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The Alumnae of Northwestern University awards \$120,000 in grants for Northwestern projects

EVANSTON, Ill. --- After a review of 63 proposals, The Alumnae of Northwestern University has awarded full or partial funding to 25 projects sponsored by Northwestern entities or schools, including the Block Museum of Art; Deering Library; Norris University Center; School of Communication; Feinberg School of Medicine; The Graduate School; Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications; McCormick School of Engineering; School of Education and Social Policy; and Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences.

“The Grants Committee was impressed by the quality and variety of the proposals submitted. It was quite a challenge to choose recipients from among them,” reports Charlene Shaw, chair of the committee. “The grants provide funding for such worthwhile endeavors as exhibits, stage productions and performances, travel, scientific research and data analysis.”

The comprehensive range of projects includes full or partial funding to: purchase a large format projection system; fund an exhibit about Latin American Pop Art; pilot a program to preserve records from undergraduate student organizations; support the 88th production of Waa-Mu; study the benefits of new hearing aid technologies; professionally print two publications on public health topics; examine the effects of early snowmelt and warmer temperatures on plants; focus on factors limiting germination of numerous native violets in the Midwest; fund a documentary film that traces the birth and maturation of the anti-apartheid movement in the Chicago area from 1980 until the early 1990s; host a Pop-Up Zine, bringing this unique live show storytelling experience to campus; sponsor an innovative survey of Illinois residents that examines how people from different walks of life define “good citizenship;” pilot a Mental Health Ally program through a series of workshops for faculty and students; tackle NASA’s 3D-Printed Habitat Challenge, a Centennial Challenge that seeks ways to create or develop technologies needed to autonomously develop habitats on Mars; develop a broad engineering design course to create prototype solutions to problems associated with education, health or human services in an international underserved community; fund the Civil and Environmental

Engineering Summer Internship Program (CEE SIP); pilot a Humanities Community summer practicum to help students apply their skills in public contexts while helping support nonprofit and community-based organizations in Evanston and Chicago; sponsor the 78th annual Dolphin Show; hold a conference on moral and political philosophy; develop molecularly targeted magnetic resonance imaging agents to help with early detection of brain tumors; sponsor a visit to “West Side Story” for students in History 300 to explore why the play became the iconic American musical; explore, through a book, why so many Hispanics in America continue to vote for Republican candidates; fund a two-day symposium on contemporary African artists’ career strategies as they negotiate the global art market; provide funds for a classroom set of pH meters for general chemistry courses; provide art history students with actual art objects, which can never be fully conveyed by photographs; and conduct safety inspections in different research laboratories using the RSSI Laboratory Safety Walk-Through Checklist.

The projects and sponsors are listed below.

NORRIS UNIVERSITY CENTER

SUPPORTING NORTHWESTERN’S LARGE PRESENTATION NEEDS

Christopher Burpee, assistant director, Technical Services and Performance Venues; Anthony Groce, technical specialist

This grant provides a large format, transportable projection system to students, faculty and staff that will allow for large events across various venues to project their content in a quality befitting Northwestern University, something that does not currently exist.

BLOCK MUSEUM

POP AMERICA, 1965-1975

Lisa Corrin, the Ellen Phillips Katz director, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art

Opening at the Block in September 2019, the exhibition Pop América: 1965-1975 is the first exhibition to unify Latin American expressions of Pop

Art and makes a timely contribution to a deeper understanding of the impulses behind Pop Art across the hemisphere during this critical period.

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

ARCHIVING TODAY'S NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS FOR TOMORROW: A PILOT PROJECT

Sarah Pritchard, Dean of Libraries and Charles Deering McCormick university librarian

This project will pilot an initiative to expand and diversify the preserved record of Northwestern University's student-life history. University Archives will assess the needs of NU undergraduate student organizations and provide leaders of those organizations with training and supplies needed to preserve their records. If this pilot succeeds in encouraging and supporting the deposit of student organization records with the University Archives, an expanded program can be incorporated into the archive's suite of ongoing services.

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

THE 88th ANNUAL WAA-MU SHOW, "FOR THE RECORD"

Mia Lennon, director of development; Lindsay Whisler, co-chair

Through the Waa-Mu Show, Northwestern's oldest theatrical tradition, more than 150 students collaborate to write, produce, and perform in an entirely original musical each year. This year's show, "For the Record," marks Waa-Mu's 88th annual production and tells the story of a Chicago journalist who brings to light the stories of three women from the past: Ida B Wells, Gene Grabeel and Julie d'Aubigny. Funds will be used for set and paint materials.

THE RELATIVE SPEECH INTELLIGIBILITY BENEFITS OF DEREVERBERATION AND DIRECTIONALITY PROCESS IN HEARING AIDS

Gregory Ellis, Ph.D., postdoctoral researcher

Speech intelligibility is difficult in realistic (noisy/reverberant) listening environments, especially for hearing aid users. Technologies have been

implemented in modern day hearing aids to help in difficult listening environments. However, the relative speech intelligibility benefits of these technologies to the users are unknown. This project will study the speech intelligibility benefits of two hearing aid processing strategies and will contribute to the understanding of whether these technologies are truly beneficial for the hearing aid user.

FEINBERG SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

NORTHWESTERN PUBLIC HEALTH REVIEW; PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Margaret Walker and Grace Bellinger, editors-in-chief

The Northwestern Public Health Review will professionally print two publications featuring a wide variety of authors discussing relevant public health topics. Further, they plan to host a “Public Health Matters” symposium featuring the inspiring work of the Access to Health project. This will feature students recently returned from Nigeria who will discuss their work developing innovative communication tools with local communities.

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON PLANT PHENOLOGY: TEASING APART THE EFFECTS OF EARLY SNOWMELT AND WARMER TEMPERATURES

Diana Jerome, first year master’s student

This project will examine shifts in plant phenology caused by climate change and the consequence of these shifts for reproductive success. A field experiment will study how increases in temperature and early snowmelt affect reproductive cycles in five perennial plant species in subalpine meadows. The study of drivers of phenology in these systems will ensure the continued health and conservation of subalpine plant species into the future.

ASSESSING REINTRODUCTION POTENTIAL OF SIX SPECIES OF *VIOLA* THROUGH GERMINATION AND ESTABLISHMENT STUDIES

Samuel Kilgore, first year master's student

Habitat restoration projects rely heavily upon the germination of seed and subsequent establishment of young seedlings into suitable habitat, but these steps are often inhibited. In Midwest native violets, both germination and establishment are severely limited by unknown factors, which have resulted in the exclusion of these important plants from restorations in the region. This project will focus on better understanding the factors limiting germination in both laboratory and field studies with a goal of increasing the availability of numerous native violets to habitat restoration.

MEDILL SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM, MEDIA, INTEGRATED MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS

MISSION POSSIBLE: CHICAGO'S FREE SOUTH AFRICA MOVEMENT

Ava Thompson Greenwell, professor

Mission Possible: Chicago's Free South Africa movement is a documentary film that traces the birth and maturation of the anti-apartheid movement in the Chicago area from 1980 until the early 1990s. The project features several Northwestern alumnae and is expected to attract a wide audience in Chicago and beyond.

POP-UP ZINE NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Patti Wolter, associate professor, and students

By hosting Pop-Up Zine, a "DIY version" of the respected Pop-Up Magazine by The California Sunday Magazine team, Northwestern would be the first university in the country to bring this unique storytelling experience to its campus. The live show evokes a "3D magazine" and would feature a variety of students telling nonfiction, reported stories in front of a live audience using a variety of mediums including photo, radio and documentary film.

WHAT'S A GOOD CITIZEN TO DO? NOTIONS OF CITIZENSHIP IN THE MODERN MEDIA WORLD AMONG ILLINOIS RESIDENTS

Rachel Davis Mersey, associate professor, Medill; Stephanie Edgerly, associate professor, Medill; Laurel Harbridge-Young, associate professor, Weinberg College

What do people need in order to be knowledgeable, active and engaged in their communities and in political life – to be “good citizens?” This project seeks to answer this question through an innovative survey of Illinois residents that examines how people from different walks of life define good citizenship, both in terms of their current behaviors and their aspirations. The aim is to help educational and civic institutions such as libraries and community groups, media companies, government agencies, politicians and others, better communicate with the public, and to facilitate more meaningful engagement among citizens and their government.

McCORMICK SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING

DEVELOPING FACULTY MENTAL HEALTH ALLIES FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS

Marita Labedz Poll, academic advisor; Jill Hardin Wilson, assistant department chair for Undergraduate Studies

This proposal seeks to support mental health of Northwestern University undergraduates by developing a McCormick pilot of a Mental Health Ally program. Funds will be used to train faculty as Mental Health Allies through a series of workshops. Allies will encourage students to seek help and be available for consultation, helping break down the stigma associated with seeking help for mental health and emotional challenges.

NASA's 3D-PRINTED HABITAT CHALLENGE

Raul Marrero, Kavya Mendu, Elham Ramya, Matthew Troemner, Ph.D. students

Northwestern Engineering is studying the design of self-assembled structures in the quest of planetary exploration. Northwestern students are tackling NASA's 3D-Printed Habitat Challenge, a Centennial Challenge, which seeks ways to create or develop technologies needed to autonomously develop habitats on Mars.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BY DESIGN

Ordel Brown, assistant professor of instruction and academic advisor

This project is a short-term, faculty-led, broad engineering design course for Northwestern lowerclassmen. It promotes early development of a global engineering mindset through intentional combination of inclusive engineering design, community capacity building and international development. Working in a cross-cultural environment, students will prototype design solutions to problems associated with education, health or human services in an international underserved community.

CIVIL AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Erica M. Hartmann, assistant professor

The Civil and Environmental Engineering Summer Internship Program (CEE SIP) is an initiative to involve undergraduate students in CEE projects aimed at transforming the way people move, build and use Earth's resources – dispelling passé attitudes that all civil engineers do is build bridges. In addition, CEE SIP promotes meaningful interactions between undergraduates and faculty, creating human connections that reinforce interest in a topic within CEE. The program is designed to address student-identified gaps in community building, as well as revise the perceptions of the work done by modern civil and environmental engineers.

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL POLICY

HUMANITIES COMMUNITY PRACTICUM (HCP) PROGRAM: Piloting a humanities-based summer practicum program for graduate students

Dan A. Lewis, professor of Human Development and Social Policy; Ruth Martin Curry, graduate fellow, Center for Civic Engagement

In response to needs identified by graduate students and various humanities departments, this initiative will help students apply their skills in public contexts, enrich their understanding of the role of humanities in civic life, and provide meaningful personal and professional development experiences, while also helping support nonprofit and community-based organizations in Evanston and Chicago in smart, mutually beneficial ways.

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

THE 78th ANNUAL DOLPHIN SHOW

Millika Bhandari, Casey Watson, Andrew Harlan, co-director of development and producers

The Dolphin Show is a non-profit student theater organization that annually produces the nation's largest student-run musical. It celebrates the diverse talents of the Northwestern undergraduate community by providing opportunities to learn and excel in all artistic and administrative fields. The Dolphin Show presents a professional-caliber production, while involving the community through outreach.

PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE IN MORAL AND POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY

Richard Kraut, professor

Northwestern will be holding a conference on moral and political philosophy, open to all, with two keynote speakers and papers submitted by faculty and graduate students at schools other than Northwestern. Northwestern graduate students will select the papers submitted by graduate students elsewhere; similarly, Northwestern's philosophy department faculty will evaluate faculty submissions.

MOLECULARLY TARGETED MULTIMODAL FLUORESCENCE-MAGNETIC RESONANCE IMAGING AGENTS FOR EARLY DIAGNOSIS OF BRAIN TUMOR

Hao Li, chemistry graduate student

Early detection of brain tumors is critical to patient survival but is prevented by the lack of suitable imaging agents. The goal of this project is to develop molecularly targeted magnetic resonance imaging agents (IAs) to address this unmet need. Specifically, the IAs accumulate in brain cancer cells by targeting transporter proteins upregulated in these cells.

LYRIC OPERA PERFORMANCE OF WEST SIDE STORY FOR HISTORY 300, "WEST SIDE STORY: A CULTURAL AND POLITICAL HISTORY"

Michael Sherry, Richard W. Leopold Professor of History

This project is for students in History 300, “West Side Story: A Cultural and Political History,” to attend a performance of the play at Lyric Opera. The course uses the tools of history and allied fields to explore why “West Side Story” became the iconic American musical and how improbable it was that four queer Jewish men working in the 1950s would have such success.

THE HISPANIC CONSERVATIVE MOVEMENT FROM THE 1960s TO THE PRESENT

Geraldo L. Cadava, associate professor

Professor Cadava is completing a book about the history of Hispanic American conservatism. It will tell the intriguing story of why so many Hispanics continue to vote for Republican candidates. This project began in 2014 and is continuing.

GLOBAL STRATEGIES OF TWENTY-FIRST AFRICAN ARTISTS

Wendy Griswold, professor of sociology and Bergan Evans Professor in the Humanities

Proposed is a two-day symposium at the Program of African Studies on contemporary African artists’ career strategies as they negotiate the global art market and use of digital media on one hand, and local social and political commitments on the other. The symposium would bring in three recent Ph.D. graduates of Northwestern whose research is relevant, and at least one curator from the continent, plus local faculty, students and members of the community.

pH PROBES FOR GENERAL CHEMISTRY COURSES

Stephanie Knezz, Veronica Berns, Co-Directors of the general chemistry laboratory and assistant professors of instruction

Funds, to be matched by the chemistry department, will be used for a classroom set of pH meters. The new model of meters is more robust and easier to troubleshoot. About 750 students will be impacted every academic year, for as long as this equipment lasts.

ENCOUNTERING ART IN PERSON

Rob Linrothe, associate professor and chair, art history

This project will enhance curricular programs that deepen the engagement of undergraduate and graduate students with actual art objects, overcoming the usual limitations of teaching art history with photographs instead of artworks. Direct experience of an object, its materiality, its scale and its original context can never be fully or even adequately conveyed by photographs.

RSSI LABORATORY SAFETY WALK-THROUGH

Xiaodi Wang, Agnes Thorarinsdottir, Ph.D. candidates in chemistry, Weinberg College and The Graduate School

This program recruits volunteers from a number of departments at Northwestern that conduct laboratory research to do safety inspections in different research laboratories within their home departments using the RSSI Laboratory Safety Walk-Through Checklist as a guideline. Based on the scores and feedback collected, the laboratories demonstrating the best safety practices are recognized and awarded prizes.

The Alumnae of Northwestern University is an all-volunteer organization of women that raises funds for a wide range of projects to benefit the University and showcases the University's academic resources with the community through its Continuing Education program. Founded in 1916, and celebrating its centennial in 2016, The Alumnae has given more than \$8.5 million to the University in the form of grants, fellowships, scholarships, and an endowed professorship, as well as funding special University projects and summer internships. For more information, visit The Alumnae's website, nualumnae.org.