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Southern Illinois University School of Medicine

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Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Medicine and Memorial Medical Center are pleased to announce the creation of the Elvin G. Zook, M.D., Endowed Chair of Plastic Surgery Fund for the Division of Plastic Surgery at SIU School of Medicine.

After serving as chairman and founder of the division of plastic surgery and SIU's plastic surgery residency program for the past 32 years, Zook will step down in June of 2006. Establishing the endowed chair will honor his legacy and ensure that his vision of excellence in the area of plastic surgery education and research will be maintained.

"I am humbled and honored that this chair is being established in my honor," said Dr. Elvin Zook, professor and chairman of the division of plastic surgery at SIU. "I had no idea I would be here this long when I arrived 32 years ago. I've enjoyed every minute of it. I'm particularly pleased that the interest from the money raised will be used for research and teaching activities – two activities that are important to me and are traditionally underfunded."

Zook joined the faculty at SIU in 1973 as the first plastic surgeon in central Illinois. Since his arrival he has helped train more than 50 plastic surgery residents, 20 microsurgery/hand fellows, 10 burn fellows and countless medical students. Some of the highlights of his long career include serving as President of the American Society of Plastic Surgery in 1993-94, being named Clinician of the Year by the American Association of Plastic Surgery, Chair of the Plastic Surgery Research Council and President of The Academic Chairman of Plastic Surgery, and Chair of the SIU School of Medicine Faculty. Currently he serves on the Springfield Medical District Commission and is Chair of the Department of Plastic Surgery at Memorial Medical Center and their Operating Room Committee board.

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“An endowed chair is the highest honor that a University can bestow on a faculty member who has had a distinguished career in a particular field of study,” said Dr. Gary Dunnington, professor and chairman of the department of surgery. “Dr. Zook has meant so much to not only the medical students, residents and faculty but also to his patients and this community. He has raised the bar in plastic surgery both nationally and internationally. It is fitting for Memorial and SIU to pay tribute to one who is so well-known and respected in the community and even the country and to honor Dr. Zook’s leadership, vision and accomplishment.”

“Memorial Medical Center and SIU School of Medicine have developed a strong partnership over the years,” said Ed Curtis, Memorial’s executive vice president and chief operating officer. “Today, we are gratified by this opportunity to recognize Dr. Elvin Zook and his many achievements as chairman of the Division of Plastic Surgery at SIU School of Medicine. He is a distinguished, internationally recognized physician who has dedicated himself to excellence in the field of plastic surgery.

“Dr. Zook has supported, encouraged, challenged and cheered on hundreds of medical residents for more than three decades. Through this endowed chair, his great legacy will continue. We are honored to play a role in making this endowment possible and saying thank you to Dr. Zook for how he has touched the lives of so many not only in our community, but throughout the United States and in other countries of the world.”

Donations to the Elvin G. Zook Endowed Chair in Plastic Surgery Fund will be held in a permanently restricted account by the Memorial Medical Center Foundation in Springfield, Illinois. Net income from the fund shall be paid as an annual charitable grant to the SIU School of Medicine Chair of the Division of Plastic Surgery. Persons interested in making donations may contact the Memorial Medical Center Foundation at (217)788-4700.