



New chair reflects Garry Betty's passion for fighting cancer



C. Garry Betty, ChE 1979

Just prior to his death from cancer in early 2007, Earthlink founder C. Garry Betty, ChE 1979, created a foundation with the ultimate mission of finding a cure for cancer.

The new Garry Betty Foundation received a substantial infusion of funds

a few weeks later when Betty's widow, Kathy, requested that, in lieu of funeral flowers, friends and associates make contributions to the new Garry Betty Foundation. Earthlink staff also worked tirelessly to raise funds in honor of their beloved leader. The combined result of those efforts was more than \$800,000 to begin the foundation's work of fighting cancer.

"One of the things that's exciting to me about the Garry Betty Foundation has to do with when Garry was on the Georgia Tech Foundation board before he was diagnosed," says Kathy Betty. "Garry came home from a board meeting where there had been a presentation from Professor Shuming Nie [Wallace H. Coulter Distinguished Faculty Chair in Biomedical Engineering and director of the Emory-Georgia Tech Cancer Nanotechnology Center] about the Emory-Tech venture in cancer research. Garry was so excited about the cancer research being done at Tech. He talked all night long about what they were doing, and that always stuck in my mind."

Over the past two years, Kathy Betty and the Garry Betty Foundation board, with the assistance of Georgia Cancer Coalition President and CEO William J.

"Bill" Todd, IM 1971, have worked to develop and implement a highly successful strategy for the foundation. (See Page 9 for a Q&A with Bill Todd.)

In an effort to build even greater momentum for finding a definitive cure for cancer, The Garry Betty Foundation and The V Foundation for Cancer Research have made a commitment of \$750,000 that has been matched by the Georgia Research Alliance, plus another \$1 million from the Georgia Cancer Coalition. This leveraged commitment totaling \$2.5 million will establish The Garry Betty and The V Foundation Chair in Cancer Nanotechnology at Georgia Tech.

The V Foundation, based in Cary, North Carolina, was founded in 1993 by ESPN and the late Jim Valvano, former men's basketball coach at North Carolina State University. Valvano recruited friends and family to lead The V Foundation in his quest to eradicate the disease that ultimately claimed his life. Since its inception, The V Foundation has raised more than \$70 million and awarded cancer research grants in thirty-seven states and the District of Columbia.

"When we met with the folks from The V Foundation, they told us they were looking to build partnerships in communities," continued Kathy Betty. "We felt that together we could raise more money for cancer research in the Atlanta area by using both our names than either of us could raise separately. It has turned out to be a good partnership in terms of keeping the money local. It has also been a great opportunity to show the community how we're working together to fight this awful thing called cancer."

"Garry Betty and Jim Valvano didn't know each other, but they shared a passion for their families, their careers, and ultimately for finding a cure for



A new chair in cancer nanotechnology will advance efforts to find a cure.

cancer," says Todd. "By pooling their considerable strengths, The Garry Betty Foundation, The V Foundation, the Georgia Research Alliance, and the Georgia Cancer Coalition have developed a powerful tool for fighting cancer in the form of a chair at Georgia Tech that will use the potential of cancer nanotechnology research to dramatically advance the state of cancer diagnosis and treatment. Garry and Jim would be thrilled to know that the organizations they founded are playing such a vital role in eradicating cancer."

To inquire about making a gift in support of cancer research at Georgia Tech, contact Molly F. Croft, director of development for the Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering at Georgia Tech and Emory University, at 404.385.0128 or molly.croft@bme.gatech.edu.