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Kimberly Buchanan's heroic actions a few weeks ago earned her the eternal gratitude of a colleague and special thanks from University's Vice President for Human Resources Barbara Butterfield.

Buchanan’s quick thinking and knowledge of cardiovascular-pulmonary resuscitation (C.P.R.) saved the life of Emeritus Professor of Medicine Dr. William Boucher.

Buchanan, a veterinary nurse assistant, and another nurse were tending to equine patients one morning when she noticed Boucher walking out of the Field Service Building. Boucher, who uses a walker, tripped coming down the steps. Although he caught his balance, his momentum moved him down the steps much faster than he expected. A few moments later, Buchanan saw him "stop and then fall straight over."

"I ran over with my horse and yelled into the building for someone to call an ambulance," Buchanan recalled. "Dr. Boucher had a pretty good gash on his head, and you know how head wounds can bleed, but he looked blueish. I gave my horse to the other nurse and listened for a heartbeat and felt for a pulse. There was nothing."

"All I could think was, 'I can't just let him lay here.' I knew I had to do something."

Buchanan, who had taken a C.P.R. class in high school, says she "went on automatic pilot. I started to resuscitate and in a few minutes he began breathing again."

A few minutes later, the ambulance arrived and took Boucher for an overnight stay at the hospital. He later returned to New Bolton Center and told Buchanan, "I guess I owe you a pretty big thanks."

A special ceremony was held at New Bolton to honor Buchanan for her actions. Barbara Butterfield presented her with a plaque in appreciation and recognition.

Boucher and his wife have had a long history with New Bolton Center. Throughout his career, their home has been open to many a veterinary student for good, hot meals and a warm feeling of family. So distinguished was his service to the Center, that the Field Service Building is named for him. Even after retirement the Bouchers have played an instrumental role in establishing and maintaining emergency funds for veterinary students faced with financial crises. Through donations and regular bake sales, for which Mrs. Boucher still bakes cakes and cookies, money is added to the fund.

The Bouchers and Barbara Butterfield aren't the only people who recognize what Kimberly Buchanan did that morning, and how she contributes overall to New Bolton Center. Assistant Dean Bruce Rappaport wrote, "I don't believe there is ever an adequate means of recognizing performance such as yours, but I hope that you'll accept my own thanks and appreciation for your performance. I have to sincerely tell you that this adds to the already established high esteem that I and others have for your abilities and accomplishments at New Bolton Center...You are a perfect example of what makes New Bolton Center above and beyond the rest of the veterinary profession."

Buchanan has worked at New Bolton for a little over a year. With three children, ages six, four and two, she said, "It was the benefits that brought me here. Sure it can get stressful, but still, I like it." Working at New Bolton Center also fulfills her childhood ambitions, "I have always liked animals. This sounds funny, but really, when I was little I used to think New Bolton would be a really neat place to work. I thought, 'maybe someday.'"

As for her next goal, Kimberly looks forward to attending West Chester State University's nursing program next semester where she will study small- and large animal medicine. "I really am a large animal person," she admits, "I am more afraid of being bitten by a dog than being kicked by a horse."

When she earns her diploma it may very well hang on her living room wall next to the plaque just recently presented to her.

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Don was interested in our career progress as well as the growth of our families. This interest was formally recognized in 1962 when Dr. Lee was appointed associate dean at the Veterinary School with duties pertaining to curriculum and student affairs. It is with affectionate remembrance that we gather today to honor his memory and to emphasize the important part he played in our student lives.