March is celebrated as Women’s History Month, and as such, we wanted to highlight an important trailblazer in women’s history: Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. As one of only nine female Harvard law students in 1956, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was thrust into a workforce rich with discrimination against women and minorities; a zeitgeist not only perpetuated by society but also bound by law. Her own experience shattering glass ceilings inspired her expansive and dedicated work on women’s rights, and she ultimately co-founded the women’s rights project of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) in 1972. Ruth Bader Ginsburg also became the second woman and the first Jewish woman to serve on the Supreme Court in 1993. As part of these establishments, Justice Ginsburg was able to pass laws that involved: prohibiting discrimination against female employees – including pregnancy; the prohibition of forced sterilization; and the requirement for state-funded schools to admit female students. Even before the foundation of the women’s rights project, Justice Ginsburg’s work led to women being able to open their own bank accounts in 1974. Later in her life, her work inspired the Lilly Ledbetter Act in 2008, removing obstacles from individuals pursuing pay discrimination claims. Ruth Bader Ginsburg dedicated 50 years of unwavering support for gender equality and women’s rights directly, and her legal opinions inspired additional legislation amplifying minorities throughout American history. Needless to say, Justice Ginsburg’s devotion to justice has created a legacy that will continue to shine long beyond her lifetime. Not only did she forge a place for herself in the United States judicial system, but she did so in a way that opened doors for many female pioneers to come.

Cassandra Decker, MBS-II Glendale Campus

As a student in the MBS Program on the Glendale Campus, I was constantly reminded as I walked through the halls that I did not see many other students who looked like me. I wanted to make sure that those who came after me would not have to feel the isolation I often felt as an African American student pursuing medicine. My goal in SNMA is to create avenues for under-represented students to pursue medicine. I also hope to create a safe space for all students to learn how to become culturally competent and socially conscious physicians.

Ashley Brown – MS-I AZCOM Vice President

On my first day of orientation, although I was surrounded by many friendly and some familiar faces, I still felt like an outsider. Amongst the sea of 250 first-year medical students, I only found one person that looked like me. Since then, I have wanted to create a space for Black students and other students of color. Most importantly, I want students who look like me to feel as if they have a group that they identify with on a level that’s deeper than a shared passion for medicine.

Ashley Roberts – MS-II AZCOM President

Women belong in all places where decisions are being made.

- Ruth Bader Ginsburg -
(March 15, 1993 - Sept 18, 2020)
Minority Students in Medicine’s mission to drive diversity and inclusion among the campus community has been successfully carried out through in-person meetings and social events. Recruitment efforts amidst the pandemic and social unrest last year highlighted the value members placed on having a platform for constructively communicating their thoughts and feelings.

With one of the largest cohorts of new members in recent years, MSM has successfully adapted to the digital realm when it became one of the first campus organizations to establish a Microsoft Teams page. Today, the platform has evolved to serve a larger purpose. Along with digitally opening the lines of communication among members, the page has played a crucial role in virtually hosting keynote speakers and in serving as the foundation for the most successful fundraiser in MSM history. Furthermore, various new alliances have been established between MSM, the Student National Medical Association (SNMA), and the Diversity and Inclusion Task Force through the power of the platform.

In congruence with MSM’s mission statement, we seek to establish more ties with various other student organizations in the future. Whether it be in person or over the web, it takes all of us to drive diversity and inclusion here at Midwestern University.

Ezekial Turner – MBS-II Glendale Campus
President

As an MBS student, I am continuously amazed by the community here at Midwestern. This institution cultivates a genuine environment of unity and respect, stemming from a shared passion for healthcare. As co-president of the BMS class, I have had the fortunate opportunity to interact with faculty and staff members as well as a majority of the student body. Every member of the faculty is unparalleled in their ability to teach, offer guidance, and provide the encouragement that drives students towards success. Additionally, MWU students offer unflinching support to one another as we navigate through our educational journeys together. Throughout my time here, I have achieved more than I ever imagined I was capable of. I wholeheartedly believe I would not have been able to get to where I am today without the support and community here at Midwestern University.

Victoria Babtkis, MBS-II Glendale Campus

My grandparents gifted me this drawing after one of their trips visiting family in La Junta, CO. It is one of my most treasured gifts. What I love about this drawing is that this girl’s facial expression is not one of a typically happy child. She appears deeply concerned and hardened by the harsh realities of life – sadly, something that too many of us can relate to at a young age. Her expression is a reminder that we should always keep an open mind about the diversity of our backgrounds and distinctive upbringings. Our personal experiences are what mold us, make us unique, and also enhance our ability to empathize with others. To me, this drawing illustrates the importance of appreciating past experiences, good or bad, and allowing them to motivate us to achieve our goals.

Martinez-Guryn, Ph.D, R.D. Downers Grove Campus
Use the last names of these magnanimous mavens to solve the puzzle! (Answers on last page)

**Down**

1. Almost exactly 100 years ago, this woman became the first African American osteopathic physician

2. Mexican electrical engineer who introduced the world to color television, and whose work influenced NASA's Voyager mission in 1979

4. In 1993 aboard the Discovery, this individual became the first Hispanic woman to travel to space

6. Powerful African American activist known for pioneering the civil rights movement in the mid-20th century and whose famous speeches continue to inspire for generations

7. First Native-American physician, also known for her important work on land rights for the Omaha tribe and for her activism in public health

9. Animal behaviorist and scientist known for her work on rights for individuals with autism and for her work in animal livestock activism

10. African American woman whose cervical cancer cells became the first immortal cell line which were used to develop important medical landmarks – including the polio vaccine – and continue to be researched today

**Across**

3. Mexican painter famous for her self-portraits and works pushing the boundaries against cultural norms, ultimately becoming an icon for progressive views on identity, gender, and many more

5. Famous African American biologist whose discovery of the DNA double helix was stolen by two other famous scientists

8. Brilliant English physicist known for studying complicated theoretical and mathematical sciences, and whose battle with ALS limited his physical abilities later in life

11. Early 20th century Greek physician who invented the cervical cancer screening exam famously named after him

12. American neurobiologist who studied glial cells, part of the central nervous system, and published important works on their vital role in neuronal function; in 2013, this individual became the first openly transgender scientist in the National Academy of Scientists
Nowruz means ‘new day’, marking the first day of Spring & the astronomical vernal equinox. For over 3,000 years, it has been celebrated across countries and lands like Iran as the New Year. It plays a significant role in strengthening the ties among peoples based on mutual respect and the ideals of peace and good neighborliness. Celebrating Nowruz means the affirmation of life in harmony with nature and an awareness of the inseparable link between the cycles of renewal and a solicitous and respectful attitude towards natural sources of life. We wish you all a Happy Nowruz!

Pegah Biparva, MBS-II Glendale Campus
Chief Editor, A.I.D.E. Newsletter

Ash Wednesday is the beginning of Lent, where Christians receive ashes on their foreheads in the form of a cross. This indicates their faith and is a reminder to repent of their sins: “Repent and believe in the gospel.” These ashes remind us that our origins are from the earth and one day our bodies shall return to the same form, as revealed by the mandate: “Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Agnes Pascual, M.S. Glendale Campus

Lent honors how Jesus was led into the desert by the Holy Spirit for 40 days before starting his public ministry as a Messiah. During this season, we refocus on Jesus to honor his sacrifice and triumph over the devil. Lenten season is the time to practice fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, which is not only carried out during Lent but throughout the year as a way to promote spiritual growth and gratitude within their shared faith through their journey in life.

Happy Lunar New Year! - Dr. Thu Huynh, Glendale Campus
If you would like to nominate a faculty/staff member, share your story, book review or blog post, please email: cdecker68@midwestern.edu or agross@midwestern.edu

Check out Midwestern's Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion website: http://www.midwestern.edu/about/diversity-equity-and-inclusion.xml