

THE CUPOLA



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

Fall 2013

Reunion Provided Enrichment on Many Levels

By Douglas DeLong, M.D. and Marianne Bez

On a quintessential autumn weekend over 125 alumni gathered in Cooperstown to celebrate their shared experiences at “Mother Bassett,” their friendships and collegiality, and to explore issues in medical education and health care past, present and future. The social gatherings were great opportunities to reconnect. Friday evening, early arrivals enjoyed camaraderie and locally-produced beers at Brewery Ommegang a short distance from the village. The weekend culminated with a traditional barbecue at the Sugar Shack, a familiar haunt to most Bassett alumni and medical staff.

This year’s sessions, marking the 25th anniversary of the formation of the Medical Alumni Association, were both dense with interesting information and entertaining in format. Among the highlights were a thoroughly personal history of Bassett presented with wit and humor by John A. Davis, M.D., six “IMY Talks” (Innovative Mostly Medical Yarns) each a mere 12 minutes in length on a variety of unrelated topics (see page 3), and a panel discussion moderated



John Davis, M.D., welcomed Nicholas Wolter, M.D., CEO of the Billings Clinic and Bassett Medicine Resident from 1977-1980, to present the annual Davis Visiting Professor Lecture on Friday, October 11, 2013.

by Douglas DeLong, M.D., featuring four speakers Nicholas Wolter, M.D., David Pratt, M.D., Jacqueline Bello, M.D., and Andy Coates, M.D., projecting what Bassett (and health care in the U.S.) may look like in the

year 2038.

The weekend’s lectures and activities would not have been possible without a bequest from the estate of James Lipsky, M.D., who was a Medicine Intern and Assistant Resident from 1972 to 1974. Members of his family were in attendance and warmly welcomed for their continuing support of Bassett’s Medical Education mission.

Events kicked off with the annual Dr. John Davis Visiting Professor Lecture on Friday, October 11, 2013. The Davis lecturer and the weekend’s keynote speaker was Nicholas Wolter, M.D., CEO of the Billings Clinic in Billings, Mont. who was a Medicine Resident here from 1977-1980. The subject of his presentation was “Health Reform and the Critical Importance of Group Practice Integrated Health Care.” His years of involvement at both the national level in service to the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission (MedPAC) and as a CEO provide him a valuable perspective which he

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Message from the President of the Medical Alumni Board of Directors

I would like to send out a big thank you to all who participated in our recent Bassett Alumni Reunion weekend for helping to make this such a wonderful event. To those who could not attend I’d like to share some of my experiences with you.

Following our annual Alumni Association Board meeting (see page 2) I headed to the Ommegang Brewery for one of the two alumni events organized that evening.

It was a spectacular drive, with the setting sun casting shadows and flickers of orange and golden light over the hills, valleys and farms along Route 33. At the brewery I joined other alumni and their families from as far away as Southern California and Washington State. Some were at Bassett in the 1940s; some were current students in the Bassett-Columbia program, and all contributed to the warm and buoyant atmosphere of the gathering. We were given name tags to wear, which



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

unfortunately included our old Bassett photos. Everyone enjoyed reconnecting with former colleagues and mentors, and becoming acquainted with other alumni.

The following day we convened in the Clark Auditorium for a series of presentations by Bassett alumni. The morning began with a wonderful review of the history of Bassett by John Davis, M.D., resident archivist. This included many stories I had never heard about the people who helped make Bassett what it is today, and many photos of alumni including some showing interesting hair styles and clothing choices. We heard from Jim Dalton, M.D., about the increasing challenges facing graduate medical education programs, which was quite

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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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Alumni Board Meeting Covers Important Ground

By Alan Kozak, M.D.

In a room which afforded an extraordinary panoramic view of the Bassett campus, ablaze in fall color; Merideth Davis, M.D., called to order the annual meeting of the Bassett Alumni Board. Seventeen members were in attendance. The agenda was packed with presenters who provided updates of Bassett's continued growth and current status, as well as challenges ahead.

William F. Streck, M.D., discussed the increasing fiscal challenges and coping strategies, including the need to move toward more capitation. He also reviewed redesign of administrative structure that has taken place over recent months with the appointment of Steven J. Heneghan, M.D., former Chief of Surgery, to the role of Chief Clinical Officer. Department heads now report directly to Heneghan, who will serve as the major clinical conduit to Bassett's CEO.

This presentation was followed by brief departmental updates by Douglas M. DeLong, M.D., standing in for Charles L. Hyman, M.D., as Acting Chief of Medicine, and Nicholas Hellenthal, M.D., newly appointed Chief of Surgery. Departmental growth, along with some staff turnover, has led to continuous, generally successful, recruitment efforts. Hellenthal discussed the introduction of real time provider assessment accomplished via iPads given to patients at the time of their visits.

John J. May, M.D., Research Institute Director, presented an impressive overview of changes and activities within the Research Institute. The past focus on basic science research has been abandoned largely because of a marked reduction in available funding. Focus has gradually shifted to rural population health, including regional childhood obesity concerns, wellness and safety issues unique to the farming and migrant working populations, as well as assessments of our network's success in various aspects of health care delivery.

Graduate medical educational training programs are currently doing well as pointed out by Edward F. Bischof, M.D., Medicine Program Director, David C. Borgstrom, M.D., Surgery Program Director, and Eric L. Knight, M.D., Program Director for the Transitional year. James T. Dalton, M.D., Director of Medical Education described significant challenges that lie ahead. In the face of increasing requirements put



Members of the Alumni Association Board gathered in Cooperstown in October 2013. Pictured: Seated (L-R): Don Pollock, Ted Ruckert, Bill Mitchell, Sally Ricketts Standing (L-R): Jack Chamberlain, Steve Ching, Anush Patel, Alan Kozak, Rory Sears, Merideth Davis, Peter Gray, Erin McKay, Doug DeLong, Ken Wilkins, Karen McShane, Nick Wolter, John Davis, Jim Dalton, Bill Streck, Steve Heneghan

forth by the American Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), there has been a reduction in funding to support the cost of compliance. Compliance will necessitate carefully organized programs in faculty development as well as more administrative support. In order to maintain the quality of training programs that we all enjoyed, more external financial help will be necessary. Currently, our Medical Education Endowment Fund, valued at \$3.5 million, provides some of this help. Looking ahead, in order to meet the projected financial need, it is estimated that this fund will have to grow to at least \$10 million. As we embark upon another fund raising campaign, we remain hopeful that our alumni will be generous in supporting the effort to meet this goal in the forms of current as well as planned gifts.

Finally, Walter A. Franck, M.D., and Henry F.C. Weil, M.D., presented an uplifting status report on the Columbia-Bassett Medical School. This year we are hosting the second class of 10 highly-select students. They distinguish themselves, not only by an extraordinary diversity of backgrounds and experiences but also by their intellectual achievements. They rank #2 in the country with regard to GPAs and MCAT scores only trailing behind students at Washington University of St. Louis. The unique elements of curriculum were reviewed with particular focus on the innovative SLIM (Systems, Leadership, Integration, Management) curriculum, which has provided a model for not only Columbia's main campus but also other medical schools. It is expected that graduates of this program will be well trained as future physicians and health care leaders. As is the case of our Graduate Medical Education programs, sustenance of this highly successful program will become increasingly dependent on the generosity of alumni donors and philanthropy that has played a role in its formation. ■

“IMY Talks” Debut at Reunion

by Marianne Bez

Mimicking a trend in the world of idea-sharing, this year’s meeting introduced a new format dubbed “IMY Talks.” These sessions titled in honor of the hospital’s namesake Mary Imogene Bassett were intended to be “Innovative Mostly Medical Yarns.” Speakers presented succinct (no more than 12 minutes in length) creative talks on any topic. The day’s six presentations were as diverse, thought-provoking and engaging as those who answered the challenge.

First up was Jocelyn Wittstein, M.D., and an orthopedic surgeon at Bassett Healthcare who presented “Cooperstown: Where Medicine, Education, Research and Baseball Meet!” about her research on shoulder and sports medicine. She focused particularly on her unexpected investigations into throwing injuries in youth baseball players which has emerged because of the sports camps in the area. It was an ideal opening pitch for the first round of IMY Talks.

Next “Humans in a Microbial World” presented by David Byron Chapel, a student in the Columbia-Bassett Medical School Class of 2015, explored the origins of life and offered evidence to support a Deep-Sea

origin over a Surface origin. Any attempted description of the presentation would pale in comparison with Mr. Chapel’s lucid and entertaining delivery. He ended his talk posing the provocative question, “If life



Robert A. Lancey, M.D.



Presenters (l. to r.) David Pratt, M.D., John May, M.D., Andrew Coates, M.D., David Byron Chapel, and Jocelyn Wittstein, M.D., captivated the audience with their IMY Talks. Photos by Michael Butts

arose spontaneously once, why doesn’t it do so continuously today?”

Robert A. Lancey, M.D., Bassett’s former Chief of Cardiac Surgery, (2002-13) offered a humorous and poignant appeal to the audience. While reminding those present of the challenges facing physicians today, he proclaimed that this is still the “greatest profession in the world” and encouraged alumni to be leaders and to focus on what is right. He concluded urging the listeners to do what “your medical school essay said you were going to do.”

John May, M.D., provided an overview of the effective use of social marketing (not social media) to induce New York farmers to install rollover protective structures onto tractors to prevent injuries and fatalities from rollover accidents. This work by the staff of the New York Center for Agricultural Medicine and Health has had far-reaching impact.

Another former Bassett physician David

Pratt, M.D., (Attending Pulmonary Medicine 1978-92) shared a deeply personal account of “the torture of uncertainty” that can arise in the process of medical diagnosis. Offering the perspective of a patient and her family, he ended reminding the audience that uncertainty is a harm and urged all to be careful in what they agree to and order for their patients.

The final presenter Andrew Coates, M.D., (Medicine Resident 1998-2002) spoke passionately about his work with Physicians for a National Health Program, an organization of 18,000 members working for single-payer national health insurance. He reported that the U.S. spends more per capita on health care than any other nation in the world but it performs poorly with regard to major health indicators such as life expectancy, infant mortality and immunization rates. Coates expressed hope that the removal of profit-seeking from medicine would restore caregiving to the core of the profession. ■

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sobering. Walter Franck, M.D., and Henry F.C. Weil, M.D., then provided an update on the Columbia-Bassett Medical School Program, which thus far appears to be a great success as well as a beacon of hope in our health care landscape.

A highlight of the morning was a series of six “IMY Talks” (see page 3) all very personal and unusual. The topics included the establishment of a program at Bassett studying injuries of young baseball pitchers, a meditation on how life on Earth might have begun, the successes of an initiative to improve tractor safety for farmers, how to preserve the concept of caring in health care, and the consequences of uncertainty. After the talks ended and we broke for lunch, people were quiet for a while. Once they spoke they men-

tioned how moved they were, and commented on the unique and extraordinary quality of the presentations.

The keynote speaker of the afternoon was Nick Wolter, M.D., the CEO of the Billings Clinic and someone who is very active in shaping a health care delivery system that is able to thrive amid the current fiscal and regulatory climate. He discussed the mounting challenges that we will face for the next several years.

The last event of the day was a barbecue at the Sugar Shack, complete with live music. I had the opportunity to meet even more alumni and their family members. Everyone spoke fondly of their experiences at Bassett and their time in Cooperstown, and just seemed very happy to be back. There were so many wonderful things about this reunion, but for me the best thing was to be among others who were also part of the unique Bassett culture. ■

THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS

Please keep your notes and photos coming! Editor

1960s

William Porter, M.D. (*Medicine Resident 1963-67*) writes to say, "I have been retired 15 years and have done nothing medical since then. Bassett was where I really learned my medicine. Unfortunately I live 3,000 miles away and can not easily come back."

1980s

Gerald Kolski, M.D. (*Attending, Pediatrics/Allergy-Immunology 1986-93*) Retired as Chairman of Pediatrics at Crozer Chester Medical Center. He writes that, "Since 2010 I have been practicing Allergy in Texas one day a week. We moved here to be closer to daughter Andrea, granddaughter Meyers, and warmer weather... Susan, my wife of 46 years, enjoys retirement in our community in Montgomery, Texas."

1990s

Kelton Burbank, M.D. (*Transitional Year Resident 1991-92*) sent news about job changes. He recently left UMass to take a position with Reliant Medical Group/Atrius Health. And his wife also recently left her job as hospice director at HealthAlliance and is now working in urgent care. In addition to having young, active kids (the twins are now almost 7) they are also helping with aging parents. Consequently he was unable to attend the reunion weekend this year. He added, "Bassett still holds a special place in my heart as it was during

my year there I transitioned from Family Practice to Orthopedics due to mentoring by Drs. Lynch, Richman, Ries and Mick. My year there was unique in that teaching took priority over service (who could forget the 'Res-Attendings') making it by far the best year of my (too many) years of residency training."

Cheryl Baker, M.D. (*Medicine Resident 1995-98*) is working part-time for Duke, teaching in the outpatient resident clinic and involved with global health. She adds that she accepted an additional job one day/week with nearby UNC-Chapel Hill starting a new reverse co-location primary care model embedded in a mental health facility to see if health outcomes can be improved in this population. She wrote, "My husband is well, working actively at UNC-Chapel Hill as a teaching physician. My kids are growing; my oldest is 16 and got her driver's license this month. My youngest (age 11) is an energetic 6th grader who loves tennis. I hope my former resident colleagues and attendings are doing well."

2000s

Gary P. Chimes, M.D., Ph.D. (*Medicine Resident 2002-03*) reports "I have joined a new private practice in Bellevue, Washington called Lake Washington Sports & Spine. While I miss the teaching from working in academia for the past six years, I am enjoying the challenge of helping middle-aged folks, myself



Gary Chimes, M.D.

included, live healthier lives and exercise more. I very much enjoyed visiting Bassett for a Grand Rounds last summer, and hope to visit again." He added that he has been named Chair of the Musculoskeletal Council for the American Academy of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation.

2010s

Shelly Bhowmik, M.D. (*Transitional Year Resident 2012-13*) sent an update from Johns Hopkins where she is doing a

preventive medicine residency. She writes, "So far I'm having a great time in my new residency. One of the highlights of the summer was meeting **D.A. Henderson, M.D.** (*Intern 1954-55, Fellow in Medicine 1958-59, member Board of Trustees 1995-2001*). For those of you who may not know, Dr. Henderson is credited for the eradication of smallpox (not too shabby, right?) but more importantly, he was a resident at Bassett and dean at Hopkins. He's the reason why there's always a Hopkins Preventive Medicine TY rotating through Bassett!"

William LeCates, M.D., (*Medical Director and Attending Nephrologist, Bassett Medical Center*) recently completed his second deployment to Afghanistan as a member of the New York Army National Guard. As the Officer-in-charge of the Troop Medical Clinic in Kabul he provided primary care and emergency medical care for U.S. service members, coalition forces and civilians. ■



D.A. Henderson, M.D., next to Shelly Bhowmik, M.D., with some of her colleagues



Members of the Columbia-Bassett Class of 2017 pose for a picture while in Cooperstown. Pictured, back row from left, are Peter Young, Daniel Hoesterey, Brandon Garcia and Marcos Lopez, Jr. Front row from left, are Assistant Dean for Education Henry F.C. Weil, M.D., Kirby Pruis, Henna Shaikh, Rachel Criswell, Daphne Monie, Ph.D., Columbia-Bassett Director of Research and Education, Kathryn Nagel, Rachel Severin, Jonah Zuflacht and Senior Associate Dean Walter Franck, M.D.

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shared most honestly with the audience. He is a strong supporter of clinical integration, alignment of physicians across specialties and in more leadership positions, payment for value, and the development of new skill sets to advance health care delivery. Wolter believes that with the integration and analysis of data from electronic patient records, "information will be the most powerful change agent over the next few years." He concluded his presentation with the prediction that the next seven to eight years will be "frustratingly imperfect."

The next day, Wolter shared information about the Billings Clinic and how his organization is coping with the challenges and transitions facing rural health care providers. He credits some of its success to a structure that is community-governed, physician-led and patient-centric. He indicated that his training experience at Bassett inspired some of the organizational development at Billings. Wolter told the audience, "We should do the right thing regardless of the reimbursement, that's my definition of professionalism." In keeping with his view of the need for physician leadership, at Billings staff physicians are represented on both the Board of Directors and the "internal board" known as the Leadership Council.

We should do the right thing regardless of the reimbursement, that's my definition of professionalism.

Nicholas Wolter, M.D.

On Saturday, Director of Medical Education James Dalton, M.D., (Medicine Resident 1979-83) offered an update on the Medical Residency Program and particularly underlined the need for increased faculty development to meet changing standards. Deans of the Columbia-Bassett Medical School, Henry F.C. Weil, M.D., (Medicine Resident 1986-89) and Walter Franck, M.D., (former Chief of the Department of Internal Medicine) introduced the audience to the program's high-caliber students, its longitudinal curriculum and its course of

Bassett Surgeons Recognized

A wonderful celebration was held in honor of two senior surgeons James Bordley, IV, M.D., and Patrick A. Dietz, M.D., on Friday, October 11, 2013. Over 115 current staff, Surgical Alumni, friends and family members gathered at the Louis C. Jones Center at The Farmers' Museum to recognize these gentlemen for their combined service of 70 years at Bassett Healthcare.

"It was a wonderful occasion to bring people together to recognize the contributions of Drs. Bordley and Dietz" said Steven J. Heneghan, M.D., Chief Clinical Officer. "They exemplify the quality of care and expertise that Bassett strives to deliver."

William F. Streck, M.D., Bassett CEO said a few words about each honoree. Guests were treated to poetry written and read by Randy Zuckerman, M.D., (Surgical Resident 1996-2002) in honor of Bordley and an original verse about Dietz by current vascular surgeon Robert Moglia, M.D. Former Bassett residents returned from as far away as Michigan, Texas and Wyoming.

Among the special guests in attendance were Mrs. Audrey Ashley, whose husband, Charles Ashley, M.D., was head of the hospital prior to Streck, and her son, Stanley Ashley, M.D. ■

What is SLIM?

SLIM, Systems/Leadership/Integration/Management, is a component of the Columbia-Bassett Medical School curriculum that is intended to prepare students to be future leaders.

Substantial training in these areas is achieved by a unique collaboration between Bassett faculty and the faculty of the Columbia Schools of Business and Public Health.

In addition to their immersion in a broad range of experiences, the students have benefited from a distinguished list of guest lecturers.

For more information about the Columbia-Bassett Medical School, visit the website at: www.columbia-bassett.org

study focused on ethics, evidence-based medicine, and health care systems. The program's course work in Systems/Leadership/Integration/Management (SLIM) reverberated in comments throughout the day. This innovative approach was praised as an important contribution to the development of new leaders for the future of health care. (see description of SLIM above)

The day concluded with "Bassett 2038," a panel discussion in response to questions from the audience. The subjects ranged widely, the opinions were diverse, and the atmosphere was totally cordial. By the end of the session, the audience was exchanging ideas and speculating about the future. It was an ideal ending to a day filled with thoughtful presentations and friendly discussions.

Facility tours were given by Anush Patel, M.D., (Medicine Resident 2003-07). These included a stop at the Simulation Learning Lab funded by contributions from the Medical Education Endowment. ■

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. For more information visit:

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

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

Cardiac Surgery	Neurosurgeon
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Family Medicine (Delhi, NY)	Optometrist
Family Medicine (Herkimer, NY)	Orthopedic Surgeon
Family Medicine (Norwich, NY)	Otolaryngology
Family Medicine (West Winfield, NY)	Pediatrics (Co-Medical Director-SBHC)
Family Medicine (Sherburne, NY)	Podiatric Surgeon
Gastroenterologist	Primary Care Physician - (Cobleskill, Herkimer, Norwich, Oneonta, NY)
General Surgery	Psychiatrist - Adult (Inpatient)
Hematology Oncology Physician	Radiation Oncologist
Hospitalist	Urologist
Infectious Disease	Vascular Surgeon
Internal Medicine - Prime Care (Cooperstown, NY)	
Nephrologist	
Neurologist	

Memories of the 2013 Alumni Reunion October 11–12, 2013



Elliot Goldberg, M.D., (Medicine Resident 1977-79) and his wife Polly are pictured here with Walter Franck, M.D., Dean of the Bassett-Columbia Medical School and former Chief of the Department of Internal Medicine.

*Those IMY Talks were genius and very well carried out.
I found it very refreshing and thoughtful.
— Emery Herman, M.D.
(Attending Physician 1959-94)*



At Saturday's luncheon, Douglas DeLong, M.D., made a presentation to the nursing staff of Bassett Healthcare on behalf of the members of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association. Mary Powell, Marge Armstrong, and Betty Bell (l. to r.) were on-hand to accept the certificate of appreciation which stated, "Presented to the Nursing Staff of Bassett Medical Center in recognition and acknowledgement of their many services and contributions with appreciation from generations of physicians who benefited from the knowledge and experience they shared so generously."

*Traveled longest distance to be here:
Bill Mitchell, M.D., (Internal Medicine 1977-81) came from
Olympia, Wash., and Gordon McLaren, M.D., (Internal
Medicine 1970-71) came from Irvine, Calif.*



The final presentation of the day was a lively audience Q and A envisioning Bassett 2038. Fielding a diverse range of topics were (l. to r.) David Pratt, M.D., Andy Coates, M.D., Jacqueline Bello, M.D., (Transitional Year Resident 1980-81) and Nick Wolter, M.D.

*Of course the reunion activities, the camaraderie
and the entire experience were enriching.
I await 2018 with pleasure, hoping my old car
and my old body will cooperate.
— Charles R. Feuer, M.D.
(Rotating Intern 1962-63)*



The reunion kicked off with a reception at a Belgian-style brewery. Pictured (l. to r.) enjoying the event are Jim Murray D.O., (Medicine Resident 2000-04), Brian White, D.O., (Transitional Year Resident 2004-05), George Aguilar, M.D., (Transitional Year Resident 2005-06), and Elizabeth Murray, D.O., (Medicine Resident 2003-04).



Bassett biochemist and researcher Ted Peters, Ph.D., pictured with Mrs. Audrey Ashley, whose husband, Charles Ashley, M.D., was head of the hospital prior to Streck, and her son, Stanley Ashley, M.D.



Members of the Lipsky family joined in the reunion events funded by the estate of James Lipsky, M.D., Medicine Intern and Assistant Resident from 1972 to 1974. Pictured here l. to r.: Jennifer Saks, D.V.M., with her parents Nelson Saks and Dorothy (Jim Lipsky's sister) Saks, and Aaron Lipsky (Jim Lipsky's brother).

Twenty-five years ago a few of us conceived an alumni association.

It is gratifying to see where it's come!

— Jack Chamberlain, M.D.

(Rotating Intern 1957-58)



Saturday's agenda included a luncheon at the Bassett Clinic which some of the participants enjoyed on the dining patio overlooking the Susquehanna River. Picture l. to r. Jim Dalton, M.D., Ken Wilkins, M.D., (Medicine Resident 1980-84), and his wife Dru Wilkins, Silvia Picciafuoco, M.D., (Medicine Resident 1995-96), Eric Rubin, M.D., (Transitional Year/ Medicine Resident 1987-89), and John Davis, M.D., with back to camera.



William Streck, M.D., joined the festivities for the day and is shown here with (clockwise from Streck) Joan Harvey, M.D., Associate Dean for Student Affairs, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, and her sister Jenette Wheeler, M.D., Student Health Services, University of Pennsylvania, Dan Westphal, M.D., (Internal Medicine resident 1973-75), and his son, Tim.

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current \$3.5 million in the fund. Therefore Bassett's Medical Alumni Association has launched a campaign to increase the Medical Education Endowment, and Feuer is getting involved again.

This time, he's arranging for a Charitable Remainder Unitrust, which after his death will provide income for each of his two children for the duration of their lifetimes. Ultimately the remainder of the fund will go to the endowment. "I am especially pleased that Bassett manages the trusteeship of this fund," reflected Feuer. "The organization has an interest in seeing that it is done well. It is a win-win situation."

Charlie hopes he might inspire other alumni to consider making similar contributions. "These gifts help enrich Bassett's educational experience for the next generation," he said.

Alumni are asked to consider evaluating their financial and estate plans to establish a legacy gift to benefit the Medical Education Endowment. Major contributions may be given in cash, securities, property and other tangibles with cash value.

Alumni who wish to support the campaign either directly or through a legacy gift are encouraged to contact Joshua Truman (joshua.truman@bassett.org), Director of Development, or Michael Stein (michael.stein@bassett.org), Vice President of Development and Executive Director at The Friends of Bassett at 607-547-3928. ■

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

One Alumnus Continues the Tradition of Making a Difference



Charles R. Feuer, M.D.

On the surface, Charles R. Feuer, M.D., might have seemed an unlikely intern to fall in love with Bassett and Cooperstown. Raised in Manhattan, also attending college and medical school there, most of his hospi-

tal experience was at Bellevue. Before beginning a residency in radiology, Feuer opted to do a one-year rotating internship at Bassett in 1962-63. Although he returned to New York City and worked his entire career in the metropolitan area, his fondness for his Bassett experience remained strong. The young intern never forgot the welcome he received here, his training, or the friends and ties he formed in that short period.

“Sure I was taught a lot in medical school, but it was fragmented. When I got to Bassett, I learned how to put it all together,” Charlie recalled as he sat gazing at Otsego Lake while in Cooperstown for the Alumni Reunion weekend. He remembers that his internship training was diverse, including OB, pediatrics, surgery, medicine, and E.R. Also, interns did a rotation in the laboratory and were required to go on ambulance calls.

“I experienced valuable one-on-one learning here and had opportunities to get

to know my patients and the attending physicians very well,” said Feuer. His education went well beyond the doors of the hospital. While here, he discovered the fun, and hazards, of exploring back-country roads with his newly-earned driver’s license and first car. He took up playing squash and skiing, on snow and on water.

Because this experience was so meaningful to him, Feuer marked the 50th anniversary of his internship in a special way. For many years he has been a regular contributor, lately at the Founder’s Circle level. In 2012, he funded a charitable gift annuity that provides him with lifetime income and will benefit the Medical Education Endowment upon his death. “It is a pretty easy way to make a contribution,” he said. “It doesn’t hurt in the least; there’s a tax benefit and quarterly income better than what you can get at the bank these days.”

To underwrite significant programs relating to Medical Education requires an endowment considerably greater than the

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