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Dr. James Buchanan: The Participant's Participant

Dr. James Buchanan The Participant's Participant



Now that the move to the new hospital (VHUP) has been completed, one would imagine that its principal creator could take a much deserved rest. Not so! Since locating himself in the magnificent new building, Dr. James Buchanan has returned to a full schedule of clinical work, writing, and teaching, plus responding to frequent requests to act as a master guide in conducting tours of the new building. He is also extremely interested in observing the functional capabilities of his creation, and in helping to work out any bugs that may develop.

From all reports, those who work in VHUP and those who bring their animals for care are mighty pleased. For Dr. Buchanan, the opening of the new hospital was the culmination of ten years of hard work in a field in which he had no previous training. When he came to the University of Pennsylvania as a new graduate of Michigan State University in 1960, his intentions were to take a one-year residency in cardiology. Little did he know that he would remain for more than twenty years, and that aside from tackling scientific problems, he would devote a large portion of his time to such mundane items as choosing floor finishes, dog cages, and operating room cabinets.

But then this is not surprising. James W. Buchanan likes to be a participant and a problem solver. He is a person who is curious about everything. His years at the University have been marked by active participation on many committees, a number of chairmanships, and as the guiding spirit behind the new hospital.

Dr. Buchanan's role in developing a new hospital began rather innocently back in 1971 when he was appointed a member of the Hospital Planning Committee. Once the plans were on paper he became chairman of the Building Committee in 1975. Before he could say "Please pass the bricks," he was totally immersed in design and construction problems. Buchanan explained that this new phase in his career included "learning to read design documents and working drawings and to pay attention to every little squiggle in blueprints." In preparation for the new building,

Dr. Buchanan traveled extensively in Europe and in the United States, examining veterinary hospitals to be abreast of the latest in technical advances.

Being midwife to a \$16.5 million project required a great measure of patience and a highly developed sense of listening to the anticipated needs of those who would work in the hospital. As Dr. Buchanan puts it, "They all had input into the construction of this building, and the limits of structure and budget had to be reviewed with each one."

As Professor of Medicine in the Department of Clinical Studies, Dr. Buchanan is an impressive figure with his dark wavy beard and alert eyes which often twinkle. He smiles readily and is still the attentive listener, whom nothing escapes. On any given day, one may see Buchanan coming out of the heart station or pathology lab, followed by a covey of students intently listening to his explanations, theories, or advice.

Buchanan also loves music, and in keeping with his personality this love is demonstrated as a participant. His music took him to the Rose Bowl as a percussionist in the Michigan State University Marching Band. Now music-making is at home with his wife and four children (who each play an instrument), or in church, where he sings in a choir. He loves the outdoors and is scoutmaster in his son's Boy Scout troop. During winter, the Buchanans take to the ski slopes of Pennsylvania, or to Colorado if time permits.

Buchanan is also an accomplished photographer as the pictures on his wall will attest, and this hobby has led him to devising and preparing new teaching aids in veterinary medicine, such as 16 mm films on heart surgery in dogs. He has a darkroom at home but has used it infrequently during the last few years because of his preoccupation with the new hospital.

Dr. Buchanan, who now speaks from hands-on experience, has some advice for those who are contemplating building a new hospital. "Do research; analyze plans; ask questions; spend some time traveling; inform yourself about materials and finishes. If you hire an architect, look for a local one, and preferably one who has done veterinary hospitals. Also, attend the Veterinary Design Conference which is held annually in Cleveland, and take the architect along."

From a D.V.M. degree at Michigan State University to a professorship and specialty in cardiology at the University of Pennsylvania, to the creation of an outstanding facility for animal care, Dr. James Buchanan moves forward, consistently reinforcing the merits of being a participant and helping the field of veterinary medicine and this school realize its dreams.

Mr. Barry Haines Of Buildings and Sheep



It would not be at all surprising to encounter Barry Haines rushing about New Bolton Center with a pipe wrench in one hand and a sheep crook in the other. Barry's primary job at the center is maintenance of the physical plant, but his heart is with the woolly creatures. The mention of sheep ignites an immediate gleam in his eyes.

As building administrator for New Bolton Center, Barry is responsible for the maintenance of seventy structures ranging from the historical Allam House to the newly-dedicated George D. Widener Hospital for Large Animals. This involves all routine maintenance, including operating efficiency and the eternal homeowner plagues such as leaky faucets and clogged drains. His expertise in this type of work comes naturally.

The senior Mr. Haines, Barry's father, was a builder for forty years. We imagine that it was from him that Barry acquired his appreciation for working with well-built structures, and especially farm buildings. Barry has what he terms "a five-year program" for New Bolton Center, designed to bring all buildings up to a simple maintenance level, which will require considerable repair to some structures. With the cost of construction material caught in the inflationary spiral, estimates for this work total close to \$800,000. At this time \$650,000 has been received from the University. Thus far two barns have been renovated as part of the program to improve patient care. This included converting wooden stall sections to cinder block and covering them with an epoxy paint for easy maintenance and disease control. The asphalt floors have been replaced with cement and a new drain system has been installed. These barns are over fifteen years old and, like other buildings of this vintage, have arrived at a point where some major improvements are needed. This includes the pole barns used in the leukemia research program which are now undergoing repair. While supervising these major projects, Barry's phone seems to ring continuously with requests for immediate service on minor problems involving plumbing, faulty electrical sockets, or bulky air conditioners. Mr. Haines