

November 1, 2006

Dear member of the college family,

I've made it my practice for the past few years to send a "state of the college" letter during the fall semester. My purpose is two-fold: to communicate the recent successes and direction for the future, and to sincerely thank you for the important role you play in those successes and in our future.

That future, more than ever before, is inextricably linked to our ability to contribute to the successes of the campus, the university, and the state. Even as we proclaim our vision to achieve recognition on a national and global scale, we know that getting there begins with building collaborations and prominence north of Florida Avenue.

In May we submitted our strategic planning document that details how our goals integrate with the broader goals of the campus. I urge you all to read this document carefully. You can find it at [www.cvm.uiuc.edu/deans/cvmplan.html](http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/deans/cvmplan.html). Our top priorities are listed below, along with progress made on those fronts over the past year.

### **The DVM Program**

The professional veterinary degree program is the centerpiece of our college; ensuring the integrity and viability of this program takes precedence over other initiatives.

- In April the site visit from the accreditation review team of the AVMA Council on Education went smoothly. Our program has received 7-year accreditation, contingent on taking steps within the next 2 years to ensure a contemporary science- and clinical-based curriculum.
- To meet the 2-year implementation deadline for ongoing evaluation and management of the curriculum, the Courses and Curriculum Committee will be working with an ad hoc advisory group over the next 5 months to propose curricular changes. For details of this process, follow the "Curriculum Connection" link under Announcements on the College Intranet site.

### **Translational Biomedical Research**

Our college must lead the campus in collaborative research that translates basic science discoveries into applications for human and animal health. Our teaching hospital and diagnostic laboratory are key resources in this initiative. We can also lead by establishing a formal graduate training program to prepare a new breed of scientists who succeed in the highly interdisciplinary environment of translational biomedical research.

- New faculty who are interested in research of this nature include Gee Lau and Dongwan Yoo in pathobiology; Jodi Flaws and Marie-Claude Hofmann in veterinary biosciences; Carrie Breaux, Stuart Clark-Price, and Laura Garrett in veterinary clinical medicine, and Susan Ball-Kell in the veterinary diagnostic laboratory.
- The weekly TBR Seminar Series has hosted outstanding speakers, drawing researchers from across campus.

### **Center for One Medicine**

This proposed initiative builds on the partnership established last year between our college and the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago for the dual DVM/master's in public health degree program. It will be a tangible symbol of the contributions veterinary medicine makes in research from the molecular to the ecological level, encompassing animal and human health and integrating science into public policy.

- Eight second- and third-year veterinary students are now enrolled in a joint MPH degree.
- Our college will host a colloquium on the Center for One Medicine on January 9 and 10. Invited will be representatives of state and federal agencies, including the Food and Drug Administration and the Departments of Agriculture, Public Health, and Natural Resources; elected officials at the state and federal level; and University of Illinois faculty from the School of Public Health and the Colleges of Medicine, Law, and Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

### **Building Community**

In 2005 we completed a comprehensive facilities plan to support our programmatic growth over the next 20 years. Key aspects include expanding facilities for the DVM program and adding clinical facilities consistent with our vision of leadership in clinical service and biomedical translational research.

- Last summer, the auditoriums in LAC 100 and SAC 80 were completely renovated to improve accessibility, AV functions, and safety.
- In September, we hosted members of our new campaign leadership committee. These volunteers will work with us over the course of the coming capital campaign to achieve our goal of raising \$35 million for facilities as well as for endowed chairs, professorships, student support, and programmatic support.

Other noteworthy events in the college over the past year include:

- A series of public forums on avian influenza in communities across the state positioned our college as the experts in infectious disease and public health.
- Nearly 400 registrants and speakers attended the 2006 Fall Conference last month.
- The "Oskee Bow Wow" event at University President Joe White's house in October showcased our faculty and students while raising more than \$9,000 for the CARE Helpline.

The past 12 months has been a time of remarkable change in our college. Now that Dr. Duncan Ferguson has joined the college as head of the Department of Veterinary Biosciences, all three departments have new leaders. The Veterinary Teaching Hospital has a new leader in the new position of director. The search for a permanent director for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory will be reopened in late fall. Our development staff—the folks who identify and cultivate philanthropic opportunities for the college—have all joined us within the past year.

Change on this scale is invigorating, but it is not easy. I want to thank each of you for your commitment to excellence in your work and for your loyalty to the college. I truly believe we are building a team that can make our vision of national and international recognition a reality.

On a personal note, I recently spent several days in Boston getting to know a remarkable little person named Graham, my first grandchild, born October 6. I returned with a renewed sense of wonder and balance, and a new urgency for our collective work, which holds the potential to make a positive impact on this planet. I am looking forward to creating that future with you.

Sincerely,

Herb Whiteley  
Dean