

June 2026 | Issue No. 103



Your Assignment: What I Did on My Summer Vacation

Summer is here, and we invite you to share your adventures, memories, and favorite moments on our [“What I Did on My Summer Vacation”](#) Kudoboard.

Where is summer taking you this year? Whether you're 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 it!

Share a photo, video, or note showing how you're spending your summer. Feel free to add captions and stories from your adventures. Bonus points for featuring your Northwestern gear. We love seeing purple around the world! ❤️

We can't wait to see where summer takes you!

[What I Did on My Summer Vacation Kudoboard](#)

From the Director's Desk:

Dear Alumni,

We hope that your summer is off to a great start! We have set the dates for **Alumni Weekend 2027, which will be held April 30–May 1** on our Chicago Campus. More details to follow later this year. We hope that you will save the date and plan to join us to celebrate our reunion classes. All alumni and guests are welcome. We'll have CME programming, mentoring opportunities, and celebrations galore.

Please reach out with any questions.

Thank you,

Babette



Babette Henderson '21 CERT

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Alumni Weekend 2026 Photos Are Here!



The wait is over! Relive your favorite Alumni Weekend moments through our [Alumni Weekend 2026 photo gallery](#), featuring [reunion class dinners](#), signature events, and celebrations throughout the weekend. We hope that you enjoy revisiting the memories and spotting familiar faces along the way.

If you haven't shared your thoughts already, we'd appreciate your feedback through our [Alumni Weekend survey](#). Your input helps us plan future Alumni Weekend and reunion experiences.

Save the date and mark your calendars: Alumni Weekend 2027 will be held April 30-May 1 on our Chicago campus! All alumni and guests are welcome.

[Alumni Weekend 2026 Photo Album](#)

[Class Dinners 2026 Photo Album](#)

[Alumni Weekend 2026 Survey](#)

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

“The History of Abbott Hall”

The Abbotts and Their Hall



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**.

During his Alumni Weekend 2026 forum, “Have Coffee and Conversations with the Half Century Club featuring The History of Abbott Hall,” Dr. Gugenheim shared the evolution of this storied building with an engaged audience, many of whom called Abbott Hall home during their days at Northwestern. In this month's episode, Dr. Gugenheim brings his celebrated presentation to our MAA Digital Series.

Rural Vermont was the birthplace of physician Wallace Calvin Abbott and his wife, Clara. A graduate of the University of Michigan Medical School, he and Clara moved to Chicago in 1886 so that he could practice medicine on the Near North Side. He began manufacturing pharmaceuticals in the kitchen of their two-room apartment. Although he became quite wealthy in this business, his love was practicing medicine and making house calls on his bicycle. He and Clara died in the 1920s. The Clara Abbott Foundation provided funding for the construction of Abbott Hall, believed to be the tallest building in the world, serving solely as a dormitory when it opened in 1940. Through

the years, it has served as student housing, barracks for the training of Navy officers, and administrative offices.

Join Dr. Gugenheim to learn more about our historic and beloved Abbott Hall.

Dr. Gugenheim presents **“The History of Abbott Hall.”**

Thank you, Dr. Gugenheim!

Stream “The History of Abbott Hall”

COMING SOON:

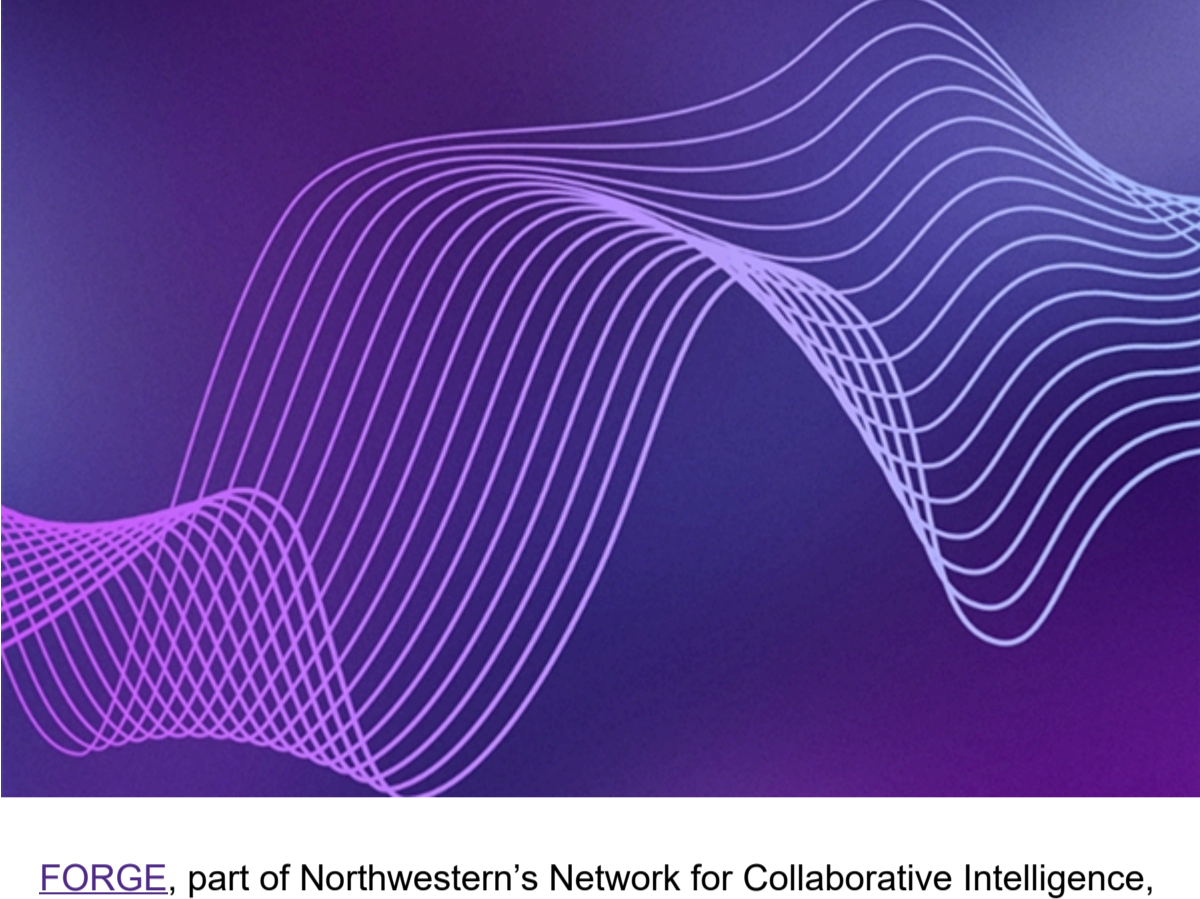
“The Second Great Chicago Fire”

No doubt, you’ve heard the stories of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871 and the debunked theory of Mrs. O’Leary’s cow. However, did you know that there was another fire in the city just three years later? Though nowhere near as robust as the first great fire, the Chicago fire of 1874 had significant long-term effects on both the city and its demographics.

Turn in next month to learn more about this lesser-known moment in Chicago history.

Catch up on all previous episodes of our MAA Digital Series on our [MAA website](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

Explore FORGE: Hands-On Innovation at Northwestern



FORGE, part of Northwestern’s Network for Collaborative Intelligence, is a new hub for hands-on experimentation where students, faculty, staff, and industry partners come together to address real-world challenges using data science, artificial intelligence, and domain expertise. Through cohort-based projects, workshops, and collaborative programming, participants work in teams to build, test, and prototype data-driven and AI-powered solutions together in a supportive, interdisciplinary environment.

We invite you to learn more about FORGE, explore upcoming events and opportunities, and stay connected as new programming continues to roll out.

Visit the [FORGE website](#) for details and future events.

FORGE at Northwestern

The Melinda Gibson Rooftop Garden at the Humboldt Park Wellness Center



We are honored to share the dedication of the Melinda Gibson Rooftop Garden at the Humboldt Park Wellness Center in Chicago, created in memory of the late **Melinda E. Gibson, ’82 MD, ’86 GMER.**

Dr. Gibson was a distinguished physician, surgeon, and educator whose 40-year career reflected a lifelong commitment to women’s health, health equity, and service to underserved communities in Chicago, Detroit, and beyond. A proud alum of the medical school, she was known for her clinical excellence, compassion, and dedication to those she served.

The rooftop garden is now open at the Humboldt Park Health Wellness Center, a state-of-the-art 45,000 square foot facility dedicated to community-centered wellness. The garden provides a space for reflection and healing overlooking Humboldt Park, continuing Dr. Gibson’s legacy of community-centered care and wellness.

Congrats Are in Order!



Photo Credit: Associated Press

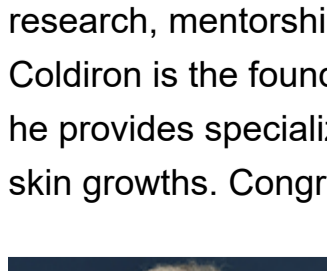
Ali Marks Brunson, ’21 DPT (right), is pictured with her husband, 2026 NBA Finals MVP Jalen Brunson (*center*), at the New York Knicks Championship Parade in New York City.

The New York Knicks brought home the championship trophy for the first time in 53 years. At the parade, Knicks’ players, coaches, owners, and staff were presented with keys to the city.

Congratulations to the Brunson family!

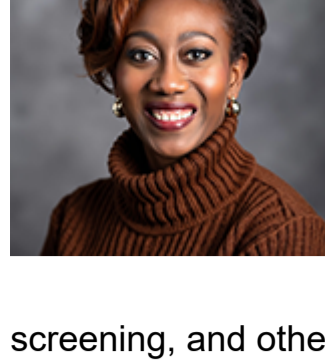


Brett Coldiron, MD, ’89 GMEF (pictured center), received the Frederic E. Mohs Award for Career Achievement at the annual meeting of the American College of Mohs Surgery on May 1, 2026, in Austin, Texas. The award is the highest honor bestowed by the College and recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the field of Mohs surgery through teaching, research, mentorship, innovation, clinical practice, and service. Dr. Coldiron is the founder of The Skin Cancer Center in Cincinnati, where he provides specialized care for patients with skin cancer and other skin growths. Congratulations, Dr. Coldiron!

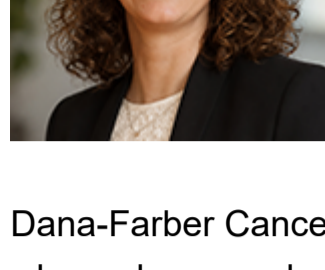


Susanna McColley ’83, ’85 MD, was recently appointed to the board of directors of the Respiratory Health Association. A nationally recognized pediatric pulmonologist, Dr. McColley is scientific director for Interdisciplinary Research Partnerships at the Stanley Manne Children’s Research Institute at

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and professor of Pediatrics in the Division of Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine at Feinberg. Dr. McColley has been recognized with two Presidential Commendations from the American Thoracic Society, multiple Quality Care Awards from the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, and named a Castle Connolly Top Doctor in Chicago from 2012 through 2025. The Respiratory Health Association works to promote healthy lungs and clean air through education, research, and advocacy. Congratulations, Dr. McColley!



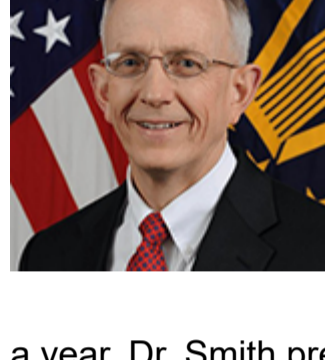
Phyllis Nsiah-Kumi, MD, '07 MPH, has been appointed chief women's health officer at Bespoke Concierge MD, a national provider of personalized, preventive, and longevity-focused healthcare. In this role, she will lead the development of individualized care programs that span menopause support, preventive screening, and other strategies aimed at supporting long-term health and wellness. Key to this approach is the Middle || Pause Roadmap™, a structured framework for midlife women's health built around the core principles of Pause. Pivot. Proactivate. Learn more at the [Bespoke Concierge MD website](#). Congratulations, Dr. Nsiah-Kumi!



Mandy Redig, '09 PhD, '10 MD, has been appointed chief medical officer of InduPro, Inc., a biotechnology company focused on mapping membrane protein spatial relationships to enable the development of novel therapies for cancer and autoimmune diseases. Dr. Redig began her career in academic medicine at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and later Harvard Medical School, where she served as a thoracic oncologist and inpatient oncology hospitalist. She later moved into industry leadership roles, including senior vice president and head of Clinical Development at HotSpot Therapeutics, a principal and member of the investment team at Blackstone Life Sciences, and executive medical director and head of Translational Science in Oncology at Takeda Pharmaceuticals. Congratulations, Dr. Redig!



Steven T. Rosen '72, '76 MD, '79 GMER ('01, '05 P), executive vice president and director emeritus of the Comprehensive Cancer Center and Beckman Research Institute at City of Hope, was honored at the 2026 American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting with the inaugural Lifetime Cancer Maverick Award from the Association of Value-Based Cancer Care. The award recognizes visionary leaders whose careers have advanced oncology through sustained innovation, leadership, and impact on patient outcomes. During his tenure at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University from 1989 to 2014, Dr. Rosen played a pivotal role in building and shaping foundational programs, such as the Lynn Sage Scholars program, the Lynn Sage Fellowship, and the world-renowned Lynn Sage Breast Cancer Symposium. He also helped establish the Lynn Sage Comprehensive Breast Center in 1994, laying the foundation for enduring clinical, research, and educational initiatives in breast cancer care. Congratulations, Dr. Rosen!



David Smith '81 MD ('21 P), has been named deputy director of the Defense Health Agency (DHA). In this senior leadership role, Dr. Smith will help drive innovation, modernize military healthcare, and increase operational readiness. Prior to assuming the role of deputy director, he served as acting director of the DHA for nearly a year. Dr. Smith previously served as the deputy assistant secretary of war for Health Readiness Policy and Oversight, overseeing initiatives in deployment medicine, force health protection, disaster response, medical research, and international health collaborations. A retired U.S. Navy rear admiral, his career includes service as Joint Staff surgeon, where he acted as the chief medical advisor to the chair of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Dr. Smith also commanded the Naval Hospital Rota in Spain and served as chief of staff for the TRICARE Management Activity. Congratulations, Dr. Smith!

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

Northwestern Music and Medicine Program Presents: Musical Museum | Chicago, Illinois

Tuesday, July 7, 2026 | 2:30–3:30 p.m.

The Northwestern Music and Medicine Program presents the **Musical Museum, featuring the Apasionado Duo: Strangers and Friends**.

This concert series with discussion is designed for individuals living with mild to moderate cognitive disorders and their family members. Following the performance, a reception with refreshments will be held.

Simpson Querrey Auditorium | 303 East Superior Street | Chicago, Illinois 60611

Founded in May 2021 by Borna Bonakdarpour, MD, associate professor of Neurology in the Division of Behavioral Neurology, and violist and music practitioner Clara Takarabe, this program brings clinically-oriented music to patients, investigates the efficacy of interventions and their mechanisms of action, and educates the public and trainees.

For more information on Dr. Bonakdarpour's work, visit his [website](#).

For questions, please contact Jordan Sund at jordan.sund@northwestern.edu.

Register for Music and Medicine

Small Patients, Global Impact: Inside Northwestern's Center for Global Pediatric Health | Webinar

Wednesday, July 8, 2026 | 11 a.m.–Noon

Children and young adults make up more than one third of the world's population, and they bear the greatest burden of global health disparities. The [Havey Institute for Global Health](#) is addressing that reality through its new [Center for Global Pediatric Health](#), a joint effort between Northwestern University and Lurie Children's Hospital uniting research, training, and on-the-ground partnerships around the world. Hear from the Center's co-directors driving this work and learn how they are laying the groundwork to transform child health worldwide.

For questions, please contact Jenn Burke at jennifer.burke@northwestern.edu.

Register for Small Patients,
Global Impact Webinar

Landsberg Society Chicago Welcome Reception | Chicago, Illinois

Thursday, July 23, 2026 | 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Join members of the Landsberg Society for a summer rooftop celebration to welcome this year's class of new medical residents to Northwestern.

Gino's East, 3rd Floor Party Room and Rooftop Terrace | 162 East Superior Street | Chicago, Illinois 60611

For questions, please contact MaryPat Mauro at marypat.mauro@northwestern.edu.

Register for Landsberg
Society Welcome Reception



How a Tiny Device Could Transform Fetal Surgery

with Aimen Shaaban, MD

Listen to the Episode >>



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Check out the latest episode: "[How a Tiny Device Could Transform Fetal Surgery with Aimen Shaaban, MD.](#)"

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