



## Happy Halloween, Alumni!

It's that time of year again...our spooktacular Halloween edition of the MAA Newsletter is here!

Your Alumni Relations team has scared up a very special issue for you this month. We think you'll find that this month's edition is dreadfully good and filled with lots of hair-raising updates. You'll scream when you see all the digital content that your MAA has to offer.

We've even conjured up our favorite Halloween costumes to record a spooky (and sweet!) [video message](#) for you.

We realize that Halloween may look a little different this year, but we hope that this issue offers a bit of bewitching fun!

Read on to see what treats this month's newsletter has in store.

Wishing everyone a very **Happy Halloween!**

VIEW THE ALUMNI TEAM'S HALLOWEEN MESSAGE



## Devilish Details From the Director's Desk:



Dear Alumni,

As you may have seen, *Alumni Weekend 2021 (scheduled for April 2021) has been postponed.* We will celebrate the reunion classes of 2022, 2021, and 2020 during **Alumni Weekend 2022: April 29-30, 2022.** Please save the date and plan to join us in Chicago to celebrate your class's milestone reunion.

We are looking very forward to helping you and your classmates connect and get excited for the 2022 event. In the coming months, we will be working with the class reps and reunion committee volunteers to offer options for you and your classmates to engage with one another and share updates in advance of the future in-person celebration. Please stay tuned for more information on that!

If you have any questions, please let me know. We're looking forward to seeing you all again in person in April 2022!

Thank you,  
Babette

**Babette Henderson**

Senior Director, Alumni

Engagement

312-503-0855

## Afraid You Missed It?

Revisit Our Webinar!



Thank you to the 140+ attendees who joined us on September 29 as we, in partnership with the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University, hosted a virtual event: "COVID-19 and Cancer," featuring Leonidas Platanius, MD, PhD (Jesse, Sara, Andrew, Abigail, Benjamin and Elizabeth Lurie Professor of Oncology and director of the Lurie Cancer Center), and alum **Michael Angarone, MD, '09 GMEF** (assistant professor of Medicine in Infectious Diseases and Medical Education).

Thank you to Drs. Platanius and Angarone for their excellent and informative presentation on this topic! To learn more about the Lurie Cancer Center and its ongoing work, please visit its [website](#). For additional resources about COVID-19 and cancer, read "[What You Should Know](#)."

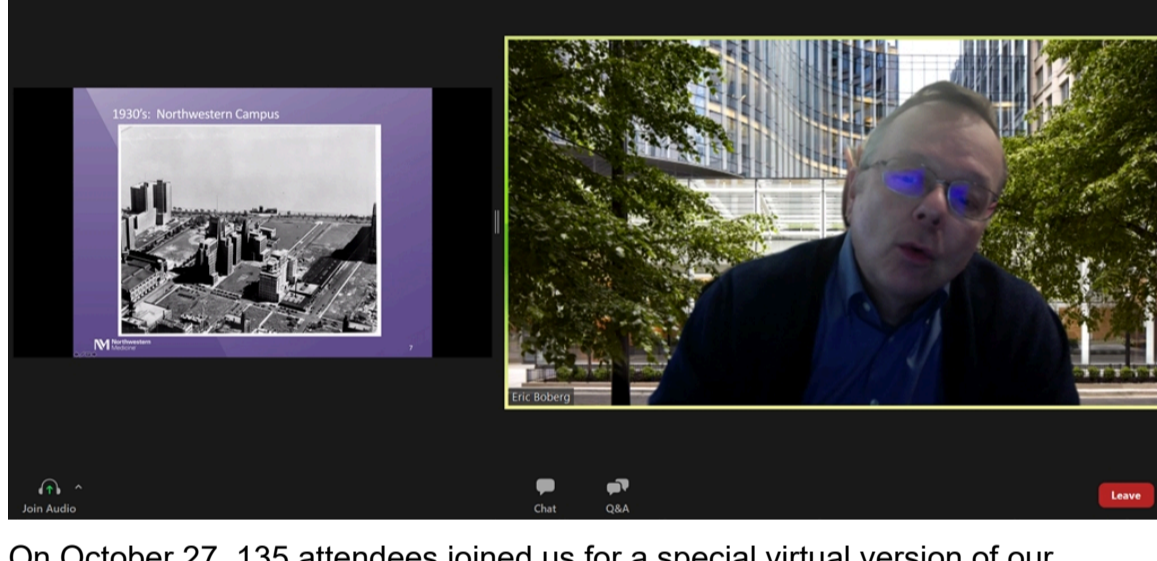
To participate in other upcoming virtual events, keep an eye out in your inbox, this newsletter, and our [MAA Facebook page](#) for information on how to register and for other future opportunities.

VIEW THE EVENT RECORDING

READ THE EVENT RECAP

## What a Scream!

That Was Then, This Is Now: Evolution of the Medical Campus



On October 27, 135 attendees joined us for a special virtual version of our extremely popular Alumni Weekend seminar, "That Was Then, This Is Now: Evolution of the Medical Campus."

Eric W. Boberg, PhD, executive director for Research and research assistant professor of Medicine in the Division of General Internal Medicine and Geriatrics, led the audience through the rich and fascinating history of the medical school and introduced the new additions to the medical campus that are shaping its future and legacy. Thank you, Dr. Boberg, for your terrific presentation!

We're pleased to offer a [recording](#) of the presentation, if you were unable to join, or would like to revisit the presentation.

VIEW THE MEDICAL CAMPUS EVENT RECORDING

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

"The Old Lady on Harrison Street: The Second Century"



We're thrilled to share with you the newest installment of the MAA digital series, from our fantastic host and historian, alumnus **Joseph Gugenheim, '72 MD!**

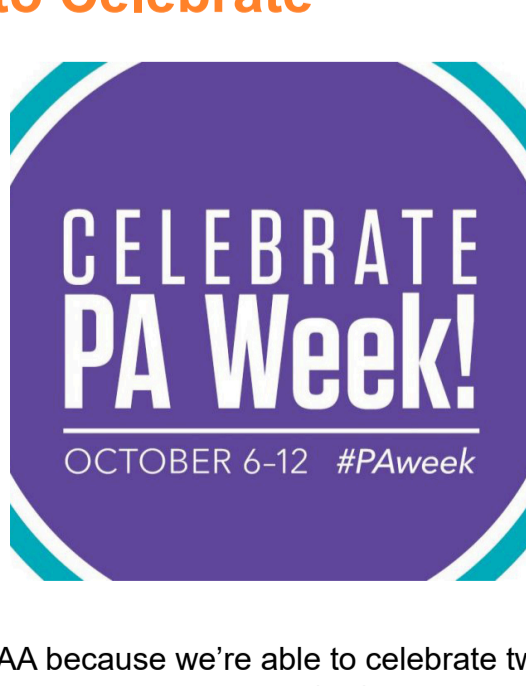
In this outstanding conclusion of a very special two-part episode, Dr. Gugenheim explores historic Cook County Hospital's second century of existence. Learn how this well-known Chicago institution evolved into today's John H. Stroger, Jr. Hospital of Cook County.

Dr. Gugenheim presents an "[The Old Lady on Harrison Street: A History on Cook County Hospital, The Second Century](#)."

Thank you, Dr. Gugenheim!

VIEW "THE OLD LADY ON HARRISON STREET: THE SECOND CENTURY"

## Wicked Fun Reasons to Celebrate



October is a very special month for the MAA because we're able to celebrate two of our amazing alumni groups. We honor our physical therapist (PT) alumni during National Physical Therapy Month for their contributions to the field as they work to improve and save lives through physical therapy.

We also honor our physician assistant (PA) alumni during Physician Assistant Week, October 6-12, recognizing the profession and their essential contributions to health and healthcare.

Thank you to both of these alumni groups for the service, dedication, and adaptability that you show every day, and especially for your vital work on the frontlines during these challenging times.

Please join us in celebrating all of our PT and PA alumni!

## Enchanting Reflections

## Spotlight On...Our Nursing Alumni

In this feature, we highlight the biography of one of our incredible nursing alumni. We are grateful for the opportunity to shine a light on the tremendous professional and personal accomplishments of our alumni and applaud their incredible achievements as they reflect on their lives and careers.

This month, we are pleased to feature **Reneau Buckner Diallo '87, '89 MS**, who shared with us the following letter:

*"I received my BSN from NU in 1987 and MS in 1989. I was an older student who held a diploma in nursing when I entered NU's program. My story was published in NU's paper because I was the only African-American in the MS nursing program. I recently retired in March (or maybe I'm just taking a break) and reflected on the most rewarding career that I could have hoped for. I accomplished the goals that were important to me and the women I served.*

*I will summarize the accomplishments that were most important to me as I journeyed through my nursing career in maternal-child health. During my education at NU, I worked as a Labor and Delivery nurse at Michael Reese Medical Center. Soon after I graduated with my MS, I became a research assistant on a nationwide, multi-city research study, headed by Dr. Gall at UIC for the Chicago site. The study investigated the use of home uterine activity monitors for women at risk for pre-term labor. Although my name was not included on the publications, I was responsible for recruiting the study participants, providing their education, and conducting their examinations as needed. I also managed all the data for the Chicago site. I gained great insight into the research process and into the care of women at risk for preterm labor.*

*I left the study to become the unit director of Labor and Delivery at Rush Medical Center and served as nursing faculty in the Department of Maternal-Child Nursing at the University. During my tenure as nursing faculty, my students rotated to Northwestern's Prentice Women's Hospital for their OB rotation. As a student, I had spent many hours in the old Prentice and now had the opportunity to work in the new hospital: it was like returning home.*

*During this time, I also began to study midwifery at UIC and, upon completion of the program, I was asked to joined a well-known OB/GYN practice at Rush and served as the only midwife at Rush Center for Women's Medicine.*

*Although I was privileged to have an exciting and rewarding career at Rush, I found a need to care for the underserved women in my community. I left Rush to join the midwifery practice of Cook County Bureau of Health where I became the midwifery practice director at Provident Hospital of Cook County and remained in that role until the department closed. During my tenure, our midwifery service provided superb care and had great statistics, including one of the lowest cesarean birth rates in the city. While at Provident, I started one of the first Centering Pregnancy groups in the city. My hobby as a quilt maker challenged me to design the quilt 'Precious Beginnings' as a logo for our centering group. Somehow the American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) saw the quilt and asked if it could be used as the jacket for the booklet Into the Light of Day. The publication is a history of African-American midwives within ACNM, and I understand the booklet is required reading in some midwifery programs. We made posters from a picture of the quilt and both are sold by ACNM with the proceeds going toward the Midwives of Color Scholarship Fund. This scholarship is for people of color who are pursuing education in midwifery. I cannot express how honored I am for my two passions to come together for such a worthy cause.*

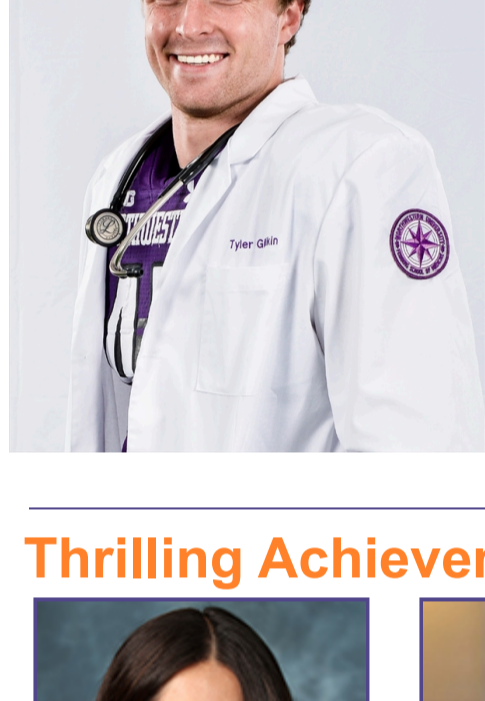
*Finally, I pursued a clinical Doctorate of Nursing Practice (DNP) degree. My DNP project was the Advocacy Role of the Certified Nurse-Midwife in Improving Maternal Health in Haiti. I spent time in the Central Plateau of Haiti, working in the hospital, mobile clinics, and teaching their midwives. My project won the DNP Scholarship Award at the University of St. Francis and was accepted for presentation at the International Confederation of Midwives Congress. This was such an honor for me because I accomplished this at 70 years of age. I also received an award from my employer for this accomplishment and my commitment to the women I served in the Englewood and surrounding communities. Further, I was featured in the July 2019 issue of Chicago Magazine in the article entitled 'Birthworkers on the Front Line in Chicago's Maternal Health Crisis,' due to my commitment to the care of underserved women. My career has focused on advocating and improving birth outcomes for women in Chicago and globally. I continue to serve as a mentor for advanced practice nurses and midwifery students.*

*Due to COVID-19 and my age, I was advised to retreat from the 'frontline.' I still remain in contact with many of the women I serve and assist them in navigating quality healthcare during these unprecedented times. I continue to seek ways to assist with improving health disparities among women of color. I measure the success of my career by the outcomes of the women I serve. I have had a very rewarding career because I have made a difference in my community.*

*How exciting that you are taking the time to honor the graduates of NU's nursing program. Often I believe we are forgotten. I made wonderful friends while at NU and am sorry that we lost contact. Hopefully, we can be reunited." —Reneau Buckner Diallo DNP, APRN, CNM*

Thank you to Reneau Buckner Diallo for sharing this wonderful reflection!

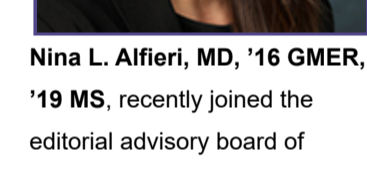
## A Feat to Shock and Amaze



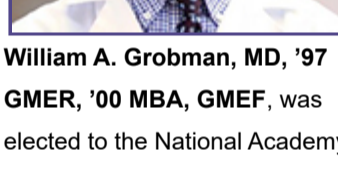
Meet M1 student, Tyler Gillikin. In addition to embarking on his medical school career, Tyler is playing his final season in the Big Ten as a long snapper for [Northwestern's football team](#). In an interview with *The Daily Northwestern*, Tyler shared his thoughts on how the pandemic is shaping his jam-packed year, noting "There's a reason why medicine has always been my dream, and it's to help people and feel that I can provide a service that can change somebody's life. And that's personally what I think being a doctor is all about."

Welcome to Feinberg, Tyler, and Go 'Cats!

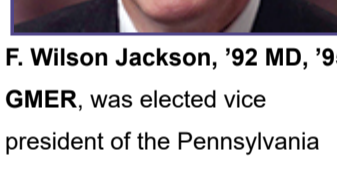
## Thrilling Achievements!



**Nina L. Alfieri, MD, '16 GMER, '19 MS**, recently joined the editorial advisory board of *Contemporary Pediatrics*. Dr. Alfieri is an attending physician in Advanced General Pediatrics and Primary Care at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago and an instructor of Pediatrics in the Division of Advanced General Pediatrics and Primary Care at Feinberg. Congratulations, Dr. Alfieri!



**William A. Grobman, MD, '97 GMER, '00 MBA, GMEF**, was elected to the National Academy of Medicine. Dr. Grobman is vice chair for Clinical Operations and the Arthur Hale Curtis, MD, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Feinberg. Read more about Dr. Grobman, as well as his work and research, in the [Feinberg News Center](#). Congratulations, Dr. Grobman!



**F. Wilson Jackson, '92 MD, '95 GMER**, was elected vice president of the Pennsylvania Medical Society (PAMED) and will begin his term in January 2023. Dr. Jackson most recently served as vice chair of PAMED's board of trustees and leads Jackson Siegelbaum Gastroenterology. Dr. Jackson shared that he is "looking forward to serving the physicians in the state in the years going forward. I certainly have mentors and roll models from Northwestern Medical School and McGraw to thank." Congratulations, Dr. Jackson!



**Susan M. Rubin '78, '80 MA, MD, '93 GMER, '94 GMER**, was named Ruth Cain Ruggles Chair of Neurology at NorthShore University HealthSystem. Dr. Rubin is clinical chair of the Department of Neurology at NorthShore and medical director of the NorthShore Neurological Institute. She also is the director of NorthShore's Women's Neurology Program and a clinical associate professor at University of Chicago Pritzker School of Medicine. Previously, Dr. Rubin served on a task force for the American Academy of Neurology and on the Board of the Illinois Chapter of the National MS Society. Congratulations, Dr. Rubin!



**John R. Ruge '79, '83 MD, '89 GMER, '90 GMEF**, former MAA Board member, was appointed chair of the Department of Neurosurgery at Advocate Lutheran General and Advocate Children's Hospital on September 1. Along with neurointerventionalists, the department is comprised of 16 neurosurgeons and 26 advanced practice clinicians. In addition to Dr. Ruge's own Northwestern legacy, his son, Nicholas, also holds a BA from Northwestern (Class of 2012). Congratulations, Dr. Ruge!



**Paul Tiwana, '96 DDS, MD**, was recently nominated as a director of the American Board of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery. Dr. Tiwana currently leads the Division of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgery at the University of Oklahoma and also operates an independent private practice. He has previously served in multiple committee chair roles for the American Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons and is a member of the Osteoscience Foundation Board. Congratulations, Dr. Tiwana!

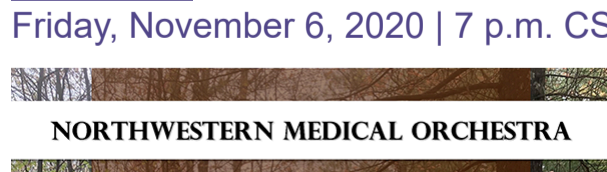
Do you have news to share with us or know of an alumnus/a we should recognize in the newsletter?  
Post it on our [Facebook](#) page or email us at [medalum@northwestern.edu](mailto:medalum@northwestern.edu).

## It Will Haunt You If You Miss These Virtual Events!



### Northwestern Medical Orchestra | 2020 Virtual Fall Concert

Friday, November 6, 2020 | 7 p.m. CST



**NORTHWESTERN MEDICAL ORCHESTRA**  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR  
Taichi Fukumura  
MUSIC DIRECTOR  
Michael Wang  
**Fall Concert**  
Friday, November 6<sup>th</sup> 2020  
7PM Live Webinar  
JOIN US  
for livestreamed  
Chamber Music  
performances  
Pieces by Joplin, Mozart, Beethoven,  
Mendelssohn, and much more!

REGISTER TODAY

The Northwestern Medical Orchestra (NMO) is pleased to invite you to its 2020 Virtual Fall Concert for an evening of livestreamed chamber music performances, including pieces by Joplin, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn, and much more!

NMO musicians include physicians, medical students, staff, and other members of the Northwestern community.

Advanced registration required.

### Feinberg Perspectives Podcast | Reflections Amid Pandemic

Available Now

In the second season of Feinberg's essay-based podcast, [Perspectives](#), members of the Northwestern Medicine community share their experiences and insights from the lab, the clinic, and the broader community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Recent episodes feature conversations with alumni **Quentin Youmans, MD, '18 GMER**; **Connie Mennella, '88 MD, '89 GMER**; and **Kara Goldman, MD, '12 GMER**.

The podcast is available on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#), and other streaming services.

LISTEN & SUBSCRIBE TODAY

### Feinberg's Breakthroughs Podcast | Episodes on COVID-19

Available Now

Stay in tune with faculty who are in the midst of COVID-19 research and response through candid interviews on the [Breakthroughs](#) podcast. Listen to their insights, explore recent episodes, claim continuing medical education credit, and subscribe to the show so that you can stay up-to-date with the latest discoveries.

Feinberg School of Medicine podcasts are available on: [iTunes](#), [SoundCloud](#), [Spotify](#), and [Stitcher](#).

LISTEN & SUBSCRIBE TODAY

