

## **Our Top Five Priorities and What They Mean for YOU!**

*By Herb Whiteley*

1. **The DVM program:** This is our highest priority, excellence in educating the veterinary professionals who will be your future associates, who will be leaders in veterinary practice and education, and who will make important contributions in to society. We are quickly concluding an intensive review of the veterinary curriculum and will actively seek endowed faculty positions to enrich the teaching program.
2. **Translational biomedical research:** It's a mouthful to say, but this area of discovery holds the greatest promise for benefiting society through clinical advances related to animal, human, ecosystem, and public health. Our alumni everywhere and the Illinois veterinary profession have a stake in the success of the College's research agenda, which is tied to our reputation and prestige.
3. **A Chicago presence:** Our long-standing Zoologic Pathology Program and our new lab animal diagnostic service will likely be components of our initiative to establish a facility in the Chicago medical district near the University's Chicago campus. Other aspects may include a primary care teaching facility and select specialty referral practice. We have already begun talking with many of you in Chicago to learn how we can best serve you.
4. **New facilities:** Growth in our program in Urbana requires expansions and renovations. We have put together a plan for new teaching and hospital facilities to meet our needs

over the next 20 years and move us toward our vision of being recognized as a top program in veterinary and biomedical research and education.

5. **Center for One Medicine.** Our College is taking the lead in proposing a new University-wide program that would provide science-based information to public health policy makers and educate professionals prepared to address both the animal and human dimensions of emerging public health issues.

Your support for the College of Veterinary Medicine—through mentoring students, linking us to new partners, referring patients, making financial contributions, and more—will be crucial to our success. I welcome your feedback on these plans. You can reach me by email at [dean@cvm.uiuc.edu](mailto:dean@cvm.uiuc.edu).