



THE CUPOLA

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

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Long-term Bassett Physician Heads Palliative Care Program

After 28 years as a primary care provider at Bassett, Carol Beechy, M.D. (Rotating Intern 1977-78, Medicine Resident 1978-81, Chief Medicine Resident 1981-82) has assumed the leadership role as Medical Director of the Pain and Palliative Care consultation service at Bassett Hospital.

Launched in 2011, it has developed into an interdisciplinary service vital to inpatients and their families. Describing this program, Beechy emphasizes that at the core, it is about “improving quality of life by paying attention to what is important to the patient.” It has five key elements: identifying goals of care, working with care teams to manage pain and other symptoms, addressing suffering in all its forms (physical, intellectual, emotional, social and spiritual), assisting with care transitions, and supporting patients and family members.

Although she became board-certified in Palliative Medicine in 2012, concern for those experiencing pain and suffering especially near end-of-life, has been a long-time interest for Beechy. Teenage memories of a grandmother’s unfulfilled wish to die at home and recollections from her formative residency years of patients experiencing difficult deaths help explain why. Over the years, Beechy channeled her concerns by taking on roles beyond her position as an attending physician, chairing the Ethics Committee at Bassett, serving as board member for the regional hospice agency, and advocating for the implementation of palliative care services at Bassett.

The introduction of a formal palliative care consultation service took over a decade to come to fruition. Research studies from other institutions, plus data analysis of potential savings and shorter patient stays eventually garnered the



Left to right: Carol Beechy, M.D.; Maria Syke, F.N.P.; Amanda Engle, Pharm.D.; and Connie Jastremski, R.N., A.P.N., M.S.

administrative support needed to launch the service. “Pain management and palliative care are in sync with Bassett’s culture and the patient-centered care that this institution prides itself on,” according to Beechy, “and it is a continuum of the patient-care approach shared by my mentors here, such as Robert Sioussat, M.D.; John S. Davis, M.D.; Emery Herman, M.D.; and others of that era.”

This effort is obviously the work of many and Beechy acknowledges her team members for their contributions: Connie Jastremski, R.N., A.P.N., M.S.; and former Chief Nursing Officer, Maria Syke, F.N.P.; Amanda Engle, Pharm.D.; and the hospital chaplaincy, headed by Reverend Betsy Jay. “We also

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Message from the President of the Medical Alumni Board of Directors

Once again I had the privilege of being in Cooperstown this fall to attend the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Medical Alumni Association. There are very few medical residency programs that have an active association and a board comprised of alumni members. The fact that a small institution in a rural area has established and supports an organization representing alumni from all over the country speaks volumes about the type of place Bassett is and the affection and enthusiasm that Board members have for Bassett.

This year, our meeting focused on the future direction of the Board, and ways in which we can serve Bassett alumni—which include former interns, residents and medical students,



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

and former and current faculty members. The board is committed to identifying how we may successfully engage a broader alumni base. We are in the process of redefining our mission, and this includes developing resources and programs to help enrich the lives of all Bassett alumni.

I look forward to keeping you up-to-date as we work on creating these services. And I hope that alumni will support our ongoing efforts to foster networking and camaraderie among our members.

Best wishes to all of you for a happy and healthy holiday season. ■

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

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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 Medical Center, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown, NY 13326 or e-mail cupola@bassett.org.

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Highlights from the Alumni Association Board Meeting

By Douglas M. DeLong, M.D.



Members of the Alumni Association Board gathered in Cooperstown in October 2015. (Left to right) Front row: Drs. Anush Patel, Steve Ching, Merideth Davis, and Sally Ricketts. Second row: Drs. Stephanie Ocegueda and Eric Rubin. Third row: Drs. John Davis, Tim Whitaker, and Ted Ruckert. Fourth Row: Drs. Jim Murray and Doug DeLong, and Columbia-Bassett medical student Nick Feinberg.

On October 16, 2015 members of the board met in Cooperstown. As Executive Vice President, I want to extend my personal thanks to all those who participated. It was one of our more productive meetings and I came away with a renewed sense of purpose.

Our President Merideth Davis, M.D. started us off with a great discussion about mission and goals. Given that we have never formally articulated them other than some general statements in association bylaws there was consensus that we need to develop a formal

Long-term from page 1

get a lot of support from Vance M. Brown, M.D., President and CEO of Bassett Healthcare and Charles L. Hyman, M.D, Physician in Chief," states Beechy. Another alum, Chris Mulik, M.D., (Medicine Resident, Chief Resident 1999-2003 and Hospitalist 2003-2010) has frequent interface with Bassett's Palliative Care team, as well as its hospitalists and ICU staff. Since 2014, Mulik has been the Medical Director for Catskill Area Hospice and Palliative Care nearby.

Beechy is particularly pleased that Medicine residents are introduced to the Pain and Palliative Care service during orientation and early in their training. They rotate through in their second year. Also, the Columbia-Bassett medical students attend lectures on pain

mission statement to guide us in all our activities. There was a robust conversation about community, service and education. A subcommittee was formed to work on this task.

In addition, we devoted some time discussing how to maintain connections with alumni and foster lifelong engagement.

We were fortunate to receive some of the usual updates about the various medical education enterprises. Charlotte Hoag, Administrative Director of Medical Education, gave us the overview on residency programs, while Nicholas Hellenthal, M.D., presented some impressive information about the surgical program, and Henry Weil, M.D., provided an update on the status of the Columbia-Bassett Medical School.

Board members agreed to resurrect "Life after Bassett", an interactive program in

which board members (especially those from more recent residency years) share perspectives with current residents. This session is scheduled on the evening before the 2016 Board meeting next fall.

I have agreed to "hang in there" for at least one more year as the Executive Vice President and appreciate Merideth's unsolicited offer to help with tasks that can be delegated. All in all, it was a great meeting. There was a lot of new commentary and energy. Bassett, and its alumni association, remains a special community. ■

management and palliative care. Teaching about aspects of pain control and palliative care is an important part of the service.

Now that it is well established as an inpatient service, there's still plenty of work to be done. Beechy hopes to continue institution-wide training for providers on how to have the serious illness conversations ("more, better, earlier") that is so often the starting point for a Pain and Palliative Care service consultation. Expansion to the Bassett affiliates and outpatient services is on the horizon. And in the coming years, a palliative nurse practitioner will be embedded in the Primary Care Medical Home team.

Asked what single message about this undertaking she wished to share with the readers of *The Cupola*, Beechy didn't hesitate in her response, "Our patients deserve this care." ■

Bassett Welcomes Class of Medical Students



The sixth class of students accepted to the Columbia-Bassett Medical School Program completed an orientation week in Cooperstown, getting to know the Bassett Medical Center campus and the local community. The students' first 18 months will be spent at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons in New York City, before returning to Bassett in January of 2017 to begin two-and-a-half years of clinical training. ■

Class of 2019: Front row (L-R): Henry Weil, M.D., senior associate dean for education at Bassett Healthcare, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons; Meaghan Jain; Michelle Couret; Caitlin Yumori; Ethan Ayres; Danish Ghazali; Alexis Fogel; Megan Brennan, M.D., assistant dean for education at Bassett Healthcare, Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons; back row (L-R): Emily Nuss; Andrew Tuck; Caleb Edmonds; Robert King.

Dr. John Davis Visiting Professor Addressed Challenging Conversations with Patients



John S. Davis, M.D., (on right) welcomed Timothy Quill, M.D., to present the annual Davis Visiting Professor Lecture on Friday, October 16, 2015.

This year's annual John S. Davis Visiting Professor was Timothy Quill, M.D., Professor of Medicine, Psychiatry

and Medical Humanities and Director of the Palliative Care Program at University of Rochester Medical Center.

Quill was nominated for this honor by the medical staff in recognition of his reputation as an outstanding clinician and nationally known advocate for end-of-life issues. His illuminating presentation "Estimating and Communicating About Prognosis" offered strategies for discussing prognosis with patients and their family members, and required audience members to role-play physician/patient conversations utilizing a real case. Describing Quill's session, Douglas M. DeLong, M.D., stated, "It was the most interactive Davis lecture we've hosted. The room was buzzing with conversation when the audience was asked to practice the conversation skills Quill offered." In addition, the previous day, Quill presented an Interdepartmental Grand Rounds on the topic of "The Interface of Palliative Care and Ethics." ■

Excellence Award Announced

Earlier this year, the Medical Staff of Bassett Healthcare established the Walter A. Franck Physician's Excellence Award as a way to honor recently retired Walter A. Franck, M.D., who served the institution in many capacities over his four decades at Bassett. The award was created to recognize a present physician who emulates the lifelong career traits of Dr. Franck, including service to patients, students, colleagues, and community. Potential awardees are nominated by the Medical Staff and selected by a committee.

The first individuals selected for this award are Kai Mebust, M.D., Division Chief-Hospitalists; and the late Shep J. Friedman, M.D., surgeon in the Division of Orthopedics. ■

THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS

Please keep your notes and photos coming!

1950s

Charles Greenblatt, M.D. (Rotating Intern 1956-57) and his wife, Jo-Anne, are well and living in Motza Illit, Israel. Chuck still has an active lab working and publishing on ancient DNA and bio-remediation. Jo-Anne is busy with the 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Chuck writes, "We are in touch with John Davis and would love to hear from any of our mates from that so long ago period."

1960s

Joel T.M. Bamford, M.D. (Internal Medicine resident 1966-68) remembers how the people of Cooperstown and the area were helpful during his residency. He reports that he is retired three years from dermatology practice, and enjoying involvement with Cochrane.org as an author and as a volunteer with WildesBrainCoach.com. Also, he is an emergency responder in his rural area near Duluth, Minn.

David Svahn, M.D. (Rotating/Internal Medicine resident 1965-67 and Attending Physician 1972-2007) reports that he attended the 50th reunion of his Columbia P&S class in May.

1970s

Dan Westphal, M.D., M.B.A. (Internal Medicine resident 1973-75) has been named Chief Medical Officer at Broward Health, Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. Also, Westphal was recently honored with the Leadership Development Award at the Memorial Healthcare System Leadership Development Institute. He previously served as Director of Medical Affairs at Memorial Hospital Pembroke in Pembroke Pines, Chief Medical Officer at Florida Medical Center in Fort Lauderdale and Chief Medical Officer at Boca Regional Hospital. After his residency in Cooperstown, he was a clinical and research fellow in pulmonary medicine at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard University.



Dan Westphal, M.D.



Hallenbecks (right) and Puskers (left)

1980s

Jonathan Hallenbeck, M.D. (Transitional Year resident 1984-85) enjoyed a 30th anniversary reunion with his fellow transitional year resident **Steve Pusker, M.D.** (Transitional Year resident 1984-85) and wife Kathleen. He reports that the Puskers drove north from Greenville, S.C. in their "second home in the form of a monster motor home" to visit with the Hallenbecks in Waterville, Maine. Many memories were shared over excellent food and drink. We wish the rest of the group could have joined us!"

1990s

Sean M. Caples, D.O. (Internal Medicine resident 1997-2000) was featured recently in the *Mayo Clinic Magazine* for an innovative program, Mayo's Enhanced Critical Care of which he is medical director. Mayo's intensivists interact with distant rural partners to monitor patients and confer with local caregivers through "tele-ICU" via video.

Richard McIncrow, D.O. (Internal Medicine resident 1997-2000, Hospitalist 1997-2007) current Chair of Department of Medicine at St Joseph's Hospital in Savannah, Ga., wrote to add

to the article regarding Bassett's Hospitalist Program in the summer issue of *The Cupola*. He lauded the work of another of Bassett's early contributors to the Hospitalist Program, the late **Doug MacDonald, M.D.** (Hospitalist 2000-2003) and especially praised MacDonald's work with resident education and teaching evidenced-based medicine.

Jeffrey LaCourse, M.D. (Internal Medicine resident 1998-2001) writes that he and Alecia miss the gang in Cooperstown. He works with **Costa Andreou, M.D.** (Internal Medicine resident 1992-95) in Charlotte and frequently sees Debbie and **Rich McIncrow, D.O.**

2000s

Matthew Gilbert, D.O., M.P.H. (Internal Medicine resident 2003-06, Chief Medical Resident 2006-07) is an Associate Professor of Medicine, Director of the Endocrine Fellowship program in the Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes, and Medical Director of Inpatient Diabetes Services at the University of Vermont Medical Center, Burlington, Vt. Matt and his wife Margaret live in Essex



Marilyn (right) and Joel Bamford (middle) with local authors and staff at the annual Cochrane Colloquium.

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Family from page 4

Junction, Vt., with their two children Hannah age 10 and Molly age 7. Gilbert returned to Bassett recently to present a lecture at Medicine Grand Rounds.

Kelly Currie, M.D. (General Surgery resident 2008-13) is pleased to share that she will be graduating from a Plastic Surgery Fellowship at University of Colorado and starting a Hand Surgery Fellowship at Southern Illinois University next summer. She writes, "Dean

and I will be travelling a lot this year, as I have had abstracts accepted for presentation at several national meetings, including American Society for Surgery of the Hand's Annual Meeting, American Association for Hand Surgery's Annual Meeting, and American Society of Plastic Surgeons' Annual Meeting."

2010s

Costas Stavrakis, D.O. (Internal Medicine resident 2012-13) recently accepted

a fellowship position in musculoskeletal radiology at Duke University to begin in July 2017.

William W. LeCates, M.D. (Medical Director and Attending Nephrologist, Bassett Medical Center 2003-present) member of the Army National Guard serving with the Joint Force Headquarters, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel.

Patrick McNulty, M.D. (Division Chief of Cardiology and Co-director of the Bassett Heart Care Institute

2006-present) was recently appointed president of the board of directors of the Utica region American Heart Association (AHA). Additionally, McNulty and **Gus Leinhart, M.D.** (Chief of Emergency Medicine 1987-present) are on the executive committee of a statewide initiative, jointly sponsored by the AHA and NYSDOH, to redesign cardiac systems of care in New York State.



Former Bassett President & CEO William F. Streck, M.D., addresses the audience at the unveiling in July.

Portrait of Former President & CEO Is Unveiled

A portrait of William F. Streck, M.D., president and CEO of Bassett Healthcare Network who retired last year after more than 30 years of service, was unveiled at a special ceremony on Friday, July 10. The painting, by Cooperstown artist Susan Goetz, will hang in the fieldstone building lobby at Bassett Medical Center.

Streck was one of the longest-serving health system executives in New York State and the country and is a recognized leader and innovator in health care design, delivery, and policy.

In attendance at the ceremony was Bassett Healthcare Network's current president and CEO, Vance Brown, M.D., current and former members of the Bassett Medical Center board and board members of the Friends of Bassett.

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

You are past and current interns, residents and fellows.

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

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

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.

- Dermatologist
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Medicine
- Gastroenterologist (Division Chief)
- Hematology/Oncology
- Hospitalist
- Internal Medicine
- Psychiatry
- Pulmonology
- Director of the Bassett Research Institute
- Medical Director of Performance Improvement & Clinical Informatics

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

Alumni Join Bassett Staff



Andrew Griffiths, M.D.

Andrew Griffiths, M.D., joined Bassett Medical Center as an attending physician in General Surgery. He earned his medical degree from Loma Linda University, Loma Linda, Calif., in 2009. Griffiths completed his residency (2009-14) in General Surgery at Bassett Medical Center.



Sheikh Abdul Salam Saleem, M.D.

Sheikh Abdul Salam Saleem, M.D., who recently completed his residency in Internal Medicine at Bassett Medical Center will continue on here as an attending physician working as a Hospitalist. Saleem earned his medical degree at Lahore Medical and Dental College, Lahore, Pakistan.

Bassett Looks Back



Patrick A. Dietz, M.D., (Attending Surgeon and Division Chief of Vascular Surgery 1979-2013) and Karla Wagner (Transitional Year resident 1989-90) are pictured in a photo from 25 years ago demonstrating bedside teaching for which Medical Education at Bassett is known.

A Tribute to Mary Ann Vunk

"I am very proud to tell people that I work for Bassett and have done so for 50 years," says Mary Ann Vunk, CEO executive assistant extraordinaire, whose last day on the job was August 7, 2015. "I am thankful for all the wonderful relationships I have developed with physicians, coworkers and others over the years," says Vunk.

"Mary Ann will receive a lot of well-deserved praise for her consummate professionalism in her work, her support and empathy for the many individuals, including hundreds of physicians, with whom she has come in contact and her generous and gracious approach to all," says William F. Streck, M.D., who worked with Vunk until his retirement from Bassett in 2014.

Vunk has worked for three presidents/CEOs during her career at Bassett. "I first worked for Dr. Charles Ashley in the Department of Pathology as his secretary," says Vunk. "He was named president in 1967, and a year later I transferred to work for two surgeons. In 1972, Ashley's secretary was leaving and

he called me to see if I was interested in the job. So, I started working in Administration and have been here since."

Ashley retired in 1984 and William Streck, M.D., who had been working as an endocrinologist at Bassett, was appointed acting president in May of 1984 and then president in March 1985. "Dr. Streck and I worked together for 30 years, and we had a wonderful working relationship and friendship. I was amazed to watch his vision for Bassett come to reality."

Vunk originally planned on retiring around the time when Streck retired but decided to stay on a bit to work with the new CEO.

"I greatly appreciate her staying on board during my first year to help teach me the ropes. She will be greatly missed by me and everyone in the organization who have come to depend on her knowledge, efficiency and sense of humor," says Vance Brown, M.D., Bassett Healthcare Network president and CEO. ■

Excerpted from BassettWorks, July 2015

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What Is Planned Giving, and How Can It Help You?

In simple terms, a planned gift is a gift you decide today that you will make in the future. The difference between a planned gift and a dream is that you commit to your planned gift by writing it into a legal document.

There are other differences as well. You can arrange to give Bassett your estate, for example, but do so in the form of a charitable annuity, so that you are paid an annual sum, much

as you would be from a standard annuity. You may need a certain level of income to enjoy your retirement; you may decide that a trust that will pay you a fixed percentage of its income every year is the best giving option for you. You can even have a lasting impact with a gift of other assets, such as property or stock.

We would be happy to talk with you about planned giving. To learn more, call the Friends of Bassett at 607-547-3928, or visit our website, www.friendsofbassett.plannedgiving.org. ■

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

James M. Fagan, M.D.

James M. Fagan, M.D. (Attending Ophthalmologist 2003-2015) passed away peacefully on Tuesday, June 23, 2015, at his home. He was born on Oct. 22, 1940, in Manhattan, son of the late James A. and Ann (Bohan) Fagan and educated in New York City. He was married to Henriette A. Brodhaag. He attended medical school at the University of Rome in Italy. He was an ophthalmologist at Bassett Medical Center where he was loved and respected by his patients and co-workers. Survivors include his wife, Henriette "Marjet"; and sisters, Mary Howard and Anne Rudolph. A memorial service took place in Little Falls, N.Y.

Edward C. Palmer, M.D.

Edward C. Palmer, M.D. (Attending Anesthesiologist 1981-2005), died September 8, 2015 at age 70 from injuries sustained in a motorcycle accident near his home in Marble Falls, Texas. Palmer attended Dartmouth College and Cornell Medical School (Class of 1971). After residency at the University of Vermont Medical School he served as a physician in the U.S. Navy, followed by his career as anesthesiologist at Bassett until retirement. In addition to his motorcycle riding, he owned vintage cars and was an avid recreational aviator and flight instructor. Robert Moglia, M.D., Bassett vascular surgeon, offered this comment: "He taught many Bassett colleagues to fly with patience and skill. An excellent anesthesiologist and a

good friend." Retired nurse Marge Armstrong recalled his "multifaceted personality. He was interested in so many other things besides anesthesia." He is survived by his wife, Lolly Searles Palmer; his brother, Thomas Palmer of Elverson, Penn.; and his sister, Marjorie Palmer of Plymouth, N.H.

Shirley Nai-Hsuan Pan, M.D.

Shirley Nai-Hsuan Pan, M.D. (Rotating Intern 1965-66) passed away on August 28, 2015 at age 74. She was born in Shanghai, China, moved to Hong Kong after World War II, and immigrated to the U.S. with her family in 1957. She obtained a degree in chemistry at Wellesley College in 1961 and her medical degree from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1965 as one of a handful of women in her graduating class of 120. At P&S and in her Bassett internship she was a colleague and friend of David Svahn, M.D. After further training at Stanford University and University of California-Berkeley, she began her career as a pediatrician with the Kaiser Foundation. Kaiser staff relied on her fluency in Mandarin, Cantonese and Shanghainese. Shirley retired in 1997 and traveled widely, exploring her interest in archaeology and history on six continents. Her passports had stamps in them from Ethiopia, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Libya and Iran. She is survived by her cousin Julia, niece Vivian and other relatives, as well as many friends in the Bay Area, across the US, and around the world. ■

Bassett Opens 20th School-Based Health Center

In October, Bassett Healthcare Network celebrated the opening of its 20th school-based health center serving pre-kindergarten through 12th grade students in the Richfield Springs school district.

Bassett Healthcare Network President and CEO Vance M. Brown, M.D., congratulated the district on the health center's opening, a project that has been more than eight years in the making. "I'm a family doctor by background and have taken care of a fair number of kids over the course of my career. I think this is one of the best models for taking care of kids. What an incredible asset it is.

"Bassett's program is more comprehensive than most as it provides not only medical care, but oral and mental health care as well. Especially in the new environment of population health and preventive care, this mission of being in a community with boots on the ground doing community health improvement is what this is all about," said Brown.

During the 2014-2015 school year, Bassett's School-Based Health (SBH) program handled 32,649 visits; 61 percent were medical visits, 32 percent mental health visits, and the dental component continues to grow with more than 2,422 visits to a dental hygienist in the school-based health centers during the previous school year.

The SBHC does not replace the school nurse. Rather, students enrolled in SBH in the Richfield Springs School District will receive primary care services from a family nurse practitioner. A Bassett pediatrician is available for consultation and will be on-site at the school one to two times each month.

A licensed clinical social worker is available to provide mental health counseling. A registered dental hygienist is available periodically through the year to provide preventive dental services, referrals, and individual and classroom oral health education.

Bassett pediatrician and co-director of the school-based health program, Chris Kjolhede, M.D., says, "We have an excellent team of individuals who comprise Bassett's SBHP here in Richfield and throughout the counties the program serves. They are on the front lines of taking care of the needs of kids; it is their passion and our collective commitment to improving the health of the population Bassett serves."

Excerpted from BassettWorks, October 2015



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Bassett Medical Alumni Association**



THE CUPOLA
Bassett Medical Center
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Making History: Bassett's Legacy

You may have heard John S. Davis, M.D., give a presentation on the history of Bassett, a history that reaches back 200 years, according to his forthcoming book. While many of us know something about the beginning of the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital, or a little about how it evolved into Bassett Healthcare Network, none of us knows as much as Dr. Davis, a former resident (1956-58), attending physician at Bassett Medical Center (1964-1995), and a longtime member of the Cupola Society. He is completing a book on the history of the constantly expanding institution, which is planned for print and e-book publication late in 2016.

The hospital's history began in 1815, according to Davis, when Mary Imogene Bassett's grandfather sailed from Liverpool, England to the Hudson River, then traveled up from Albany to Otsego County. Featuring 50 interviews with former and current Bassett staff members, extensively documented with footnotes, and illustrated with 200 photographs, the book will tell many untold tales about Bassett's hidden heroes, past and present. Its 23 chapters will also cover the well known stories, such as how the building was used as a temporary home for aviation officers recovering from service in WWI, or how Henry S. F. Cooper, M.D., a few of his senior residents, and Mr. Stephen C. Clark, Sr. decided to re-open the defunct hospital building after it had been closed down in 1925.



John S. Davis, M.D.

The title of the book has yet to be chosen, partly, as Davis puts it, because of "the explosive and accelerating history of recent years."

When Edward Severin Clark built the original Bassett Hospital, he began a tradition of caring and giving back to the community that continues today, just as the light continues to burn in the cupola.

Leaving a Legacy of Your Own

As a medical professional, you have devoted much of your life to helping others. You can make that your legacy, too, with a planned gift. Planned giving allows you to enjoy your assets while you can and then make a large, legacy gift after you are gone. Davis has done that, not only with his book, but also with a planned gift to the Friends of Bassett.

A number of years ago, he and his wife, Jean, set up a charitable remainder unitrust. In his own words, "It's been an excellent investment and a way for me to help fund medical education here, a program that is dear to me."

Do you dream about having a lasting impact? About helping new research to advance? Helping a student to receive a great education here at Bassett? With a planned gift, you can do this, and more.

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