

THE CUPOLA

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

Winter 2008
Vol. X, No.III



MS2 GETS FACELIFT

A new nurse's station, updated flooring and ceilings, and new sound-absorbing wall panels were among renovations completed last year on the hospital's second-floor Med/Surg unit. The renovations are part of a larger project to update all of the inpatient units.

PLANS FOR MEDICAL SCHOOL CAMPUS MOVE FORWARD

As most of you know, Bassett has, for the past two years, been working aggressively to broaden our wonderful tradition of undergraduate medical education. We currently host an average of 18 students at any given time, mostly in the third year. The third-year students come to Bassett for a variety of rotations, from Columbia University, the University of Rochester, Albany Medical College and the University of New England College of

Osteopathic Medicine (UNECOM). In 2007/08, we will host third-year students on every rotation currently required for a typical complete third year – Inpatient and Outpatient Medicine, Surgery, Pediatrics, Psychiatry, OB and Family Practice. And we have broad offerings in the fourth year, used by students from a wide cross section of American medical schools.

Reflecting upon this successful program built by so

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RESIDENT'S RESEARCH PROJECT WINS REGIONAL AWARD

Jesse Greenblatt, M.D., winner of the 2007 E. Donnall Thomas Outstanding Research Presentation Award, has also won the regional American College of Physicians residency research competition. His paper is currently being prepared for submission for

publication.

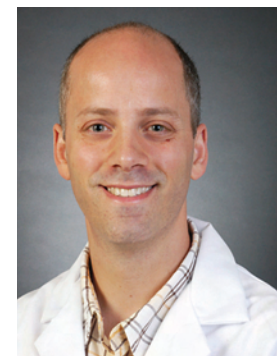
Jesse's project, "Assessing Women's Preventive Care at Bassett Hospital: An Inpatient Preventive Care Initiative (IPCI)", evaluated the cancer screening history of adult hospitalized female patients at The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital

between August and November 2006. This observational study found that this group of women had a lower frequency of reported screenings for breast and cervical cancer than the group of women followed in Bassett's outpatient clinics. The study also demonstrated that there

was a subset of the hospitalized patients who were good candidates for cancer screening, representing an opportunity for improved preventive care that could be offered to Bassett's patient population.

Jesse completed his

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Dr. Jesse Greenblatt



Kenneth W. Wilkins, M.D.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Cooperstown and North Carolina. A new year provides a time for reflection as well as new beginnings. At Bassett, we are saddened by the death of another of the "old bald men" who taught us so much. Bill Mook will be missed, but we can recall with pleasure how much we learned from him.

As we look forward, the biggest news is that plans for a medical school clinical campus are moving ahead rapidly. This is an idea that appeals to many medical schools, at least partly in response to an upcoming crisis in primary care in our country. Bassett is a natural choice for such an endeavor,

with its wealth of clinical material and excellent teachers – following in Dr. Mook's footsteps. Your Alumni Board, as you might imagine, also looks at this as a chance for Bassett alumni to give back to a place we remember fondly. Expect more from me on this subject!

Please enjoy this issue of The Cupola. As always, let us hear from you, and don't neglect plans for a reunion next fall in Cooperstown.

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

THE CUPOLA is the newsletter of the Medical Alumni Association of The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital. The Association was founded to provide support and recommendations to Bassett Medical Education Department; to assist in recruiting medical students, house staff and attending staff; and to provide financial support to develop and enhance medical education at Bassett.

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THE CUPOLA is published three times a year. Please send comments and news, including change of address information to: Editor, The Cupola, Office of Medical Education, Bassett Healthcare, One Atwell Road, Cooperstown, NY 13326 or e-mail to <bassett.cupola@bassett.org>.

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Breaking News

BASSETT ESTABLISHING PSYCHIATRIC CRISIS CENTER

Bassett Healthcare will establish a psychiatric crisis center at its Cooperstown campus, filling a void created by the termination of psychiatric services at A.O. Fox Memorial Hospital in Oneonta last year. Bassett expects to have licensed staff trained to work with people of all ages experiencing a psychiatric crisis available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, in the Emergency Department. Bassett is in the process of hiring additional staff and will construct a new suite in order to accommodate the new psychiatric crisis services. Chief Psychiatrist Celeste Johns, M.D., anticipates the program will handle 1,200 visits annually.

SIDNEY CAMPUS TO ADD EMERGENCY SERVICES

A 24/7 Emergency Services Department will open this winter at Tri-Town Regional Healthcare in Sidney, N.Y. The ED will be capable of treating six patients and will include two observation beds for patients whose conditions need to be monitored for a length of time.

The ED is the latest in a series of efforts by Bassett

to re-establish a hospital in Sidney. The community's hospital closed in 2005 because of financial difficulties, and Bassett worked with state and local officials to come up with a plan to restore health care services to the region. Bassett has since established primary care, urgent care, and laboratory and radiology services on the campus of the former hospital. Laboratory and radiology services will expand this winter to support the ED.

The Sidney initiative represents a new, innovative model that does not exist anywhere else in New York. "Nowhere has a hospital closed and been re-opened and reconfigured as is happening in Sidney," said Tri-Town Regional Healthcare CEO Bruce Wilhelm. "This could serve as a model for other communities needing emergency medical services, but not able to sustain a full hospital. The Commission on Health Care Facilities in the 21st Century, when it developed its hospital closure list, noted the need for a 'hybrid' health care facility in many communities around New York state. Our plan is to meet the need for 24/7 emergency services in the Tri-Town region, supply other basic services, and evaluate the need for growth over the next couple of years." ■

ALUMNI BOARD HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING

As some of you are aware, the Board of Directors of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association was formed in 1988; since then, meetings of the board in Cooperstown have been almost yearly. Highlights of the meeting on Oct. 5, 2007, included the announcement that the Medical Education Endowment Fund has reached a corpus of \$3.6 million and that its earnings have allowed an award of \$100,000 for development of the new procedural skills lab section of the emerging Learning Commons. (Never fear, the heart of the Learning Commons will still be the MacKenzie Memorial Library!)

Chief Academic Officer Laura Schweitzer reviewed the unfolding plans for Bassett to become a medical school campus for third- and fourth-year medical students (see story on Page 1), and CEO Dr. William Streck's institutional review included the new thrust of medical-outcomes research under Research Director John May, M.D. (Some of you may

recall that his illustrious Bassett career began with a rotating internship in 1973...) Dr. Streck also gave an overview of major renovations to the hospital under way as part of the long-term Facilities Management Plan.

In his review of the residency programs, Medical Education Director James Dalton, M.D., discussed the challenges facing house-staff recruitment, particularly in Internal Medicine. An exciting new venture for surgical residents is a rural surgery rotation with Mary Woodhouse, M.D., (Surgery Resident 1987-92, Chief Resident 1991-2) of the Adirondack Surgical Group.

Ken Wilkins and Peter Gray were re-elected to three-year terms as president and secretary-treasurer, respectively, of the association, along with new three-year terms for Board members Bell, Davis, Henson, Mitchell and Ricketts.

There was much more, and alumni may obtain the full minutes of the board meeting by contacting

THREE JOIN ALUMNI BOARD

It is a pleasure to welcome three new members to the Board of Directors of the Bassett Medical Association: James Bordley, IV, M.D., Bassett attending surgeon; John E. Olson, M.D., Bassett attending surgeon emeritus; and Rory Sears, D.O., current chief resident in Medicine at Bassett. See Dr. Sears' profile on Page 3; Drs. Bordley and Olson will be profiled in later editions.

Photo, page 4

mary.wiswell@bassett.org or (607) 547-3764. ■

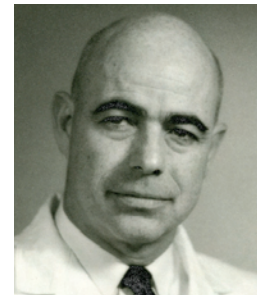
IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS

William A. Mook, M.D., 87, died Sept. 5, 2007, in Cooperstown after a long and difficult illness.

Bill Mook received his bachelor's degree from Wesleyan University in 1941. He continued his education in an accelerated medical school program during World War II at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons, graduating in 1944. After completing his internship at Bassett Hospital in 1945, he served as lieutenant (jg) in the United States Naval Reserve from 1945-1946. He then continued his medical training at Bassett Hospital and completed his residency in 1949, followed by a public health traineeship in cardiology at the University of Washington in Seattle from 1949-1950. After practicing at the Rip Van Winkle Clinic in Hudson, Dr. Mook returned to Bassett Hospital as assistant physician in 1952. During the Korean War, he was again called to active duty in the United States Navy from 1952-1954. He resumed his medical practice at Bassett, where he was an attending physician specializing in internal medicine and endocrinology and associate professor of clinical medicine at Columbia University. He was a revered, paramount teacher of hundreds of Bassett house officers, with the highest admiration and respect from generations of patients, colleagues and other Bassett staff as well.

In keeping with his belief in the importance of education, Dr. Mook served on the Board of Education at Cooperstown Central School from 1958-1973, and he presented diplomas to all six of his children upon their graduation from high school. He also served as Otsego public health officer and was the attending physician for the Clara Welch Thanksgiving Home and County Nursing Home. Throughout their marriage, which began in medical school in 1943, Bill and his wife, Bobbie, shared a love of jazz and were a striking couple on the dance floor. Bill was an avid sailor and a natural athlete; he skied, played squash and tennis, and, later in life, developed a special passion for the game of golf, taking great pleasure in its competition and camaraderie. He was beloved by his many grandchildren, who appreciated his gentle nature and dry wit.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Barbara (Ives) Mook; a brother, Henry K. Mook of Williamsburg, Va.; and six children: Barbara Richards and her husband, Rob, of Mystic, Conn., Carolyn Mook of Cooperstown, Anne Frost and her husband, Chris, of Dobbs Ferry, Cleo Mook and her husband, Pete Collopy, of Troy, William H. Mook and his wife, Karen (Corwin), of Sheepscott, Maine, and Georgia Cosgrove and her husband, Sean, of Duxbury, Mass. In addition, he leaves 19 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. For more on Dr. Mook, please see the Cupola Volume X (2), Summer 2007.



William A. Mook in 1964

Marvin L. "Mike" Huyck, M.D., passed away at Bassett Hospital on Aug. 18, 2007, at age 84.

A lifelong resident of Walton, N.Y., Dr. Huyck was a graduate of Cornell Medical College and did his internal medicine residency at Rochester General Hospital. After serving as a medical officer in the United States Army, he returned to his hometown to raise his family and practice general medicine at the Walton Medical Group, with a particular interest in cardiology. He was instrumental in the creation of Delaware Valley Hospital, its coronary care and intensive care units and the development of its Cardiology Clinic. He joined Bassett Healthcare in 1986 and served as a highly respected member of the Bassett Divisional Medicine Staff until his retirement in 1990. He was a superb teacher and role model, and rarely lacked for lighthearted, self-deprecating wit and acts of congeniality.

A remarkable individual in his non-medical life as well, Mike Huyck left behind a rich legacy of devotion and service to family, friends, patients, community, church, and educational, environmental and artistic concerns. Dr. Huyck's life was framed by his reverence for the natural world around him, and environmental concerns were always of paramount importance. Mike Huyck had a particular love of art, color, form and music and was an accomplished amateur water colorist. He is survived by his wife of 62 years, and, among other family members, rheumatologist son Christopher J. Huyck, M.D., who did the third year of his Medicine residency at Bassett (1981-82).



Marvin L. Huyck, M.D.

ALUMNI BOARD MEMBER PROFILE



Rory A. Sears, D.O.

It is a pleasure to welcome Rory A. Sears, D.O., to the Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Dr. Sears grew up in Syracuse, N.Y., and obtained a bachelor's degree in biology from the Rochester Institute of Technology, where she was an Alpha Sigma Lambda society member and a Nathaniel Rochester Society scholar. She received her D.O. degree from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine,

followed by an osteopathic rotating internship at Samaritan Medical Center in Watertown, N.Y. She joined Bassett in 2004 as a first-year Medicine resident, and is now in her chief year.

As chief resident, Rory has devoted a great deal of energy to helping the residents become better teachers to their colleagues and students. She is spearheading an effort to develop a "Resident as Teacher" Day, the first of which

will be held in January 2008. In July 2008, Rory will be doing a fellowship in pulmonary/critical care at the University of Iowa. "I have always loved the atmosphere at Bassett," she says. "I especially appreciate the continued dedication to teaching. Hopefully, I will be returning to upstate New York after training."

Rory is married and has a dog. She enjoys kayaking and cross-country skiing. ■



Members of the Board of Directors of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association on Oct. 5, 2007. Left to right: Drs. Deborah Sentochnik, John Davis, Joe Bell, Jacque Bello, Ken Wilkins, Don Pollock, Doug DeLong, Ted Ruckert, Mark Reichelderfer, Bill Mitchell, Al Kozak, Rory Sears and Anush Patel.

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 e-mail addresses to 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. A workable system will be a daunting task. Let us know what you think!

THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM—ALUMNI NEWS

**Many thanks to those who have submitted the following notes.
To all of you out there, please keep them coming!**

1960s

Allan Cunningham, M.D., (Rotating Intern 1966-7, Attending Pediatrician 1971-92) writes that “after 22 years as a pediatrician at Bassett and 12½ years as a non-tenured associate professor of pediatrics at SUNY Upstate in Syracuse, I retired on Aug. 17, 2007. Linda and I never really left Cooperstown and were at home in Bowerstown most weekends during that interval. We are now back home full time to chop wood, tend the garden and haunt the gym, Will Monie’s bookshop, the Village Library and Bassett’s Medical Library – except for visits to children and grandchildren in Seattle, Tucson and Glen Rock, N.J.

We still see Mike Curry (Michael J. Curry, M.D., Rotating Intern 1966-67) from time to time. With Jim Elting

(Intern and Surgery Asst. Resident 1966-67, Attending Surgeon [Orthopedics] since 1995) we were interns at Bassett in 1966-67. Olaf J. Severud was the unflappable chief of Ob-Gyn, and his partner, Doug Barns, taught me Piper forceps for breech deliveries, a skill I used in the U.S. Indian Health Service in South Dakota. We almost did a lung transplant that year, and I regularly drove Dave Svahn crazy by being late to morning rounds on medicine.” In a note to former colleagues at SUNY Upstate, Dr. Cunningham notes that, “I’ve done a little bit of everything, but mostly I’ve seen a lot of sick and healthy children – 150,000 or so in different settings.” Allan and Linda, welcome back to a full life in Cooperstown!

1970s

Elliot Goldberg, M.D., F.A.C.P., (Rotating Intern 1973-74, Medicine Residency 1974-77, incl. Chief Resident 1976-77) received the Laureate Award from the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American College of Physicians at its Annual Awards Dinner in Hershey. The award honors fellows and masters of the ACP who have demonstrated a long-term commitment to excellence in medical care, education or research, and to service in their community, their state chapter and the American College of Physicians. Dr. Goldberg did his Rheumatology Fellowship at the University of Miami Medical Center and is board-certified in rheumatology. He is chairman of the Department of Medicine at The Western

Pennsylvania Hospital, where he has received the Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award twice from the students and twice from the residents. He was selected for the Gold-Headed Cane Award, given yearly to a physician at The Western Pennsylvania Hospital with outstanding dedication in patient care, education, administration and/or research activities. While director of Medical Education for West Penn Hospital, he developed a strong medical school affiliation with Temple University School of Medicine. Within one year, he helped to develop a clinical campus and was appointed associate dean by Temple. He has built a large practice in rheumatology and developed medical school affiliations with the University of



Elliot Goldberg, M.D.

Pittsburgh and Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. He also started a transitional residency program, supported by both the internal medicine and surgical programs.

Gary S. Hoffman, M.D., (Attending Physician, Rheumatology 1977-85) writes that he met Diane Baker (Hoffman since 1992)

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undergraduate studies at the University of California at Santa Cruz and went on to the University of Colorado School of Medicine, graduating in 1991. He then came to Bassett, where he completed a Transitional Year Residency prior to his Preventive Medicine Residency and Master’s in Public Health at Johns Hopkins, which he completed in 1994. Between 1994 and 2005, Jesse worked as an epidemiologist, first for the state of Idaho and then for the state of New Hampshire.

In 2005, wanting to pursue clinical training, Jesse returned to Cooperstown as an Internal Medicine resident. He finished his training in December. We are all delighted to report that Jesse and his wife, Diane, and sons, Isaac and Noah, will be staying in Cooperstown, as Jesse has accepted a joint appointment in Medicine (Hospitalist division) and Research. He spends his time outside of Bassett with his family, enjoying the lake and environs in and around Cooperstown. He is a dedicated angler and refuses to divulge the locations of his favorite fishing holes. ■

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while working at the NIH, where he directed the Vasculitis and Related Diseases Program from 1986 to 1992. Since that time, they have been enjoying Cleveland, Ohio, where he has been the Harold C. Schott Chairman of Rheumatic and Immunologic Diseases and has limited his practice to systemic vasculitis. The Vasculitis Center within the department has grown to include six senior staff-investigators, nurse practitioners and, at any one time, up to three vasculitis fellows. The department has grown from eight rheumatologists to 30, but is still under-staffed to meet the demand. So, if anyone wants to practice rheumatology in Cleveland as a care provider, educator and/or investigator, give Gary a call!

On a more personal note, Gary and Diane would love to see old friends if they are coming to Cleveland or the general vicinity. Matthew, Gary's elder son, is off in Norway, courtesy of a Fulbright, and Cornell, where he is studying rural sociology toward completion of his Ph.D. Timothy is back in his Peace Corps habitat in Bolivia (Cochabamba). The whole Hoffman family has fond memories of Bassett and Cooperstown.

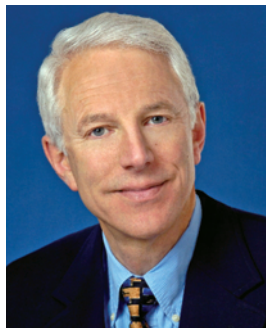
Ralph Janicki, M.D., (*Medicine Resident 1974-77*) tells us that "after nearly three decades of private practice, followed by eight months of uneasy retirement, I answered a call to serve again, this time in the Cardiology Section of the VA Hospital. I began with a dispirited and dysfunctional group of 12 technicians and secretaries. We were woefully behind, as referring physicians waited a year or so for echoes and stress echoes. Now, this same group has turned itself around; we give same-day

service when needed, and we fill routine requests within a week. We're a slick operation now, and all seem proud and pleased with the transition. So, still decked out in scrubs, stethoscope around the neck or neatly folded in the lab jacket, I serve 3½ days a week and couldn't be more content. Scarcely a day goes by that I don't use the skill and style I had the privilege to develop at the Bassett. Those years still serve me well. And thank you again for all of that.

"On the personal side, about a year ago I reckoned I'd try my hand at sprint triathlons. With stepped-up training in the water, on the bike or on the run, I began to explore what's possible for one who recently turned 70. I participated in two events (the last on my birthday), finishing well within my age group. Knees and hips do well, the lungs well expanded, and, fortunately, my heart does not speak to me when straining. Winter training begins soon in preparation for next summer. Plans are to continue skiing this winter wherever the snow happens to fall. I've begun to ski Le Massif, in the Charlevoix region of Quebec. Last June found me purchasing a second home, about a mile from the Tibbets Point Light House, near the village of Cape Vincent, where Lake Ontario and the St. Lawrence River meet. A mile or so across: Wolfe Island (General James of the French and Indian War) and Canada with all its pleasantries. And what a great place to ride the bike. Writing this led me to conclude, it's time to visit the Bassett again."

Raymond P. Robinson, M.D., (*Surgery Resident 1975-77*) writes, "My wife, Jura, and I are happy and healthy. We are empty nesting now, as our three boys are out of, or about to be out of, college and, we think ... on their own. Naive, I

know. Time will tell. Our "child" now is a 3½-year-old border terrier named Tally-Ho. What a character! We are also enjoying opportunities to do a great deal of international lecturing and teaching in places like Monte Carlo, Prague, Rio, Lisbon and Kyoto. I'm afraid sitting in a lot of airports and on planes has resulted in considerable alterations in my body habitus. I feel like a hypocrite telling my patients to get healthy exercise, etc. We may retire in another three or four years. Will wait and see. Best regards to all."



Brian J. Chanatry, M.D.

1980s

Brian J. Chanatry, M.D., (*Flexible Intern 1980-81*) sends word that he has been appointed chair of Anesthesiology at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center in Syracuse, N.Y. After obtaining his M.D. from SUNY Upstate Medical University and doing his internship at Bassett, he did his anesthesiology residency and fellowship in Critical Care Medicine at St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse and has worked for St. Joseph's for more than 20 years. Since 1987, he has been a member of the Anesthesia Group of Onondaga.

Rocco Ciocca, M.D., (*Surgery Resident 1986-91*) reports, "I am currently an associate professor of Surgery at the University of Massachusetts Medical School here in Worcester. As of January 2008, I will be making the move to Boston as the chief of Vascular Surgery at Caritas St.

Elizabeth's Medical Center. I will be shifting my academic appointment to Tufts University Medical School. On a more personal note, my daughter Caroline, who was born during my chief resident year at Bassett, is in the process of applying for college. Time sure flies when you are having fun. Best wishes!"

1990s

Christian T. Muller, M.D., (*First-year Medicine Resident 1999-2000*) writes, "Following my diagnostic radiology residency at Georgetown University Medical Center ('00-'04), I completed a neuroradiology fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia ('04-'06). My wife, Katie, and I currently live in Falls Church, Va., and I have been in private practice with Fairfax Radiological Consultants, P.C., since July 2006. FRC is a large subspecialty group with over 70 radiologists (I am one of 12 neuroradiologists). The pace is fast, but the work is rewarding. Currently, I am deployed to Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo, for three months in support of Operation Joint Guardian. I arrived on Nov. 4 and am scheduled to depart in early February. As you can see from the picture, the Balkan winter is already no joke! I was deployed here previously from October '04 to February '05 and have been in the U.S. Army Reserves since 2001. This time around is a little more



Christian Muller, M.D.
Major USAR, Kosovo,
November 2007

interesting (politically) as the UN mandate expired on Dec. 10 and the Kosovars will decide on whether or not they choose to declare unilateral independence from Serbia. Stay tuned.... I will be chronicling my tour at <http://kosovopartdeux.blogspot.com/> for anyone interested. I fondly remember my time in Cooperstown, and often wonder how everyone is doing. I'm sure the hospital looks quite different from 2000 when I left! I have told Katie much about Cooperstown and I hope to get back in the near future for a visit."



The Nolan family

Francis J. Nolan, M.D., (*Transitional Resident 1990-91*) sends the following: "Here's a photo of the Nolan family on a recent historical trip to Virginia and Monticello, TJ's home. I learned in my Transitional Year that you could have a full, fascinating life and career, both in and beyond Medicine...and I have! We live in Cooperstown/Hartwick, and are developing an organic farm on 100 acres, concentrating on field crops and hay with a local organic dairy farmer. I've been director of Emergency Services for A.O. Fox Hospital for 10 years, after a residency in EM at Boston City Hospital. Wife: Stephanie; kids: Luke, 8; Claire, 7; Aidan, 5; and Catherine, 2. Many fond memories of a very formative year in my life, at MIBH. Hello to all friends and colleagues near and far from the Nolan family." ■

PHYSICIAN EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AT BASSETT

Bassett Healthcare is an expanding institution!

Each of the listed positions is described at <http://www.bassett.org/careercenter/index.cfm>.

There are also many openings for physician extenders and others.

- Anesthesiologist
- Associate Program Director, Internal Medicine
- Cardiologist, General
- Clinical Performance Improvement Professional (M.D. or Ph.D.)
- Colorectal Surgeon
- Critical Care Physician
- Dermatologist
- Emergency Medicine
- Family Practice (Norwich)
- Family Practice (Sherburne/Hamilton)
- Gastroenterologist
- General Surgeon
- Gynecologic Oncologist
- Hospitalist – Cooperstown
- Infectious Disease
- Internal Medicine – Herkimer
- Internal Medicine – Cooperstown
- Neurosurgeon
- OB/GYN Physician
- Optometrist
- Orthopaedic/Hand Surgeon
- Orthopaedic/Joint Reconstruction
- Orthopaedic Surgeon
- Pathologist
- Pediatric Hospitalist
- Pediatrician (Oneonta)
- Pediatrician, General
- Psychiatrist - Interventional
- Plastic Surgeon
- Psychiatrist
- Radiologist
- Urologist

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many of our current and past faculty and residents, Bassett has decided to do something we believe is exciting and needed in today's health care landscape – produce our own students for the third and fourth years of medical school. These students will carry away outstanding clinical skills, including special skills in care of rural patients.

They will understand systems of care, including working within teams, organizing information and a framework to achieve high-quality care for a given population, which we are especially able to convey in the Bassett milieu.

Bassett has hired a chief academic officer, Laura Schweitzer, Ph.D., former dean of the University of Louisville School of Medicine. We have received a \$1.3 million start-up grant from the Hannah-Lee Stokes Charitable Trust. (See *related article*). And we have begun encounters with interested medical school partners, which would supply the first two years of education preceding matriculation in Cooperstown. Henry Weil, M.D., has been appointed co-director of the Medical School Campus Initiative. A newly-formed Curriculum Committee is actively exploring curricular approaches. A well-attended Medical School Journal Club has been meeting since June. There has been widespread expression of enthusiasm from the Bassett medical staff, including the Cooperstown campus and the network sites. And, already, we have seen interest by potential attending recruits looking at Bassett job openings.

We have received interest from a number of schools and have had visits by deans from Columbia, Rochester, Albany and the University of Vermont. In each case, we are examining the “fit” of school mission, ethos and curriculum. These are exciting, ongoing conversations in a complex process involving many factors and guided by Bassett's Board of Trustees. ■

STOKES TRUST GRANT TO SUPPORT MEDICAL SCHOOL PROJECT

The Hannah-Lee Stokes Charitable Trust recently made a grant of \$1.3 million to Bassett Healthcare to support the creation of a medical school campus program.

Mrs. Hannah-Lee Stokes's history of generosity to Bassett and her dedication to the Cooperstown community are legendary. In 1994, Mrs. Stokes contributed \$600,000 to the Friends of Bassett to build the Hannah-Lee House and make a home-away-from-home for patients and family members. Mrs. Stokes made the gift to express her gratitude for being treated at Bassett.

Mrs. Stokes passed away in 2001. Her legacy will now extend to helping Bassett make a medical school program a reality. “Hannah-Lee's gift toward Bassett's new, innovative medical education program is a posthumous blessing from her to Bassett and to Cooperstown,” said medical school initiative Co-Director Dr. Henry Weil, who also was a family friend. “Over several decades, she was a close friend to many of Bassett's visionary leaders, including Drs. George Miner Mackenzie, James Bordley III, E. Donnal Thomas, John Olson and William F. Streck. She believed that the future of our community and the region was inextricably tied to a strong Bassett.”

For more information or to make a contribution toward the Bassett medical school campus program, call the Friends of Bassett office at (607) 547-3928. ■

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