



THE CUPOLA

The Bulletin of The Medical Alumni Association of Bassett Medical Center
Cooperstown, New York

Fall 2014

EMR...Making Its Mark at Bassett

By Alan Kozak, M.D.

How does the EMR impact the training experience at Bassett? Has it changed the learning experience? Hasn't every class of residents faced changes which challenge those who trained in an earlier era? These questions arose among the editorial board of *The Cupola*. To find answers, the editor conducted some informal research among those training and practicing at Bassett and here's what he concluded.

Many alumni will remember the Bassett Medical Record Room as it once existed under the meticulous management of Elizabeth Peck and the staff that succeeded her. It was here that volumes of both inpatient and outpatient charts in their entirety were stored, ready for hand delivery to any requesting physician or nurse at any site on the main campus. Clinic visits, admissions to the hospital, and consultations often entailed laborious reviews of several volumes of charts belonging to any one patient.

Occasionally the needed chart or its volume had been signed out to another's office or clinic, or, despite the careful vigilance of the Record Room staff, had even been lost or misplaced. At other times, needed information was lost in illegible scrawl of well-intentioned care providers. Transmission of information to the growing number of regional sites was largely dependent on mailings of letters and discharge summaries, as well as personal telephone communications.

The gradual evolution of the electronic medical record (EMR) has been fully embraced throughout the Bassett system with its final introduction to the inpatient service this year. Thus, the archaic paper charts of yore no longer exist. And lost records and illegibility will no longer pose a problem.

Complete records are now shared system-wide. And use of the EMR has greatly facilitated billing procedures with easy capture of provided services.

To the more seasoned clinician, the EMR has presented its challenges. While it serves as a repository for an extraordinary amount of information, access may be difficult and navigating the system may not be exactly intuitive. The suggested check list approach to the entry of patient information reduces the focus on narrative, which in the past, has conferred a more personalized and unique character to each patient record.

"Everywhere the old order changeth, and happy those who can change with it."
Sir William Osler

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Message from the President of the Medical Alumni Board of Directors

During the past few years I have had the pleasure of coming to Cooperstown every October to attend the annual Bassett Medical Alumni Association Board meeting and reconnecting with people who care very much about the quality of medical education of our house staff, faculty, and medical students. Several Board members have established their medical careers at Bassett while others have pursued their vocations further afield. All dedicate time and effort to participate at our meetings, with some Board members travelling quite far at their own expense. I don't know that there is another medical center in our country where former interns and residents convene every year to support medical education.

Before briefly summarizing this year's Board meeting, I would like to first announce that one of our very own, Doug DeLong, M.D., was



Merideth Davis, M.D.,
President, Board of
Directors, Bassett
Medical Alumni
Association

recently elected Chair of the Board of Governors of the American College of Physicians (ACP), with his term to begin in the spring of 2016. Obviously the ACP made a very wise choice.

At the Board meeting we received status reports from: the chiefs of the medicine and surgery departments; the internship and residency program directors; Walter Franck, M.D., Senior Associate Dean of the Columbia-Bassett Medical School program; Joanne Tobey, a member of the Friends of Bassett fundraising staff; and Vance Brown, M.D., the new CEO of Bassett. Brown discussed his commitment to optimize the patient experience at Bassett, improve the health of the local community, and support medical education including promoting faculty development and leadership. Additionally, we heard from James Dalton, M.D., the director of

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The Cupola is the newsletter of the Medical Alumni Association of Bassett Medical Center. The Association was founded to provide support and recommendations to Bassett's Medical Education Department; to assist in recruiting medical students, house staff and attending staff; and to provide financial support to develop and enhance medical education at Bassett.

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Alan J. Kozak, M.D.
Editor

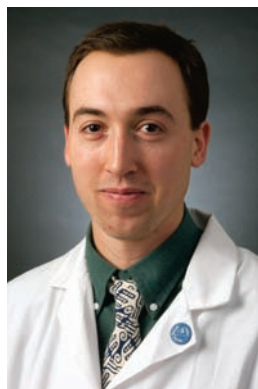
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Student Joins Alumni Board



Nicholas Feinberg, Columbia-Bassett Class of 2016

The Alumni board welcomes a new member, Nicholas Feinberg, who is a third-year student in the Columbia-Bassett Medical School. Feinberg was selected by his classmates to represent them to the Bassett Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Prior to medical school, Feinberg had a circuitous journey that encompassed educational studies, living and

traveling abroad, and playing professional golf. He earned an undergraduate degree in Economics and Philosophy from the University of St. Andrews, in Scotland, which he attended on a golf scholarship and where he was a member of the golf team. Upon returning to the U.S., he completed post-baccalaureate work at Northwestern University. While in Chicago, he

volunteered in the emergency room of MetroSouth Medical Center, as a golf instructor for the First Tee of Greater Chicago, and at the Danny Did Foundation.

"I am honored to participate on the Alumni Association Board," he stated. "Medical Education is an interest of mine and I hope to learn more about the breadth and scope of Bassett's programs as a member." He grew up in Cooperstown and consequently is very familiar with Bassett Healthcare and its impact regionally.

Feinberg feels privileged to be among the students in the Columbia-Bassett Medical School. He was particularly drawn to the program because it is immersive, and the size of the class makes it a very personal experience. "As a result of the leadership of Drs. Franck, Weil, and Brennan, the students have direct contact with a broad range of experts who offer provocative perspectives on medicine and its future in the United States. It has so much more to offer than other medical schools."

Feinberg is looking forward to his residency and hopes to continue his participation with the Alumni Association board in the future. ■

For more information about the Columbia-Bassett Medical School, visit www.columbia-bassett.org

Board Gathers in Cooperstown



Bassett Medical Alumni Association Board of Directors' meeting - October 24, 2014

Front Row (L-R): *Dr. Vance Brown, President & CEO, Bassett Healthcare Network; Dr. Stephanie Oceguela, Dr. Karen McShane, Dr. Eric Rubin, Dr. Merideth Davis, President, Bassett Alumni Association Board of Directors; and Dr. Alan Kozak*
Middle Row (L-R): *Dr. Ken Wilkins, Dr. John Davis, and Dr. Ted Ruckert*
Back Row (L-R): *Dr. Doug DeLong, and Dr. James Dalton*

Students Accepted into Honor Society

Three students of the Columbia-Bassett Medical School Class of 2018, Bryan Block, David Chapel and Seth Mathern, were welcomed as new members of Gold Humanism Honor Society (GHHS). The society was founded to honor students who practice medicine with empathy and pay special attention to their patients' personal experience. Since 2003, this honor has been bestowed on approximately 15

percent of students of each graduating class of the Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons (P&S). Students in the Gold Humanism Honor Society have opportunities to work together on a project supporting humanism at P&S. The society exists in over 110 medical schools in the U.S. and continues to grow.

Congratulations Bryan, David, and Seth. ■

Medical Students Hope to Improve OR Efficiency



Sandra Gothard, M.S., R.N., CNOR, Bassett Network Director for Perioperative Services and Anesthesia with Columbia-Bassett students Wilson Sui, Joanna Tu and Nicholas Feinberg.

In the operating room, losing seconds in unproductive time can mean more exposure to anesthesia for the patient and less profit for the hospital. Three Columbia-Bassett Medical School students—Wilson Sui, Joanna Tu and Nicholas Feinberg—have taken it upon themselves to review one potential area for improvement, OR supply storage.

“The goal from the department’s perspective is to have the students accomplish an improvement in efficiency in the supply area of the OR so the division is prepared for every surgery,” explains Sandra Gothard, M.S., R.N., CNOR, network director for Perioperative Services and Anesthesia, who is responsible for managing OR supplies. “I see the project giving them a very robust understanding of what health care is about, in addition to the science of medicine, so they are also able to navigate the politics

of the health care system.”

Sui, Tu and Feinberg discovered their mutual interest in the operating room when considering topics for one part of their curriculum at Bassett, the Systems Leadership Integration Management (SLIM) program. The objective of the program, developed by Henry Weil, M.D., is to teach medical students something beyond traditional medicine and make clearer the health care industry perspective. Students work for a 12-month period in partnership with an executive leadership member, group or director.

In May, the students began collecting baseline data. They started with a review of the pick cards for the highest volume procedures in the hospital. The pick card is essentially a shopping list of all of the items required for a given procedure, picked out of the supply area by a surgical technician or a circulating nurse,

the day before surgery.

As a part of the research, OR employees are wearing pedometers to help determine how many steps and how much time it takes to complete a pick card. The students will consider whether there is a variation in how much time it takes an experienced employee and a relatively new staff person to complete a card.

“The operating rooms are arranged in a rectangle and all of them open onto the supply core, so the staff is coming in and out like stage hands,” Feinberg explains. “Perhaps we can reduce the number of steps these employees have to take.”

The students have found that the OR staff is very supportive of this effort, in part because they are able to share their own ideas about how to improve efficiency. Sui, Feinberg and Tu are also conducting an employee satisfaction survey this fall to assess everyone’s work satisfaction and to engender buy-in among the employees.

They would like to create an intervention to test by the end of the year. “If we are lucky, we will be able to do something that improves the quality of life down there,” Tu says. “But of course, there is the loftier goal of saving the hospital money.” The students will present their research results and suggestions for improvement in the form of a report and presentation in spring 2015. ■

Reprinted from *BassettWorks*,
September 2014

Welcome Class of 2018



Columbia-Bassett Medical School Class of 2018 with guest presenter from the Guthrie Clinic.

Front Row (L-R): *Surbhi Agrawal, Justin Spring, Stephanie Colello, Sarah Harney, Eric Bland*

Back Row (L-R): *Henry Weil, M.D., Assistant Dean for Education, Vickie Kamataris, R.N, M.S.N, Director, Operational Excellence, The Guthrie Clinic Christopher Jackson, Christopher Clayton, Karl Bart Celie, Jemma Benson, Lauren Onofrey, Daphne Monie, Ph.D, Director of Research and Education, and Walter Franck, M.D., Senior Associate Dean.*

THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS

Please keep your notes and photos coming! Editor

1970s

Michael Maloney, M.D. (Internal Medicine/Psychiatry Resident 1971-73) remembers his time at Bassett as “great medical training and preparation for life.” He writes, “I will be celebrating my 70th birthday in Paris this year. Meanwhile I continue my full-time psychiatric practice with children, adolescents, and adults. I have lectured and worked at other great medical centers, but I would not trade my training at MIB Hospital for any other place.”

Gary Hoffman, M.D. (Attending Rheumatologist 1977-86) shares that although it has been almost 30 years since his employment at Bassett, his sons, “Matthew (age 43) and Timothy (age 39) are almost over their disappointment from departing Cooperstown.” Subsequently Hoffman worked at the National Institutes of Health and the Cleveland Clinic, where he devoted his career to vasculitis. Now retiring from patient care, he wants to continue his research, and hopes to have more time to visit friends and entertain them in Cleveland. “Diane and I would love to be your hosts.”

H. Kaz Soong, M.D. (Internal Medicine Resident 1978-79) is still on faculty at the University of Michigan ophthalmology department, going on 31 years. He writes to say, “As luck would have it, my second-year resident is **Steve Smith, M.D.** (Transitional Year Resident 2012-13), son of my co-intern from Bassett, **Brian Smith, M.D.** (Internal Medicine Resident 1978-79). My wife, Barbara, retired last year as hospice nurse practitioner. All three kids of mine are working in Washington, D.C.

My youngest, Andrea, just got married in Scotland, during the independence referendum vote.”



Jerrold L. Vitek M.D., Ph.D.

Jerrold Vitek, M.D., Ph.D. (Internal Medicine Resident 1984-85) Professor and Chair of the Department of Neurology University of Minnesota School of Medicine was recognized by the Swenson College of Science and Engineering with admission into the school’s elite Academy of Science and Engineering which recognizes achievements in medical research, entrepreneurship, science, and leadership. Vitek’s Inductee Seminar on Deep Brain Stimulation was presented in September.



Karen McShane, M.D.

1980s

Karen McShane, M.D. (Transitional Year/Ob-Gyn Resident 1982-83; Attending Obstetrician/Gynecologist 1989-2012) has joined Hudson Headwaters Health Network in Glens Falls, N.Y.

where she is practicing Urogynecology and Gynecology, but also some Obstetrics at both the main office in Glens Falls and Warrensburg. She writes, “This is a collaborative practice with midwives, and I am enjoying the new job. Living in the Adirondacks is wonderful for the great outdoors, but it is also a culturally exciting town, midway between Saratoga and Lake George.”

Anne Nafziger, M.D., Ph.D., M.H.S. (Transitional Year/Internal Medicine Resident 1984-88, Attending Internal Medicine 1990-2004) remains busy working part-time in internal medicine for St. Peter’s Health Partners in Albany, N.Y. and devoting her remaining time to consulting work including occupational health clinics for Federal Occupational Health, teaching Managerial Epidemiology at Union Graduate College in Schenectady, and language

editing for graduate students at Umeå University in Sweden. She and **David Pratt, M.D.** (Attending Pulmonary Medicine 1978-92) recently co-authored a review entitled “Seasonal Influenza Vaccination and Technologies” published in the *Journal of Clinical Pharmacology*, edited by **Joseph S. Bertino, Jr., Pharm.D.** (Clinical Pharmacologist 1982-2004).

1990s

Bora Gumustop, M.D. and **Robert Hogan, M.D.** (Internal Medical Residents 1994-97) classmates and friends are pictured here with their families during a recent vacation in Turkey. Gumustop is an interventional gastroenterologist with Albany Gastroenterology Consultants and Hogan is an interventional cardiologist with Glens Falls Hospital.

FAMILY to page 5



Gumustop and Hogan families. L to R: Bora Gumustop, Neil Hogan, 12, Jackie Hogan, 17, Selin Gumustop, 16, Derin Gumustop, 13, Betsy Gumustop, Robert Hogan, Elizabeth Hogan, Josie Hogan, 5 and Nolan Hogan, 14.



Isabelle Marie Ocegüera

Family from page 4

2000s

Luis Ocegüera, M.D. and **Stephanie (Strauss) Ocegüera, M.D.** (Surgical Residents 2005-11 and 2002-07, respectively, and current Attending General Surgeons) announce the arrival of their daughter, Isabelle Marie Ocegüera, on September 4, 2014.

Kelly Currie, M.D. (Surgical Resident 2008-13) lives in Denver, Colo. with her husband Dean. She is in her second of three years of a plastic surgery fellowship and will apply for a hand surgery fellowship this fall. Dean works as a surgical technician on the Hand/Plastics team at Denver Health Hospital. She writes, "We love Denver and are enjoying all the outdoor activities Colorado has to offer, like fly-fishing and snowboarding."

Gregory Lewis, M.D. (Albany-Bassett program 2009-10) completed a Family Medicine residency in Tulsa, Okla., in July and is working as a hospitalist at St. John Medical Center in Tulsa for one year. He writes that afterwards,

"we hope to head to the Philippines to start a training program for Filipino medical professionals, and visiting medical residents and students. We will be rurally located with a birth center/critical access clinic."

Nicole Lemanski, M.D. (Transitional Year Resident 2010-11) finished her ophthalmology residency this past June in Albany, N.Y. and is in Boston for a year doing a cornea and refractive surgery fellowship. Upon completion of the fellowship she will return to Albany to join her mother's ophthalmology practice.

Wisit Cheungpasitporn, M.D. (Internal Medicine Resident 2010-13), **Jay Kittanamongkolchai, M.D.**

(Internal Medicine Resident 2011-14), **Pat Srivali, M.D.** (Internal Medicine Resident 2011-14), and **Tom Ungprasert, M.D.** (Internal Medicine Resident 2011-14) are doing well with their fellowship training at Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. Wisit reports that the "cold never bothered us anyway!"

M. Jake Carlson, M.D. (Transitional Year Resident 2010-11) reports "I accepted a job in my hometown, Logan, Utah with Intermountain Healthcare. I will be joining a sports medicine group that covers all of Utah State athletics. This is my dream job and I'm so excited!"

Send updates to: cupola@bassett.org ■



A gathering of Bassett alumni enjoyed visiting together at the meeting of the Infectious Diseases Society of America in Philadelphia earlier this fall. Each of these alums has either completed or is currently in an Infectious Disease fellowship. Bhatraphol "Pat" Tingpej, M.D. (Medicine Resident 2008-11), Quanhathai "Quan" Kaewpoowat, M.D. (Medicine Resident 2010-13), Kara Willenburg, M.D. (Transitional Year/Medicine Resident 2005-09, Attending Physician 2011-13), Kunatum "Jin" Prasadthratsint, M.D. (Medicine Resident 2010-13), and Deborah Sentochnik, M.D. (Medicine Resident 1983-86, Attending Physician 2000-present).

Message from page 1

medical education at Bassett (and also a Board member) who discussed funding for faculty development ("training the trainers"). He also addressed the recent Institute of Medicine recommendations to overhaul the current system of governance and financing for graduate medical education.

I find it amazing that several current and past Board members were my attendings during my internship at Bassett. I remember the extra time and attention that they gave not only to their patients but also to us—the housestaff. Some are still practicing medicine at Bassett while others have since retired, but all have continued their commitment to medical education by serving on the Board, by donating money to the Medical Education fund, by including Bassett in their estate planning, and/or by teaching. I think that the tradition of personal commitment and attention sets Bassett apart from other medical centers and training programs. As these times become even more challenging, I would encourage other alumni to consider how they can contribute to medical education so that current and future house staff and medical students might also look back on their time at Bassett as very special. ■

A reminder: Who are the members of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association?

You are past and current interns, residents and fellows.

You are former and current members of the senior doctoral staff.

And you are students of the Columbia-Bassett Medical School program or students who spent your final two years of medical school at Bassett.



SEE OUR LATEST NEWS AND UPDATES AT **BASSETT MEDICAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

Consult Guys Visit Bassett



Geno J. Merli, M.D. and Howard Weitz, M.D.

The annual Dr. John Davis Visiting Professor Lecture took place on Friday, September 12, 2014 and featured two presenters Geno J. Merli, M.D. and Howard Weitz, M.D. Known for their medical education video series called “The Consult Guys”, Merli and Weitz addressed a standing-room-only crowd, and subsequently made rounds with house staff on the medical floor. The previous day, Merli and Weitz also spent the afternoon with Columbia-Bassett students discussing a complicated in-house medical case.

The previous day, Merli and Weitz also spent the afternoon with Columbia-Bassett students discussing a complicated in-house medical case. According to Sam Porter, student in the Class of 2016, “Doctors Merli and Weitz led quite an illuminating discussion with us. They helped us think through a medical consult case logically and systematically, guiding us through the appropriate management based on evidence and good clinical judgment.”

Weitz is director of the Division of Cardiology, Jefferson University Hospitals, and Merli is Jefferson’s chief medical officer and co-director of the Jefferson Vascular Center. Their video series “The Consult Guys” is modeled after National Public Radio’s “Car Talk” and designed to keep medical education fresh and fun as they address tough clinical questions aimed at educating fellow clinicians. ■



“What an exciting way to teach medicine... question - answer - question - answer (with lots of humor) and in-depth references to literature.”

Dinesh Chandra Voruganti, M.B., B.S.
PGY II, Internal Medicine

Alumni Join Bassett Staff



Madiha M. Alvi, M.B., B.S.

Madiha M. Alvi, M.B., B.S., joined Bassett Medical Center as an attending physician in Endocrinology after recently completing a Fellowship at Fletcher Allen Healthcare/University of Vermont, South Burlington, Vt. Alvi completed her residency at Bassett Healthcare. She earned her undergraduate and medical degrees from Fatima Jinnah Medical College/Punjab University, Lahore, Pakistan. She is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine and Board Eligible for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Metabolism.



Ramya Chinnasamy, M.B., B.S.

Ramya Chinnasamy, M.B., B.S., who recently completed her residency at Bassett Medical Center will continue here as an attending physician working as a Hospitalist. Chinnasamy earned her medical degree at PSG Institute of Medical Sciences & Research, M.B.B.S in India.



Bridget Grant, M.D.

Bridget Grant, M.D. joined Bassett Medical Center as an attending physician in Dermatology. She earned her medical degree from Albany Medical College, in Albany, N.Y. and has a B.S. and M.S. from Ithaca College in Ithaca, N.Y. Grant completed an internship at Bassett prior to a residency at Tufts New England Medical Center, Boston, Mass. She is certified by the American Board of Dermatology.



Sofia Syed, M.B., B.S.

Sofia Syed, M.B., B.S., M.P.H., has begun working at Bassett Medical Center as an attending physician in endocrinology. She earned her medical degree and served an internship at Government Medical College Jammu, in India. Syed also completed a transitional-year residency at Bassett Healthcare, followed by a residency and fellowship in Endocrinology and Metabolism at the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo. ■

BASSETT LOOKS BACK Residents Begin Getting the Best Medical Advice on the Fly



Loria Pollack, M.D. with her PDA

In 2000 a new paradigm of “evidence-based medicine” was taking hold at Bassett and elsewhere. Diagnosis and treatment were now more dependent on peer-reviewed scientific conclusions as opposed to tradition, anecdote and “personal experience”. And Bassett’s physician trainees got a huge boost for retrieving medical information: the first hand-held computers, called Personal Data Assistants (PDAs), for on-the-spot information retrieval and

processing during patient rounds and elsewhere. As a champion of the new technology, second-year Medicine Resident Loria Pollack, M.D. stated, “It allows us to take care of patients better. And it overcomes a rural disadvantage of getting rapid access to information that used to be limited to big city medical centers.” ■

Physician Employment Opportunities in the Bassett Healthcare Network

Thinking of a career move? Do you know another physician seeking a position in an award-winning network of six hospitals and 28 regional sites? Consider these openings in Central New York and Cooperstown.

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For more information visit: <http://recruitment.bassett.org/physician-jobs/>
Or call the Medical Staff Affairs office at 607-547-6982.

EMR from page 1

Thus far, it seems that the EMR may invite redundancy, and when inaccuracies are identified, their corrections can be difficult. Some providers (and patients) have expressed concern that use of computers in exam rooms detracts from the personal interactions. With full implementation of the EMR still fairly new to the Bassett system, there remains a sense that it has placed an additional time demand on those working in clinics.

From the standpoint of medical education, the EMR use has provided some important advantages. Oversight of resident work, progress notes and written orders, is easier and occurs with more immediacy. Supervising Attendings are able to offer more timely feedback to their residents. The ability to customize templates used for progress notes, based on continuous, constructive critique, has led to regular improvements in their quality.

For the Resident, who has grown up in the “era of electronics,” the EMR poses fewer challenges than it does to some of the more senior staff. The care of patients is more efficient. Progress notes based upon a standard template are easier to complete. Medication reconciliation is facilitated with reduced likelihood of errors, and the process of discharging a patient is much less complicated and more efficient. The savings in time hopefully translates into more time available to spend at the bedside.

Clearly the advent of the EMR into the Bassett system and many other medical facilities has had mixed reviews. Change is always difficult, but adaptability is a necessity. The electronic era is here to stay. The challenges, primarily identified by the more senior staff, seem less concerning to those more junior and more technologically groomed and oriented. It is this younger group who will ultimately be responsible for the future of health care delivery here and everywhere. ■



Medical Records Room circa 1970 was presided over by Elizabeth Peck and staffed by an army of workers to sort, file, manage, and transfer volumes of patient documentation.



Hospitalists Kai Mebust, M.D. and Gretchen Hodgdon, M.D. discuss the Unity EMR inpatient applications. Hodgdon led the Unity Inpatient Advisory Group and is an inpatient clinical architect.



Bassett Healthcare Network

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John S. Davis, M.D.

"It was important for me to give back to Bassett and pass on something for future generations."

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Gifts from Your Will or Trust

Need to preserve your assets during your lifetime? Include a bequest to Bassett in your will or trust. Your bequest can be unrestricted or directed to a specific purpose, and you can indicate a specific amount or a percentage of the balance remaining in your estate or trust.

Gifts from a Retirement Plan

Give assets subject to taxation, and leave more to your family. You can name Bassett as a beneficiary of your IRA, 401(k), or other qualified plan. Doing so will avoid the

potential double taxation of income and inheritance tax your retirement savings would face if you designated these savings to your heirs.

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You can make a significant gift to Bassett without a large estate. A paid-up life insurance policy can be transferred to Bassett, and you will receive an income tax deduction. In some cases you can use the cash value in your policy to fund a life-income gift, such as a deferred gift annuity. Or you can make Bassett the owner and beneficiary of your policy. We pay the premiums, and you can make a gift to cover the premiums that can be eligible for an income-tax deduction.

For more information about making a planned gift to Bassett, please call the Friends of Bassett at: 607-547-3028, or visit www.friendsofbassett.plannedgiving.org. ■