

# THE CUPOLA

The Bulletin of The Medical Alumni Association of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital  
Bassett Healthcare, Cooperstown, New York

Spring 2008  
Vol. X, No. IV



## BASSETT FAMILY REUNION

To all of you alumni out there, it's time to return for another Family Reunion, scheduled for the weekend of Oct. 10. Among other events, D.A. Henderson will be giving a lecture on bioterrorism, another lecture will honor the late James Lipsky, M.D., and the plan for Bassett to become a medical campus will be in full swing.

For those who haven't been back to Bassett for, say, 20 years, the changes will be profound, but you'll still find that the good old Mother Bassett you remember is alive and well! The village of Cooperstown and its surroundings won't be all that different — except for more baseball-related shops and youth parks, along with an influx of new hotels and motels. And no matter when you last visited Cooperstown, it will just be exciting to be back! The fall foliage will be at or near peak, and the weather will be — or maybe we'll skip over that prediction. Do contact Medical Education soon to set your visit plan into motion. (For a list of accommodations, see page 5.) A lot of folks here will be mighty pleased to see you again.

## A SALUTE TO THE CHIEF

By John Davis, M.D.

We devote our feature article to Physician-in-Chief Walter A. Franck, M.D., who plans to retire after an appointed search committee has picked his successor:

Walt was born in China of Belgian parents and was multilingual early on. He received his B.A. from Yale and his M.D. from Columbia University. There followed a residency in Internal Medicine at the University Hospital in Ann Arbor; three years in the military as chief of the Department of Internal Medicine at the SHAPE headquarters in Belgium and a fellowship in Rheumatology at the Massachusetts General Hospital. A chain of events then led him to Bassett instead of Dartmouth in 1973 as the institution's first rheumatologist.

Nearly 35 years later, as a board-certified rheumatologist, his clinical and teaching skills in general internal medicine and rheumatology set the departmental standard. In parallel has been his extraordinary leadership since 1980 as physician-in-chief of an ever-growing department (now with more than 90 senior physicians in multiple divisions and locations), expanding residency programs in Medicine and the Transitional



Walter A. Franck, M.D.

Year; a multifaceted medical student program and a legion of related administrative functions. Along the way, he's also somehow found the time to publish some 40 medical papers and give more than 80 presentations at meetings beyond Bassett. His continuing close ties to Columbia's College of Physicians and Surgeons, where he holds the titles of clinical professor of medicine and associate dean at Bassett Healthcare, have been of enormous help to Bassett over the years. He functions as an ultimate

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Kenneth W. Wilkins, M.D.

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Cooperstown and New Bern, N.C. Spring is really here, after a false start or two in both locales. Please enjoy this issue of The Cupola. Much is happening in Cooperstown. The programs are happy with their matches this year, and plans for a clinical medical school campus are moving apace. Plans are also well along for what should be an exciting Alumni Family Reunion Oct. 10–12. Please mark your calendars and make every effort to join us! At least, let us hear from you! Sadly, 2008 will see the retirement of Walt

Franck and the end of a momentous era. Although he still has a full head of hair, he is solidly in the group of "old bald men" who trained so many of us to be good physicians and good people. Best wishes for the next phase of your life, Walt. Bassett will miss you!

Kenneth W. Wilkins, M.D.  
President, Board of Directors  
Bassett Medical Alumni Association

THE CUPOLA is the newsletter of the Medical Alumni Association of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital. The Association was founded to provide support and recommendations to Bassett 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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THE CUPOLA is published three times a year. Please send comments and news, including change of address information to: Editor, The Cupola, Office of Medical Education, Bassett Healthcare, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown, NY 13326 or e-mail to <bassett.cupola@bassett.org>.

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## MEDICAL SCHOOL PLANS MARCH AHEAD

By Laura Schweitzer,  
*Chief Academic Officer*

Much has happened since our last update on the medical school campus at Bassett. Bassett's Cooperstown campus has been visited by dignitaries from Columbia University, the University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry, the University of Vermont School of Medicine, Albany Medical Center and Upstate Medical University. Tours led by Dr. Henry Weil, co-director of the Medical School Initiative, were compelling, and every dean who visited has expressed a desire to partner with Bassett as a clinical campus.

A special treat was the visit by an Australian dean and Dr. Jordan Cohen, the past president of the American Association of Medical Centers (AAMC) for more than a decade. The Australian medical schools are looking to partner with U.S. hospital systems for clinical training, and Dr. Cohen brought the Australians to Bassett to see "a facility where it is being done right." His parting words were, "Whatever med-

ical school you partner with will be getting a gem." The Australians are currently working with me to arrange fourth-year elective opportunities in medicine and surgical subspecialties at Bassett for their students.

A major interim step forward in the planning for a clinical campus has come from the fact that Albany Medical College over-enrolled the freshman class by 12 students and asked if Bassett might host the students for their junior (clinical) year. We agreed and asked to host six students next year. This has allowed us to:

- assess our physicians' interests in teaching (Within one week of sending a query, more than 100 physicians had signed up.);
- assess student interest in coming (Students at Albany Med have competed for six spaces for next year, and our first students have been selected.);
- develop a formal financial and business plan for the campus initiative;
- formulate a draft curriculum that capitalizes on Bassett's strengths as articulated at an

August retreat attended by 35 Bassett physicians;

- create a strong curriculum committee and develop it into a very effective team and
- apply for LCME (Liaison Committee on Medical Education) approval as a clinical campus with the understanding that this is essentially transferable to our permanent partner.

To prepare for the LCME site visit, Dr. Emery Wilson, dean emeritus of the University of Kentucky Medical School and past chairman of the LCME, visited to do a mock survey and left very excited about our organization and by the curriculum that Drs. Weil and Toni Peters from Harvard have designed. The LCME has now done its site visit and was favorably impressed. We await the committee's written response and have received verbal approval. Based on this progress we have been designated a Regional Medical School Campus by the American Association of Medical Colleges. ■

## JOHN E. OLSON, M.D., JOINS MEDICAL ALUMNI BOARD

The Alumni Board of Directors extends a hearty welcome to John E. Olson, M.D. John obtained his M.D. in 1956 from the University of Kansas School of Medicine. He and physical therapist Rita Shipp were married at the end of his second year (they recently celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary). In his senior year, John heard about Bassett from a neurosurgeon who had been there as a Columbia P&S student. The intern match was new, and John did a last-minute coin toss to choose between his top two choices, the University of Michigan and Bassett. He recalls that Michigan won, but he realized that the result was flawed, and that he really wanted Bassett for a year, with plans to head "west of the Kansas/Colorado border after that."

The extraordinary personal standard and hard work he brought to his intern year were quickly recognized by Dr. John Davis, among other fellow interns and all levels of staff. After service as a flight surgeon in the Naval Reserve, he returned to complete a surgical residency at The Bassett (yes, we called it "The Bassett" in those days),



*Attending Surgeon in 1971*



*Dr. Olson in 2007*

which included a stint as chief resident at P&S. He recalls an incident in the Bassett OR helping an intern with an appendix, when the attending surgeon, James Mithoefer, M.D., came in and received a face full of blood "over my shoulder" from a ruptured appendiceal artery. Commenting that "I think you've got everything under control," Dr. Mithoefer quickly left the

room. During a subsequent fellowship in surgical metabolism with Dr. Francis Moore at the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital, John had three of four weekends off to come back to Cooperstown. On one of these weekends, he was called in for the horrific experience of assisting in the futile effort to revive Dr. Mithoefer, who was dying of multiple hornet stings.

John's ensuing career as an attending surgeon at Bassett evolved in ever-widening dimensions. He became the respected backbone of the general surgical staff. Early on, he ran Bassett's nascent tumor registry, and this

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## BOARD APPROVES DR. WALTER A. FRANCK EXCELLENCE IN MEDICAL EDUCATION ENDOWMENT

The Board of Trustees of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital has approved the creation of the Dr. Walter A. Franck Excellence in Medical Education Endowment to honor Dr. Franck's academic and clinical leadership as physician-in-chief over the past 30 years. During this distinguished career, Walt Franck has served Bassett Healthcare in countless ways, and his clinical and teaching skills have guided and inspired several generations of physicians and other health care professionals. Highlights of his academic career are reviewed in our feature article on Page 1 of this issue of The Cupola.

The first permanently endowed fund in Bassett's history, the Dr. Walter A. Franck Excellence in Medical Education Endowment will support Bassett's new medical school campus through the creation of the Franck Award for Medical Student Teaching Excellence. The award will recognize excellence in teaching at Bassett by means of an annual

stipend from income generated by the endowment, to be bestowed on selected faculty, with the number of awards and their size to be determined by the market value of the endowment. Awards will be granted by Bassett's chief academic officer in concert with Bassett's president. All active physician faculty members involved in the Bassett Medical Student Education Program are eligible to receive the Franck Award. As the fund grows, the number of awards and their and size will similarly increase at the discretion of the president and chief academic officer.

Alumni at large, current medical staff, and national and regional donors are being asked to honor Dr. Franck's service with a one-time gift or a multiple-year pledge to build the endowment. For more information on how you can participate, please contact Scott A. Barrett, executive director, Friends of Bassett, (607) 547-3556 or scott.barrett@bassett.org. ■

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confidante and mentor at all levels, and an appearance of calm and order always pervades, no matter what the presented problem, crisis or complaint. His "Walt Rounds" for the resident staff continue to provide a superb model of the truly caring physician, combined with an inspiring breadth of medical knowledge and problem-solving skills. It's tough not to be awed, but, as one colleague and former resident put it: "His humanity overshadows all else."

Here are three more quotes about Walt from Bassett leaders and colleagues: "He is just a remarkable human being, a thoughtful listener, a most precise observer and a most incisive adviser. The ultimate professional, this remarkable person, whose sense of fairness and integrity in the organization is the gold bullion of Bassett. A wonderful guy and an amazing leader; and he is as unobtrusive in his excellence as he could be.

Somehow he finds the center of an issue where the truth is, the correct truth – not the version of the truth – and then he acts upon that ethically and appropriately, without consequence of the fact that it might be harder for him to do it that way. An anchor of integrity for the organization."

"What struck me most about Walt was, first, that he's an absolutely wonderful person, in his

style, personality and graciousness. I quickly learned

that he stood for excellence in medicine and was unequivocal about the standards that he thought were appropriate, for the care of patients, the education of students and of research. The other thing that came across was his gentle but persistent advocacy for Bassett, as an institution, as an educational enterprise. He was never hesitant to make his points not only known but very clearly and eloquently, and never, never in an adversarial fashion or at the expense of another institution."

"Above all, there's been commitment to his wife and family, and as a loving and dedicated son to his parents who moved to Cooperstown in their later years. Walt's concern for and commitment to community has been a substantial force creating the family feel that exists in the Department of Medicine and the whole institution."

In a recent interview, Walt summed up his Bassett career with his usual modesty: "Bassett, like the rest of the hospitals and practices in this country, has undergone

enormous change during my tenure here. Bassett has done it about as well as any organization conceivably could have. It's gone from having the luxury of time, our quintessential commodity that our patients value the most, really more than our talent. They can't judge our talent, but they can judge our empathy and our compassion and our time. And we've had less and less of that to

give to our patients. We've done a pretty good job of protecting time for our staff, with time for our families and community, making it possible to have a personal life that's been rewarding in this community."

Walt and Linda were married right after his first year in medical school. Linda served for 20 years as a public health nurse, and, Walt says, "She was always able to keep me focused on the patient and the home and on the importance of nursing in the care of patients – seeing care delivered to our community from the eyes of a PHN." They have four children and seven grandchildren in several locations. What next? "I hope not to disappear, but enjoy the fruits of the academic life at Bassett, time at the Cape plus travel, with headquarters staying in Cooperstown."

Walt, the Bassett community far and wide sends you three cheers and more as you transition to a new and continued productive life, which we know will continue to benefit Bassett and Cooperstown! Talk about a tough act to follow. ■

*"His humanity overshadows all else."*

*"...he stood for excellence in medicine and was unequivocal about the standards..."*

## IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS

*Editor's note: Please send us information about Bassett colleagues who have passed on.*

### Walter Luft, M.D.



Dr. Luft at Interdepartmental Grand Rounds in 1982.

Dr. Walter Luft passed away Jan. 23, 2008, in South Florida at age 100. Born in Germany, he survived diphtheria and a tracheotomy at age 2, obtained his M.D. and did his internship in Germany, got out of medicine for a while, fled Germany to Denmark in the 1930s, spent time in Israel, got more medical education and came to the United States in 1938, where he rapidly learned English. When interviewed by John Davis in 1997, he recalled being offered a six-month internship by Dr. George Mackenzie in January 1938 after one of the four Bassett interns dropped out with tuberculosis, thus becoming Bassett's first international medical graduate (the second was 55 years later). He worked chiefly under Dr. John Powers, "a strict disciplinarian" who "reminded me of the Prussians," but with a warm side, and they developed a friendship that was to last over the years. Internists Drs. Mackenzie, Francis Harrison and David Kydd

were his other principal teachers at a time when sulfa had just come in as a near-miracle drug for pneumonia and other infections.

Dr. Luft opened his first office in Portlandville in July 1939. He had met his wife, Annemarie Schneider, in Buffalo in 1942, and they moved to Milford with the help of Bassett obstetrician Floyd Atwell, M.D., where he continued his general practice for over 40 years, retiring in 1985. During those years, he made many house calls, including one in which he had to deliver a breech baby (with a successful outcome). He was recognized by Bassett colleagues as an excellent physician with a deep understanding of the art of medicine, for which he was revered by several generations of patients. He was a regular attendee at Bassett's Grand Rounds during his practice years and after retirement, often with sharp questions and comments. He is survived by his wife, daughter Jill Luft, a grandson and two great grandchildren.

### George L. Nicklin Jr., M.D.

Dr. George R. Nicklin Jr. died June 21, 2007, in Medford, N.J., at age 81. A graduate of Haverford College, he served as a medic in the military in Germany in WW II, was awarded two Bronze Stars and



George Nicklin, M.D.

was severely wounded in the process. He obtained his M.D. from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University and then did a two-year rotating internship at Bassett (1951-53), before completing a residency in psychiatry at Bellevue Hospital. He went on to a career in the practice of psychiatry and psychoanalysis on Manhattan and Long Island and as a professor of psychiatry at New York University. He retired in 2004 and was honored by the American Psychiatric Association for 50 years of distinguished service. Late in life, he published two books "Doctors in Peril, How They Cope" and "War Stories: World War II Reminiscences." He is survived by his wife of 57 years, Kate Nicklin, and a large extended family.

### Jane Margaret Wolf, M.D.

Dr. Jane Margaret Wolf died Feb. 9, 2008, at age 57, of complications of pancreatic cancer. Dr. Wolf graduated cum laude from Radcliffe College and obtained her M.D. with honors from the University of Vermont, where she went on to become an associate professor in the Department of Psychiatry and director of the residency program. From 1990 to 1999, she was Bassett's psychiatrist-in-chief, leaving to become clinical director of the Augusta Mental Health Institute in Augusta, Maine, until her retirement for health reasons in 2000. Dr. Wolf was a fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. She is survived by her two sisters, Julietta Wolf-Foster and Molly Wolf.

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evolved to his growing expertise and national recognition in surgical oncology and key involvement in the cancer program of the American College of Surgeons, the Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group and the New York State Cancer Programs Association, where he served as president. On a parallel track, he became an expert in endocrine surgery, all the while maintaining his status as Bassett's premiere breast and general surgeon (Davis recalls his diagnosing Whipple's Disease at the operating table in a case that had defied diagnosis by all.)

Throughout his career, his dedicated and passionate personal standard of surgical practice and teaching were key to turning out a series of superbly trained surgeons, stressful for many, but



Bassett House Staff 1956. Besides Dr. Olson, how many can you identify?

with admiration and the highest regard for this extraordinary surgeon role model. Beginning in 1988, at the behest of the National Cancer

Institute, he began a series of trips as a consultant to Taiwan to promote multidisciplinary treatment of cancer at three medical schools and to set up a surgical oncology fellowship program. He retired from Bassett in October 1995 but continued a part-time clinical and teaching role for a couple of years.

John and Rita live outside of Cooperstown, with a summer getaway home in the Adirondacks and with close contacts with their three sons, one of whom, Stephen Olson, M.D., was the first Fellow in Bassett's Mithoefer Center for Rural Surgery. These days, John's passion and expertise for fly fishing keep him heading for the best fishing spots around Otsego County, the United States and the world. ■

## THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM—ALUMNI NEWS

**Again, thanks to those who have sent the following news.  
To the rest of you, notes and pictures (preferably sent electronically) will be welcomed!**

### 1950s

**Donald A. Henderson, M.D., M.P.H.,** (*Intern 1954-55, Assistant Resident in Medicine 1958-59*): A note in the recent Rochester Medicine reports, "The King of Thailand has conferred on him the Knight Grand Cross of the Most Admirable Order of Direkgunabhorn. It was a magnificent ceremony at the Royal Chulalongkorn Palace in Bangkok. He received a medal and sash that are beautiful to behold, though he doesn't see any events on his calendar that call for wearing them. He is also beginning an autobiography, despite having sworn never to do another book after he finished the smallpox book nine years ago." (D.A., here's your chance to appear in proper attire for your lecture at our upcoming Bassett Family Reunion!)

### 1970s

**William (Bill) Petersen, M.D.,** (*Transitional Resident 1978-79*) writes, "I sold my ophthalmology practice two years ago. Cathy retired at that time, but I continued to work part time through October 2007. I am now fully retired and

now have time to learn new sports. We are far from bored and truly enjoy our newfound freedom."

### 1980s

**Jonathan Fong, M.D.,** (*Surgery Resident 1987-93 [Chief Resident 1992-93]*) writes, "I have been in Venice, Fla., for the past five years now. James is 13 and Alex is 10. Sophia maintains her involvement in the community. The cardiac surgery program will reach its fifth anniversary this summer. It has been designated as a top 100 program by Thompson (formerly Solucient) for the second year in a row, was named by Healthgrades.com to the top 5 percent of programs in the nation for coronary bypass surgery, and was ranked No. 3 in the state of Florida, receiving five stars (the highest rating) for in-hospital, 30-day and 180-day mortality. The above are mentioned only to give kudos to those who never gave up trying to make me a better surgeon and physician. While I will freely and openly submit that the results are divinely given, if there is any human component to these results, they are a direct result of the behavior modeled by my men-

tors at Bassett. Fastidious surgical technique and attention to detail in post-operative care actually did trickle down and become integral parts of my identity as a surgeon. Thank you. We remember fondly our time at Bassett and look forward to that time when we can visit in person and see the amazing changes we've read about in The Cupola. Keep up the great work!"

**Anne Nafziger, M.D.,\*** reports that "Joe Bertino\* and I were in Bangkok, Thailand, in late January 2008. We had the pleasure of seeing Siwaporn Chainuvati\*, her handsome son Gem, and Joy Ngarmukos\*! They are both doing well—practicing in academic medicine, teaching medical students and seeing patients. Joe and I have started a consulting business and are having a great time working for ourselves. We are doing a wide range of work for the pharmaceutical industry. We have a Web site that gives more details about what we are doing for those who are interested: [www.bertinoconsulting.com](http://www.bertinoconsulting.com)

**\*Dr. Nafziger, Transitional Resident 1984-85, Medicine Resident 1985-88, Attending**



Left to right: Dr. Nafziger, Gem Chainuvati, Dr. Chainuvati, Dr. Bertino, Dr. Ngarmukos

*Physician and Clinical Research Scientist 1990-2004; Joseph Bertino, Pharm.D., Co-Director, Clinical Pharmacy Research Center 1982-2004; Siwaporn Chainuvati, M.D., Medicine Resident 1998-2000; Chardprorn Ngarmukos, M.D. Medicine Resident 1995-97.*

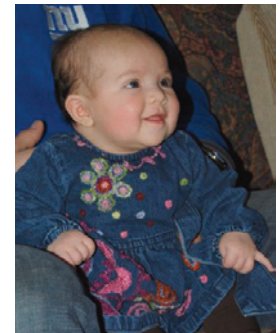
### 1990s

**Mary Flannery, M.D.,** (*Attending – Pediatrics, Bassett Herkimer 1995-2004*) reports, "As a pediatrician with a strong interest in behavioral health, I decided to pursue formal training in psychiatry. In July '07 I started a four-year program in psychiatry at St Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital in New York City. On completion, I'll be board eligible in both child and adolescent and general psychiatry. St Luke's is a Columbia affiliate located in Morningside Heights. I

love NYC and get to see two of my three children here quite a bit. One is a senior at Fordham and the other works in marketing in Manhattan. Their older brother is up in Cambridge, studying VERY hard at Harvard Law School!"

### 2000s

**Jennifer Wen Doe** (*Jennifer Wen, Transitional Resident 2003-2004*) writes, "I just had a baby girl in the end of December and she's been growing like crazy! We named her Katherine Sophia Doe. My husband and I are relocating to New Jersey, where my family is. I will be starting a Body MRI



Katherine Sophia Doe

fellowship at Columbia beginning July 1. I am currently studying like crazy for my oral board exam on June 1. Wish me luck!" ■

### Accommodations Available for Reunion Weekend

Autumn is a busy time in Cooperstown, and as the alumni reunion will be held on a holiday weekend, it may be even busier. Book your rooms early, and please indicate that you are attending the reunion. The following have set rooms aside for the weekend:

**Abbey's Cottage**  
Phone: (607) 547-2263  
Web: [cooperstownchamber.com](http://cooperstownchamber.com)

**August Lodge Cooperstown, Inc.**  
Phone: (607) 547-7457  
Web: [augustlodge.com](http://augustlodge.com)

**Hickory Grove Motor Inn**  
Phone: (607) 547-9874  
Web: [hickorygrovemotorinn.com](http://hickorygrovemotorinn.com)

**Howard Johnson Inn and Suites**  
Phone: (607) 286-7600

**The Inn at Cooperstown**  
Phone: (607) 547-5756  
Web: [innatcooperstown.com](http://innatcooperstown.com)

**Lake Front Motel**  
Phone: (607) 547-9511, ext. 1  
Web: [lakefrontmotelandrestaurant.com](http://lakefrontmotelandrestaurant.com)

**Lake 'N Pines Motel**  
Phone: (607) 547-2790  
1-800-615-5253

**Main Street Bed & Breakfast**  
Phone: (607) 547-9755  
Web: [mainstreetbandb.info](http://mainstreetbandb.info)

**Sunny Slope Bed and Breakfast**  
(on an organic dairy farm)  
Phone: (607) 547-8686

**The Otesaga Resort Hotel**  
Phone: 1-800-348-6222  
Web: [otesaga.com](http://otesaga.com)

## Breaking News

### HEART CARE INSTITUTE ADDS ARRHYTHMIA EXPERT

The Bassett Heart Care Institute now has the specialized services of Amit J. Shanker, M.D., a board-certified interventional electrophysiologist. With the addition of Dr. Shanker to the cardiology team, Bassett will establish a Center for Advanced Arrhythmia Medicine offering both pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic options for arrhythmia treatment, suppression or cure.

A variety of surgical options will be available, including: implantation of defibrillators/pacemakers and cardiac resynchronization therapy devices for the treatment of heart failure, electrophysiology studies with adjunctive 3D high density electroanatomic computer mapping (to aid in the identification of electrical 'short circuits' in the heart), and radiofrequency or cryoablation procedures. Dr. Shanker will also offer alternative treatments for symptomatic drug-refractory atrial fibrillation, including the catheter-based wide area circumferential pulmonary vein isolation procedure.

### BARIATRIC SURGERY PROGRAM WINS RECOGNITION

Bassett has been designated as a Center of Excellence for its bariatric surgery program by the Surgical Review Corporation, a sub-group of the American Society of Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery. Bassett is one of 321 hospitals nationwide, and 24 in New York state, to achieve Center of Excellence status.

Hospitals eligible for this designation must perform at least 125 weight-loss surgeries per year, with exceptional standards of care and

treatment. The SRC selection process examines the entire patient experience, including care given by a dedicated bariatric team consisting of surgeons, nurses, nutritionists, psychologists and exercise physiologists; and reviews educational material and patient support provided to patients. The bariatric team must also report long-term patient outcomes and undergo on-site inspections.

Bassett's selection as a Center of Excellence also means the program will be able to provide care for patients with Medicare insurance who are candidates for weight-loss surgery. The bariatric surgery program offers "lap band" and laparoscopic gastric bypass procedures to help obese patients achieve the ultimate goal of improved health with the resultant weight loss.

### TRI-TOWN REGIONAL HOSPITAL OPENS



*Sidney ribbon-cutting*

Bassett celebrated the opening of its fourth affiliated hospital, Tri-Town Regional Hospital in Sidney, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Feb. 5. Pictured, left to right, are: Tri-Town Regional Hospital Board of Trustees Chairman Scott McLean; Bassett President and CEO

William F. Streck, M.D.; state Sen. John J. Bonacic; state Assemblyman Peter Lopez; Phil Giltner, legislative representative for Congresswoman Kirsten Gillibrand and Tri-Town Regional Hospital CEO Bruce Wilhelm.

### BASSETT HONORED BY COMPUTERWORLD MAGAZINE

Computerworld magazine, a leading technology publication, has named Bassett Healthcare a Laureate for 2008 for its case study, "Advanced Information Infrastructure for Electronic Medical Records." According to Vice President for Information Services and Chief Information Officer Ken Deans, medical records in this context means all of Bassett's electronic medical applications, from electronic medical record (EMR) to PACS to moving the annual budgeting process from paper to online with Lawson Budgeting and Planning 9.0 module.

The Computerworld Honors Program brings together the principals of the world's foremost information technology companies to recognize the achievements of people and organizations around the world whose visionary applications of information technology promote positive social, economic and educational change. "In the competition for Laureate status, the biggest thing this award is after is not just the use of technology, but use of technology to benefit society, and that's where we stood above the crowd," Deans says. "I was surprised that we received the Laureate designation given the level of other participants, probably 200 individual organizations. We are very honored and extremely pleased."

### ON COMMUNICATING BY E-MAIL

What a wonderful way to communicate with you out there – except that e-mail addresses change rapidly, much faster than telephone numbers, so frustration is too often the name of the game!

So, please send your updated addresses to [cupola@bassett.org](mailto:cupola@bassett.org)!

And while on the subject, your board discussed the concept of restricted, password-protected e-mail access via the Bassett alumni Web site, [www.bassett.org/edu/alumni.cfm](http://www.bassett.org/edu/alumni.cfm).

A workable system will be a daunting task. Let us know what you think!

## LEARNING COMMONS OPENS DOORS

After many months of planning, the transformation of the Mackenzie Medical Library into a high-tech, multidisciplinary Learning Commons is complete.

"I'm very excited to expand upon our traditional mission as a medical library by incorporating new educational technologies," said Laura Dixon, manager, Bassett Learning Commons & Mackenzie Medical Library. "Our upper floor has been transformed into the primary access point for staff and students to use computer-based resources, while the lower floor will be used for hands-on learning as well as quiet study (when classes aren't in session)."

At the heart of the project is the Bassett Active Learning Center, a multidisciplinary teaching laboratory with virtual-reality training modules and a laparoscopic surgical simulator. During surgical grand rounds in January, Associate Chief of Surgery Dr. Karen McGinnis gave a presentation on the Learning Center to a capacity audience of medical staff, medical students and administrators.

Designed for use by medical students,



*Surgery residents try out the laparoscopic simulator in the teaching laboratory of the Bassett Learning Commons. Pictured, from left, are: Dr. Tarun Bajaj, Dr. Kerry Rodgers and Dr. Kenneth Bark.*

medical residents, surgical residents, nursing students, CRNA students, OR staff team training, ER providers, attending physicians, ACLS classes, EMT and rapid response teams, the simulator will initially be used with basic models for skill development. These include chest tube placement, lumbar puncture, IV placement, arterial line placement, central lines, peritoneal catheter models, NG/trach care models and laparoscopic simulation with Haptica and virtual-reality

simulators. Phases deployed over the next few years will include patient simulators and development of a difficult airway course. Future plans may include a trauma program, GYN models, advanced laparoscopy training, endoscopy and ultrasound training.

The Learning Commons also is enabling Bassett to serve as a beta-site for the University of British Columbia's CyberPatient program, an interactive, multimedia, Web-based teaching tool that will form a key part of the faculty's interactive medical curriculum. Currently, CyberPatient teaches students how to treat 12 types of acute abdominal problems.

The Learning Commons was funded by a \$100,000 grant from Gladys Brooks Foundation, and the Bassett Medical Education Endowment Fund approved an additional \$100,000 over the next three years.

Dixon and McGinnis collaborated as administrators on the project. Members of the educational team include: Drs. David Borgstrom, Bill LeCates, Gus Leinhart, Bruce Kramer and McGinnis, and Martha Twichell, R.N. ■

## NEW HOUSE STAFF APPOINTMENTS MADE

Bassett recently announced the following medical education postgraduate appointments for the 2008-09 academic year:

### General Surgery

Gregory C. Gardner, M.D., State University of New York at Syracuse College of Medicine; Mellissa E. Mahabee, M.D., Loma Linda University School of Medicine; Kelly Currie, M.D., State University of New York at Buffalo School of Medicine; Sanjay Thomas, M.D., Albany Medical College.

### Internal Medicine

Sunil Avagadda, M.D., Siddhartha Medical College, India; Dipendra Chaudhary, M.D., Kathmandu Medical College, Nepal; Tatpong Chit-ua-aree, M.D., Chulalongkorn University, Thailand; Saleem Chowdhry, M.D., Jawaharlal Nehru Medical College, India; Azadeh Farokhi, M.D., University of Vermont College of Medicine; Aren A. Giske, M.D., University of Vermont College of Medicine; Joseph Gorodenker, M.D., University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry;

Potjana Jitwatanarat, M.D., Mahidol University, Thailand; Hyeong Kim, M.D., Yonsei University, South Korea; Candice M. Oliver, D.O., University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine; Mukesh Kumar, M.D., Dow Medical College, Pakistan; Bhatraphol Tingpej, M.D., Mahidol University, Thailand.

### Transitional Year

Kimberly R. Blasius, M.D., State University of New York at Syracuse College of Medicine; Dorothy Boo, M.D., State University of New York Downstate College of Medicine; Elizabeth L. Carpenter, M.D., Stony Brook University Health Sciences Center; Seth H. Iverson, M.D., New York Medical College; Rebecca Lenhard, M.D., State University of New York at Syracuse College of Medicine; Marie-Eve C. Noel, M.D., State University of New York at Syracuse College of Medicine; Robert T. Swan, M.D., State University of New York at Syracuse College of Medicine; Sofia J. Syed, M.D., Government Medical College, Jammu India; Ken L. Tai, M.D., Dalhousie University Faculty of Medicine, Canada. ■

## PHYSICIAN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT BASSETT

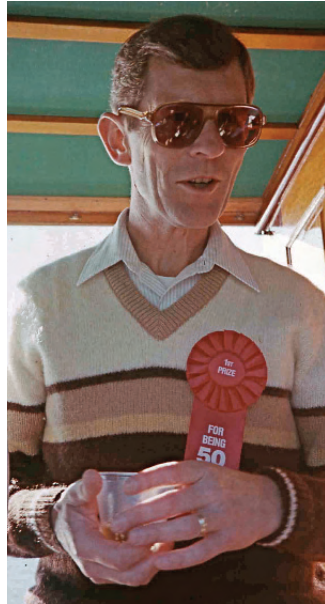
Bassett Healthcare is an expanding institution! Each of the listed positions is described at [http://www.bassett.org/careercenter/phys\\_opp.cfm](http://www.bassett.org/careercenter/phys_opp.cfm)

For more information, contact Medical Staff Affairs at [denise.harter@bassett.org](mailto:denise.harter@bassett.org) or (607) 547-6982.

- Anesthesiologist
- Cardiologist
- Emergency Medicine Physician
- Gastroenterologist
- Gynecologic Oncologist
- Hospitalist
- Obstetrician/Gynecologist
- Optometrist
- Orthopaedic Surgeon
- Pediatrician
- Pediatric Hospitalist
- Psychiatrist
- Plastic Surgeon
- Primary Care Internist
- Psychiatrist
- Radiologist

# BASSETT LOOKS BACK

*From time to time, we'll present a picture or two to capture an event or people in Bassett's past. Enjoy reminiscing!*



*This pictorial offering is tied to the article on Dr. Walter Franck's upcoming retirement. Talk about someone who has stood the test of time!*

*Clockwise, from top left:*

*New to Bassett in 1973*

*50th birthday party on Otsego Lake*

*With Intern Timothy French, M.D., in 1991*

*With (those now disappearing) X-ray folders, circa 1989*

*At the Golden Apple award ceremony in 1998*

*With Resident Chris Corsi, M.D., in 1990*

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