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For more information contact:  
Michele Bresler, President and Public Relations Chair  
The Alumnae of Northwestern University  
847-869-1010 or [mbresler@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mbresler@sbcglobal.net)

The Alumnae of Northwestern University Awards Five 2020-2021 Academic Enrichment Grants

**EVANSTON, Ill.** --- The Alumnae of Northwestern University has awarded funding for five programs that will bring guest artists and distinguished scholars and speakers to campus to enhance the undergraduate experience.

These intriguing programs also will be of interest to faculty, graduate students, other Northwestern community members, and, in some cases, the general public.

The grants, totaling more than \$24,000, are funded with earnings from the Academic Enrichment Endowment, established in 1991 as one of The Alumnae's 75th Anniversary gifts to the University.

These grants will provide "seed money" for faculty-sponsored projects that address important and timely issues related to astronomy and planetary science, criminal justice, theatre, music, sustainability, the environment and climate change.

"During these challenging times the programs the Academic Enrichment Committee partially funded this spring, in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, will give Northwestern students, faculty, The Alumnae and others something positive to look forward to next year," states Judy Moore, chair of The Alumnae's Academic Enrichment Committee.

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The following projects are slated for Northwestern University's 2020-2021 academic year.

### **WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**

- **“CIERA Annual Public Lecture”**

**Vicky Kalogera**, Daniel I. Linzer Distinguished Professor, and Director of the Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration & Research in Astrophysics (CIERA); and **Shane Larson**, research associate professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, and associate director, CIERA

CIERA's Annual Public Lecture series brings the campus and Chicago-area community together to hear a prominent astronomer speak on a fascinating and timely topic. Past speakers have included Nobel laureates and others of great renown. The lectures are aimed at audiences of all ages interested in astronomy, but special efforts are made to promote these talks among undergraduates.

- **“Transforming the Criminal Justice System” Workshop Series**

**Jennifer Lackey**, Wayne and Elizabeth Jones Professor of Philosophy, and director, Northwestern Prison Education Program (NPEP); and **Sophia Ruark**, Undergraduate Prison Education Program (UPEP)

During the course of the 2020-2021 academic year, this series of three workshops will present cutting-edge research on incarceration, trauma-informed interventions and the criminal justice system, and cultivate a community of civic and social engagement. Students and faculty on the Evanston and Chicago campuses will engage in discussion with distinguished keynote speakers on “The History of Mass Incarceration,” “Trauma and Trauma-informed Interventions in the Criminal Justice Systems,” and “Moving Beyond Punishment and Prisons.”

### **SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION**

- **“Guest Director Rory Pelsue”**

**Rives Collins**, professor and chair, Department of Theatre, and Al Heartley, managing director, the Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts, and lecturer, Theatre Department

The Wirtz Center will bring Rory Pelsue, a New York-based music theater director and Sondheim translator, to the Evanston campus to direct and choreograph a popular Sondheim production during its 2020-2021 mainstage season. Pelsue will be involved in design and production meetings, auditions, rehearsals, and the show's opening during his February 2021 residency. The title of the production will be announced later this spring.

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## **BIENEN SCHOOL of MUSIC**

- **“Listening in Dark Times: Arendt, Aesthetics, and Politics”**

**Ryan Dohoney**, associate professor, Musicology, Department of Music Studies

The May 18-23, 2021, workshop will bring together an international group of scholars and artists from Northwestern and beyond for a series of events focused on the role of music, art, and political judgment in resilient democracies in dialog with the political philosophy of the late German-born humanist thinker Hannah Arendt. In addition to the scholarly presentations, Dutch composer, flutist and music publisher Antoine Beuger will be featured in a conversation with Professor Dohoney on the impact of Arendt’s political thought on his music. Beuger also will offer a public composition colloquium on May 18, 2021, and a public concert of his works the following day, (both on the Evanston campus), to be performed by himself, Bienen School students and faculty.

## **McCORMICK SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING**

- **“Northwestern Sustainability Lecture Series”**

**Alessandro F. Rotta Loria**, assistant professor, and Director, Mechanics and Energy Laboratory, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering

The April 7, 2021 summit will gather world-renowned experts for a daylong discussion on “Earth-Human Interactions: Sustainability and Development.” The summit will address the analysis of questions, problems, and solutions that result from human interactions with the Earth, both above and below the surface, with a focus on energy, climate and the environment, and urban transformations. The program primarily aims at expanding the educational and cultural experience of a large audience within the Northwestern community, including undergraduate and graduate students and faculty, while also being open to the industry and other stakeholders.

## **THE ALUMNAE OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY**

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 and celebrating the 51st year of its Continuing Education program, The Alumnae have given \$9 million to the University in the form of grants, fellowships, scholarships, an endowed professorship and summer internships. For more information, visit The Alumnae website at [www.nualumnae.org](http://www.nualumnae.org).

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