

SCCI receives memorial gift

The SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute (SCCI) at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield received an unrestricted gift of \$250,000 that will become part of the institute's research endowment fund.

The gift, honoring the Woerner and Robbins families, has been made by Anna Woerner of Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, in memory of her husband, Klaus Woerner, and her parents, Wycliffe and Elizabeth Robbins, as well as in honor of her brother, **Dr. K. Thomas Robbins**, director of SCCI at SIU School of Medicine.

"I wanted to honor the work that is being done in building this new center for cancer care and research, one located in a rural setting, similar to my own home, yet focused on

preneur of the Year in 1997. He supported several philanthropic causes.

Wycliffe and Elizabeth Robbins raised their family of four children in Corner Brook, Newfoundland. Both were high school teachers, and Wycliffe Robbins became an administrator at the school where they taught.

"While we expect donor support for our new cancer institute to come from a variety of individuals, it is a delightful surprise for us to receive this international gift from Anna Woerner, and we thank her for her generosity," said **Dr. J. Kevin Dorsey**, SIU's dean and provost. "It's an honor for SIU and a wonderful tribute for her husband, her parents and her brother."

Robbins joined SIU in 2003 as professor and chair of the otolaryngology head and neck surgery division. After two years as interim director, he was named director of the SCCI at SIU in 2005. He has gained international recognition for his contributions to the field of head and neck oncology and has served as an invited guest lecturer in numerous countries.

The SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU offers state-of-the-art treatment for patients in central and southern Illinois as well as facilities for cancer research and physician and public education.

This summer, it moves to a three-story, \$21.5 million facility in Springfield. More than 75 SIU physician and basic science faculty are involved

with the institute. It is named in recognition of the \$10.2 million pledged donation from the SimmonsCooper law firm. ●●●



Dr. Robbins received a donation for the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute from his sister, Anna Woerner.

providing the latest in treatment options for patients," explained Woerner. "My husband was a patient here for a while, and I know the efforts by SIU's medical staff prolonged his life, so I am especially grateful because of that gift of time to our family."

Klaus Woerner died of cancer at the age of 65 in 2005. Originally from Germany, he immigrated to Canada and started an engineering group that became Automation Tooling Systems in 1978, a company that became involved in the automation industry internationally. Based in Canada's Waterloo region, the company today has more than 4,000 employees in two dozen offices. Woerner's various business awards included Canada's Entre-

Family Matters: Honoring the first urology faculty

Betty McVary was beaming with love and pride. She was listening to her son, Dr. Kevin T. McVary, professor of urology at Feinberg School of Medicine, Northwestern University, as he presented the inaugural talk of a lectureship in urology that has been established at SIU School of Medicine to honor the memory of her late husband, and Kevin's father, **Dr. Patrick B. McVary**, one of the founding faculty members in the division of urology.

Several of Betty's other children were also present. After the presentation she commented, "Patrick would have been so proud to see Kevin deliver this lecture."

Dr. Patrick H. McKenna, professor and chair of SIU's urology division added, "We are very honored to have one of Dr. McVary's own children, a very accomplished urologist, present this first lecture."



Dr. Patrick B. McVary

The inaugural talk in the Patrick H. McVary Lectureship was presented in June at Illini Country Club in Springfield. Dr. Patrick McVary was an early faculty member who helped start SIU's urology division. He held a part-time faculty position as clinical associate professor of surgery (1974-79) and later served as a volunteer faculty member. He practiced urology in Springfield for 38 years before he retired in 1987. He also served as president of the Sangamon County Medical Society and was a member of the American Urological Society. He died in 2005.

The McVary family chose this wonderful way to honor the memory of a beloved husband and father by making a lasting



Dr. Pat McKenna and Betty McVary after the inaugural lecture.

gift, a gift that acknowledges the importance of his life-long work and commitment to urological research, teaching and clinical practice. By funding the Patrick B. McVary, M.D., Lectureship in Urology, they have established a permanent legacy of a beloved husband, father and physician in the SIU medical community.

If you would like information about how to establish named permanent endowments and other planned giving opportunities at SIU School of Medicine, please contact Deborah Case, director of development at 217-545-6447, or e-mail her at dcase@siumed.edu.

Rain can't dampen spirit of COCO golf outing

Date: June 27, 2008

Place: Springfield, IL

Time: 6:30 a.m.

Weather: Rainy

Weather predictions for June 27 called for possible thunderstorms throughout the day. Even the guest emcee for the evening event, Joe Crain, WICS Morning and Midday Weather Anchor, couldn't make the early morning rain go away. By the time

of registration, however, the sun was out and the sky showed large patches of blue with small, white wisps of clouds.

This annual charity golf event for Camp COCO brings together many businesses and individuals who care enough to make a difference for children with cancer and other blood related disorders. Many volunteers commit their time and energy to plan the event and solicit sponsor-

ships. Springfield area businesses provide philanthropic funds to the SIU School of Medicine's Department of Pediatrics program to provide this special week of fun for sick children: Camp COCO.

Thundershowers in the early afternoon did bring golfers back to the clubhouse, interrupting play not once but twice. However, many golfers remarked that the day was truly about the children and not about the

golf. During the award ceremony, emcee Joe Crain took some ribbing about the weather. Nevertheless, Joe did a wonderful job interviewing three very special children who have attended Camp COCO and who joined the golfers for dinner. The children's enthusiasm, joy and speeches certainly provided a bright evening for everyone.