

## **Welcome, Dr. Biehl, Teaching Hospital Director**

*By Herbert Whiteley*

We are pleased that Dr. Michael L. Biehl will join us as director of the Veterinary Teaching Hospital on May 1. A 1983 graduate of the College, Mike has deep roots in the Illinois veterinary community, a strong commitment to the College, and outstanding credentials as a team-builder and manager.

Mike has 16 years of progressive management experience at Pfizer Global Research and Development. There he managed safety assessment projects and programs for human drug development and for a time was also responsible for departmental safety assessment activities for all global veterinary products. Most recently he was associate director of Global Project Management in Pfizer's Strategic Portfolio Operations Group, a role that emphasized strategic planning and execution, building commitment, cultivating partnerships, leading and motivating teams, change management, and customer service. He completed a master's in business administration in 2004.

In the newly created position of director of the teaching hospital, Mike will work to ensure that the hospital provides the best possible patient care, the best possible service to clients and referring veterinarians, and the best possible clinical environment to support both teaching and research activities.

"The old business operating model for veterinary teaching hospitals everywhere is changing," says Dr. Biehl. "State funding for higher education is decreasing, while the cost of operations is increasing. We must adapt to the dynamics of an evolving veterinary profession and new market factors, such as the emergence of private specialty practices.

"I know that Illinois can solve this new business model 'equation' to continue to effectively and efficiently achieve our mission of excellence in service, teaching and research."

An important part of his role will be reaching out to the Illinois veterinary community.

"I believe all Illinois veterinarians and College alumni have a stake in seeing our Veterinary Teaching Hospital become one of the best in the country," says Dr. Biehl. "To achieve our vision the hospital *must* foster and enhance partnerships with veterinarians throughout Illinois. We can do that by listening to their needs and consistently exceeding their expectations."

Please join me in welcoming Mike back to the College of Veterinary Medicine in his new role, and in welcoming the following new clinical medicine faculty members:

- Dr. Julia Whittington, appointed as a clinical assistant professor seeing exotics cases and directing the Wildlife Medical Clinic;
- Dr. Kristen O'Dell-Anderson, who has just completed a residency in radiology here;
- Dr. Laura Garrett (IL '91), joining our oncology service;
- Dr. Ed Garrett, joining our Food Animal Reproduction, Medicine and Surgery section.

The Garretts will move to Urbana later this summer.

You may contact me at [dean@cvm.uiuc.edu](mailto:dean@cvm.uiuc.edu).

### **Doodle for Wildlife Is Back!**

The fifth annual "Doodle for Wildlife" is slated for Saturday, April 29, in Urbana. This year's auction items include doodles from Neil Young, Jay Leno, Jim Carey, and the late Richard Pryor and special adventure packages. Proceeds support the non-profit Wildlife Medical Clinic, which cares for nearly 2,000 sick or injured animals every year. Order your tickets by calling 217/333-2762. For a list of auction items, go to: [www.cvm.uiuc.edu/wmc/](http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/wmc/).