

# THE CUPOLA



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

Winter 2012

## Physician-in-Chief and Nobel Laureate E. Donnall Thomas, M.D. Remembered

By John S. Davis, M.D.

In 1955 Bassett internist and immunologist Dr. Joe Ferrebee was instrumental in recruiting E. Donnall Thomas, M.D. from Harvard Medical School and the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital. Dr. Theodore Peters, who also came from Harvard in 1955, recalled the dual recruiting process: "We got in touch with each other there, and our wives got in touch with each other, and I know I wondered what kind of wilderness is this we're going to."

Appointed as Assistant Physician on the Medical Service, Thomas was already a superb clinician and teacher in a hematology research track. In just one year, Bassett's Director, Dr. James Bordley III, named Dr. Thomas as Physician-in-Chief. Befitting his new role, Don Thomas was a talented administrator as well. He quickly linked his own research to Bassett's emerging immunological studies led by Dr. Ferrebee.

In addition to his clinical, administrative



*Drs. Joseph W. Ferrebee, E. Donnall Thomas and James Bordley III, circa 1958*

and teaching roles, Thomas began assembling the multidisciplinary team that within five years would rock the medical world with a breakthrough treatment for acute

leukemia in humans. The early team included Drs. Joseph Ferrebee, Otto Sahler, Harry Lochte, David Blumenstock, Charles Ashley, Theodore Peters, veterinarian Michael Jastremski and others. Genetically identical beagle litter mates were at the hospital, and then in research kennels constructed on Chicken Farm Hill, donated by the Clark Foundation. A dog would receive whole-body irradiation to ablate its bone marrow, followed by infusion of marrow from a litter mate. Many of the beagles survived with their new bone marrow for months, including Honest John, who lived for over four years.

The team meanwhile turned to the treatment of acute leukemia in humans. A unique x-ray room was developed for total-body irradiation using two separate cobalt 60 radiotherapy machines. At first, irradiated patients with end-stage malignancies

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## Message from the President of the Medical Alumni Board of Directors

I would like to take the opportunity in this issue of *The Cupola* to share some topics of discussion from our annual alumni medical board meeting held this October. The main goal of the alumni board is to support and advance graduate medical education at Bassett. In the midst of tremendous financial and regulatory pressures we feel a particularly urgent need to perpetuate Bassett's tradition of unique teaching and mentoring that we were fortunate enough to experience.

We met with several administrators and faculty members including Dr. Streck, Dr. Weil, Drs. Sorense and Strogatz from the Bassett Research Institute, and the residency program directors. We spent a significant amount of time learning about and discussing the additional challenges for academic medical centers such as Bassett; these include new competency mandates for residents, the development of new quality and safety programs, and changes in the residency Match program. (Regarding the latter, residency programs can no longer both participate in the Match and offer positions outside of the Match. This significantly affects many internal medicine pro-

grams such as Bassett's which have recruited a significant number of international medical graduates during the past two decades.)

Many of these changes offer opportunities to continue to improve the quality of training at Bassett. The novel SLIM curriculum at the Columbia-Bassett Medical School, for example, was borne out of the need in a volatile medical environment to develop thoughtful physicians who are also experts in Systems, Leadership, Integration and Management. Such changes, however, require faculty development; recruitment of experts in non-traditional areas such as educational program design,



*Merideth Davis, M.D.,  
President, Board of Directors*

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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 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 Network, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown, NY 13326 or e-mail <cupola@bassett.org>.

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## Highlights from the Alumni Board Meeting

By Douglas M. DeLong, M.D.

I am pleased to share a recap of our annual Alumni Board of Directors meeting which took place in Cooperstown in mid-October. Once again, it was a pleasure to see colleagues and reconnect to discuss our concerns about the future of medical education.

The board met in conjunction with the John Davis Visiting Professorship. This year, our guest was Jeffrey L. Ponsky, M.D., Surgeon-in-Chief at University Hospitals Case Medical Center and Chair of the Department of Surgery at Case Western University School of Medicine and University Hospitals of Cleveland. Dr. Ponsky, a pioneer in endoscopic surgical procedures, has been widely recognized for his research, teaching and service to the field. He spent a day doing rounds with both the surgical and medical residents. Members of the alumni board joined Bassett staff for Dr. Ponsky's informative Grand Rounds on Friday morning before our meeting.

As a founding member of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association, I feel strongly that our original purpose – to support medical education at Bassett and make sure it continues as a vibrant part of the institution – is more compelling now than ever. Board members agreed that changes in the health care system and mounting fiscal pressures are putting medical education at risk.

### **PRESIDENT from page 1**

measuring educational outcomes, and statistical analysis; and increased administrative resources.

Bassett has an educational endowment fund, but this will not be enough to provide money for some of the programs mentioned above or to continue to support the innovative programs at the



Members of the alumni board gathered on a glorious fall day in Cooperstown. Pictured here are: Front row (l to r): Dr. Erin McKay, Dr. Sally Ricketts, Dr. Donald Pollock, Dr. John Davis, Dr. Merideth Davis (president) Back row: Dr. Ken Wilkins, Dr. Douglas DeLong, Dr. Sanjay Thomas, Dr. Ted Ruckert, Dr. Alan Kozak, Dr. Eric Rubin

Teaching hospitals are challenged in their efforts to maintain high-quality educational programs, and Bassett is no different in this regard.

Although we have an endowment to support medical education, the board realizes that the current size of this fund (approximately \$3 million) is not enough to have the significant impact needed. In the past, this endowment helped fund the skills development lab, funded the audience response system, and supported various faculty development programs. But we recognize that it is time to consider what steps are needed to more concretely ensure the excellence of medical education at Bassett. Over the

next year, the Medical Alumni will form a committee to discuss how we can more substantially help Bassett meet the challenges of funding medical education in the future.

On a more festive note, the board has begun planning for the Association's next Family Reunion. Scheduled for Columbus Day weekend, 2013, this gathering will mark the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Medical Alumni Association. If you are interested in working on the planning committee, please contact me at [douglas.delong@bassett.org](mailto:douglas.delong@bassett.org)

More information about the reunion will be included in future issues of *The Cupola*. Mark your calendars to save the date. ■

medical school. We realize that we need to make a greater effort to reach out to other Bassett alumni for ideas and support to ensure that the legacy of excellence in medical education continues. One of the ways we plan to help bring Bassett alumni together is to set up a Facebook site. We now have two tech-savvy board members working on this effort and will inform you once

the site is operational. Other projects we are working on include exploring non-traditional resources for funding of medical education initiatives and planning our 25th Bassett medical alumni reunion to be held next October.

I wish all of you a happy and healthy winter season, and look forward to updating you on our projects. ■



## THOMAS from page 1

received marrow from non-identical normal donors. Intern Russell Lane gave five marrow donations for one of the irradiated patients, for which he recalled receiving \$5 apiece.

In 1957, Thomas, Lochte and Ferrebee published their initial studies of whole-body irradiation and bone-marrow transplantation in humans done at Bassett (NEJM 257: 491-496). And in 1959 they published their first results in identical twins with end-stage leukemia (J. Clin. Invest. 38: 1709-16). In private correspondence in 1991, Dr. Thomas recalled that "We did about 10 to 12 transplants in Cooperstown, most of which involved twins. The work there really was the basis for my continuing at the Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle."

In 1997, Thomas stated in a Bassett lecture that "the key to my success was stubbornness and picking some good young people to work with me." He also reiterated that animal research was essential to his later work in humans. Most dogs did well and most ended up at the Thomas home in rural Middlefield. "At one point we had 56 there and Dottie (his wife and indispensable assistant) told me if we got one more, I'll leave!"

Bassett Hospital quickly became the focal point for these exciting developments, and patients arrived from all over the world. Drs. Emery Herman, William Greenough and Arthur Levy would soon join the effort. The patients were kept in a special isolation room on Bassett's Center Two in the original hospital building. The complications of the new anti-leukemia therapy were dire, including the development of overwhelming bacterial infections in the patients with their immuno-compromised states. John Davis, Assistant Resident in Medicine in 1957-58, vividly recalls helping to care for some of the desperately ill patients who were sent to Bassett from as far away as Saudi Arabia.

For a nursing perspective, Marge Armstrong, R.N., who had come to Bassett



*Dr. E. Donnal Thomas in the Bassett research lab circa 1960*

in 1955, told Dr. Davis in a recent interview that "nobody was prepared for what we were getting into...We had the sick twin that we started whole body irradiation on, which was quite a long process. Then we took the well twin to the OR to harvest the bone marrow." She added, "Dave Blumenstock (Surgery Resident) would come up the hall with the syringe and inject the bone marrow. We didn't know how to take care of them to begin with, and after total body irradiation everything breaks down, including skin. The nurses would spend hours showing the next nurses what we had been doing, so it was like on the job

training for all of us."

In 1963, after eight years at Bassett, Dr. Thomas left for Seattle to become Professor of Medicine at the University of Washington, and later Director of the Clinical Research Division at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center where he would lead further research in the treatment of leukemia. In a personal note, Ted Peters commented on his former colleague and friend: "I hunted with Don a lot; he was a better shot than I was. He was very quiet, with a soft voice. You could hardly hear him in a group, and I guess that's good, because it made you stop and listen." Peters also stressed the role of Dr. Thomas' wife Dottie as "a very important member of the team. She managed all of his literature and research affairs, and his role as a family."

In 1990, Dr. E. Donnal Thomas received the Nobel Prize in Medicine for his revolutionary work on the treatment of acute leukemia which began and crystallized at the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital. Dr. Thomas died October 20, 2012 at age 92. (See an obituary note in this issue of *The Cupola*.) Those of us who had the extraordinary opportunity to work with Dr. Thomas, as students, house staff, attending clinicians and fellow researchers were a fortunate few, indeed. ■

Please join us in honoring the work of Dr. E. Donnal Thomas and Bassett's 1950s ground-breaking research team with a contribution to the Friends of Bassett using the envelope provided in this newsletter.

*The dual cobalt teletherapy machines used for total-body irradiation, 1958*



## The Cupola Is Available Digitally

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Find it at [www.bassett.org/cupola](http://www.bassett.org/cupola)

Would you like to receive your copy of *The Cupola* newsletter by email?

If so, send an email to [cupola@bassett.org](mailto:cupola@bassett.org) with the subject line: Please send *The Cupola* electronically

# THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS

Please keep your notes and photos coming! Editor

## 1950s

### Alfred Jaretzki III, M.D.

(Attending Surgeon 1955-65) left Bassett to work at Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center in New York City, as a member of the Thoracic Section of the Department of Surgery (retiring in '92) and then as Director of the Operating Rooms at the Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center until 1996. He writes, "During my career at the Presbyterian Hospital I became especially interested in thymectomy in the treatment of myasthenia gravis and had a number of presentations and publications on this subject. I enjoyed my life as a member of the Bassett Hospital Department of Surgery, as well as a member of the Cooperstown community, and especially enjoyed the Star Boat racing on Lake Otsego. I now live peacefully in retirement, with my wife Alexandra, in Essex, Conn."

## 1960s

### Peter D. Walzer, M.D., M.S.

(Medicine Resident 1968-70) writes that after a rewarding professional life in academia, he decided it was time to retire. Most of his career was spent at the University of Cincinnati and the Cincinnati Veterans Affairs (VA) Medical Center. He shared, "My research has focused on pneumocystis. This research was basic research for many years, but more recently I wanted to do clinical and epidemiological research. From 2005-2006, I obtained funding for a one-year sabbatical at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine where I received a Master's degree in Epidemiology. It was a wonderful, though tiring experience returning to the role of full-time student and working with classmates half my age! I turned 70 this year and I plan to keep active and maintain my medical license. I will be mentoring young investigators and doing a little Infectious Disease clinical work at the VA."

### Robert Ackerman, M.D.

(Rotating Resident 1964-65) shared an article he authored in the August issue of the *International Journal of Stroke* about C. Miller Fisher, M.D. the father of modern stroke neurology. In it, Dr. Ackerman recalls training under Fisher at Massachusetts General Hospital with two Bassett colleagues with whom he developed lifelong friendships, **Jay Mohr** (Medicine Resident 1963-65) and **Phil Kistler** (Medicine Resident 1964-65). Also, he sends warmest congratulations and thanks to Dr. John Davis, "a very important mentor to the three of us."

## 1970s

### James E. Shepard, M.D.

(Medicine Resident 1959-61) provided the following update: "We had planned on visiting the Balkan countries this spring, but Sally-Jean had both knees replaced instead. She was a little discouraged with her progress until the surgeon told her at eight weeks she was ahead of similar patients at twelve months." And professionally, "I now do expert witness work in Nephrology and Internal Medicine."

**Joel Bamford, M.D.** (Medicine Resident 1966-68) celebrated his recent retirement by participating in a month-long work-study at Esalen Institute (Big Sur, Calif.) "pot washing and gestalt therapy, just what I needed!" And later in the year, he and his wife Marilyn were in New Zealand with Cochrane Colloquium as author and consumer advocate, respec-



Peter D. Walzer, M.D.

tively, followed by an 18-day tour of the traditional great sites and visiting with the warm people of China. While there, Joel was "able to present my, now old, rosacea research and become more aware of the western medicine and evidence-based medicine being applied there."

## 1980s



Scott Smith family enjoying vacation

### C. Scott Smith, M.D. and Cathy Sandstrom, M.D.

(Transitional Residents 1980-81) have now been married almost 35 years. They report that they "have two kids, Devin (28) a soon-to-be graduate student in green architecture and Tynan (26) a software engineer at Google." Cathy is still in private practice pediatrics and recently recertified. Scott is the Program Director for the new (second) University of Washington internal medicine residency based at the Boise, Idaho Veteran's Affairs (VA). He writes, "I am also the Director for a VA Center of Excellence in Primary Care Education, an interdisciplinary training program based in a medical home continuity clinic ...doing lots of interesting research around interdisciplinary ambulatory training and competencies/milestones."

**Larry Gaul, M.D.** (Medicine Resident 1987-90) sends his greetings and writes, "I continue practicing non-invasive cardiology in Vail, Colo. along with critical care." And he is the U.S. representative to the International Ski Federation, the governing body of Olympic skiing in non-Olympic

years. "I am the volunteer head physician for the U.S. Nordic team. We are gearing up for the next Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia in 2014. I get to travel all over, including three weeks to Zurich, Switzerland for ski meetings, to Amsterdam to run the Amsterdam marathon (painful when not trained) and recently to Taiwan for the World Congress of High Altitude Medicine and Physiology."

**Shelby Cooper, M.D., U.S.N. M.C.**, attending vascular surgeon at Bassett Medical Center is currently serving in Afghanistan as a trauma surgeon at a Forward Operating Base near Kandahar with the US Navy. He writes, "I'll be here until this spring. I also just published an article on Uterine Artery Embolization in the journal *Vascular* (September 2012). Here's a photo of me operating on one of my patients – an Australian Special Ops Dog."



Operation on an Aussie Special Ops dog at a military base near Kandahar

**Theodor Kaufman, M.D.** (Surgery Resident 1993-99) shares this news, "I have been very busy working as a rural general surgeon in Punxsutawney (Pa.) for 11 years now. I will be leaving my current solo practice to join a group in State College (Pa.) in January. Incidentally **David Oselinsky, M.D.**, a former attending at Bassett has been in State College for many years, and I will be working in the same practice. **Steven Ansong, M.D.**, another Bassett attending from the 1990s is also in State





Theodor Kaufman, M.D.

College, although soon to be retiring. Our daughter Gabby, 18, is a freshman at New York University and our son J.T., 16, is a high-school junior. Susan and I stay busy with our five dogs – three dachshunds, a Labrador and a Maltese.”

**Timothy Whitaker, M.D.** (*Surgery Residency, 1999-2004*) is pleased to report that he and his wife Anne-Marie, his daughter is Caroline, 9 and son Bryson, 8, have relocated back to the Cooperstown area. They enjoyed a vacation in Alaska earlier in the year.



Whitaker family while visiting Alaska

## 2000s

**Linda Christie, M.D.** (*Medicine Resident 2004-07*) and her husband, **Curtis Mills, M.D.** have returned to New York State. Linda writes, “we missed our community in Gloversville, and the beautiful environment in the Adirondacks. So when I was asked to come back to my dream job as Medical Director of Lexington, the Fulton County Chapter of NYSARC, and Curtis found that he could work at Bassett’s clinic in St. Johnsville, we jumped at the chance. It is wonderful to be back. I am thrilled to

be taking care of people with developmental disabilities, which was my original goal when I signed up to do a second residency at MIBH at the age of 47, in 2004. Thank you to all of the wonderful people at Bassett who taught and encouraged me and my peers during my time in Cooperstown.”

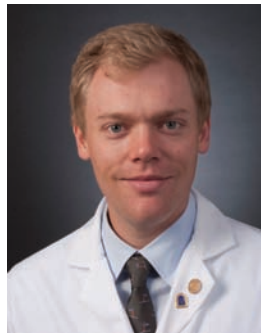
**Savitree Talhapak, M.D.** (*Medicine Resident 2006-09*) has moved back to Thailand and is now a nephrologist at Bumrungrad Hospital in Bangkok.

**Patricia Burkhart, M.D.** (*Transitional Resident 2007-08*) reports “I have completed my residency in Diagnostic Radiology at Mayo Clinic, and am now in private practice as a general radiologist at The Doctor’s Clinic, just west of Seattle. My husband Ben and I are living on Bainbridge Island. Liam, who was born during my intern year at Bassett, is now almost 5 years old, and is joined by Elliot, 2.5 years. Ben is teaching math at the community college level.”

**Seth Iverson, M.D.** (*Transitional Resident 2008-09*) and his family has had an eventful four years since leaving Cooperstown. He writes, “I have been a resident in Radiology at Rochester General Hospital and am now just finishing up a year as Chief Resident. I have accepted a prestigious fellowship at Washington University Mallinckrodt Institute of Radiology in Body MRI. My wife and I welcomed a new son to our family in November, 2010 so now we have two daughters and a son. We loved our time in New York and will miss it when we move on to other opportunities.”

**Richard Amankwah, M.D.** (*Albany Program student, 2009-10*), writes “I am currently a PGY-2 in Internal Medicine at the Medical College of Wisconsin and its affiliated hospitals. When I’m done with my residency, I hope to work for a few years as a hospitalist; and then eventually pursue a master’s degree in health care delivery.” Dr. Amankwah hopes to “be an agent of change in transforming the health system.” ■

## Columbia-Bassett Student Joins Alumni Board



Blake D. Alberts, Columbia-Bassett class of 2014

**Blake D. Alberts**, a third-year medical student was selected by his classmates to serve as the first Columbia-Bassett Medical School representative on the Bassett Alumni Association Board of Directors. Prior to his medical studies in New York, Blake earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of South Dakota in his home state, graduating summa cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa.

“It is an honor to have the opportunity to connect with the Medical Alumni in this role,” he stated, “and I hope that my presence will stimulate greater interest in the Columbia-Bassett program.” Blake was attracted to the Columbia-Bassett Medical School because of its focus on health systems, its unique curriculum and the opportunity to train in a rural setting. “I especially appreciate the experience of learning in the ambulatory setting provided through the longitudinal clerkship,” and he “hopes that alumni will take the time to learn more about the Columbia-Bassett program, and support it as it re-shapes the culture of medical education at Bassett.”

This position is one of many leadership roles Blake has filled in his academic career. He is a member of Bassett’s Healthcare Program Growth and Development Committee and served as a Representative to the Dean’s Advisory Council at Columbia.

For more information about the Columbia-Bassett Medical School, visit [www.columbia-bassett.org](http://www.columbia-bassett.org) ■

## Alum Returns to Bassett

**Timothy Whitaker, M.D., FACS**, has joined Bassett as a board certified attending surgeon who will see patients at Oneonta Surgical Associates and Fox Hospital for their general surgery needs, including breast care surgery. Dr. Whitaker earned his medical degree at University of South Florida, completed a surgical internship through University of Oklahoma and a surgical residency at Bassett Medical Center in 2004. From 2004 until present, he was co-owner of Blue Ridge Surgical where he worked as general surgeon, with privileges at Fannin Regional Hospital, Union General Hospital, Copper Basin Medical Center and Chestatee Regional Medical Center, in Georgia.

Welcome back, Dr. Whitaker. ■



Timothy Whitaker, M.D.

## Unity Inpatient Goes Live in December

Unity, Bassett's electronic medical record (EMR) system for coordinating patient care across the network, will mark a major milestone when the inpatient Unity EMR is activated on December 8.

Dr. Gretchen Hodgdon, who leads the inpatient EMR physician advisory group, says, "It's like planning a wedding, there's a lot of stress and anticipation leading up to the actual event. Of course the work does not end on the wedding day, the marriage takes work and lots of patience. That's how it will be with the Unity EMR, but there's also a lot of excitement knowing how an EMR will benefit patient care. For example,

we're not going to have to spend time looking for medication lists or searching for patient charts and that means more time with patients."

Much planning and many steps were required to prepare to go live. For instance, Hodgdon says, "Just on the hardware alone, there's been a lot of work to be sure the computers can connect quickly and handle the high volume of data common to the inpatient environment. It's also been very gratifying to see so many of our providers going to extra classes and lab time to help prepare for go live." She also notes that the Department of Medicine units will be

staffed with extra providers the first two weeks so that each has a smaller group of patients to handle while transitioning to the EMR.

This inpatient implementation is a continuation in a two-year transition to a state-of-the-art electronic medical record system that will improve efficiency in health care delivery and provide patients with an enhanced health care experience. Bassett's EMR first went "live" in urgent care centers, emergency departments and health centers across the network in spring of 2011. ■

### 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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<http://recruitment.bassett.org/physician-jobs/>

Or call the Medical Staff Affairs office at 607-547-6982

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Income taxes @30%	\$27.00	\$35.34
Net income after tax	\$63.00	\$504.66

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# IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS

**Alumni: Please send copies of obituaries of former Bassett trainees, faculty or other members of the "Bassett Family" to [cupola@bassett.org](mailto:cupola@bassett.org)**

## **E. DONNALL THOMAS, M.D.**



*Dr. E. Donnall Thomas, in his Hutchinson Center lab*  
Photo: Susie Fitzhugh

E. Donnall Thomas, M.D. 1920-2012, was Bassett's Physician-in-Chief 1956-63.

Dr. Thomas passed away October 21, 2012 at age 92; he had been in declining health for some time but remained active as Professor Emeritus at the University of Washington and Director Emeritus of the Clinical Research Division at the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center in Seattle until near the end.

Dr. Thomas came to Bassett in 1955 as Assistant Physician and a year later was promoted to Physician-in-Chief by

Hospital Director James Bordley III, M.D. A superb clinician and bedside teacher, he left his mark on Bassett and the world by leading a research effort to treat acute leukemia by whole-body irradiation followed by marrow transplantation; the work led to his receiving the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1990. He is survived by Dorothy (Dottie) Thomas, his wife and research partner through over 60 years, along with two sons, E. Donnall Jr. and Jeffrey, and a daughter, Elaine Thomas. The reader is directed to the feature article in this issue for details about Dr. Thomas and his Bassett career.

## **ARTHUR E. LAIDLAW, M.D**

Arthur E. Laidlaw, M.D. passed away peacefully on November 19, 2012 in Cooperstown, N.Y. He was born on April 14, 1915, and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. He graduated from Yale University and Yale Medical School. He also studied at Harvard, Johns Hopkins, and Columbia P&S at New York Presbyterian Hospital.

He served during World War II in the Army Medical Corps. After the war he practiced pediatrics at the Mary Imogene

Bassett Hospital from 1947 to 1949. Art and his family moved to Keene, N.H. in 1949, where he practiced until 1960.

In 1960, Art and his wife Bunny returned to Cooperstown where he was a pediatrician at Bassett until his retirement in 1975.

He was a member of the Cooperstown Country Club and raced the Star Class Sailboat for many years. During retirement he and Bunny spent their summers in Cooperstown and winters on St. Simons Island, Ga. In Georgia, he volunteered to help the needy file their tax returns.

He is survived by his sons, A.E. "Tex" Laidlaw Jr. of Stratton Mountain, Vt., and Robert E. Laidlaw of Montrose, Colo.; four grandchildren, Sarah L. Wilde, Natalie E. Laidlaw, Katherine B. Laidlaw and Willie A. Laidlaw; three great-granddaughters, Malin, Cate and Liv. His wife of 68 years, Natalie E. "Bunny" Laidlaw predeceased him on May 9, 2011.

Art will long be remembered as a true gentleman and caring pediatrician. ■

## **Bassett Opens 11th OR**

Bassett Medical Center celebrated the opening of a new operating room (OR), its 11th OR, with a ribbon-cutting. The opening of this technologically advanced operating room is part of a larger project to expand Bassett's surgical suite and operating room facilities to accommodate a growing volume of patients who require surgery. The recently completed OR is fully equipped with the latest in medical technology: new monitors for observing patient vital signs, laparoscopic video equipment, a new anesthesia system, six HD-TV wall monitors, and capacity for medical teleconferencing and teaching. The new suite will be used for advanced laparoscopic procedures and operations using the da Vinci® Surgical System, robotic technology that allows surgeons to perform complex operations through tiny incisions with precision, dexterity and control. ■



*Pictured are l. to r. : Melissa Shelley, R.N.; Connie Jastremski, V.P. Patient Care Services; Patti Buscema, OR tech coordinator; Brian Hoyer, R.N.; Sandy Gothard, director, Perioperative Services; Kelby Hilts, R.N.; Gerald Miller, OR tech coordinator honored with the task of cutting the ribbon; Jim Truesdell, R.N.; Dr. Michael Lachance; Tom Gus, OR tech coordinator; and Dr. Karen McGinnis.*

# Additional Foundations Support Columbia-Bassett Medical School

In planning the Columbia-Bassett Medical School Program, it was recognized that scholarship support for all students would help eliminate debt and attract the best possible candidates. Bassett remains committed to securing funds to meet the challenge of this goal.

Now, three charitable foundations have awarded Friends of Bassett Healthcare Network grants to provide scholarship support. Each of these scholarships will have a profound impact on the lives of three medical students presently enrolled in the Columbia-Bassett Medical School.

## Local Student Named Recipient of KeyBank Foundation Scholarship

Nicholas Feinberg of Cooperstown has been named the recipient of a four-year \$120,000 scholarship from the KeyBank Foundation. Feinberg graduated from the University of St. Andrews in Scotland with a Master of Arts in Economics and Philosophy and completed his pre-medical undergraduate studies at Northwestern University. He is one of 10 students in the Columbia-Bassett class of 2016.

“Medical school is such an expensive process that students are often forced to choose specialties just to escape their debt,” notes Feinberg. “The KeyBank scholarship offers me the fantastic freedom to decide what and where I want to practice. I decided I wanted to be a doctor because I think it’s an incredible combination of intellectual challenge, compassion, and responsibility.”

Stephen D. Fournier, president of Key Bank’s Central New York District observed, that the Columbia-Bassett program prepares, “medical school students to lead the health systems of the future, and that’s why Key Bank felt it was important to demonstrate the Foundation’s support of the program in such a meaningful way.”

## Hearst Foundation Scholarship Awarded

Anna Zuckerman, of Milburn, New Jersey has been awarded the Hearst Scholarship which provide \$125,000 over four years of study in the Columbian-Bassett program. Ms. Zuckerman was born in Russia and raised in Israel and New Jersey. She earned a Bachelor of Science from McGill University in Montreal and worked as a research assistant in the Montreal Neurological Institute. She began her medical studies in the fall of 2012.

“It is an unexpected honor to be selected as a recipient of the Hearst Scholarship,” stated Zuckerman. She adds, “my goal is to become a pediatrician. I am really looking forward to my studies.”

The Hearst Foundations are committed to helping grow uniquely impactful programs to create long-term, wide-scale improvements in the nation. The mission of the Columbia-Bassett Medical School aligns with many of the goals of the Hearst Foundations.

## Third Scholarship Announced

The locally-based family foundation, the C.J. Heilig Foundation has funded an additional scholarship of \$120,000 to provide support for a third student over their four-years of study. In announcing this grant, Michael Stein, Executive Director of the Friends of Bassett, acknowledged that, “the award from the Heilig Foundation combined with other recent scholarships will help give momentum to Bassett’s effort to secure support for this important educational program from other foundations and individuals.” ■

Alumni seeking to support student scholarships may contact Michael Stein, Executive Director, Friends of Bassett, [michael.stein@bassett.org](mailto:michael.stein@bassett.org), (607) 547-4801.

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