Columbia-Bassett Program off to a great start

Between getting to know the Cooperstown community and settling in at Columbia, studying gross anatomy and discussing health care systems and delivery issues with high-powered executives, the inaugural Columbia-Bassett Program class has had a busy first year.

Meanwhile, interest in the unique medical school program remains high, with a second class of 10 outstanding students selected this spring from a pool of 698 high-caliber applicants from all over the country. Members of the second Columbia-Bassett class and their schools are: Alana Aylward, NYU; Bryan Block, Dartmouth; Billie Borden, Middlebury; Kathleen Breeding, Dartmouth; Robert Brickley, Williams; David Chapel, Michigan; Margaret Dowd, Notre Dame; Annette Georgia, Smith; Adam Hsu, Chicago; and Seth Mathern, Wyoming.

In addition to addressing the shortage of rural physicians, the Columbia-Bassett Program seeks to train a new generation of doctors capable of leading health systems that promote both quality and cost-effective delivery of care. Students will spend their first 18 months learning the basic science curriculum with the rest of their class in Manhattan and will then come to Bassett for two and a half years of clinical training. They will manage the care of individual patients over time and be exposed to many other aspects of health care, including finance, risk management, patient safety, quality improvement and medical informatics.

While most medical students begin their careers with a White Coat Ceremony, the 10 students in the inaugural Columbia-Bassett class started their journey quite a bit differently during a weeklong orientation in Cooperstown last August. Some mucked stalls in a cow barn; others pounded beams at a construction site or worked in the kitchen at a local restaurant.

“We come with very diverse experiences, and at most medical schools you’re expected to leave that at the door and be a doctor,” said Freda Ready, who grew up in Manhattan and graduated from Cornell University. “Here, you’re encouraged to connect with your patients as people and to also grow personally, not just professionally.”

President’s Message

These days, there is no shortage of articles, often appearing on the front pages of newspapers, about health care. Typically the content of such articles contains little about either health or care. Somewhat ironically, reading these articles tends to elicit a feeling of anxiety in me, rather than one of comfort.

Opposing forces are pulling the medical profession in different directions. We have one foot in the traditions of Hippocrates and the teachings of Halsted, and another in the politics of cost control and the technological advances of human genomics. For this reason, it has always been a welcome balm for me to return to Bassett each year for the annual medical alumni board meeting.

Bassett continues to pay homage to its long and illustrious history — displayed on plaques and photographs on the walls of the medical center, referenced in lectures, and manifested in the individualized care of patients and the traditions of bedside teaching of students and residents. At the same time, Bassett continues to be a visionary organization. The latest example of this is the new medical training model for the Columbia-Bassett medical school program. It is this ability to draw from both worlds — the traditional and the innovative — which brings hope to the medical professional and patient alike, and, perhaps, makes it a bit easier to read the newspaper.

Merideth Davis M.D.
President, Board of Directors
Bassett Medical Alumni Association
DA VINCI SURGERY DEMAND GROWS

Just two and a half years after Bassett began offering da Vinci surgery, the robotic-assisted technique is being used in a growing number of specialties, with excellent outcomes, and the program is expected to expand even more this year.

Bassett's first da Vinci surgery, a prostatectomy, was performed by Dr. Carlos Bermejo in fall 2008. Since then, da Vinci surgery has expanded from urology to general surgery to gynecology to cardiac surgery, and ENT is next on the horizon. Before da Vinci, Bassett was doing very few prostatectomies and no nephrectomies.

Now, demand is steadily increasing for these and other surgeries performed using the minimally invasive, computer-assisted technique. The addition of the service has helped expand Bassett's geographic reach, with patients coming from as far away as Albany and Utica. It has also been a valuable physician recruitment tool. "As more surgeons are trained on the da Vinci or similar robotic units in their residency and fellowship programs, it will continue to be a draw for prospective new surgeons in urology, general surgery and gynecology," said Holly Conway, administrative director of Bassett's Department of Surgery.

SPINE CARE INSTITUTE ESTABLISHED

Bassett's new Spine Care Institute offers a comprehensive, multidisciplinary approach to the diagnosis and treatment of a variety of musculoskeletal conditions, including back and neck pain, disc herniation, scoliosis and arthritis of the spine.

Patients receive care from a team of specialists in orthopedic spinal surgery, neurosurgery, interventional pain management and physical therapy. The team is led by Spine Care Institute Director Reginald Knight, M.D., an orthopedic spine surgeon, and includes two Bassett trainees: Emily DeSantos, D.O., who spent time at Bassett as a student at the University of New England College of Osteopathic Medicine, and Brian White, D.O., who did his transitional internship at Bassett.

Services are provided at several locations in the network, including the Center for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation on Railroad Avenue in Cooperstown, Cobleskill Regional Hospital, Hartwick Seminary Specialty Services, Herkimer Health Center and Oneonta Specialty Services.

THE BASSETT FAMILY ALBUM — ALUMNI NEWS

Thanks to Drs. Chimes and Terndrup for sending in their news! But how about the rest of you out there? (cupola@bassett.org)

1980s

Thomas E. Terndrup, M.D., FACEP, FAAEM (Flexible Intern 1981-82) Professor and Chair, Department of Emergency Medicine and Associate Dean for Clinical Research at the Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine, sends word that he received the University Distinguished Professor Award March 24, 2011. Congratulations, Tom!

2000s

Gary P. Chimes, M.D., (First-year Medicine Resident 2002-03 who went on to a residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at UMDNJ) reports, "I am currently working at the University of Pittsburgh. My academic Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation practice is thriving. Recent developments include being named the Fellowship Director for the Musculoskeletal Sports & Spine Fellowship. I've also recently been named the Point-Counterpoint Feature Editor for our field's lead journal, PM&R, and have been busy lecturing nationally on sports medicine, low back pain, musculoskeletal ultrasound, and therapeutic use of testosterone supplementation. On a personal note, my girlfriend, Allison, and I had a wonderful vacation in Cooperstown this past summer visiting our good friends Brian and Susan White, and it was great to reconnect to both the town and Bassett."
MATCH RESULTS ANNOUNCED

Bassett recently announced the following postgraduate appointments for the 2011-2012 academic year:

**General Surgery**
- Jessica R. Carlson, M.D., Oregon Health & Science University School of Medicine
- Cristina R. Ionescu, M.D., University of Toledo College of Medicine
- Snow Petersen, M.D., Tulane University School of Medicine

**Internal Medicine**
- Keri Allen, M.D., University of Rochester School of Medicine and Dentistry
- Nischala Ammanagari, M.B.,B.S., S.V.S. Medical College, India
- Ramya Chinnasamy, M.B.,B.S., Psg Institute of Medical Sciences and Research, India
- Kelly Hodson, M.D., Florida State University College of Medicine
- Wonngarm Kittanamongkolchai, M.D., Chulalongkorn University, Thailand
- Chrystal Price, D.O., Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine
- Saira Rashid, M.B.,B.S., King Edward Medical College, Pakistan
- Supawat Ratanapo, M.D., Phramongkutklao Medical College, Thailand
- Narat Srivali, M.D., Phramongkutklao Medical College, Thailand
- Patompong Ungprasert, M.D., Faculty of Medicine, Siriraj Hospital, Thailand

**Transitional Year**
- Kristen A. Ahern, M.D., SUNY Upstate Medical University
- Nicolas T. Kummer, M.D., New York Medical College
- Bo Li, M.D., Albany Medical College
- Rostislav Medvid, M.D., Albany Medical College
- James L. Nasralla, M.D., Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine
- Ranjit S. Sandhu, M.D., SUNY-Upstate Medical University
- Sylvie R. Stacy, M.D., University of Massachusetts Medical School
- Huynh Tran, M.D., SUNY-Buffalo School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences
- Ryan L. Webb, M.D., Mount Sinai School of Medicine

**Albany Students**

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<tr>
<th>Residency, In His Image Family Medicine, Tulsa, Okla.</th>
<th>Brian Myer, General Surgery, Eastern VA Medical School, Norfolk, Va.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Richard Amankwah, Internal Medicine Residency, Medical College of Wisconsin</td>
<td>Mary Barrett, Pathology Residency, Albany Medical College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dennis Chang, Anesthesiology Residency, Cleveland Clinic Foundation</td>
<td>John DeAngelis, Transitional Year Internship, Newton-Wellesley Hospital, Newton, Mass.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kathryn Fuchs, Orthopedic Surgery Residency, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center</td>
<td>Maximilian Hsi, Anesthesiology Residency, University at Buffalo</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maximilian Hsi, Anesthesiology Residency, University at Buffalo</td>
<td>Gregory Lewis, Family Medicine</td>
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**COLUMBIA from page 1**

The 10 students did don white coats and take the Hippocratic Oath when they arrived at Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons after their week in Cooperstown, which included a day with Down syndrome children and adults and residents of a nursing home; a discussion with James Carse, author of “Finite and Infinite Games,” about the forces that influence people and dominate business and politics; classes on health care finance and medical errors; and shadowing physicians in the outpatient and hospital setting.

Over the past nine months, the students have “integrated beautifully” into their class, while also maintaining “an identity and sense of pride in their program within Columbia,” said Walter Franck, M.D., Columbia’s senior associate dean at Bassett.

In addition to traditional first-year courses, including Molecular Mechanism, Foundations of Clinical Medicine, Psychiatric Medicine and The Body in Health & Disease, the students have had monthly lectures by guest speakers focusing on the SLIM (Systems, Leadership, Integration and Management) curriculum.

“The purpose is to encourage them to be mindful of learning about the American health system, what works, what doesn’t and what’s being contemplated in terms of changes — and also to continue to expose them to physician role models and talk to them about performance improvement and process reengineering,” said Henry Weil, M.D., Columbia’s assistant dean for education at Bassett.

The SLIM component, which is unique to the Columbia-Bassett Program, has been extremely well received. “Consistently, each Bassett seminar proves to be the highlight of my month,” says Blake Alberts, a University of South Dakota graduate.

“It has been a phenomenal experience to be able to discuss problems and potential solutions in the health care industry with the high-powered doctors, hospital administrators, insurance representatives, and IT specialists that have come to speak with us,” agreed Mark J. Harris, a graduate of Dartmouth College. “Our first year of medical school has had its challenges, but our opportunity to discuss broad themes and systems-level issues has kept us intrigued and energized for the road ahead.”

All 10 of the students will spend their summer doing research before beginning their final semester in Manhattan. Meanwhile, at Bassett, preparations are being made for their arrival in January 2012. Building on a reputation for teaching excellence that goes back many years, and the success of the recent partnership with Albany Medical College, a growing number of Bassett faculty are engaged in curriculum development.

The new program broadens opportunities for faculty to be involved, and about 90 percent have received Columbia appointments. “What is attracting the students and what will be the primary source of value to them is the great Bassett faculty,” said Weil.
IN MEMORIAM: BASSETT REMEMBERS

We count on our alumni to report to us the passing of former Bassett trainees and senior staff.

GEORGE L. PLAIN, M.D.

George L. Plain, M.D., passed away peacefully in his sleep on Jan. 6, 2011, at age 79. Born in Chicago on Nov. 15, 1931, he moved to Detroit, where his father was a surgical resident at the Henry Ford Hospital. He moved frequently, as his father was in the Army during World War II. He lived in Solvang, Calif., and was the only student in his seventh-grade class at the one-room Ballard School. He attended Carleton College in Northfield, Minn., where he met his future wife, Marie Louise Marshall (“Mari”). In 1957, George received his M.D. degree from the University of Rochester in Rochester, N.Y., followed by internship and a year as Assistant Resident in Medicine at Bassett Hospital. In 1959, Dr. Plain volunteered for the Army. He was stationed in Washington, D.C., and worked in the surgeon general’s office and Fort Belvoir. Afterward, he returned to Cooperstown to complete his medical residency. He was then a research fellow with E. Donnall Thomas, M.D., studying the experimental effects of bone marrow transplant, research for which Dr. Thomas was awarded the Nobel Prize for Medicine.

Dr. Plain and his family moved to South Bend, Ind., in 1964, where he established and maintained a private practice in internal medicine. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of South Bend and was very involved in Camp Kooch-I-Ching, a boys’ camp in northern Minnesota, serving on the board and eventually becoming board chair in 1974. Dr. Plain’s association with the Stanley Clark School included serving as a board member for 13 years and nine years as chairman of the Education Committee. Dr. Plain and family first visited the Vail Valley in 1969. For many years, he and Mari split their time between homes in Colorado and Iowa. He is survived by his wife, Mari, of 55 years, along with four children, David M. (Terry) Plain, Caren E. (Peter) Davis, George B. (Andrea) Plain, M.D., and Alice M. Plain and partner Shelli Fullhart, and eight grandchildren.

HERBERT F. REILLY JR., M.D.

We have received late word of the death on March 23, 2009, of Dr. Herbert F. Reilly Jr. Dr. Reilly was an Assistant Resident in Surgery at Bassett from 1961-62. He went on to be an attending radiologist at Ellis Hospital in Schenectady for 35 years, 15 of which were as Department Chief. In addition to his wife of 50 years, Audrey A. Reilly of Rexford, N.Y., he leaves behind five sons and 13 grandchildren.

MELVYN C. THORNE, M.D.

Dr. Melvyn C. Thorne, a semiretired professor at the Johns Hopkins University Bloomberg School of Public Health who was interested in maternal child care and family planning in developing countries, died Aug. 16, 2010, of a heart attack at his Roland Park home at age 77.

The son of a mechanic and homemaker, Mel Thorne was born and raised in San Francisco. Returning from Europe, Dr. Thorne enrolled at Berkeley, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in 1958 in physics. After graduation in 1965, Dr. Thorne worked in Rabat, where he cared for Peace Corps workers and developed a program for volunteer laboratory auxiliaries, before returning for a year with the U.S. Public Service in Framingham. In 1966-67, he served as Assistant Resident in Medicine at Bassett Hospital.

He then moved to Washington, where he trained Peace Corps doctors for overseas service. After receiving his master’s degree in public health in 1968 from what is now the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Dr. Thorne went to Tunisia, where he was a consultant to the Tunisian Ministry of Health and helped develop a maternal child health care and family program.

Find us on Facebook!
Review past issues of The Cupola and find out about upcoming events at: http://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/The-Cupola/207583115920130
Remembering Bassett in your will or through a planned gift is an investment that pays off in more ways than one. More than 20 years ago, John S. Davis, M.D., Director of Education Emeritus, and his wife, Jean, set up a charitable remainder unitrust to support medical education at Bassett.

“It was important to me to do this, because Jean and I were together in Cooperstown as part of the Bassett community for much of our lives, and Bassett was the defining place for my whole career in medicine and a wonderful place to work,” said Dr. Davis.

The charitable remainder unitrust provided the Davises with a tax deduction when it was established and has been generating reliable income every year since. More importantly, it has given Dr. Davis a way to make a difference by supporting a Bassett program that is near and dear to him.

You, too, can make an investment that will make a difference. Perhaps the quickest and easiest way to do so is to remember Bassett in your will, either by specifying a percentage of your estate, a dollar amount or the remainder. Your attorney will word the will to express your wishes; the correct designation is “Friends of Bassett Inc.” Once you make Bassett a beneficiary of your will, please let the Friends of Bassett know, as you will become a member of The Cupola Society in perpetuity, receiving special recognition and invitations to exclusive events during your lifetime.

Along with naming Bassett in your will, you can make other important investments that can provide you with immediate tax advantages and income or assist you in managing your estate. With most of these planned gifts, Bassett receives the value of your investment after your death; in every case, your commitment is a clear demonstration of your support for the work Bassett does or for a program that has particular meaning for you.

A popular planned gift is the charitable gift annuity, which requires a minimum gift amount of $5,000 to establish. You must be 65 years or older. Charitable gift annuities enable you to make a substantial gift to the Friends while receiving reliable, fixed payments that begin when the annuity is established. Please contact the Friends for current rates of return, which are based on your age at the time the annuity is set up.

If you are not yet 65, you can establish a deferred charitable gift annuity, which can be funded over several years and provides a tax deduction when it is set up. The start of payments can be specified for any time once you turn 65, and the amount of money used to fund the annuity is deducted from the taxable value of your estate.

Like Dr. Davis, you might decide that a charitable remainder unitrust fits your needs. The charitable remainder unitrust provides you with lifetime income that grows as the funds invested in the trust appreciate. You receive an income tax deduction, your heirs avoid estate taxes on the assets contributed to the trust, and capital gains taxes are eliminated if you contribute appreciated property.

You might also consider establishing a charitable lead trust, which pays income to the Friends of Bassett for a specified number of years. At the end of the term, the principal in the trust usually passes on to your children, grandchildren, or other family members with reduced or even eliminated estate and gift taxes.

There are other ways to give, too—through gifts of life insurance, real estate, and personal property. Please contact the Friends of Bassett for more information:

Friends of Bassett, Inc.
One Atwell Road
Cooperstown, NY 13326-1394
Phone: (607) 547-3928
Fax: (607) 547-6994
E-mail: friends.office@bassett.org

ACTIVE LEARNING

Above left: Dr. Patrick Darling, director of the Emergency Department at A.O. Fox Hospital, tries out one of the new high-fidelity patient simulators available for clinical training in Bassett’s Active Learning Center, located on the lower level of the medical library. The new equipment includes “Harvey,” a cardiopulmonary patient simulator with heart sounds and learning software; “SimMan,” an advanced high-fidelity patient simulator with computerized software scenarios and monitoring capabilities and a virtual phlebotomy simulator, (above right).
**BASSETT LOOKS BACK—YOUR HELP IS NEEDED**

As I hope most of you know, your editor is working hard to produce a high-quality book on Basset's remarkable history. The format will be a story going back into the early 19th century and marching up to the present. Multiple photos, newspaper clippings, sidebars and informative endnotes should enliven the text.

There are so many high points to consider, e.g., Mary Imogene Bassett's physician parents; the education and early academic career of Mary Imogene; her Cooperstown practice; the era of the Thanksgiving Hospital; Edward Severin Clark's building of the Bassett Hospital in Dr. Bassett's honor; the use of the building as a military hospital in World War I; the flu pandemic in Cooperstown; the demise of the hospital after Dr. Bassett's death; its rise in 1927 thanks to Dr. Henry Cooper and Stephen Clark, Sr.; the salaried-staff concept by Director Dr. James Greenough; the development of the academic missions of patient care, teaching and research under Dr. George Mackenzie; the research leading to a Nobel Prize under the tenure of Dr. James Bordley III; the first regional clinics and building of the present hospital under Dr. Charles Ashley; and the expansion of the institution into a regional network of six hospitals and 28 regional clinics under Dr. William Streck, to name just a few of the highlights.

But, to make the story more interesting I need your help: Please send me any personal memories, vignettes or other commentary that you wish to share! While I can't promise to put them all in print, they will certainly help me to give flavor and panache to the finished product. I'm aiming for the end of this year. In the meantime, cheers to all of you for your parts in making Bassett what it has become!

— John Davis

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**POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

Alumni, please look hard at the following opportunity list for someone you might know and whom you think would “fit” the Bassett model. We’re now a six-hospital network with 28 regional sites and counting!

- Anesthesiologist
- Cancer Center - Director
- Dentist (Delhi)
- Dermatologist
- Emergency Medicine
- Endocrinologist
- Family Medicine (Sherburne)
- Family Medicine (West Winfield and Richfield Springs)
- Gastroenterologist
- General Surgeon (Oneonta)
- Hematologist/Oncologist
- Hospitalist
- Hospitalist (Hamilton)
- Internal Medicine (Herkimer)
- Internal Medicine (Oneonta)
- OB/GYN (Cooperstown)
- Orthopedic - Foot & Ankle Reconstruction
- Orthopedic - Joint
- Psychiatrist - Adult
- Psychiatrist - Child
- Pulmonologist
- Radiologist
- Rheumatologist
- Spine Fellowship - Bassett
- Spine Care Institute
- Urologist
- Vascular Surgeon

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**1999 ALUM RETURNS TO BASSETT**

David Joswick, M.D., has joined Bassett as a board-certified anesthesiologist. Before joining Bassett, Dr. Joswick practiced as a staff anesthesiologist at Caritas Norwood Hospital in Norwood, Mass., and was chief of anesthesiology from 2007-2008. Dr. Joswick received his undergraduate degree at State University of New York, College at Geneseo, and earned his medical degree at State University of New York Upstate Medical University, College of Medicine, in Syracuse. He completed an internship at Bassett in 1999 and a residency in anesthesiology at Caritas St. Elizabeth’s Medical Center, Tufts University School of Medicine, in Boston.

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**THE CUPOLA**

Bassett Healthcare
One Atwell Road
Cooperstown, NY 13326

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