



THE ALUMNAE OF
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Engaging Minds, Enriching Lives

Celebrating 150 Years of Women at Northwestern

With a Toast to our Past Recipients and

A Toast to the Future ~ our 2020 Awardees!



President's Message

Since its inception in 1916, The Alumnae has had a proud tradition of giving.

Initial fundraising efforts were directed towards a campaign to erect a Women's Building on campus. While those monies would ultimately go towards the construction of Scott Hall, the Great Depression became the impetus for The Alumnae to setup an emergency student loan fund. With the creation of the Waa-Mu Patron Project in 1946, that fund grew substantially and provided funding for four-year undergraduate scholarships.

By 1976, The Alumnae saw a growing number of women pursuing PhD degrees, but many were in need of financial assistance. To meet this need, Dissertation Fellowships were created. More recently, The Alumnae initiated Graduate Fellowships for Master's degree candidates and STEM Scholarships for undergraduates, as well as funding unpaid Summer Internships (SIGP) and Undergraduate Research Scholarships. Over the years as student needs have changed, so have The Alumnae's student funding programs. One constant remains - for more than 100 years, Alumnae volunteers have an unbroken record of giving their time to raise monies that provide financial support for Northwestern students.

As the University's year-long celebration of *150 Years of Women* comes to an end, we take pride in highlighting a few of the women who have received Alumnae support while students at Northwestern. Some are just beginning their careers and others are well-established. In keeping with the theme of this year's One Book One Northwestern selection [Hidden Figures](#), we proudly present some of our past Alumnae recipients whose achievements should be "Hidden No More!"

We hope their brief bios inspire you to learn more and we invite you to visit our website (nualumnae.org) where photos and writeups of many of our past Award Recipients are featured. In addition to student recipients, you will find some faculty members chosen to be Alumnae Teaching Professors and recipients of Curriculum Innovation Awards, as well as our remarkable Alumnae Awardees, each of whom "has made significant contributions in her field and attained national recognition;"

Warm regards,

Michele Bresler

President, The Alumnae of Northwestern University

Dissertation Fellowships

From 1976-2008, The Alumnae funded 144 PhD candidates during their Dissertation year. More than \$1.5 million was awarded to women scholars who showed promise of distinguished academic careers. Today Dissertation Fellows teach in colleges and universities across the country and continue their research in such diverse disciplines as anthropology, sociology, neurobiology, and religion. Others have pursued nonacademic careers in philanthropy, education, government, and the arts – theatre, film and music.

Robyn Muncy, PhD

1986 Dissertation Fellow - Women's History

Professor of History, University of Maryland, College Park



Professor Muncy teaches and researches 20th century U.S. History, focusing on women's history, social policy and progressive reform movements.

Author, Relentless Reformer - Josephine Roche and Progressivism in Twentieth-Century America, is the most recent of her three books.

Guest curator of *Rightfully Hers: American Women and the Vote*, an exhibit that opened in May 2019 at the National Archives in Washington, D.C.

Fellow and Public Policy Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Kathryn Lavelle, PhD

1994 Dissertation Fellow - Political Science

Named Professor of World Affairs, Case Western Reserve University



Professor Lavelle is currently collaborating on a research project that explores geostrategic interests in the Arctic as the region responds to climate change.

Author, The Challenges of Multilateralism, her 4th book, returns to her dissertation work on the United Nations, its connections to the IMF, World Bank, World Trade Organization, and developing countries.

Global Fellow in the Global Europe Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

William A. Steiger Fellow, the most promising political scientist in the class of American Political Science Association Congressional Fellows.

Alumnae Scholarships

Alumnae support for students goes back to the Depression when an emergency student loan fund was set up. In 1997 in honor of the University's Sesquicentennial, The Alumnae established an Endowment that provides funding for three-year scholarships to undergraduate women.

Paula Bernhardt, PhD

2011-2013 Alumnae Scholar



Paula received her doctorate in Clinical Psychology from Sam Houston State University in 2019. Currently a Forensic Psychology Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Massachusetts Medical School, she is conducting psychological evaluations for the courts. Paula hopes to complete her postdoctorate in August 2020 and intends to work as a forensic evaluator at a psychiatric hospital in the Pacific Northwest region.

Olivia Putnam

2020-2022 Alumnae Scholar

Since coming to Northwestern, Olivia has been pursuing her interest in



neuroscience-psychology research through her classes, working in a clinical psychology neuroimaging lab, and conducting her own research project over the summer. As a Brady Scholar she had the opportunity to study moral philosophy and to begin designing an Evanston-centered service project. Recently chosen to serve as president of the Undergraduate Prison Education Partnership, she will be supporting the mission of Northwestern's Prison Education Program

to bring a Northwestern education to incarcerated students in Illinois.

Graduate Fellowships

In 2009 The Alumnae created a program that provides tuition funding for Northwestern alumni enrolled in a terminal Master's degree program. To date 36 recipients have received up to \$20,000 each to pursue careers that serve the public good in such diverse fields as journalism, biomedical engineering, higher education, and public health.

Lauren Schlesinger, 2009 Graduate Fellow

2010 MSED Secondary Education



Honored in 2009 by the American Academy of Poets, Lauren holds an MFA in poetry from the University of Washington in Seattle. She teaches creative writing and English literature in a suburban Chicago high school and poetry at Northwestern. Lauren has been recognized for her excellence in teaching with these honors:

2015 Scholastic Art & Writing

Outstanding Teacher

2016 Richard J. Dunn Teaching Award,

University of Washington

2020 Visiting Artist-in-Residence, Northwestern University

Roshni Barot, 2011 Graduate Fellow

2012 MS Environmental Engineering



Roshni was chosen the **2011 National Co-op Student of the Year**. As a member of a team at Baxter, she received an Invention Award for developing a Home Hemodialysis System. Roshni joined the Environmental Protection Agency in Chicago in 2012 and worked as a Clean Air Enforcement Officer. In 2015, Roshni began working in the San Francisco office on Clean Air Act cases. As Lead Case Developer, her latest case with Kohler Co. resulted in the prevention of 3,600 tons

pollution and a penalty of \$20 million.

STEM Scholarships

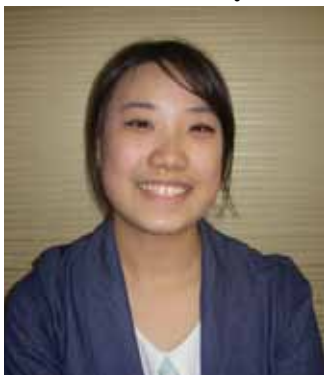
Initiated in 2010, undergraduates with majors in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) are eligible to receive awards of up to \$4,000. Criteria for selection include academic excellence and financial need. Designed to free students from work commitments, this Award has enabled 59 students to pursue research and other opportunities outside the classroom.

Molly Bird, 2012 STEM Scholar 2015 BS Biomedical Engineering



Molly is a 5th year PhD student in the Biological Engineering Department at MIT. Her current research at the Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research focuses on “exploring the roles of different RNA-binding proteins in sensitizing tumor cells to chemotherapy.” Passionate about tackling many issues facing women in STEM, she serves on the executive board of Graduate Women at MIT and co-founded New England Graduate Women in Science and Engineering.

Olive Jung, 2012 STEM Scholar 2015 BA Chemistry



Olive is currently in the National Institutes of Health Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program, as a track 1 MD/PhD candidate. She has completed the first two years of medical school at Case Western Medical School and is in her first year as a PhD student at NIH-Oxford, where she is working on a research project involving the blood-brain barrier. Olive is exceedingly proud of “being a female physician scientist” and encourages students and alums interested in pursuing a similar career path to visit oxcam.gpp.nih.gov

Summer Internship Grant Program (SIGP)

Since 2010, The Alumnae has provided financial support to the Summer Internship Grant Program (SIGP) – a program initiated in 2007 and administered by Northwestern Career Advancement (NCA). Since that first year when 10 students out of 90 applicants were awarded grants, the number of applicants grew to more than 800 in 2019. To date, Alumnae-funded grants have provided 183 undergraduates the unique experience of an unpaid summer internship.

Nicole Hendrix, PhD, BCBA

2010 Summer Intern, NU Family Institute



Nicole is an assistant professor within the Emory University School of Medicine Pediatric Institute and a clinical psychologist at the Marcus Autism Center in Atlanta. In her clinical role, she conducts diagnostic evaluations for children and adolescents, as well as developmental behavioral interventions with toddlers and their parents. Her summer internship at Ability KC in Kansas City, MO, provided her the unique opportunity to participate in clinical services for young

children with disabilities and served as a foundation for receiving her PhD in school psychology.

Emily Spitzer, AuD

2010 Summer Intern, NU Auditory Neuroscience Lab



Emily is a research assistant professor and audiologist at NYU School of Medicine, where her lab's focus on cochlear implants is improving these devices to help patients with hearing loss understand speech and appreciate music. Her interest in the auditory system began freshman year when she started working in the Auditory Neuroscience Lab led by Dr. Nina Kraus. Emily worked with Dr. Kraus until graduation in March 2013. She continued as a full-time research assistant, and authored

four publications before pursuing a doctorate in audiology at the University of North Carolina, graduating in 2018.

Undergraduate Research Scholarships

In 2016 The Alumnae chose to commemorate its 100th Anniversary by establishing our \$1,000,000 Alumnae Centennial Endowment for Undergraduate Research. Since its inception, 44 undergraduates have each received \$3,500 research grants to pursue an incredible diversity of projects - from theatre to international journalism, environmental science and molecular biosciences - all with the support of a faculty sponsor, each with the “potential to transform their educational experience and career trajectory.”

Christine Junhui Liu, 2016 Undergraduate Research Scholar ***“Unveiling ‘Hidden’ Hearing Loss”***

Sponsor - Dr. Nina Kraus’ Auditory Neuroscience Lab



Christine is a 2nd year PhD student in the Speech and Hearing Bioscience and Technology program at Harvard Medical School, where she is studying neuroplasticity in the auditory cortex. Her introduction to science research came in her sophomore year as an Undergraduate Research Scholar in Dr. Nina Kraus’ lab. Working on a project “aimed to identify the underlying biomarkers for hidden hearing loss, a phenomenon in which patients have trouble hearing in noisy environments,” she “absolutely fell in love with . . . the fascinating fields of hearing science and auditory neuroscience.”

Irene Jiang, 2016 Undergraduate Research Scholar ***“Following Sze Mei – An Oral History in Film”***

Sponsor - John Sniadecki, Assistant Professor, Radio/TV/Film



During her senior year, Irene won Northwestern’s Krevoy Screenwriting Competition. After graduating, she received a 2017-2018 Fulbright Scholarship to travel to Morocco to film a documentary about a circus community in Casablanca – a work still in progress. “Following Sze Mei,” the film Irene made as a Research Scholar, was accepted at several smaller film festivals. Her research continues as she hopes to develop a feature-length film or screenplay. Currently living in New York, Irene is working as a junior reporter

with BusinessInsider.com while she pursues her dream as a filmmaker.

Senior Woman's Service Award

Established in 2002, this award recognizes “a senior woman for her outstanding volunteer service during her undergraduate years at Northwestern.” Past recipients have gone on to earn a PhD or Master’s degree, some as a Rhodes Scholar, Fulbright Scholar, or Mitchell Scholar. Others have taken their volunteer experience and commitment to Teach for America or to work in government agencies, nongovernmental organizations, and public health.

Lucia Brunel, 2018 Awardee

2018 BS in Chemical and Biological Engineering



Recipient of a Marshall Scholarship, Lucia attended the University of Cambridge and earned a research-based Master’s degree in Material Science. Inspired and advised by “two incredible female academics,” she is studying currently for her PhD at Stanford University, where her research is focused on the design of biomaterials that can be used for the 3D printing of tissues and organs. Lucia hopes to continue teaching and mentoring as she did at Northwestern, where her volunteer

roles included teaching a course on Kinetics and Reactor Design as a TA, initiating outreach programs to interest young students in engineering, and actively supporting and advocating for women in STEM.

Emily Harriott, 2019 Awardee



Throughout her years as an undergraduate, Emily worked in Dr. Elizabeth Norton’s lab. Shortly after graduation, she began working full time with Dr. Norton and other investigators in a research lab in Feinberg’s Medical Social Sciences Department. Working on a NIH-sponsored project that looks at late-talking toddlers has Emily doing behavior/ language assessments with 2- and 3-year-olds, running EEG sessions and analyzing MRIs. While planning to pursue a PhD in childhood

language, Emily continues to volunteer as a coach at Evanston Special Recreation and hopes to see her athletes return to the Special Olympics Illinois Summer Games.

The Purple Beret

During this year-long celebration of *150 Years of Women*, this unique award was given to four Alumnae Directors. All active members of The Alumnae, their contributions to our Continuing Education program are legendary, but their experiences outside Northwestern were unknown to most of us. Now their stories are “Hidden No More!”



Sue Bernstein



Carolyn Krulee



Mary Patronik



Linda Best

As the year ends, The Alumnae of Northwestern University proudly celebrates the individual and collective contributions of all women who have attended Northwestern. Dedicated members of The Alumnae raise funds for a wide range of projects to benefit the University while sharing the University’s academic resources with the community through its Continuing Education program, offering more than 700 courses over past 50 years. Since its founding in 1916, The Alumnae has given more than \$9 million to the University in the form of grants, fellowships, scholarships, summer internships, and an endowed professorship.

As we look to the future, we can only imagine . . . where will Northwestern alumnae take us?

Honoring Recipients of 2020 Alumnae Awards

Alumnae Teaching Professor

Henri Lauzière, Associate Professor, History, WCAS

Alumnae Award for Curriculum Innovation

Jennifer Lackey, Professor of Philosophy, WCAS

Sarah Van Wart, Assistant Professor, Computer Science, McCormick

Alumnae Graduate Fellows

Juliet Freudman, 2019 BS Biomedical Engineering

Amy Jiang, 2019 BA Economics and Global Health Studies

Jodi Salata, 2018 BS Psychology

Julia Shenkman, 2019 BA Anthropology and Global Health Studies

Alumnae STEM Scholars

Victor Aung (McC'21), Emerson Carlson (WCAS '21),
Braden Cronin (WCAS '21). Mary Okematti (WCAS'21),
Nolan Robinson (C'21), Lucy Weidner (WCAS'21)

Alumnae Undergraduate Scholar

Olivia Putnam (SESP'22)

Senior Woman's Service Award

Sophia Ruark (WCAS'20)



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