

# THE CUPOLA

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

Summer 2008  
Vol. X, No. V



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



*Kenneth W. Wilkins, M.D.*

Greetings from Cooperstown and New Bern, N.C.

Plans are rapidly moving along for the reunion this fall. Please make an effort to be in Cooperstown from Oct. 10-13. We'd really like to see all of you!

The effort to create a clinical campus at Bassett has taken a significant step forward as Albany Medical College is sending third-year students to Bassett this year. Also, pay attention to the photo quiz on Page 5, which comes from my era. As always, let us hear from you, and, if possible, let us see you in October!

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

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## SAVE THE DATE! BASSETT FAMILY REUNION OCT. 10-13

In 1926, three surgery interns, including Dr. Henry Cooper, from New York's Presbyterian Hospital arrived in Cooperstown via sea-plane, visited the then-shuttered MIB Hospital and saw the potential for a rural academic medical center. They returned to New York City, and the rest, as they say, is history.

It's now your turn to be part of Bassett history. This August, the first class of third-year medical students will come to this campus as part of the new vision expanding upon the tradition of medical education at Bassett, from post-graduate residency training to a clinical campus.

It is fitting that this activity happens to coincide with the 20th anniversary of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association. As a way of celebration, our traditional family reunion will this year feature both an exploration of where we have come from and a look at where we are headed. Bassett family reunions have always been an opportunity to meet with old friends and to refresh and revitalize connections with this special institution. This year, extra effort has been spent on assuring an exceptional experience.

Whether you were at Bassett 50 years ago or are a current resident, we think we have something exciting for everyone to experience this October. Bassett has always been a truly unique and special place. Here's your opportunity to remind yourself of that and to ensure that it will continue to be so. It's time right now to send in those registration forms and arrange for a place to stay!



*Otsego Lake is seen from the air in this 1985 photo. If seeing the lake evokes fond memories of Cooperstown and your time at "The Bassett," make plans to attend the Bassett Family Reunion this October!*

### Reunion activities include:

#### FRIDAY, Oct. 10

- For those arriving early, the activities will start with one of our most eminent alumni and founding board member, D.A. Henderson, giving grand rounds before the combined staff on Friday morning. His topic will be "Emergency Preparedness: Practical Realities."
- Alumni Board meeting; members at large welcome to attend and participate.
- Special grand rounds at noon: Bassett psychiatrist-alum Scott Shannon will discuss his recent book on child psychiatry.

#### SATURDAY, Oct. 11

- CME-accredited lecture series mid-morning focusing on Bassett history from our emeritus expert John Davis. Veteran Bassett biochemist and researcher Ted Peters will get special recognition.
- Luncheon to follow, honoring

Dr. Walt Franck, retiring long-term physician-in-chief.

- Keynote address by Dr. Richard Daines, the New York state commissioner of health, prior to an early-afternoon session devoted to the clinical campus initiative.
- Time available in the afternoon for more sightseeing in town or guided tours of the Bassett campus. Evening barbecue at the Sugar Shack.

#### SUNDAY, Oct. 12

- Friends of Bassett breakfast buffet at The Otesaga. Scott Barrett, Friends of Bassett executive director, and Dr. Doug DeLong will give a brief primer on philanthropic opportunities at Bassett.

#### MONDAY, Oct. 13

- Bassett surgeon-alum Dave Stoeckle, who was in charge when the wounded Virginia Tech students rolled into his hospital, will give special grand rounds.

*List of Accommodations, Page 3*



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: [cupola@bassett.org](mailto:cupola@bassett.org)

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## Breaking News

### BASSETT RETAINS MAGNET STATUS

For the second time, Bassett has received the nation's highest honor for nursing excellence, Magnet recognition by the American Nurses Association. For a health care organization to be designated under this program, it has to demonstrate exceptional standards of nursing practice. Five percent of hospitals nationwide, including 16 in New York state, are recognized for this level of excellence.

"Sustained Magnet recognition is especially meaningful at this time, as the standards to reach Magnet status have been significantly raised," said Chief Nursing Officer Connie Jastremski, R.N. "Standards for quality and safety programs, community partnerships, research and evidenced-based programs, along with multidisciplinary team work, were reviewed by the Magnet Commission and we were determined to have met or surpassed these standards."

Bassett first received the Magnet designation in 2004. As part of the requirement to maintain this status, hospitals must undergo a thorough review every four years. The organization must submit material that demonstrates compliance with the standards. Once these documents are reviewed, hospitals that score in the range of excellence are awarded a site visit. During

the visit, a large number of people are interviewed by the Magnet Commission.

### URGENT CARE OPENS IN ONEONTA

Bassett Healthcare Oneonta Urgent Care, complete with radiology and laboratory services, opened July 5 at the Associate Drive location. A 2,800 square-foot addition was made to Oneonta Specialty Services to accommodate the new urgent care services.

"We are constantly assessing the health care needs of the communities we serve," says Chief of Emergency Services Dr. August Leinhart. "In responding to our patients' requests, it became clear that an urgent care center where radiology and laboratory services are available on site was something people in the community desired."

Bassett's digital radiology system allows urgent care providers to consult with specialists in Cooperstown who can view the same images in real time and provide a recommendation when necessary. Laboratory services at the new center include a draw station for blood tests and point-of-care testing.

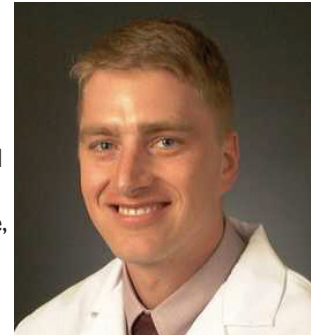
Emergency Medicine Physician Assistant Andrew Earle-Richardson helped set up and now staffs the new facility.

### RESIDENT HONORED FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE

Craig Henson, M.D., chief resident in general surgery, has received The Arnold P. Gold Foundation Humanism and Excellence in Teaching Award. Medical students from the Columbia University College of Physicians & Surgeons' 2009 class chose Henson and five other residents who exhibited particularly strong teaching skills and are role models for compassionate, relationship-centered care.

Despite grueling schedules, these resi-

dents have made exemplary efforts to ensure that their students learn both the science and the art of medicine. Henson received a certificate, a specially-designed lapel pin and a check for \$250. The Arnold P. Gold Foundation, based in Englewood Cliffs, N.J., advances humanism in medicine, perpetuating the tradition of the caring doctor.



Dr. Craig Henson

### ON BETTER CONNECTING OUR ALUMNI

By now you should all be aware of Bassett's Electronic Medical Record, maturing rapidly and now connecting the Cooperstown campus and all regional sites by immediate access to digital images (be gone, X-rays!), as well as the medical record per se.

So, what would you think about an electronic system to connect willing participants via an alumni directory, thus providing rapid e-mail communication with other locator information? It would be accessed by individual user ID and password from the Alumni Affairs portion of the Bassett Web site, [www.bassett.org/edu/alumni.cfm](http://www.bassett.org/edu/alumni.cfm). Most, if not all, of you have such access to undergraduate and medical-school communication networks. We're seriously thinking about instituting such a system. But first, please e-mail us some feedback and advice! ([cupola@bassett.org](mailto:cupola@bassett.org))

## BASSETT'S CLINICAL CAMPUS TAKES SHAPE

The Bassett Regional Campus is moving forward on many fronts.

In the near term, a group of six Albany Medical College students has elected to spend their third year at Bassett, and will begin this August.

They will be the first students to experience the Bassett curriculum, which is modeled after the longitudinal curriculum for Harvard Medical School students at the Cambridge Hospital in Boston. This curriculum has a major component of following patients longitudinally through their experiences at Bassett, giving the students a comprehensive learning experience around diseases, work-ups and patient experience with illness.

There will also be a curricular emphasis on understanding health care systems, with the intent of introducing students to a methodology for solving problems of health delivery. Outside experts (including Jordan Cohen, the immediate past president of the AAMC, and Emery Wilson, the immediate past president of the medical school accrediting body) have visited Bassett and expressed great enthusiasm for this model, calling it unique and innovative. Overall, Bassett's Curriculum Committee selected an approach that logically and effectively emphasizes the strengths of the institution.

In terms of selecting a long-term partner for the Regional Campus at Bassett, five schools

have now expressed interest. Among them, Columbia, our long-term academic partner, has conveyed a renewed and strong interest in sponsoring the Regional Campus. There are many advantages to this possibility. We are in the process of working with Columbia to work through challenges, such as Bassett being able to recruit students to a new program with MCAT and GPA scores meeting Columbia admission criteria (amongst the very toughest in the country), so there is a process that will ensue. But there has been a very positive start, and it is very encouraging that both parties see great value in the proposition. ■

## MEDICAL ALUMNI BOARD MEMBER PROFILE

### G. Theodore Ruckert, M.D.

In April 1988, Ted Ruckert became a charter member of the Bassett Medical Alumni Board of Directors. Since then, he's been one of our most faithful and always effective board members, ever providing a mixture of good cheer, emphatic concern and solid ideas. It's a pleasure to provide this capsule about him!

Ted received his M.D. from The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University, in 1971, followed by a Rotating Internship at Bassett (1971-72). There followed a residency, including Chief Resident, in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Rochester-affiliated Genesee Hospital, a stint in the Army Medical Corps in Japan and a subsequent career in Ob/Gyn linked to Rochester's Highland Hospital. He recently sent us the following update:

"Daughter Christy graduated in May 2007 and is working in sales for Xerox in Charlotte, N.C. She is enjoying her job and we as well, as she is totally independent. She is dating a fine fellow who graduated from the Air Force Academy in May and who begins his five-year commitment in Shreveport, La., this fall. We'll see if they can sustain a long-distance relationship! (They already have the airline schedules memorized.)



*Tad, Sherry, Ted and Christy Ruckert at Ted's 60th surprise birthday party.*

Son Tad is working as an analyst for United Health Care in Hartford but is excited about entering med school in August. He accepted a position at NYCOM. Two of his high school friends will also attend. He will be the fifth generation of Ruckerts to have a career in health care. His great-great grandfather (Gustave T. Ruckert I) began the tradition as a pharmacist at Cornell Medical School. Wife Sherry has attained a tenured position at Monroe Community College as an assistant professor of nursing. She has really found her niche and enjoys the training of young nurses.

I'm still practicing full time as a private Ob-Gyn with a fairly large practice of seven doctors and a PA. I was considering stopping the OB portion but with the financial demands of Tad's med school costs and the dearth of low-interest loans, I'll continue full time for another year and then do half-time OB until I'm 65. After that, I envision continuing working as long as I'm healthy with the possible addition of more frequent and longer vacations. (At least it sounds good!) For my part-time job, I'm still the medical director of Planned Parenthood Rochester - Syracuse. This began as an interim position seven years ago and has never ended. I relish the challenge of helping the underserved. Sherry and I have thought of spending time abroad in Third World medicine, but until Tad finishes school that will continue to be a future prospect.

My biggest concern is attempting to figure out who will care for us as we age and have more medical needs. All the graduates have so much debt incurred that you can't blame them for looking at specialties other than primary care where the greatest needs will be. We are looking forward to the Fall Reunion!"

Ted, we wish you and your family well, and many thanks for your many years of dedicated volunteer service on Bassett's behalf! ■

### 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

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

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

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

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

**Lake Front Motel**  
Phone: (607) 547-9511, ext. 1  
Web: 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

**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

## THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM—ALUMNI NEWS

**Again, thanks to those who have sent the following news.  
Keep your notes and photos coming!**

### 1950s

**James E. Shepard, M.D.,** (*Intern, Assistant Resident in Medicine 1959-61*) writes that “last year I participated in the acute renal failure meeting in Romania and (more recently) in meetings in Kuala Lumpur and Taipei.” After 40 years, Dr. Shepard closed his clinical practice in 2005 “to devote full attention to legal consultation and expert witness services.” He is an assistant clinical professor of medicine in the Department of Nephrology at the University of California/San Francisco.

### 1960s

**Bruce L. McClennan, M.D.,** (*Intern 1967-68*) reports that “recently, I greeted the new residents and fellows in Radiology for the 35th time, and it was 41 years since 1967 when John Davis, Malcolm Page, Bob Sioussat, Emery Herman, Joe Cannon, Doug Barns, Queenie Shultz, Olaf Severud, Dave Blumenstock, Rod Carter, Otto Sahler, et. al greeted me as a new intern. ...Wow... Now at Yale for 13 plus years and as chair here for about eight of those, went part time – 50 percent last January, and am very happy with the schedule. I am past president of the American Roentgen Ray Society, the oldest radiology society in the United States, and currently editor of RSNA news ([www.rsna.org/Publications/rsnanews](http://www.rsna.org/Publications/rsnanews)) a monthly magazine from the largest radiology society in the country. Children, all three grown, employed in jobs with real benefits and owning homes, two of three married, and one granddaughter, Campbell McClennan, age 4.

... They all live in Chicago, which is quite convenient. ... I am, therefore, spending their inheritance as fast as I can. ... Fond memories of the Bassett and the training I had there; the lessons learned there stay with me today... I remember the free membership in the Country Club and those evenings playing golf with the sun going down over the lake until I could not see my ball; I had probably lost it, anyway.”



Bruce McClennan, M.D.

### 1970s

**William L. (Bill) Petersen, Ph.D., M.D.,** (*Flexible Intern 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 fully retired and now have time to learn new sports. We are far from bored and truly enjoy our newfound freedom.” They live in Potsdam, N.Y., from mid-May until early October and in Ponce Inlet, Fla., the rest of the year.

**David B. Stoeckle, M.D.,** (*Surgery Resident including Chief Resident 1972-76*) After obtaining his M.D. from Columbia University, Dave Stoeckle did his Bassett surgery residency under the aegis of surgical



David Stoeckle, M.D., in front of the Montgomery Regional Hospital

teachers including David Blumenstock, Rod Carter, Robert Mackie and John Olson – heydays when the training focus was solidly on turning out the all-around surgeon. Stoeckle excelled here and went on to a dedicated career in surgery, which was outlined in a featured article in the spring 2008 issue of Amherst Magazine. The story documents his central role as chief of surgery at the Montgomery Regional Hospital in Blacksburg, Va., when suddenly, those wounded students from the Virginia Tech Massacre began rolling in. It’s a riveting story, highlighting his leadership and agonizing heroic work in the front line of the unfolding disaster. (For the full story go to [https://cms.amherst.edu/news/magazine/issues/2007\\_sp/ring/surgeon](https://cms.amherst.edu/news/magazine/issues/2007_sp/ring/surgeon)) We’re fortunate that Dr. Stoeckle will be the presenter at Bassett’s Surgery Grand Rounds on Monday, Oct. 13. Hopefully some of you reunion attendees will be able to stick around to greet and hear him!

### 1980s

**Joseph Bertino, Pharm.D.,** (*Co-Director, Clinical Pharmacology Reach Center 1982-2004*) writes, “Greetings from Bertino

Consulting! I started my own consulting business, along with my wife Anne Nafziger\*, this past year. We do work for large and small pharmaceutical companies, contract research organizations, and other related organizations. This is primarily focused on providing clinical pharmacology services for drug development. I am also doing medical legal consulting on issues such as adverse drug reactions and drug prescribing or dispensing errors. Because of the variety of work, we are kept busy and learning! We miss the extent of opportunities to participate in the education of pharmacists and physicians that we had at Bassett but hope to begin more frequent teaching in the near future. (\***Anne Nafziger, M.D.** *Medicine resident 1984-88, Attending Physician and Clinical Research Scientist 1990-2004*)

Our daughter, Jaimie, received her Pharm.D from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in May 2008 and has begun a pharmacy residency in Indianapolis. Our son, Chris, continues to work as team leader in Central Lab Processing at Bassett. We are living in a great house in a great neighborhood in Guilderland, N.Y., (on the western edge of Albany), not far from the Albany Airport and the New York State Thruway. If you are coming through our area, we’d love to hear from you!”

**Scott M. Shannon, M.D.,** (*Psychiatry Resident 1981-83, 1987-89*) says that, in terms of the upcoming Family Reunion, “it turns out we already have plans to be in Cooperstown for that



Scott Shannon, M.D.

weekend. We will be visiting friends and I may be giving a talk or two in the Cooperstown area. (Indeed, Scott will be giving a special lecture at noon on Friday, Oct. 10, as part of the Family Reunion.) I am clinical faculty at CU Children’s Hospital in Denver where I started the first academic Integrative Child Psychiatry Clinic in the U.S. Rodale just published my second book, “Please Don’t Label My Child.” I travel and speak widely on Integrative Psychiatry issues. (See [www.wholeness.com](http://www.wholeness.com).) Personally, I am doing well. Noah runs track at UW Madison and Sarah works at a residential treatment center for abused kids in Colorado. Sue just retired, still keeps bees and works with her own philanthropic organization for kids.”

**Thomas E. Terndrup, M.D.** (*Flexible Intern 1981-82*) is Professor and Chairman, Department of Emergency Medicine, and Associate Dean for Clinical Research at Penn State University College of Medicine. Having been appointed to the national pediatric resuscitation subcommittee of the national American Heart Association’s Emergency Cardiovascular Care Committee, he developed a strong interest in resuscitation education and science.



*The Terndrup family: Left to right, Christopher (entering medical school fall '09), Emma (yoga teacher), Tom, Trevor (musician, Nashville, Tenn., in a band called Moontaxi.)*

These interests led to his participation as P.I. on the Public Access to Defibrillation trial, the largest North American resuscitation trial ever performed. As a result of this success, he served as P.I. on a five-year, renewable Resuscitation Outcomes Consortium, funded by NHLBI. The ROC initiative was the first RFA funded by NIH following their recognition of the importance of resuscitation science, on improving the public's health. He has also written and supports a multiyear project funded by HRSA that intends to improve

access of rural citizens to emergency devices and thus improve survival rates from sudden cardiac death.

## 1990s

**Michael S. Stecker, M.D.**, (Surgery Resident 1992-94) reports that "quite a bit has happened since I left MIBH in 1994; I could probably write a small book (no one would buy it, though).

The short version would be: After my two years of surgical training at Bassett, I completed a Diagnostic Radiology residency at Nassau County Medical Center in New York, then a Vascular and Interventional Radiology fellowship at the University of Iowa. I worked as an attending interventionist at Indiana University for six years before taking my current position at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. Here, I hold an assistant professor appointment at Harvard Medical School and am actively involved in teaching fellows, residents and medical students.

Jennifer and I have now been married 16 years, and we have two great kids: Maxwell, who is 8, and Morrissa, who is 5. Max has

PDD-NOS (a mild form of the Autism Spectrum Disorder), which keeps Jenn busy with physician, therapy and school appointments. My parents retired and moved in with us in 2000 in order to watch the kids grow up and be a part of their lives; overall, this has worked well for all. We live in the "small-town" suburb of North Easton, about 25 miles south of Boston. In our spare time, Jenn enjoys gardening and I have become involved in gokart racing. Interestingly, co-interns Lisa (Peace) Tito and Moon Kwoun both live in the area! We see the Titos a few times a year and are still hopeful to coordinate schedules with the Kwouns. We are hoping to make it to the reunion this year – figure it would be a fun road trip and Max should get a kick out of the Hall of Fame!"

## 2000s

**Matthew Abraham, M.D.**, (First-year Medicine Resident 2006-07) sends word that he is a resident in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Rochester Medical Center/Strong Memorial Hospital.

**Caroline B. Koo, M.D.**, (Transitional Resident 2005-06) reports, "I just finished my PGY2 year at NYU PM&R (Rusk) residency program and am now engaged to last year's medicine chief resident **Oak (Prachaya) Nitichaikulvatana** (Medicine Resident 2003-07). He is now starting his Rheumatology fellowship at U Mass. My current address is: 1655 Flatbush Ave C-1202 Brooklyn, NY 11210."

**James Murray, D.O.**, (Medicine Resident, including Chief Resident, 2000-04) sends the following note: "Elizabeth\* is now in her second year of Pediatric Emergency Medicine Fellowship at Strong Memorial Hospital. She regularly runs into Bassett residents on their pediatric surgery rotation, as well as other varied Bassett alumni. I am doing a combination of pulmonary and critical care, most recently as the chief of Unity Pulmonary Medicine. I frequently see Tony Ragusa\*, who lives right around the corner from us. Without Stagecoach coffee we have to tolerate Starbucks, and on a recent visit there, shared coffee with Dr.

Elizabeth Francis\*, her husband and their daughter. We miss everyone in Cooperstown and look forward to future visits."

\***Elizabeth Buttrill Murray D.O.**, (Medicine Resident 2003-04), **Anthony Ragusa, M.D.** (Medicine Resident 1992-95), **Elizabeth P. Francis, M.D.**, (First-year Medicine Resident 1999-2000)

**Anush Patel, M.D.**, (Medicine Resident, including Chief Resident, 2003-07), whom we profiled as a new member of the Medical Alumni Board in the Fall/Winter issue of The Cupola, updates us with a picture of his new daughter, Arya Sujata Patel, born June 13, 2008.



*Anush Patel, M.D., and his daughter, Arya Sujata Patel.*

## 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!*

Here's a quiz, for some of you at least. How many in this photo of the residents from 1984-85 can you name? Unfortunately, there will be no prize – only a sense of personal satisfaction and hopefully, fond memories! And if you have any short stories to tell, send them to us for the fall issue of The Cupola! You'll find the names on page 8.

*Bassett House Staff 1984-85*



## ANNUAL AWARDS PRESENTED

The 2008 Golden Apple awards, given by the residents to the faculty members they felt were their most outstanding teachers, were presented to Raymond McGoldrick, M.D., and James Bordley IV, M.D. (Surgery) and to Deborah Sentochnik, M.D. (Medicine).

Bassett residents and students recently honored two of their own with the Golden Stethoscope awards. The Surgery students chose Bob Wu, M.D., as the senior resident they felt was their best teacher. The Internal Medicine residents selected Narasimha Swamy Raju, M.B., B.S., M.P.H.

In addition, Cecilia Loh, M.D., a third-year surgical resident, received the E. Donnell Thomas Outstanding Research Presentation Award for 2008. Her research project was among 17 presented in May as part of the E. Donnell Thomas Research Day.

Dr. Loh's research study project investigated whether the common practice of diluting chlorhexidine gluconate (CHG), which is used to clean the skin prior to surgery, alters its antiseptic qualities. Dr. Loh's research identified that CHG appears to be effective at eradicating skin bacteria even when diluted to a 20 percent concentration. The study was conducted under the direction of David Borgstrom, M.D., attending physician and director of Trauma and Surgical Critical Care.

The E. Donnell Thomas Award is presented annually to a resident who has conducted exceptional research while at Bassett for training. The award is named in honor of E. Donnell Thomas, who served as Bassett's physician-in-chief from 1955 to 1963 and was awarded the 1990 Nobel Prize in Medicine for his pioneering work in bone marrow transplantation, which he began at Bassett. In 1956, Dr. Thomas performed the world's first human bone marrow transplant at Bassett Hospital. ■

## FAMILY PRACTICE PHYSICIAN CHANGES COURSE TO PURSUE PASSION

After two years in family practice at Bassett's Herkimer health center, Sanjay Thomas, M.D., has decided to change course and pursue a surgical residency.

"I initially chose family medicine as a specialty in medical school with the hopes of one day providing general care to the whole person, 'from the cradle to the grave.' Unfortunately, I have found out through the past few years that I may have become 'the jack of all trades' but, 'the master of none,'" he said.

Thomas knew early on that he wanted a career in medicine.

"In high school, I knew that I wanted to become a physician and fortunately got into a seven-year B.S./M.D. program through the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education in Harlem, N.Y. The goal of this program was to encourage high school students to pursue a specialty in primary care and provide service for two years in a

Health Physician Shortage Area (HPSA) after residency. By fulfilling this commitment, one was granted a direct admission to medical school without having to apply or take the MCAT's, as well as school loan forgiveness."

Thomas earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the City University of New York, graduating summa cum laude, and his medical degree, cum laude, from Albany Medical College. It was then that he began to gravitate toward surgery.

"I enjoyed all my clinical rotations but felt drawn to the operating room," he recalled. "Being able to work with my hands and the satisfaction of seeing patients improve daily after major injuries or surgical procedures were a few things that made surgery attractive."

After an internship, residency and chief residency at In His Image Family Practice in Tulsa, Okla., Thomas joined Bassett Healthcare-Herkimer in fall 2006 as an attend-

## CALLING ON THE ALUMNI'S ESPRIT DE CORPS

To seed the Dr. Walter A. Franck Excellence in Medical Education Endowment, the Friends of Bassett has set an initial fund-raising goal of \$100,000. The endowment will be created to celebrate Walt's distinguished 30-year tenure as Bassett's Physician-in-Chief and as a tribute to his teaching, through which he instilled aspiring young physicians with an appreciation and understanding of medicine.

With your financial support, the Friends aims to reach this minimum funding threshold by the end of this year. Within the Bassett family, solicitations are being made, and, externally, additional prospects and several foundations are being asked to join us to help build the fund to a substantial level.

The permanent endowment will strengthen the educational mission of Bassett's new medical school campus through the creation of the Franck Award for Medical Student Teaching Excellence. By means of an annual stipend from income generated by the endowment, the award will recognize and encourage excellence in teaching at Bassett.

There are several ways in which to make your contribution to the endowment. Log onto the Friends' secured Web site to give online or make a copy of the online donation form if you wish to mail your contribution to the Friends.

Gifts of cash are the most common means of pledging support; however, there are many alternatives to check-writing. From simple bequests to more complicated trust arrangements, a range of planned-gift options, both outright and deferred, offer significant tax benefits or lifetime income to the donor. Gifts of appreciated securities or real properties have enabled many donors to contribute on more substantial levels than they originally thought possible.

If you have questions or wish to discuss any giving options, please contact: Scott A. Barrett, executive director, Friends of Bassett. ■



Sanjay Thomas, M.D.

ing physician in family practice. He struggled with the specialty, however, and decided to pursue his desire to become a surgeon after his HPSA obligation had been met.

Thomas said Bassett, as a rural, community-based family practice program with an emphasis on international health, was his first match choice. International health was a major focus of his three-year family practice residency. "We spent two

months out of each year on various trips," he said. "I got to travel to Central Asia (Kazakhstan), China (Macau), India, Pakistan and Indonesia, to name a few. The trips to Central Asia, China and India were mainly educational, as we taught at various medical schools as part of a Family Practice Education International Initiative. The latter two (Pakistan/Indonesia) were more disaster relief due to the earthquake and tsunami that devastated those countries, respectively."

Dr. Thomas plans to focus on general surgery. "I believe it will give me the best variety of skills that I hope to use when I eventually go abroad and do international health," he said, adding, "Besides, I think my wife would kill me if I did any more training after general surgery residency!"

Oh yeah, and what's it like being a resident AGAIN?

"Two words," Thomas said. "Fun and exhausting!" ■

## BOB WU'S FAREWELL

Bob J. Wu, M.D., was a graduate of Loma Linda University School of Medicine. He made his way east in June 2003 when he joined Bassett's General Surgery Residency program. Bob was very creative with his guitar, and in his parting presentation to the General Surgery team, he wrote words to the classic tune "American Pie" by Don McLean.

He started his ballad with the same lyrics. "A long, long time ago..." and an introduction of Dr. Mary Imogene Bassett in 1922. His song continued with a journey through 1927-1966 highlighting hospital directors and surgeons-in-chief Drs. James Greenough, George Mackenzie, James Bordley

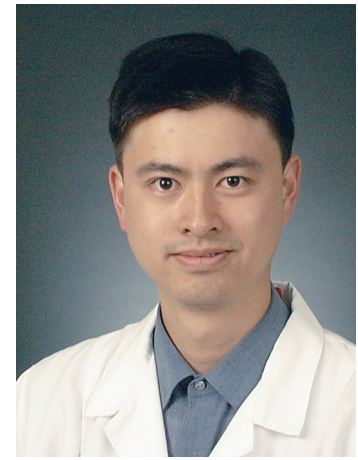
III, Monroe McIver and John Powers. The next strum on his guitar entered the research era of the 1960s by singling out the bone marrow research of Drs. David Blumenstock and E. Donnell Thomas (Nobel Laureate 1990).

Not missing a beat, he moved into the middle of Bassett's history, featuring Dr. John Olson's work in oncology and the beginning of our cancer registry, and then to the '80s, recognizing Bassett's fifth surgeon-in-chief, Dr. Michael Gold. His lyrics then went to the new millennium and his time here in the general surgery residency. His song featured Dr. James Bordley IV, with his efforts in the development of The

Mithoefer Center for Rural Surgery, and Dr. Steven Heneghan, current surgeon-in-chief, who established bariatric excellence for Bassett.

As he moved to the finale of his song, his strumming slowed, and his voice softened as he sang the last line: "and the surgeons I admire most, some still alive and some who are ghosts, as I head back for the West Coast... I sing, a song - goodbye." Then his strumming got livelier, as he sang the last chorus, "Bye, bye, to the surgical guys. Here at Bassett they're fantastic with their bovie and knives. To good old friends and everyone who's been kind, saying you will always stay on my mind, you will always stay on my mind."

Bob, thanks, congratulations on



Bob J. Wu, M.D.

your distinguished residency career at Bassett, and good luck as your future unfolds! ■

## RESIDENTS MOVE ON TO NEW CHALLENGES

Bassett thanks 25 physicians and one pharmacist who have completed their residency programs. The following will either enter practice or begin an advanced residency/fellowship program:

Nayana Abrol, M.B., B.S., Internal Medicine, Hospitalist, Hugh Chatham Hospital, Elkin, N.C.; John Agbi, M.D., Internal Medicine, Hospitalist, Crystal Run Healthcare, Middletown, N.Y.; Michael Akerley, D.O., Transitional Year, Armed Services, Flight Surgeon, U.S. Air Force, F.E. Warren AFB, Wyo.; Patricia Burkhart, M.D., Transitional Year, Radiology Residency, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn.;

Rajan Chahal, M.D., General Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship, Hospital of Saint Raphael, New Haven, Conn.; Elizabeth Dennis, D.O., Internal Medicine, Hospitalist, Mayo Regional Hospital, Dover-Foxcroft, Maine; Michael Dymond, M.D., General Surgery, Research Fellow, Wayne State University, Detroit, Mich.; Aaron Gavett, D.O., Internal Medicine, Hospitalist, First Health Moore County Regional Hospital, Pinehurst, N.C.;

Nowreen Haq, M.B., B.S., M.P.H., Transitional Year, Internal Medicine/Preventive Medicine Residency, Griffin Hospital, Yale University School of Medicine, Derby, Conn.; Stephanie Jean-Noel, M.D., Internal Medicine, Anesthesiology Residency, SUNY Downstate/Brooklyn, Brooklyn, N.Y.; Melissa Kagnoff, M.D., Internal Medicine, Neurology Residency, University of Texas, Houston, Texas; Dana LaVanture, M.D., General Surgery, General Surgery Residency, Robert Packer Hospital, Sayre, Pa.;

Jing Luan, M.D., Internal Medicine, Hospitalist, Lowell General Hospital, Lowell, Mass.; Melissa Lukose, M.D., Transitional Year, Anesthesiology Residency, University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y.; Robert Mathew, D.O., Internal Medicine, Hospitalist, Veterans Administration Hospital, Dayton, Ohio; Amanda McFee, Pharm.D., Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital, Cooperstown, N.Y.; Prachaya Nitichaikulvatana, M.D., Internal Medicine, Rheumatology Fellowship, University of Massachusetts, Worcester, Mass.;

Mikhail Perlov, M.D., Transitional Year, Internal

Medicine Residency, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa; Yashaswini Rangan, M.B., B.S., Internal Medicine, Nephrology Fellowship, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, N.H.; Roberto Rappa, M.D., Transitional Year, Anesthesiology Residency, Yale-New Haven Hospital, New Haven, Conn.;

Kerry Rodgers, M.D., General Surgery, Cardiothoracic Surgery Fellowship, Cleveland Clinic, Cleveland, Ohio; Rory Sears, D.O., Internal Medicine, Pulmonary/Critical Care Fellowship, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa; Jeremy Sykes, M.D., Transitional Year, Diagnostic Radiology Residency, University of Rochester, Rochester, N.Y.; Alexis Tracy, D.O., Transitional Year, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.;

John Wierdsma, D.O., General Surgery, Internal Medicine Residency, Cavilion Health System, Roanoke, Va.; Bob Wu, M.D., General Surgery, Minimally Invasive Surgery Fellowship, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, Calif. ■

## 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!

## PHYSICIAN OPPORTUNITIES AT BASSETT HEALTHCARE

The positions listed below may be explored at [www.bassett.org/careercenter/phys\\_opp.cfm](http://www.bassett.org/careercenter/phys_opp.cfm).

Or contact Medical Staff Affairs at [denise.harter@bassett.org](mailto:denise.harter@bassett.org) or (607) 547-6982. All positions are based on the Cooperstown campus unless otherwise indicated. As Bassett Healthcare continues to expand, there are also many opportunities for physician extenders and others.

### Physician Employment Opportunities

Anesthesiologist

Cardiologist, General

Clinical Performance Improvement

Professional

Emergency Medicine

Family Practice - Norwich

Family Practice - Richfield Springs

Family Practice - Sidney

Gastroenterologist

General Surgeon

Hospitalist

Hospitalist - Hamilton

Internal Medicine, General

Internal Medicine, General - Herkimer

Internal Medicine, General - Oneonta

OB/GYN Physician

Ophthalmologist

Optometrist

Orthopaedic Hand Surgeon

Orthopaedic Joint Reconstruction

Otolaryngologist

Pediatric Hospitalist

Pediatrician - Herkimer

Pediatrician - Oneonta

Pediatrician, General

Physiatrist - Interventional

Plastic Surgeon

Plastic Surgery (Division Chief)

Psychiatrist

Radiation Oncologist

Radiologist

### ANSWERS to Bassett Looks Back Quiz:

The residents pictured in the 1984-85 house staff photo on Page 5 are:

**Front row** – Robert Sherman, M.D., Paul Heasley, M.D., Steven Pusker, M.D., Frank Zwemer, M.D., Jonathon Hallenbeck, M.D., Lewis Zulick, M.D., Peter Prendergast, M.D., Dinah Farrington, M.D., Joanna Arias, M.D., John Bond, M.D., Stephen Hannan, M.D., Matthew Bacharach, M.D., Kathleen Petersen, M.D., John Dunn, M.D., Kenneth Arthur, M.D., Gregory Schultz, M.D., Susanne Feller, M.D., Latham Murray, M.D., Deborah Sentochnik, M.D., John Tangeman, M.D.

**Back row** – Anne Nafziger, M.D., Charles Markowitz, M.D., Deanna Palumbo, M.D., Sandra Helmers, M.D., William Stoddard, M.D., Brian Quinn, M.D., Thomas Mote, M.D., Vito Potenza, M.D., Leslie Baker, M.D., Michael Levenstein, M.D., Mark Darrow, M.D., James Walker, M.D., Eric Del Giacco, M.D., Richard Meyer, M.D., Michael Foltzer, M.D.

**Absent:** Turner Osier, M.D., Karen Muller, M.D., Jerrold Vitek, M.D., Jill Winslow, M.D., Robert Zamelis, M.D., Michael Hodgman, M.D., Kevin Ianni, M.D., Gregory Lombardo, M.D., Jeffrey McCollum, M.D., Henry Maxwell, M.D., Mark Cohen, M.D., Chi Chi Lau, M.D., Thomas Kennedy, M.D., David Ullman, M.D., Stanley Dick, M.D., Howard Perofsky, M.D.

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