

Simmons Cancer Institute dedicates Donor Wall

An 11-foot-long donor wall marking the names of more than 100 individuals, organizations and businesses has been dedicated at Simmons Cancer Institute at SIU School of Medicine in Springfield (SCI).

The names represent more than \$13 million in funding committed to programs and research at SCI. The wall is located in the north corridor on the first floor of the cancer institute at 315 W. Carpenter St.

“The funding commitment embodied on this donor wall is perhaps the greatest testimony to the care and treatment provided by the physicians and staff at Simmons Cancer Institute,” said **J. Kevin Dorsey, M.D., Ph.D.**, SIU dean and provost.

SCI has 11 cancer-care teams, including breast, colorectal, head and neck, hematology oncology, lung, melanoma, neuro-oncology, pediatric, prostate and psycho-oncology. A clinical trials research office is also based in the building.

“The support signified on this wall for the programs and research being done at Simmons Cancer Institute is tremendous, spanning across the 70-



plus counties we serve,” said **K. Thomas Robbins, M.D.**, SCI director. “I believe we have joined together as one community in our efforts, providing health education, cancer prevention strategies, and clinical services and research to the people of our region.”

The largest contribution to Simmons Cancer Institute, \$10.2 million, was donated by the Simmons Family Foundation and the Simmons Firm of East Alton in November 2005. The Simmons Firm is one of the nation’s leading asbestos litigation firms. Simmons Cancer

Institute at SIU was named in appreciation for that philanthropic support.

“On behalf of my wife, Jayne, and our partners and co-workers at the Simmons Law Firm, I want you to know how honored we are to have played a part in bringing this magnificent facility to life. And as a firm rooted in helping cancer victims, we are especially proud to be recognized on your wall and to be affiliated

with this institute,” said John Simmons, the firm’s chairman and CEO.

Constructed from a cherry base with reverse etched zinc logo plates, the wall was designed by Metal Décor in Springfield. Donor levels on the wall recognize lifetime giving to the SCI and range from \$2,500 to more than \$1 million.

The wall also features illustrations of SCI, patient care, and the grounds of the building, including the Thomas Garden of Hope.

Help fulfill SIU’s mission: support scholarships

For too many talented students, medical school is becoming less and less affordable. In 1975 the average cost of tuition at SIU School of Medicine was just under \$5,000, and a majority of students graduated without any educational debt. By 1984, medical education had become a loan-dependent, individual investment. Today, the average yearly cost of tuition at SIU School of Medicine is \$49,687. Of our graduates, 91 percent carry about \$147,707 in outstanding education loans with interest over payback periods ranging from 25-30 years.

In spite of the debt burden, SIU graduates are committed to the share our mission of service. Greater than

91% of SIU graduates owe \$147,707 in education loans.

half of the Class of 2011 matched in OB/GYN or primary care specialties; 63 percent have begun residency training in the Midwest. Scholarships can help strengthen the numbers of young physicians serving our citizens in Illinois, and as our population ages, it’s critical that we continue to meet the healthcare needs of our citizens.

Alumni gifts to the Medical Student Scholarship Fund enable medical stu-

dents to pursue their interests, talents and passions rather than allowing loan repayment to influence their career decisions. While many alumni will support the Student Resource Fund (SRF), all interested donors are invited to provide for important enhancements to learning and life as a medical student through scholarship gifts to the SRF or the Excellence Fund, which allows for the allocation of money to areas of greatest need.

Please change lives of medical students with a contribution to the funds for their direct benefit by donating online at www.siumed.edu/foundation, or by calling the SIU Foundation Springfield office at 217-545-2955.



Dr. Stephen Garrison '08, teaches a student tutor group as part of his radiology residency at SIU.

Resident asks young alumni to help medical students

Just \$20 can make a difference

As a fourth-year radiology resident at SIU, **Stephen Garrison, M.D., '08** was taking notes at auditorium lectures just a few years ago. Now he's back in those same auditoriums and tutor rooms giving radiology lectures to second-year students as part of his residency training. "It's rewarding to be a part of their medical education at SIU. I'm proud of them, and want to help make their experience at SIU just as memorable and enjoyable as it was for our class," Steve says.

Young alumni are living with high education debt, and money is very tight for medical students. Steve is leading a new initiative to encourage the generosity of

alumni donors. "I'm asking the five most recent graduating classes to support the Student Resource Fund (SRF) with just a \$20 contribution to help provide something every Springfield-based medical student needs — a group health club membership. The gym is as much of a place to de-stress as it is a place to enjoy the camaraderie of classmates outside of the medical campus. It is as important to the students I see on campus every day as it was appreciated by my classmates and me."

Over the past 10 years, generous alumni have funded the SRF to provide teaching materials, funds to remodel the student lounges in Carbondale and Springfield, the Winter Ball and the group health club membership. These

are educational and social needs that cannot be met through other fund sources.

"Since our med school days are recent, many of us know the students who benefit from our gift. It's a very affordable donation, just \$20 or whatever is comfortable. It really does help our friends when we each do what we can. I know my fellow alumni are generous," Steve says.

Any gift to the Student Resource Fund is greatly appreciated. Donate online at www.siumed.edu/foundation, or call the SIU Foundation Springfield office at 217-545-2955.



VFW donates to Simmons Cancer Institute

Simmons Cancer Institute at Southern Illinois University recently received \$21,726.10 for cancer research from the VFW Ladies Auxiliary of Illinois. Past department presidents Beverly Beyer, Nancy Adams and Jan Morrow were joined by Cancer Chair Colleen Nix as they presented the check to Morris Cooper, Ph.D., professor and chair, SIU Medical Microbiology, Immunology and Cell Biology.