reached at 270-505-1414 or gthompson@thenewsenterprise.com.

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