

## A Student Affairs Primer

*By Herb Whiteley*

With offers now out for the Class of 2011, this is a good time to review the admissions process at the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine.

For the past four years our admissions process was designed to focus on the skills, knowledge, attitudes, and aptitudes for success in the veterinary profession. We use grades and GRE only for the initial screening of applicants. The final "order of merit" list for offering admission is based on non-academic aspects of the application (personal statement, etc.), which accounts for 75 percent, and a structured interview looking for communication skills, self-confidence, and so on, which accounts for the other 25 percent.

In the most recent admissions cycle, we received 921 applications: 220 from Illinois residents, and 701 from non-residents. From these the admissions committee selected 137 residents and 192 non-residents who were invited for the interview on February 12. The next few months will reveal the 120 students who will make up the Class of 2011.

On a related note, I'd like to thank Dr. Gerald Pijanowski for his leadership as associate dean for Academic and Student Affairs for 9 years. He will be stepping down from that role in May and returning full time to his position as an associate professor.

Jerry has done an excellent job. His tenure in the job included implementation of the revised admissions process, introduction of limited tracking options for fourth-year rotations, and new recruiting initiatives, especially of underrepresented populations, through Chicago's Anti-Cruelty Society and the University's Principals Scholars Program.

We are seeking to hire from within the faculty a new associate dean, with a 70 percent appointment as well as a new 50 percent position for an assistant dean for Academic Affairs and Curriculum. Mary Kelm will continue to serve in her vital role as assistant dean for Student Affairs.

My thanks to Jerry and his staff for their diligent efforts in service to our students and our DVM program.