



For immediate release: May 10, 2019

### **Thirteen students awarded Alumnae Undergraduate Research Grants**

EVANSTON, Ill. --- The Alumnae of Northwestern University is pleased to honor 13 students who have been named as recipients of the Alumnae Undergraduate Research Grants. Funding for these grants comes from The Alumnae Centennial Endowment for Undergraduate Research, established in 2016 to commemorate the organization's 100th anniversary. The Endowment, administered by the Office of Undergraduate Research, supports students from all academic areas, giving them opportunities to develop and complete independent research and creative projects across a wide range of fields. These students will work with faculty sponsors this summer to explore answers to questions raised by research projects from many fields of study.

"Undergraduate research allows students to take what they have learned in their classes and use it to try to solve problems they see in the world. They learn creative problem-solving and critical project-management skills across all fields of study. The Alumnae Endowment allows us to expand these incredibly meaningful opportunities to more students, creating an environment where student success becomes the norm," notes Peter Civetta, director, Office of Undergraduate Education.

"Today, increasing numbers of undergraduates from all disciplines want to pursue research projects on a variety of topics, including music, art, gender studies, biological sciences, American studies, anthropology, global health, chemistry, environmental science and journalism. The Alumnae Centennial Endowment addresses this need by making such opportunities available," notes The Alumnae president Michele Bresler.

Recipients of \$3,500 grants and their sponsors are:

**Morgan Buckley**, junior, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, is studying creative writing. Proposal: *Comedy and Female Sexuality in Music*. Sponsor: Paola Zamperini, associate professor, Gender and Sexuality Studies. Morgan will bring comedy and female sexuality into a musical medium as a subversive tool for gender commentary

**Santiago Chacin**, sophomore, Weinberg College, is studying neuroscience and global health. Proposal: *D1 and D2 Cells in Mouse Striatum*. Sponsor: Anis Contractor, professor, Physiology. Santiago is working on a neuroscience project with mice at the Feinberg School of Medicine.

**Hannah Chorley**, junior, Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications, is studying journalism and international studies. Proposal: *Mapping the Migrations*. Sponsor: Robert Orsi, professor, Religious Studies. (See information about her project with **Hannah Kartzmer** below.)

**Emily Coffee**, junior, School of Education and Social Policy (SESP) and Weinberg College, is studying social policy and religious studies. Proposal: *Queer, Christian, and on Campus*. Sponsor: Lilah Shapiro, assistant professor of instruction, SESP. Emily is examining the question of how queer, Christian college students negotiate between religious and sexual identities – two facets of identity that are often considered at odds.

**Meghan Considine**, junior, Weinberg College, is studying art history and performance. Proposal: *Value and Neglect in Chicago's Public Art*. Sponsor: Rebecca Zorach, professor, Art History. Meghan is looking at three artwork case studies to define where value is located in public artworks and by whom? What art is bolstered, what art is neglected, and why and by whom?

**Alain Kangabire**, first year, McCormick School of Engineering, is studying electrical engineering. Proposal: *Origin of Anisogamy*. Sponsor: Daniel Abrams, associate professor, Engineering Sciences and Applied Mathematics. Alain is examining sexual reproduction variances among organisms.

**Hannah Karzmer**, junior, Weinberg College, is studying mathematics. Proposal: *Mapping the Migrations*. Sponsor: Robert Orsi, professor, Religious Studies. Hannah, along with **Hannah Chorley**, will create a long-form multimedia article with two embedded animated maps to illustrate how the fluctuating black population patterns in Chicago affected and continue to impact the religious realities of Chicago during the Great Migration and the New Great Migration periods.

**Mackenzie (Mac) Lim**, sophomore, School of Communication, is studying radio/television/film (RTVF). Proposal: *AYA Cancer Survivors in Post-Treatment*. Sponsor: Erik Gernand, senior lecturer, RTVF. Mackenzie will be conducting interview-based research surrounding AYA (adolescent and young adult) cancer survivors in the post-treatment phase. She will take this information and use it to write a short screenplay on the topic of cancer survivorship, specifically in this AYA population.

**Madeleine Lucas**, junior, Weinberg College, is studying earth and planetary science. Proposal: *Modeling Cave Passages Using ERT*. Sponsor: Mitchell Barklage, research associate, Earth and Planetary Sciences. Madeline is studying water-filled cave passages using a series of resistivity surveys.

**Catherine May**, junior, Weinberg College, is studying chemistry. Proposal: *Novel Synthesis of Chiral Amines*. Sponsor: Karl Scheidt, professor, Chemistry. Catherine is working on a project to generate organic building blocks that are essential for the synthesis of pharmaceuticals.

**Maya Mojica**, first year, Medill, is studying journalism. Proposal: *Objectification of the Ziegfeld Girls*. Sponsor: Karen Springen, lecturer, Journalism. Maya wants to raise awareness about issues surrounding sexual objectification and its effects (her great-grandmother was a Zeigfeld Girl).

**Isabella Spinelli**, sophomore, Bienen School of Music, is studying musical composition and violin performance. Proposal: *Completing Mahler's Piano Quartet*. Sponsor: Jesse Rosenberg, associate professor, Clinical, Musicology. Isabella will be exploring the ethics and aesthetics of unfinished music—tragic inconveniences in the musical repertoire such as Schumann's Unfinished Symphony, Bach's Art of the Fugue, etc.

**Gregory Voelkel**, sophomore, School of Communication, is studying radio/television/film. Proposal: *Release*. Sponsor: Erik Gernand, senior lecturer, RTVF. Gregory will document what life looks like post-incarceration – not only for an ex-convict, but also for his family.

The Alumnae of Northwestern University is an all-volunteer organization of women that raises funds for a wide range of projects to benefit Northwestern while sharing the University's academic resources with the community through its Continuing Education Program. Founded in 1916, The Alumnae has given more than \$8.5 million to the University in the form of grants, fellowships, scholarships, an endowed professorship, funding for special University projects and summer internships. For more information, visit The Alumnae website, [nualumnae.org](http://nualumnae.org).