What a fabulous reunion weekend we had in Cooperstown! Nearly 70 folks gathered from as far away as Israel to enjoy catching up, learn what’s happening at Bassett these days, and hear some fine presentations. Thanks to all who came and especially to those who made the weekend possible. Lots of hard work went into this event ahead of time and during the weekend.

We were fortunate to have Darilin Moyer, M.D., EVP/C.E.O. of the American College of Physicians, spend two full days with us. She spoke about women in medicine for the John S. Davis Lecture and followed that with a discussion of “Why Health Is More Than Healthcare” for the Jim Lipsky Lecture. She also made rounds with the house staff and medical students. The IMY (Imaginative, Mostly Medical Yarns) talks were enjoyable and varied. Our social gatherings at Red Shed Brewery and the Sugar Shack were also highlights.

To those who couldn’t make it this year: I urge you to strongly consider a return visit to Cooperstown for the next reunion, which we hope will be in five short years. You will not be disappointed.

Look for photos and articles about the weekend in this issue of The Cupola and on the Alumni Association’s Facebook page, and as always, please let us know what’s up with you.

Kenneth Wilkins, M.D., President, Board of Directors
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.

Alan J. Kozak, M.D.
Editor

FLAT Graphics
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A new class of students from the Columbia-Bassett Medical School were welcomed to Cooperstown. Members of the Class of 2022 pictured here include: Front row (L-R) Kathleen Yu, Julie Huff, Jamie Aron, Kelsey Clayman. Back row (L-R) Henry F.C. Weil, M.D., senior associate dean for Education; Kenneth Hubbell, Joseph Cornett, Liam Heneghan, Adam Richter, Alexander Bulteel, Kerry Filtz, Megan Brennan, M.D., assistant dean for Education.

Bassett Surgeons Recognized

(L-R) W.T. (Tom) Huntsman, M.D.; M. Bernadette Ryan, M.D.; and Robert M. Moglia, M.D.

Staff members, medical alumni, friends and family members gathered to honor three surgeons on Friday, October 5, 2018. “It was great to see our staff and a number of alumni return to honor the careers of Drs. Ryan, Moglia, and Huntsman,” said Nicholas Hellenthal, M.D., surgeon-in-chief. “The evening was emblematic of what makes Bassett a special place to work—the camaraderie amongst peers and the ties and dedication to patient care, teaching, and learning that bind us.”

Testimonials were presented for each of the honorees. Patrick A. Dietz, M.D., spoke about Robert M. Moglia, M.D. and the fellowship they shared over many years in practice. Erin Gillaspie, M.D., (Surgery resident 2009-13) who is now thoracic/transplant surgeon at Vanderbilt in Nashville, Tenn., recognized M. Bernadette Ryan, M.D. Eric K. Mooney, M.D. spoke about his longtime colleague W.T. (Tom) Huntsman, M.D.

Lecture from page 1
to model. Greater communication and collaboration between colleagues are necessary. She offered the following steps by which men can support change: evaluate fairly, give women credit, share office housework, accommodate parental responsibilities on the job, mentor women and offer equal access.

This John S. Davis lecture was both dense with research data and references and engaging in subject matter and delivery. Described by Douglass DeLong, M.D., president of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association, as occupying the nation’s most important job in medicine, the presenter Darilyn V. Moyer, M.D., personified what can be achieved in an inclusive world where women in medicine are provided equal access and opportunity, and are permitted to contribute, listen, and collaborate to their best abilities.

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.
Against the backdrop of a beautiful, blue-skied and sunny morning, observed from the library conference room, Doug DeLong, M.D., welcomed 16 current and four new Board members to a meeting whose agenda piqued much interest. 

New members include Mike Foltzer, M.D., former Bassett Medicine resident and attending in the ID Division, a recent retiree as director of ID at the Geisinger Clinic; Erin Gillaspie, M.D., former Surgery resident, now a faculty member of Vanderbilt’s Department of Cardiothoracic Surgery since completion of a Cardiothoracic Fellowship at the Mayo Clinic; Jing Luan, M.D., former Medicine resident, currently a hospitalist at Lowell General Hospital, Lowell, Mass., and Rachel Zehr, M.D., former Surgery resident, currently working as a Bassett-employed general surgeon based in Oneonta.

William LeCates, M.D., newly installed as president of Bassett Medical Center, had been a staff nephrologist over the preceding 12 years after completing medical school, medical residency, and fellowship training at the Johns Hopkins University and Medical Center. He outlined goals to provide the highest level of care to all; to continue to focus on improving the patient experience; to provide care to a larger segment of the surrounding community; and to focus on the growing national problem of opioid abuse and addiction.

James Dalton, M.D., director of Medical Education, spoke of the increasing emphasis on how residents learn to take care of patients in broader context with greater awareness of the administration of health care, disparities of care, and the continuum of care from the hospital to the community. He reported that over the past year the Medical Education Endowment Fund supported programs in Faculty Development and growth of the Active Learning Center. The corpus of this fund hovers around $3.5 million. It is hoped that alumni donations will add to this amount. He shared the progress that has been made in the development of a Family Practice Residency Program at Bassett. Recruitment for a Family Medicine residency, greatly supported by current staff and by the program have been successful with their internship matches. Other residents have gravitated toward hospitalist medicine, with few entering Primary Care. Andrew Griffiths, M.D., associate program director for Surgery, spoke of expanded training opportunities with one resident this year accompanying a small group of surgical attendings to Zambia to teach laparoscopic surgical techniques. Another will be going to Montana to spend time with Bassett alumnus Randy Zuckerman, M.D., who is a biliary tract surgeon.

As the Transitional Residency Program Director, Eric Knight, M.D., spoke of the program’s continued success, with consistently excellent Match results, with most entrants having been previously committed to subsequent programs in Anesthesiology, Dermatology, Public Health and Radiology. Since the development of the Columbia-Bassett student program, there has been an increase in the number of Columbia graduates in the Transitional year.

The status of the Columbia-Bassett Medical School was given by Henry F.C. Weil, M.D., senior associate dean for Education at Bassett Healthcare. Currently, the seventh class is on site. The program remains highly competitive. Students apply from an impressive panel of colleges and universities and demonstrate not only extraordinary academic records and MCAT scores but also a wide array of experiences that define them as an elite and multitalented group. They derive unique experience through not only the longitudinal structure of their program but also the focus on the SLIM and Lean Six Sigma as well as the Humanities components of the curriculum. The role of adverse childhood experiences as triggers to impaired health will be an added focus of the program, greatly supported by current staff and by the addition of Robert Whitaker, M.D., who is nationally recognized for his work in this area. Graduates from the program have been successful with their internship matches. This year a member of the first class of Columbia-Bassett students, Allan Guiney, M.D., joined the Bassett staff as an ER physician.
**1960s**

Jay P. Mohr, M.D. (Internal Medicine resident 1963-65) shared his trajectory after Bassett to Mass General Hospital to continue training, Walter Reed during the Vietnam war, back to Boston, then University of South Alabama in Mobile to start the Department of Neurology. Since 1983 he’s been at the Neurological Institute of Columbia University Medical Center, where he was the Daniel Sciarra Professor of Neurology, and is now emeritus director of the Doris & Stanley Tananbaum Stroke Center. His wife Joan was on staff for 30 years at the University Medical Center, where he represented the Chaplain at the Columbia University Medical Center.

**1970s**

Dan Westphal, M.D. (Internal Medicine resident 1973-75) recently returned (Internal Medicine resident 1976-79) retired in 2015. He and his wife Barbara have been married for 43 years and are blessed with three children and five grandchildren, and two precious Boston terriers. Together they established a medical device company, SurgiMark of which he states, “It is absolutely wonderful working in something successful that we built together over a lifetime. It’s not really work—it’s joy and keeps us sharp and healthy.”

**1980s**

Richard Yarger, M.D. (Surgery resident 1976-79) retired in 2015. He and his wife Barbara have been married for 43 years and are blessed with three children and five grandchildren, and two precious Boston terriers. Together they established a medical device company, SurgiMark of which he states, “It is absolutely wonderful working in something successful that we built together over a lifetime. It’s not really work—it’s joy and keeps us sharp and healthy.”

**1990s**

“Joy” Ngarmukos, M.D. and Siwaporn Chainuvati, M.D. Chardpra-orn “Joy” Ngarmukos, M.D. (Transitional Year/Internal Medicine resident 1994-1998) and Siwaporn Chainuvati, M.D. (Internal Medicine resident 1998-2001) wrote “We both now are working at Mahidol University, Bangkok Thailand. Dr. Joy is at Ramathibodi, and I work at Siriraj Hospital. We do miss Cooperstown and all the staff there.”

**2000s**

Kai Mebust, M.D. (Internal Medicine resident and chief resident 2000-04) never left Cooperstown. He joined the Bassett hospitalist program where he works alongside fellow alums and hospitalists Edward Bischof, M.D. (Internal Medicine resident 1995-98); Rosemary McCabe, D.O. (Internal Medicine resident and chief resident 2000-04); Nataliya Yuklyeva, M.D. (Internal Medicine resident and chief resident 2012-16); and James LaCava, M.D. (Internal Medicine resident 1987-91). Mebust reports that, “Bassett recently created a network-wide hospitalist program which I lead, so I also get to work with colleagues Jonathan Daniel Croft, D.O. (Internal Medicine resident and chief resident 2003-07) who is at Fox Hospital, with those at Little Falls Hospital where Norm Freund, M.D. (Internal Medicine resident 2001-04), is the heart and soul of that shop, with Cobleskill Regional Hospital, and O’Connor Hospital. On the home front, the three babies we brought to Fernleigh have become men…leaving Lynne and me home alone trying to figure out how to be successful empty nesters! Keep in touch!”

**2010s**

Sarah and Ross Baldwin sharing the Alaskan wilderness with new son Reed.

Ross Baldwin, M.D. (Surgical resident 2010-15) is working at Alaska Native Medical Center doing broad-based general surgery and acute care. He and Sarah welcomed their first child in July, and the baby is already enjoying the great outdoors. Ross writes, “He will be attending his first ACS meeting in Boston where I am being inducted as a Fellow. Life is good, and I think back on my time in Cooperstown fondly. Thanks everyone and sorry to miss the party this fall!”

**THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS**

Please keep your notes and photos coming!
Nicholas Wolter, M.D.

Nicholas Wolter, M.D., former CEO of Billings Clinic in Billings, Mont., died at age 70 on September 7, 2018.

Wolter received his B.A. at Carleton College, his M.A. in American Culture at the University of Michigan and his M.D. at the University of Michigan Medical School in 1977. He did his medicine residency at Bassett (1977-1980), followed by a fellowship in Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine at the University of Michigan.

At the 2013 Bassett Medical Alumni Family Reunion, Wolter delivered the Dr. John Davis Visiting Professor Lecture on health care reform and group practice. He shared how the Billings Clinic coped with challenges and transitions facing rural health care providers. Wolter indicated that his training experience at Bassett served to inspire some of the organizational development he implemented at Billings. He stated, “We should do the right thing regardless of the reimbursement, that’s my definition of professionalism.”

Wolter served as CEO of the Billings Clinic from 1997 to 2017. During his tenure the Billings Clinic became the largest health care organization in Montana, with more than 4,000 people, including a 450 physician and provider multispecialty group practice, a 304-bed hospital, a 90-bed nursing home, and management of 11 critical access hospitals.

Wolter was a former member of the American Hospital Association (AHA) Board of Trustees and was recognized with the AHA’s Justin Ford Kimball Innovators Award. He also was a former board member of the American Medical Group Association, former commissioner of the Medicare Payment Advisory Commission and former chair of the board of the Montana Hospital Association.

Wolter is survived by four grown children and nine grandchildren as well as other extended family and many friends and colleagues.

Bordley Lecture Presented

The sixth lecture honoring James Bordley III, M.D., director of the Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital (1947-66) was delivered by Darrell G. Kirch, M.D., president and CEO of the Association of American Medical Colleges (AAMC) on October 12, 2018 at Templeton Hall in Cooperstown. Kirch spoke on the topic of “How Will Medical Centers and Their Communication Thrive in the 21st Century?”

In 2006, Kirch became president of the AAMC, which represents the nation’s medical schools, teaching hospitals, and academic societies. He speaks and publishes widely on the need for transformation in the nation’s health care system and how academic medicine can lead change across medical education, biomedical research, and patient care.


For the careers of Drs. Henderson, Thomas and Greenough as related to Bassett’s history, see Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown NY, 200 Years of Health Care in Rural America, by John S. Davis, M.D., published by Bassett Medical Center in 2017.

Newly Appointed Physician Makes Full Circle

With the appointment of Allan Guiney, M.D., as an attending physician in Emergency and Trauma Services, Bassett welcomes back another of the medical staff members who can claim the distinction of being born at The Mary Imogene Bassett Hospital and receiving some medical education here. Guiney earned his undergraduate degree from Hamilton College in Clinton before entering the Columbia University College of P&S, through the Columbia-Bassett Program (Class of 2014) as its first graduate to join Bassett’s senior staff. He completed his residency at New York University, Bellevue Emergency Medicine, New York, N.Y. He returned to Cooperstown with his wife Elizabeth Guiney, a certified midwife who is also employed in Bassett’s Obstetrics Department.

He is the son of two physicians who worked at Bassett, Kathleen Lloyd Guiney, M.D., former radiation oncologist and late William B. Guiney, M.D., who served as a pathologist at Bassett from 1979 until his death in 2005.
Family Reunion Was a Great Success

Classic autumnal days greeted those who attended the 2018 Family Reunion marking the 30th anniversary of the founding of the Bassett Medical Alumni Association. Bassett’s current physician staff, residents and medical students, retirees and alumni from around the world gathered in Cooperstown on October 5 and 6, to celebrate friendship, to learn about Bassett’s Medical Education programs today, and to reflect on past experiences.

The program got underway on Friday morning with the annual John S. Davis Visiting Professor Lecture on a very timely topic of Women in Medicine: Creating an Inclusive Healthcare Environment delivered by Darilyn V. Moyer, M.D., chief executive officer of the American College of Physicians (ACP). (See the detailed article on page 1 for more information about this lecture.)

Afterwards, Moyer devoted her day to the students and residents, attending rounds and generously sharing her knowledge with them.

On Saturday, participants heard updates about Bassett and its programs. Bassett historian and former director of Medical Education, John S. Davis, M.D. offered entertaining highlights of the institution’s history as captured in his book, Bassett Hospital in Cooperstown: 200 Years of Health Care in Rural America. His comments were followed by a briefing from William F. Streck, M.D. president and chief executive officer of the Bassett Healthcare Network, who spoke about how Bassett is realigning for the future to protect the treasures of the Bassett Healthcare Network, who spoke about how Bassett is realigning for the future to protect the treasures of the institution, to position it to capitalize on opportunities, and to meet the challenges of the vastly different environment facing healthcare.

The morning concluded with six presenters of IMY Talks (Intriguing Mostly Medical Yarns) modeled on the concept of TED Talks. Student Rachel MacLean (Columbia-Bassett Class of 2020) opened the showcase with a live performance of Cape Breton fiddling from her home base in Nova Scotia. (A short video of her performance is available on the Alumni Association’s Facebook page.)

She was followed by Michael Bauer, M.D. (Internal Medicine resident 1977-80, Pulmonary Medicine Visas for foreign candidates.

Dalton shared the news that Bassett intends to start a Family Medicine Residency. This new program was conceived of five years ago in response to the need for more primary care providers at Bassett and elsewhere. The first residents should be in training in mid-2021.

These remarks were followed by a briefing from William F. Streck, M.D. president and chief executive officer of the Bassett Healthcare Network, who spoke about how Bassett is realigning for the future to protect the treasures of the institution, to position it to capitalize on opportunities, and to meet the challenges of the vastly different environment facing healthcare.

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This talk was followed by another creative interlude. Lawrence Barnowsky, M.D. (Radiology attending 1982-present) first shared a video performance of an original song he wrote called Esperanza’s Dream (available on YouTube) which was inspired by images of refugee children held in cages after being separated from parents and guardians. He concluded this emotional piece with a quote from a poem by Emma Lazarus. Before yielding the stage, Barnowsky revealed another of his talents with a magic trick involving six silver rings, executed in sync to a rhyming description. (A portion of this performance is also available on the Alumni Association’s Facebook page.)

A firsthand perspective on health care and hurricanes was offered by Kenneth W. Wilkins, M.D. (Medicine resident 1980-84) of his home town New Bern, N.C. and its experience during Hurricane Florence. Wilkins was offered by Kenneth W. Wilkins, M.D. (Medicine resident 1980-84) of his home town New Bern, N.C. and its experience during Hurricane Florence. Wilkins was...
Clark Family Philanthropy Furthers Medical Education

While the philanthropic commitment of the Clark family is well known in the Bassett community, perhaps less well known is the investment that the family and its Clark Foundation and Scriven Foundation have made to medical education here.

Gifts from the Clark family have shaped medical education at Bassett almost from the start of the institution. In the late 1920s, Stephen C. Clark Sr. agreed to reopen and refurbish what was then Bassett Hospital after it had closed following the death of its namesake physician, Mary Imogene Bassett, M.D. From that time forward, teaching became a pillar of Bassett’s mission, and many Bassett physicians today can recount support for educational opportunities they received that were made possible by the generosity of the Clarks. Today that philanthropic investment extends to students of the Columbia-Bassett Medical School program, who receive significant scholarships funded by the Scriven Foundation.

At the Medical Alumni Association reunion on October 6, the Clark family was recognized for their support of medical education. John S. Davis, M.D., a founding member of the Medical Alumni Association and former Director of the Medical Education Program, presented a facsimile of a plaque honoring the family’s contributions, the final version of which will be placed in the Clark Auditorium on the Bassett Medical Center campus.

Jane Forbes Clark, who heads both the Clark and Scriven foundations, attended the presentation at the reunion luncheon and commented on the recognition:

“It is a wonderful honor to have the Bassett Medical Alumni place this plaque in The Clark Auditorium. Over 100 years ago, my grandfather, Stephen C. Clark Sr., and his brother, Edward, were very clear-minded about their sense of purpose and vision for the hospital—it was to deliver quality health care, with integrity, to this rural community. A purpose and a vision as relevant today, as it was then. This plaque is a tribute to their vision and support, and I cannot thank the Alumni enough.”

Thanks are extended to the Clark family and all supporters of medical education at Bassett, without whose contributions the program could not continue to thrive.