

# KSU Cancer Center UPDATE



January 2003

## Terry C. Johnson Center for Basic Cancer Research A new name and a new home

The year 2002 will be remembered as the best and the worst of times for everyone associated with the Cancer Center. Construction of the new multi-million dollar facility which will house the Cancer Center, the Department of Biochemistry and the Division of Biology was drawing to completion when, in the late spring, founder and long time director of the Cancer Center, Terry C. Johnson, was diagnosed with liver cancer.

In late September, the Cancer Center moved into the building. Our quarters are on the ground floor. You can enter at the double doors on the corner of 17th St. and Claflin Rd. The Division of Biology has moved into the upper floor and by 2004, the Department of Biochemistry hopes to relocate to this facility.

This building is a symbol of over twenty years' commitment by Dr. Johnson. He was dedicated to the establishment of strong cancer research, education and outreach programs at KSU. During the last five years he focused on raising the private matching funds for a permanent home for the center, as well as providing significant laboratory space for cancer research.

Dr. Johnson lost his battle with cancer on October 27th. He had served as the head of the Division of Biology from 1977 to 1992. During that time, he created the Cancer Center and made significant contributions to cancer research and to KSU. He was a university distinguished professor, a cancer researcher, a teacher, a mentor, a trusted friend, and a role model to all who knew him.

Prior to his death, President Wefald communicated his great respect for Dr.

*"...To have committed friends scattered all across the globe is remarkable for a research effort. It is partly to be explained by the ubiquity of cancer. But it is also due to the shared belief that the Center for Basic Cancer Research is destined to play a significant part in its ending."*

George S. Bascom, M.D., 1992

Johnson's years of devotion and hard work for KSU by announcing that hereafter the center will be called the Terry C. Johnson Center for Basic Cancer Research. In addition, this fall the Regents announced the naming of the building in honor of Dr. John Chalmers, who was the Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences and had a major role in the development of the Division of Biology and the Department of Biochemistry. Later he served as the Vice President for Academic Affairs, a position we now know as The Provost.

During this difficult but exciting time, the staff remained focused on the mission of the center. With the help of Dean Stephen White, and the resources of the College of Arts & Sciences, the programs of the cancer center continue on schedule. While packing and moving this summer, the staff was busy with the golf tournament, the Bascom lecture and the conference. This fall the process for providing this year's Cancer Research Awards is on track. Twenty seven students and their faculty mentors were selected to receive awards in April at the annual banquet. In addition, the applications for Travel Awards and Heart Research Awards have been sent to the faculty.

The Cancer Center staff and the college are dedicated to the dreams of the founder of the Cancer Center – to continue to promote a strong cancer research emphasis at KSU and to increase the impact of the center in its new setting.

We are grateful to Terry Johnson for his leadership and to our many donors for helping make his vision a reality.

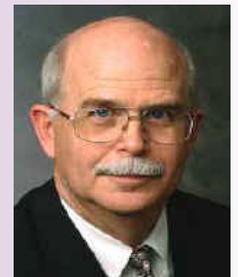
The Cancer Center Staff

From the Dean  
Of Arts and  
Sciences ...

In October, the Center for Basic Cancer Research lost its founder, leader and director to cancer. Terry Johnson was truly the heart and soul of the center and he will be greatly missed.

Terry and his excellent staff raised over \$2.3 million dollars for the Ackert Hall Expansion. He built strong relationships with alumni, faculty, and friends of the Center. He instituted outreach programs that will continue well into the future. The Center has a scholarship program for outstanding undergraduates and very importantly, its endowments support research to help cure cancer. Not bad for a guy who collected toy bears.

The Terry C. Johnson Center for Basic Cancer Research is in transition. The staff recently moved into its new quarters in Chalmers Hall. Joyce Bixby, Jean Bridges, Jan Galitzer, Linda Innes and Marcia Locke are continuing the activities that were a part of Terry's vision. A search has just begun for a new director. Terry built from scratch a terrific foundation for an outstanding future.



Steve White, Interim Dean  
College of Arts and Sciences

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January 2003

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## This issue

- ◆ New Home
- ◆ A message from the dean
- ◆ Tournament a success!
- ◆ Speaker well received

## ROB REGIER MEMORIAL BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT

The fifth annual Rob Regier Memorial Benefit Golf Tournament, held August 3rd, was a great success! Rob's family, Les and Sandy Regier, and Randy and Juli Regier, organized and hosted the event at Colbert Hills Golf Course in Manhattan.

Players came from all over Kansas and as far away as California and Texas. Thanks to them, the hole sponsors, and donors of prizes and auction items, funds raised were nearly double those of last year! The Regiers' hard work and devotion to cancer research and education at K-State is greatly appreciated by the faculty scientists and their students.

With great hopes for cooler weather, next year's tournament is scheduled for June 7, 2003, at Colbert Hills.



Les and Sandy Regier wait for the *shotgun* start of the tournament August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**F**or more information about the KSU Cancer Center's research, education and outreach programs, please contact the Editor:

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Mark your calendar!

*Cancer Research Awards Banquet*  
Friday, April 11, 2003

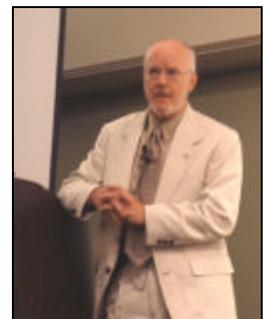
*Annual Advisory Council Meeting*  
Saturday, April 12, 2003

Watch for the announcement of the date for the dedication of our new building!

## BASCOM LECTURE AND PROFESSIONAL CONFERENCE

Dr. Michael Kerr, psychiatrist and Director of the Georgetown Family Center in Washington, D.C., discussed cancer's impact on the family at the Cancer Center's George S. Bascom Workshop on August 22nd. The workshop was established to honor Dr. Bascom, who played a significant role in the formation of the Cancer Center and served on its original Research and Education Advisory Council.

A clinical training conference held the next day in collaboration with Hawk Seminars of Manhattan, featured Dr. Kerr and Kathleen Kerr, a nurse clinical-specialist and faculty member of the Georgetown Family Center. The topic, Cancer in the Family, involved discussion of Bowen Family Systems Theory. More than 110 people attended, and continuing education units were offered to health care professionals.



Michael Kerr, MD  
Director  
Georgetown Family Center  
Washington, D.C.