

Message from Dean Herbert Whiteley

University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine

The fall semester is in full swing. In September we launched the latest iteration of the veterinary student mentoring program. A tailgate party held before an Illini football game brought together students and ISVMA members. Mentoring provides a rewarding opportunity for you to interact with your colleagues-to-be and to contribute an important service to the College and the profession through organized veterinary medicine.

This fall also saw the launch of Veterinary Education Online—VEO, for short—our Internet-based program of continuing education any time, anywhere.

VEO was designed to meet the needs of busy practitioners, especially those in small or remote practices, with little time or budget to travel for continuing education. Courses in pain management, diagnostic imaging, dentistry, ophthalmology, cytology, parasitology, and emerging diseases are immediately applicable to everyday practice issues.

After enrolling you have 60 days to complete a course from any computer with Internet connectivity, and you'll have access to experts at our College if you have questions not covered in the course materials.

Go to [www.VEOillinois.org](http://www.VEOillinois.org) to “tour” the program and to enroll. The VEO program was funded in part by grants from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and U of I Online and is managed by the College's Office of Public Engagement under the leadership of Dr. Christine Merle, assistant dean.

We're getting good comments from the practitioners who have already taken a course. We are very interested in hearing from you how we can continue to find innovative ways to bring knowledge and value to Illinois veterinarians.

I'm also hoping that those of you joining us for Fall Conference in October will attend the investiture program for the College's first endowed chair. On the day before the conference

starts, Dr. Paul Cooke will be invested as the Field Chair in Reproductive Biology. Please join us on Wednesday, October 13, at 4 p.m. for this historic event. R.S.V.P. to [advancement@cvm.uiuc.edu](mailto:advancement@cvm.uiuc.edu) or call 217/333-2762.

If you'd like to share your comments on any of these topics, you can reach me at [dean@cvm.uiuc.edu](mailto:dean@cvm.uiuc.edu). --Herb