

Our Alumni Make 'Brilliant Futures' Possible

By Herb Whiteley

Dean, University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine

Have you ever wished you could do your veterinary studies over again?

Whether they've been in practice 5, 15, or 45 years, time and again alumni who visit our new Clinical Skills Learning Center tell us they are so excited about this facility, and other elements in our new Illinois Integrated Veterinary Professional Curriculum, that they want to return as students.

While we appreciate their enthusiasm, I'd like to suggest another way to participate in this exciting venture: financial support for the current and future students who are educated here.

In October, veterinary medicine held the spotlight at the annual meeting of the University of Illinois Foundation. Our Clinical Skills Learning Center was featured in the showcase of notable activity on campus over the past year, and donors attending the meeting were invited for a tour.

In addition, four bequests to our college, totaling over \$4 million, were announced. These gifts will benefit students and programs here and, as the campaign theme promises, ensure "Brilliant Futures" for veterinary medicine on this campus.

One of these gifts was from an alumnus, Dr. Sheldon Rubin (DVM IL '68), and his wife, Paulette Rubin, long-time supporters of the veterinary profession and our college. Their estate gift will establish the Sheldon B. and Paulette Rubin Endowed Professorship in Veterinary Leadership and Communication as well as endow a seminar series at the college. Dr. Rubin recently retired after 40 years of practice at Blum Animal Hospital in Chicago.

We are deeply grateful to the Rubins for their generosity and commitment to veterinary education.

Two other gifts announced at the meeting came to us from animal owners whose veterinarians are our alumni:

- Dr. Dwight Boehm (DVM IL '87) and Dr. Liz Vollmer (DVM OH '84), who own the Waterloo (Ill.) Animal Hospital, have built a strong relationship with Lou Mund, a successful business and land owner from East Carondole, Ill. He created the Louis I. Mund Endowment for Veterinary Medicine to support cattle research.
- Dr. Joseph Busch (DVM IL '79) and Dr. Kurt Klepitsch (DVM IL '88), owners of the Gateway Veterinary Clinic in St. Charles, served as our connection to donors Bob and Jeanie Gernon, who are deeply devoted to their large-breed dogs and to wildlife. Their gift will support companion animal research and emergency medicine.

Also recognized was a gift from Len Lewicki, a lawyer in Sequim, Wash., with two degrees from the University of Illinois. His gift in support of our Veterinary Teaching Hospital and the Chicago Center for Veterinary Medicine honors his beloved dog, Harley, and the many other animals he has owned.

All these gifts are investments in the future. Through scholarships for students, endowed faculty positions, and support of the fund for our Clinical Skills Learning Center, you *can* become a part of veterinary education again.

If you'd like to discuss making a gift or connecting us with a client who has an interest in honoring your service with a gift to us, please give Brenda Betts a call at 217-333-5545. You can contact me at dean@vetmed.illinois.edu.