



GEORGE WILLIAMS COLLEGE
AURORA UNIVERSITY

September 8, 2008

Contact: Wen-D Kersten

262-245-8515

wkersten@aurora.edu

International Think Tank comes to George Williams College

Williams Bay, WI. — Cancer has or will affect everyone at some time in their life through a family member, friend or oneself. In the hope of providing an environment for conversation and productive thought in the area of cancer research, the William Guy Forbeck Foundation hosts a forum of approximately 20 physicians and scientists each year at George Williams College of Aurora University. This year's forum took place Sept. 11-14.

The goal of the group is to create a free exchange of ideas that provides a cross fertilization of thoughts, concepts, and observations meant to promote advances in the field of oncology, and particularly pediatric oncology. The hope is to shorten the cancer research timetable by building on the ideas, knowledge, and experience of each of the participants.

“We bring scholars together who are a mix of M.D.’s and Ph.D.’s on the cutting edge of their chosen fields, from stem cell research to imaging,” said Jamie Forbeck Collins, Trustee member and Chairman of the Scholar Board. “Contrary to our scientific forums held at Hilton Head Island in South Carolina where a specific topic is chosen each year, our forums at GWC bring together scholars from all different areas without a specific topic in mind. This helps create a real synergy between the different medical fields and has led to some exciting medical exchanges.”

The GWC group is comprised of 16 scholars who have all attended one of the last four years of discussions in South Carolina, as well as five senior-level mentors who will help inform and guide the discussion. These outstanding scholars are chosen by a scientific advisory board whose selections are based on a review of each applicant's research.

The Forbeck Foundation was founded in memory of William Guy Forbeck, who was diagnosed at the age of 10 with neuroblastoma, a rare childhood cancer. Billy's courage and his concern for other stricken children was an inspiration to the doctors and scientists from various disciplines who joined forces in trying to find a cure. With this in mind, Billy's parents established a research foundation in his memory, the purpose of which is to organize and continue the brainstorming approach to cancer research.

“We are proud to be able to provide a place of reflection for this very important forum,” said William Duncan, vice president and chief academic officer of George Williams College. “At GWC, we believe in the very same principals of learning and discussion that the Forbeck Foundation promotes through this annual event, now in its fourth year.”

In addition to the forum, the Foundation will host the 6th Annual Blue Jean Ball on campus, Sept. 13 from 6 to 10 p.m., in support of the Forbeck annual forum. Tickets will be \$60 in advance and \$75 at the door. Visit www.wgfrf.org for more information.

Aurora University is an inclusive community dedicated to the transformative power of learning. Approximately 4,000 degree-seeking students are enrolled each year on the university’s Illinois and Wisconsin campuses, and the university is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association to award degrees at the baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral levels. The George Williams College campus offers 14 academic programs, unique conference facilities, and is home to Music by the Lake and other education and enrichment programs.

For more information on George Williams College, visit www.aurora.edu/gwc or call 262-245-5531.

--END--