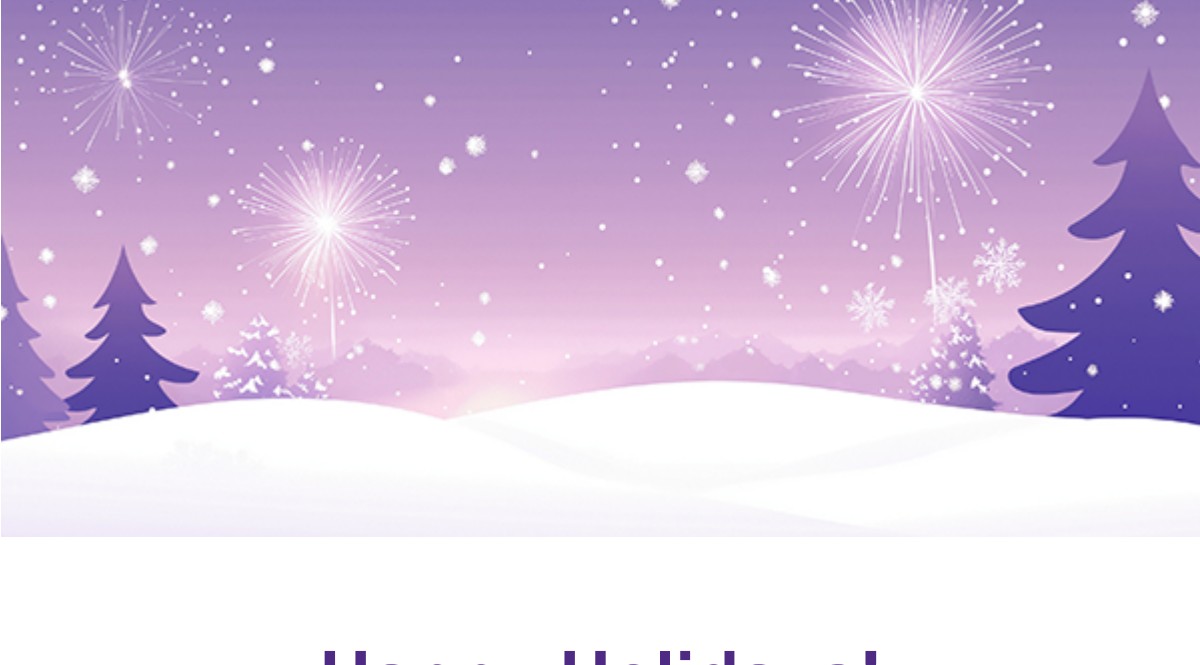


# Medical Alumni Association NEWSLETTER

December 2024 | Issue No. 87



## Happy Holidays!

May this season bring you joy, good health, and happiness.

With warm greetings from us and ours to you and yours,  
*Your Medical Alumni Association and Alumni Relations Team*

### From the Director's Desk:

Dear Alumni,

On behalf of the Alumni Relations team at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, we wish you and your loved ones a wonderful holiday season. We are grateful for our amazing alumni community and look forward to partnering with you in the new year.

Save the date! Alumni Weekend 2025 registration opens on January 6. We hope that you'll join us in Chicago on May 2–3. For more information, explore our [Alumni Weekend website](#).

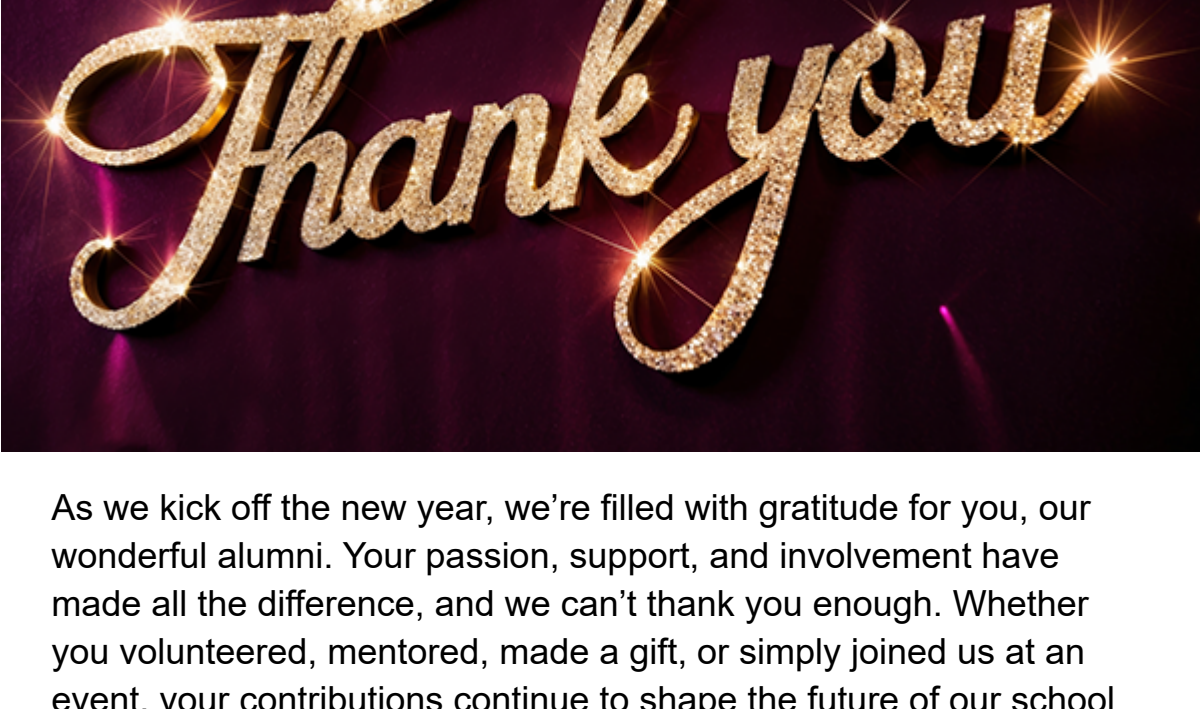
Happy Holidays!

Thank you,  
Babette



**Babette Henderson '21 CERT**  
Senior Director, Alumni Engagement  
Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine  
[babette.henderson@northwestern.edu](mailto:babette.henderson@northwestern.edu)  
312-503-0855

### Thank You for Another Great Year, Alumni!



As we kick off the new year, we're filled with gratitude for you, our wonderful alumni. Your passion, support, and involvement have made all the difference, and we can't thank you enough. Whether you volunteered, mentored, made a gift, or simply joined us at an event, your contributions continue to shape the future of our school and the future of medicine. You inspire us every day, and we're excited to continue this journey together in the year ahead!

In fiscal 2024, your contributions helped us:

- Engage 2,313 alumni and friends through 24 events
- Connect with alumni in 13 cities through in-person gatherings
- Host 24 mentoring events, strengthening ties between students and alumni
- Receive gifts from 1,699 alumni
- Welcome 85 first-time alumni donors
- Celebrate 281 reunion gifts from alumni
- Equip 140 incoming medical students with white coats
- Provide 140 stethoscopes and medical tools for the incoming class
- Expand the MAA Newsletter to over 17,000 subscribers
- Surpass over 22,000 social media impressions across all platforms

We appreciate all you've done and look forward to another year of meaningful connection and progress together.

### Save the Date: Alumni Weekend 2025 (May 2–3)



It's time to plan your weekend in Chicago: The [Alumni Weekend 2025 Website](#) is Live! Get a sneak peek of our full lineup of events. Whether you'll be celebrating your reunion (classes whose graduation years end in 5 or 0), joining us for our exciting Half Century Club programming, catching up with fellow alums, taking CME courses, mentoring students, or checking out what's new at Northwestern, we can't wait to welcome you! Alumni Weekend is the cornerstone event for the Medical Alumni Association, and this is truly an ALL alumni celebration. Reconnect with friends, participate in lectures and tours, explore the campus, and celebrate with your classmates at reunion class dinners.

#### Alumni Weekend 2025: May 2–3

Book your hotel now! Hotel rooms have been arranged at various local hotels at discounted rates. Visit the [2025 Travel and Accommodations](#) portion of our Alumni Weekend website for more information. Plan to join us on campus this spring.

#### Online registration for Alumni Weekend opens January 6!



### Physical Therapy Reunion Brunch





On December 5, **Sally Edelsberg '72 MS ('93 P) ('22 GP)**, hosted a “reunion warm-up” breakfast with a group of Physical Therapy (PT) alumni in Oak Brook, Illinois. This gathering provided an opportunity for our alums to reconnect, share stories, and build excitement for our upcoming Alumni Weekend, May 2–3. Events like this help strengthen our PT alumni network and ensure a memorable reunion for all. Thank you to Sally for hosting!

Interested in hosting your own alumni gathering in advance of Alumni Weekend? Contact us at [medalum@northwestern.edu](mailto:medalum@northwestern.edu) for details.

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

### “Water and Chicago: Blessing or Curse? Part One”

## Water and Chicago

Blessing or Curse?



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 Dr. Gugenheim as he explores the origins of Chicago's water story, beginning with the Illinois and Michigan Canal and the challenges posed by the city's abundant yet problematic water supply. In the first installment of this two-part series, learn how early Chicago tackled its water woes with innovative engineering solutions, including the creation of the city's first sewer system. These efforts laid the groundwork for future breakthroughs in water management, leading to one of the most ambitious projects in Chicago's history—the reversal of the Chicago River in 1900. It's a tale of ingenuity, urban transformation, and the drive for a cleaner, healthier city!

Dr. Gugenheim presents **“Water and Chicago: Blessing or Curse? Part One.”**

Thank you, Dr. Gugenheim!

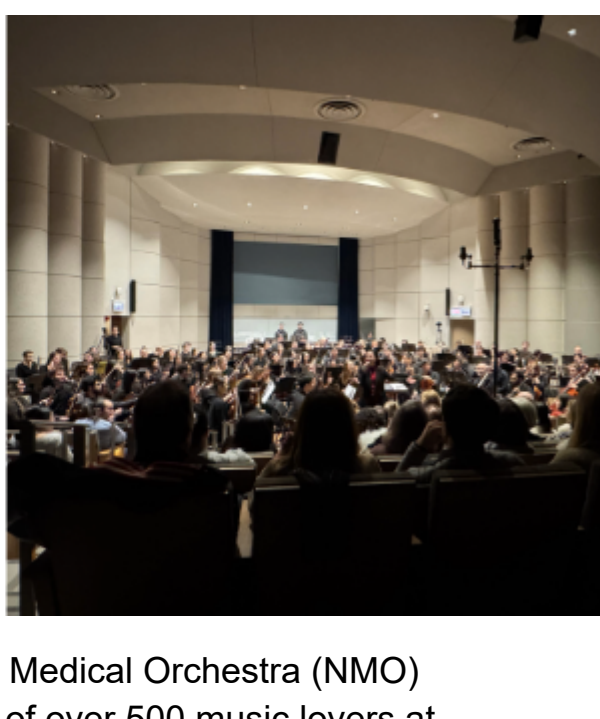
Stream “Water and Chicago: Blessing or Curse? Part One”

### COMING SOON:

This January, Dr. Gugenheim returns with the next chapter in Chicago's water history. From the visionary work of Ellis Chesbrough to the ambitious construction of the Sanitary and Ship Canal, discover how the city tackled its sewage challenges and transformed the course of the Chicago River. But along the way, unforeseen issues emerged—pollution downstream, disputes with neighboring states, and invasive species threatening the Great Lakes. Tune in as we explore these key moments in Chicago's story.

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

## Fall 2024 Concert: An Evening with the NMO

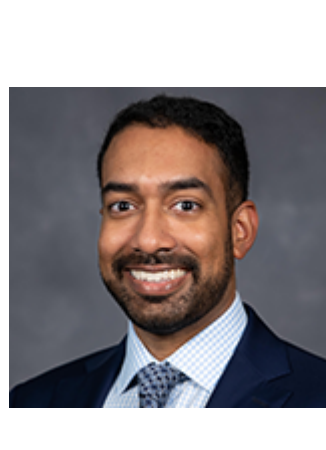


On December 6, the Northwestern Medical Orchestra (NMO) performed for a capacity audience of over 500 music lovers at Thorne Auditorium, as well as over 150 more via livestream. The program featured themes of fate and star-crossed lovers, as the NMO performed *Romeo and Juliet Fantasy-Overture* by Tchaikovsky, *Overture to La forza del destino* by Verdi, selected movements of *Symphonie Fantastique* by Berlioz, and a holiday encore of “Sleigh Ride” led by a guest conductor from the audience. Thank you to all of the alumni and friends who joined us for this terrific evening and powerful performance.

For more information on how you can support the NMO, please [visit its website](#).

Northwestern Medical Orchestra Website

## Congrats Are in Order!



**Wajeesh R. Bakhsh '11, '11 Cert, MD, '21 GMEF**, recently joined the Franciscan Physician Network in Chesterton and Michigan City, Indiana, as an orthopaedic spine surgeon. Dr. Bakhsh's clinical interests include treating disc herniations, neck, low, and mid-back pain, spinal stenosis, spinal cord compression and injury, nerve compression, scoliosis, and sacroiliitis. Congratulations, Dr. Bakhsh!



**Leo A. Gordon, '73 MD**, shared that he has seemingly created a firestorm of controversy by publishing his “Ten Commandments of Grand Rounds” (*General Surgery News*, November 2024). The editorial is a set of rules Dr. Gordon has established to which Grand Rounds speakers should adhere. Gordon formulated these “commandments” after attending and delivering grand rounds for over 50 years. Dr. Gordon further noted that alumni of Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine are encouraged to weigh in on this topic that transcends every specialty and medical center. For more information and the editorial, visit the [General Surgery News archives](#). Congratulations, Dr. Gordon!



**Johanna Melo-Cardenas, '18 PhD**, received the 2024 Fellow Achievement Award from the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) for her contributions to blood cancer research. She was honored at the LLS Research Awards & Networking Event on Sunday, December 8, in San Diego, where she joined 30,000 others at the American Society of Hematology Annual Meeting and Exposition. Dr. Melo-Cardenas, assistant professor of Pathology at Feinberg, is researching the factors that cause inflammation in blood cells, a key driver of cancer development. The LLS recognizes researchers whose innovative work has the potential to improve outcomes for patients with blood cancer through the Career Development Achievement Award. Congratulations, Dr. Melo-Cardenas!

Do you have news to share with us or know of an alum we should recognize? Post it on our [Facebook](#) page, tag us on [Instagram](#), or email us at [medalum@northwestern.edu](mailto: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 University Dental School Midwinter Reception and Reunion 2025 | Chicago, Illinois

*Friday, February 21, 2025 | 5:30–9:00 p.m. CST*

You are cordially invited to the Northwestern University Dental School Alumni Midwinter Reception. Cost: \$20 per person in advance; \$25 at the door. Hors d'oeuvres, pasta bar, and dessert will be served. Wine, beer, and soft drinks are included. Please note that online and phone registration closes on Monday, February 17, 2025.

*To purchase your ticket via phone, please call the Northwestern Alumni Association (NAA) at 847-491-3317.*

[Purchase Tickets to the NUDS Midwinter Reception](#)

### Northwestern Connects Event | Worldwide

*Tuesday, February 25, 2025*

For the past decade, the Northwestern Connects networking event has sparked new connections across the globe. The Northwestern Alumni Association hosted events in over 100 locations in 2024 and looks forward to seeing alumni come together again at one of their 2025 venues.

Don't miss this opportunity to meet fellow alumni, expand your personal and professional networks, and celebrate your Purple Pride. You can attend an event near your home, or wherever you may be on February 25! [Explore the current list of locations](#) and check back as more are being added.

Most events are free, but advance registration is required. Mark your calendars for February 25!

[Register for Northwestern Connects](#)

### SAVE THE DATE: MAA Brunch: Frontiers of the Brain | Naples, Florida

*Wednesday, February 26, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m. EST*

The *NU Club of Greater Naples* and the *Half Century Club* of Northwestern University's Medical Alumni Association invite you to save the date and plan to join for a discussion on brain health at the Arthrex, Inc. Corporate Headquarters.

Book your hotel now: Northwestern has secured a special rate at the Innovation Hotel on the Arthrex Campus! Book your room at: [Innovation Hotel Reservations](#). Rates are \$410 per night for single or double occupancy.

Perks include:

- No resort or parking fees
- Complimentary hot buffet breakfast at Corkscrew Café (6 a.m.–9 a.m.)
- Complimentary access to the wellness facility and smoothie bar

Reserve by January 25, 2025, to secure this rate.

*Advance event registration will be required. Stay tuned for more information coming in January 2025.*

[Add Naples Brunch 2025 to My Calendar](#)

### SAVE THE DATE: Cubs Spring Training Game | Mesa, Arizona

*Saturday, March 8, 2025 | 1:05 p.m. MST*

#### Chicago Cubs vs. Seattle Mariners

The Medical Alumni Association is proud to once again host alumni and friends for a spring training game at Sloan Park in Arizona. To thank you for your support, we will open ticket sales to members of The Founders Society prior to the full alumni population. Your \$35 purchase includes one game ticket, food, soda, and two adult beverage tickets. Exclusively for members of The Founders Society and Half Century Club, and Northwestern alumni.

Limited tickets will be available, and we expect to sell out quickly. Please reserve your travel and hotel accommodations now as this is expected to be a very busy weekend in Arizona.

*Stay tuned for more information coming in January 2025.*

[Add Cubs Spring Training Game to My Calendar](#)

### SAVE THE DATE: Alumni Weekend 2025 | Chicago, Illinois

*Friday, May 2–Saturday, May 3, 2025*

Celebrate in Chicago this spring!

Alumni Weekend is the cornerstone event for the Medical Alumni Association. Spend the weekend reconnecting with friends and classmates as you explore campus, participate in lectures and tours, and celebrate at class dinners. We are thrilled to welcome our 2025 reunion classes, as well as all members of our Half Century Club. Not your reunion year? Not a problem! This is truly an ALL alumni event. There's so much to see and do. Visit the [2025 Travel and Accommodations](#) portion of our Alumni Weekend website to book your hotel now and take advantage of our discounted room rates.

Explore our full schedule of events on the [Alumni Weekend website](#).

Make plans to spend the weekend with us. See you in Chicago!

**Registration for Alumni Weekend opens January 6.**

[Add Alumni Weekend 2025 to My Calendar](#)

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**Questions?** Contact us anytime at [medalum@northwestern.edu](mailto:medalum@northwestern.edu).

Thank you for engaging with us and staying connected to your alma mater!

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Feinberg School of Medicine

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