

Your College on the Move

By Herb Whiteley, dean

It's been a busy fall here in Urbana. As we transition to the new Illinois Integrated Veterinary Professional Curriculum, half our students—those in their first and second years—are receiving the new curriculum.

That keeps our hospital abuzz from August through December. Along with the usual complement of senior veterinary students on rotations, the hospital also accommodates first-year students for eight weeks, followed by second-year students for seven weeks, as they gain exposure to a total of 15 clinical settings in the first two years.

The new Clinical Skills Learning Center continues to grow in support of the needs of the curriculum. Connie Arnold and Heather Soder, the two long-time hospital technicians who now serve as coaches in the skills center, are developing new teaching modules, and Dr. Lorrie Hale-Mitchell, a 1995 graduate of the College, joined the skills center team this fall. I encourage you to visit this innovative facility whenever you are in Urbana.

Also moving to keep up with the new curriculum is our annual Open House. Open House took place twice this year, on April 11 and then again on October 3, as we anticipate the time when the third-year students will begin their clinical year in mid-March and thus be unavailable to help with the event in the spring. Mark your calendars for the next Open House on Sunday, October 2, 2011.

The students' response to the new curriculum has been extremely positive. We feel confident that we're achieving our goal of enhancing students' mastery of clinical skills as well as the clinical relevance of basic science concepts.

In closing, I'd like to take note of another important transition. Dr. Rosemary LoGiudice brought decades of practice experience and indomitable Illini enthusiasm to her work in establishing the College's Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine over the past 20 months. We thank her and wish her well as she pursues a new phase of her career as a certified canine rehabilitation therapist. I'm very pleased to announce that Dr. Tom Graves, associate professor of small animal internal medicine, took on leadership of the CCVM in September. Look for more information about this change in the mail from me shortly.

As always, I welcome your feedback. You can reach me at dean@vetmed.illinois.edu.