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Elizabeth L. Carney[†]

Greetings from the office of the *ISU Veterinarian*! Like the cold Iowa wind that has blown into our lives in recent weeks, change is in the air at the College of Veterinary Medicine. From department mergers to new advisors to student activism, life here at the College is exciting and ever-changing. I'd like to highlight some of these changes here, but be sure to read this issue cover to cover to get all the details.

First of all, the Departments of Anatomy and Physiology/Pharmacology have merged to form the Department of Biomedical Sciences (BMS). Dr. Norm Cheville is the Interim Chair, and you can read some of his thoughts about the merger on page 99. Similarly, the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, Production Animal Medicine Department, and Veterinary Extension have merged to form the Veterinary Diagnostic-Production Animal Medicine Department (don't worry, you can just call them VDPAM!). Dr. Nolan Hartwig has been named Chair of VDPAM. See page 98 for more information on this new department.

Since the last issue, the staff of the *ISU Veterinarian* has both lost and gained an advisor. After thirty years of service, Dr. John H. Greve has stepped down as the advisor to this publication. His service was acknowledged at this past spring's awards ceremony, where he was presented with a framed drawing of the Gentle Doctor. The staff is not without hope after Dr. Greve's departure, however! Dr. Mark Ackermann, Assistant Professor in Veterinary Pathology, has quickly taken up the role of advising the students who work on this journal. With his energy and editing experience, he will surely be an asset to this organization.

Finally, the students at the College took a proactive stance and organized a timely conference entitled "Visions in Veterinary Medicine: Facing a New Millennium." The conference took place on November 7-8, 1997, and featured many nationally-known, well-respected leaders in the field of veterinary medicine. Look for a post-conference wrap-up right here in the *ISU Veterinarian* in next spring's issue.

That sums up some of the more prominent happenings here at the vet school. We seem to be living up to the lyrics of a popular song, "A change will do you good." May change be a positive thing in all of our lives as we head into a new year.

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