

Endowed chair to help advance research in Alzheimer Disease

● Alzheimer Disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, with about 5 million cases diagnosed this year.

● In the year 2040, that number will nearly triple, with 13 million U.S. cases diagnosed. Alzheimer Disease will become the No. 2 cause of death.

— Alzheimer's Association

Donate to Alzheimer Disease research

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SIU Foundation
P.O. Box 19666
Springfield, IL
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Gregory J. Brewer, Ph.D., professor of medical microbiology, immunology and cell biology, was named the first Kenneth Stark Endowed Chair in Alzheimer Research.

Dr. Brewer's nearly 30-year research career in Springfield has included numerous contributions to Alzheimer Disease (AD) research. He is recognized as a leader in the cellular and molecular aspects of neuroscience applied to neurons in the hippocampus. He has developed new isolation techniques and media for culturing neuronal cells, allowing scientists' to study new ways of treating neurological diseases such as Alzheimer Disease and brain injuries. He is seeking an early biomarker of AD in the blood and is researching reversing epigenetic switches in brain metabolism and mitochondria.

Dr. Brewer joined the SIU faculty in 1980. He earned his doctorate at the University of California San Diego (1972) and his bachelor's degree from the California Institute of Technology (1968).

He has received outside funding for nearly 30 years, which now totals more than \$7 million. He has authored 90 publications in leading scientific journals and holds three U.S. patents for his scientific discoveries.

"It's unusual for a clinical department to give an endowed chair to a basic science researcher," noted **Morris Cooper, Ph.D.**, professor and director of the Department Medical Microbiology and Immunology at the installation ceremony. "It shows great respect for Dr.



Brewer's research."

Interest from the endowment will support a doctoral student and several studies related to Dr. Brewer's studies of Alzheimer's Disease.

The endowment is funded with a \$1.8 million gift from the estate of Kenneth A. Stark, a Pike County native who had a long career as a farmland appraiser for the Federal Land Bank in St. Louis. Stark served as president of the State Bank of Nebo and chair of the Community Bank in Pittsfield, Plymouth and Mount Sterling. In 1984 he was appointed to the State Banking Board, serving three consecutive terms until 1995.

Stark's interest in AD began when his wife, Vesta, was diagnosed with the condition. Mrs. Stark received much of her care at SIU's Center for Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders under the direction of **Rodger Elble, M.D., Ph.D.** She died in August 2007, following the death of her husband in 2004. ●●●

Dr. Brewer receives his medal from Tom Ala, M.D., interim director of SIU's Center for Alzheimer Disease and Related Disorders.



CAMP COCO

The 24th annual Camp COCO hosted 130-plus campers with cancer and other blood disorders during its one-week session July 12-17. A project of Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in Springfield, the camp was held at the Timber Pointe Outdoor Conference Center on Lake Bloomington. The theme for this year's camp was "Pirate Cove: Who Stole the Black Pearl?"

Former camper Natalie Goebel was 19 when she lost her fight with cancer. Her family and friends keep her memory alive with the Natalie Goebel Memorial Poker Run, an annual event to support Camp COCO. This year's event raised \$5,500.

Natalie's giving spirit touched not only those who knew her personally but through the efforts of her family and friends, her spirit touches campers at Camp COCO.



Top: Campers enjoy Camp COCO 2009.
Below, Michelle, Deanna, and Kayson Goebel present a check to SIU School of Medicine.

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The number of students who received scholarships this autumn, thanks to alumni and friends who have contributed to scholarships.

Scholarship support is one of the highest priorities of the School of Medicine. The average debt from four years of medical school is \$150,000. Scholarship support helps medical students not only by reducing debt load but also by reducing the worry that frequently accompanies debt.

Scholarship gifts also are important to the alumni donor whose gift is a tangible representation of gratitude for the education he or she has received.

Donate to Student Scholarships

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Bowling event honors cancer patient

In 2001 Mary Teubner, 41, lost her battle to intestinal cancer. As a businessperson, wife, mother, volunteer and friend, she impressed people with her enthusiasm and joy in life. In Mary's memory family and friends created the Mary Teubner Memorial Open Bowling event, which is held each July in Springfield. Funds raised at this year's event provided the SimmonsCooper Cancer Institute at SIU \$10,000 for cancer research.

