



Save the Date: Alumni Weekend 2027

Celebrate in Chicago April 30–May 1

Mark your calendar for **Alumni Weekend 2027**! Your Alumni Relations team and medical school leadership look forward to welcoming you back to campus **April 30–May 1** for a weekend filled with learning, connection, and celebration.

Whether you're returning for a milestone **reunion (class years ending in 7 or 2)**, gathering with fellow **Half Century Club** members, interested in mentoring students, or simply eager to see what's new at Northwestern, you'll find plenty of ways to make the weekend your own.

As the Medical Alumni Association's cornerstone event, Alumni Weekend brings our alumni community together for meaningful conversations with classmates, insights from world-class faculty, opportunities to explore the downtown campus, and celebrations with old and new friends. **All alumni are invited to join us!**

More details will be coming later this year, so be sure to save the date. If you have questions or are celebrating a milestone reunion and would like to get involved with your class committee, contact Katie Bradshaw Ferris at katie.ferris@northwestern.edu.

Add Alumni Weekend 2027
to My Calendar



Katie Bradshaw Ferris

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From the Director's Desk:

Dear Alumni,

We are busy putting together programming for **Alumni Weekend 2027**. This includes forums with faculty from Northwestern, tours of campus, opportunities to interact with and mentor students, and plenty of chances to reconnect with classmates. We will be celebrating reunion classes ending in 2 and 7 and all Half Century Club members, but Alumni Weekend is open to all alumni! If you are marking a milestone reunion and would like get more involved as a class representative, please reach out to [Katie Bradshaw Ferris](#).

Be on the lookout for more details coming later this year. **Please save the date for April 30–May 1, 2027.**

Thank you,

Babette



Babette Henderson '21 CERT

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A New Chapter Begins



Photo by Nathan Mandell

On August 7, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine welcomed our newest class of medical students at the annual Founders' Day celebration. Surrounded by family, friends, faculty, and university leaders, the incoming Class of 2026 marked the beginning of their medical education and received their first white coats.

As these students begin their journeys at Feinberg, they join a community shaped by generations of physicians, educators, and alumni who have carried forward a commitment to patient care, discovery, and service.

The Medical Alumni Association is grateful to the alumni donors who sponsored white coats for this year's M1 class. Your generosity helped make this milestone possible and gave these future physicians a memorable welcome to our community.

For more of our Founders' Day coverage, visit the [Feinberg News Center](#).

Founders' Day 2026
Celebration

Out West with Northwestern



This month, we've been on the road connecting with alumni across the Mountain West, with gatherings in Colorado Springs, Colorado, on

August 12 and Billings, Montana, on August 13.

In Colorado Springs, alumni gathered at the Cheyenne Mountain Resort for an evening of conversation and connection. It was wonderful to spend time with alumni and friends and strengthen Northwestern connections in the area.

In Billings, we were grateful to **MAA Board member Doug Carr '76, '78 MD**, for hosting us at the Yellowstone Art Museum. Alumni from the classes of 1951 through 2017 enjoyed drinks, appetizers, and dinner while exploring the galleries and catching up with fellow alumni.

Thank you to everyone who joined us and helped make these gatherings special! We'll keep the momentum going with more opportunities to connect with your fellow alumni across the country.

Colorado Springs and
Billings Photo Album

MAA Digital Series: Hosted by Joseph Gugenheim, '72 MD

"Eight Deadly Weeks in Chicago: The 1918 Spanish Influenza Pandemic"

Eight Deadly Weeks in Chicago

The 1918 Spanish Influenza Pandemic



Joseph Gugenheim, '72 MD

We're thrilled to bring you the newest installment of our MAA Digital Series from our fantastic host and historian, alum **Joseph Gugenheim, '72 MD**.

Join us this month as Dr. Gugenheim examines the profound impact of the 1918 influenza pandemic on Chicago and Northwestern. From public health restrictions and wartime pressures to community responses and a football season upended by illness, the presentation explores how the city and University navigated an unprecedented crisis and what we can learn today from this chapter in history.

Dr. Gugenheim presents **"Eight Deadly Weeks in Chicago: The 1918 Spanish Influenza Pandemic."**

Thank you, Dr. Gugenheim!

Stream "Eight Deadly
Weeks in Chicago: The
1918 Spanish Influenza
Pandemic"

COMING SOON:

"History of the Big Ten"

To commemorate the debut of Northwestern University's new Ryan Field, our presentation next month is a lighthearted look at the history of the Big Ten athletic conference. You don't need to know a touchdown from a first down to enjoy this whimsical look at the megaconference which now spans the entire country from the Atlantic to the Pacific. You will learn the Monsters of the Midway were not dinosaur bones unearthed at the airport.

You won't learn the difference between a 4-3 defense and a 3-4 defense, but you will learn how the conference known as the Big Ten began as a meeting of seven university presidents at the Palmer House Hotel in Chicago's Loop.

Catch up on all previous episodes of our MAA Digital Series on our

[MAA website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Student Research Takes Root



A Feinberg student-led study is examining a striking connection between Chicago's urban environment and health outcomes. Harrison Garcia, a medical student at Feinberg, led the study, which found that neighborhoods experiencing greater losses in tree canopy also saw higher mortality rates. Benjamin Barrett, a PhD candidate in health and biomedical informatics at Feinberg, is a co-author.

The findings, [published](#) in *GeoHealth*, offer a new perspective on the health implications of Chicago's changing urban landscape and underscore the potential importance of trees and green space in public health. This research is prompting conversation beyond Northwestern, shining a spotlight on the incredible work of our student researchers.

Discover more about the surprising connection between urban trees and health in the full story on [Northwestern Now](#). Congratulations to Harrison and Benjamin!

Northwestern Now

65 Years and Counting



Steven Roberts, '61 MD, with Larry Kuhn (pictured left to right)

Senior Associate Dean Larry Kuhn recently caught up with **Steven Roberts, '61 MD**, in Dallas, Texas. Dr. Roberts celebrated his 65-year medical school reunion this year by making a gift to his class scholarship and hopes he will inspire fellow alumni to join him in supporting the next generation of medical students.

We're grateful for opportunities to connect with alumni across the country and were especially glad to celebrate Dr. Roberts and his classmates this year. Thank you, Dr. Roberts!

Last Call: What I Did on My Summer Vacation



The sun has almost set on summer, but there's still time to share your adventures, memories, and favorite moments on our “[What I Did on My Summer Vacation](#)” Kudoboard.

Whether you've been traveling across the globe, relaxing at the lake, spending time with family and friends, exploring your hometown, or cheering on your favorite team, we'd love to see how you've spent your summer.

Share a photo, video, or note about what's made your summer memorable. Feel free to add captions and stories from your adventures. Bonus points for featuring your Northwestern gear. We love seeing purple around the world!

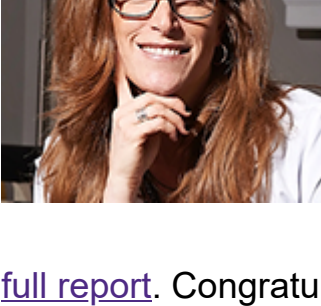
Join the conversation and share a glimpse of your summer with fellow alumni. We can't wait to see your photos, stories, and purple pride!

What I Did on My Summer Vacation Kudoboard

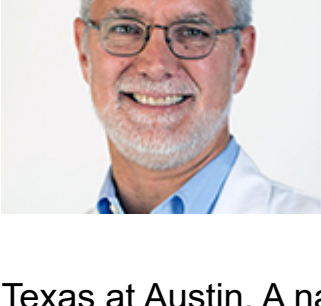
Congrats Are in Order!



Jeffrey M. Brandt '01 CERT, chief executive officer of Brandt Ventures, has been named the recipient of the 2026 James H. Campbell Commitment to Outcomes Award from the American Orthotic and Prosthetic Association (AOPA). A leader in evidence-based orthotic and prosthetic care, Jeff founded Ability Prosthetics & Orthotics, which grew to 15 locations across three states and became one of the first orthotic and prosthetic organizations to incorporate standardized outcomes measurement into routine clinical care. He is the co-founder of Kinetic Revolutions, founder of *Lifenhanced* magazine, former treasurer and board member of AOPA, and currently serves on the Live in Motion Foundation Board and the Hanger Clinics Products & Services Advisory Board. Jeff also serves on the Limb Loss and Preservation Registry's External Collaborative Panel, contributing to national efforts to establish a quality registry to improve patient care. His honors include the AAOP Distinguished Practitioner Award, the ROMP Empowerment Through Mobility Award, and recognition among the O&P News 175. Congratulations, Jeff!



Wendy Wagner '98 MPT, DPT, recently published a case report in the *Journal of Orthopaedic & Sports Physical Therapy (JOSPT)*, titled “Physical Therapy Management of Upper Cervical Instability in a Patient with Hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome: A Case Report.” Visit the JOSPT website to [access the full report](#). Congratulations, Dr. Wagner!



J. Stuart Wolf Jr. '85, '88 MD, became the first urologist in the world to use CFlex in a cystoscopy case. Dr. Wolf is associate chair for Clinical Integration and Operations and chief of the Division of Surgery Subspecialties in the Department of Surgery and Perioperative Care at Dell Medical School at The University of Texas at Austin. A nationally recognized leader in endourology, Dr. Wolf is the author of over 300 peer-reviewed articles and videos, 150 invited publications, and served on the editorial boards of 11 journals. Congratulations, Dr. Wolf!

Do you have news to share with us or know of an alum we should recognize? Tag us on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#), or email us at medalum@northwestern.edu.

Upcoming Events



Medical Alumni Association: Plan It Purple Calendar

Did you know that the MAA has its very own [Plan It Purple calendar](#)?

With the Plan It Purple calendar, you'll never miss a Medical Alumni Association event!

You can register for events, download a save-the-date reminder to your calendar, and learn more about other University-wide events and offerings.

Bookmark the MAA calendar or visit the [MAA home page](#) to keep tabs on all of our upcoming events.

Visit the MAA Plan It Purple Calendar

Human Healthspan Series: Measuring Biological Age in Humans with Douglas E. Vaughan, MD | Chicago, Illinois

Tuesday, September 1, 2026 | 3–4:30 p.m. CDT

Join us for the September Human Healthspan Seminar featuring Douglas E. Vaughan, MD, director of the Potocsnak Longevity Institute, presenting “Measuring Biological Age in Humans: Navigating the Journey to Healthspan Extension.”

The seminar kicks off the Human Healthspan Seminar Series, a new monthly, in-person series presented by the Geroscience Academy. Seminars are held in Baldwin Auditorium on the first Tuesday of each month from 3–4 p.m., followed by an optional networking reception from 4–4:30 p.m.

The series explores emerging research in aging, longevity, and healthspan while creating opportunities to connect with the Potocsnak Longevity Institute and collaborators across disciplines.

Location: Robert H. Lurie Medical Research Center | Baldwin Auditorium | 303 East Superior Street | Chicago, Illinois

For the full series lineup, visit the [PLI Upcoming Events page](#).

Advance registration is required.

Register for Human Healthspan Series



Have Coffee & Conversations with Jeffrey H. Barsuk, '99 MD, '02 GMER, '10 MS | Webinar

Tuesday, September 15, 2026 | 10–11:30 a.m. CDT

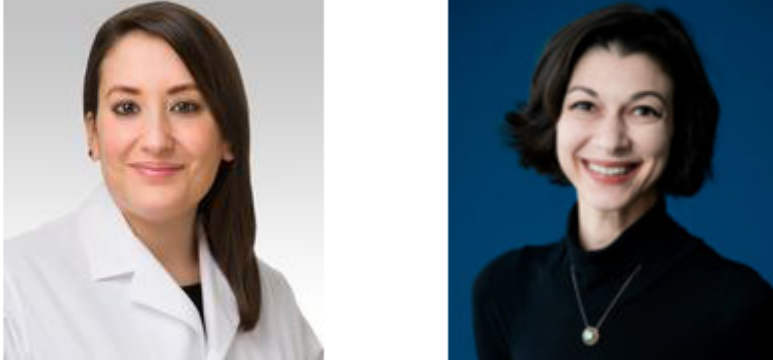
Join the Half Century Club for the next installment of Have Coffee & Conversations, “Simulation-Based Mastery Learning in Medical Education,” featuring **Jeffrey H. Barsuk, ’99 MD, ’02 GMER, ’10 MS**, the Robert Hirschtick Professor of Medicine at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and executive medical director of Northwestern Simulation.

Dr. Barsuk will explore simulation-based mastery learning, an approach to medical education in which learners must demonstrate a high level of competency before completing their training. He will discuss the principles and evidence behind this model, its impact on clinical outcomes, and how it is being used at Feinberg and Northwestern Memorial Hospital.

Location: Virtual via Zoom | Link provided upon registration

Advance registration is required.

Register for Have Coffee & Conversations



TEDxChicago 2026 | Chicago, Illinois

Saturday, October 3, 2026 | 10 a.m.–6:30 p.m. CDT

Join TEDxChicago for a day of ideas, conversation, and inspiration featuring speakers from across Chicago. This year’s event, “We the People,” will feature Feinberg faculty members **Tamar Gefen, ’12 MS, ’15 PhD**, and Jessica L. Schleider.

Location: Harris Theater for Music and Dance | Millennium Park | 205 East Randolph Street | Chicago, Illinois

Tickets are available through [TEDxChicago](#).

Register for TEDxChicago 2026



SAVE THE DATE: Alumni Weekend 2027 | Chicago, Illinois

Friday, April 30–Saturday, May 1, 2027

Get ready to celebrate in Chicago next spring!

Return to campus, reconnect with classmates and friends, enjoy lectures and tours, and gather for memorable class dinners. We’re excited to welcome our 2027 reunion classes and Half Century Club members, and we invite all alumni to join us for the weekend.

Not your reunion year? Not a problem! There’s so much to see and do. Plan to spend the weekend with us.

Stay tuned for more information coming later this year.

Questions? Contact the Medical Alumni Association at medalum@northwestern.edu.

Add Alumni Weekend 2027 to My Calendar

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