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On the cover: Tender Loving Volunteer Karen Koenig and a friend. Photo by Tom Schaeffges.

# The Shape of the Future

By Herb Whiteley

Welcome to the redesigned *Veterinary Report*! While the content will continue to keep you informed about the achievements and initiatives of our College and its students, faculty, staff, and alumni, the new size and colorful look better reflect the goals and aspirations of the College.

Our faculty have been honing those goals through our strategic plan, entitled "Shaping the Future." (You can find it at [www.cvm.uiuc.edu/deans/](http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu/deans/).) We want all of our alumni and other important constituents to embrace our vision:

The College of Veterinary Medicine aspires to be recognized as a leader in veterinary and comparative biomedical education, scholarship, and public engagement in the University of Illinois system, in the state, in the nation, and around the world.


Our College has been making tremendous progress toward the six overarching goals articulated in the strategic plan. I encourage you to review a list of more than 20 recent successes brought about through the hard work and dedication of individuals within the College. (The list is available on the dean's section of our Web site.)

I am especially excited about a new initiative that relates to Goal 5 of the plan: Improve and strengthen operational efficiency, facilities, and financial health.

We have embarked on a process to develop a comprehensive master plan for the veterinary campus. An architectural firm, CUH2A, has been chosen, and is already gathering input from faculty, students, and staff to create designs for a "bridge" building that will link the teaching hospital and basic sciences buildings. The firm's facility master plan, to be delivered in March 2005, will also address renovations and uses of the resulting vacated space in existing buildings as well as projected costs, materials for fund raising, an implementation timeline, and plans for landscaping.

The purpose of the bridge building will be to encourage greater interaction, to provide "people spaces" that enhance community, and to improve the visual image of the College. In its proposal for this project, CUH2A presented a number of options for how this building might look. These ideas, as well as a recap of the architect selection process and a timeline for subsequent steps in creating the facilities plan, can be seen on the Web.

As the facilities master plan develops, I will be eager to share it with you for your feedback and to encourage your financial support of this exciting phase in the College's evolution. Like the redesign for this publication, the new construction will be undertaken to enable us to better serve our key audiences, as well as to project an image that keeps pace with our vision.

We value your partnership as we become the shape of the future. 

*Editor's note: We want your feedback on the new look of Veterinary Report! Please take our anonymous online survey to share your views. You can reach it from the College home page: [www.cvm.uiuc.edu](http://www.cvm.uiuc.edu).*



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