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The Alumnae of Northwestern University Awards Five 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 in 2021-2022.

Some of these intriguing programs will be of interest to faculty, graduate students, other Northwestern community members, and, in a few cases, the general public.

The grants, totaling more than \$25,000, are funded with earnings from the Academic Enrichment Endowment, established in 1990 as one of The Alumnae's 75th Anniversary gifts to the University. These grants will help facilitate faculty-sponsored projects that address important and timely issues related to environmental justice, visual arts, theatre and costume design, music and visualization, and criminal justice.

“This spring we were able to partially fund five projects that will further develop the intellectual, artistic and creative abilities of Northwestern undergraduates during the 2021-2022 academic year,” said Judy Moore, who co-chaired the 2021 Academic Enrichment Committee with Victoria Landau.

The following projects are slated for Northwestern University's 2021-2022 academic year:

ONE BOOK, ONE NORTHWESTERN

Nancy Cunniff, director, One Book, One Northwestern, Office of the President

“One Book Keynote Address and Conversation with [Bryan Stevenson](#)” is an in-person event with the author of the 2020-2021 One Book, One Northwestern common read, “Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption.” Stevenson’s book challenges readers to examine and confront the systemic racism, inequities and moral failures of the United States criminal justice system. Stevenson is a lawyer, social justice activist, and founder/executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative, and a law professor at New York University School of Law. He will be interviewed by Jennifer Lackey, One Book Faculty Chair, and director of the Northwestern Prison Education Program.

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

Ana Kuzmanic, associate professor, department of theatre

“Creative Process: Music and Visualization,” a master class with world-renowned composer [Aleksandra Vrebalov](#), will examine the deep connections between the disciplines of music and visualization. Her colorful sketches serve as an aid in the collaborative process, and offer a visual presentation of initial abstract concepts. Vrebalov has written 90 works, ranging from concert music, to opera and dance, which have been commissioned and/or performed by the Kronos Quartet, Carnegie Hall, Belgrade Philharmonic and Jose Limon Dance Company, among others. The master class will be open to all Northwestern students of theatre, music and computer science because of the interdisciplinary nature of Vrebalov’s work.

Ana Kuzmanic, associate professor, department of theatre

“Concept Artist and Creator at Work” is a two-day master class/workshop with New York based award-winning costume designer and engineer [Miodrag Guberinic](#). Guberinic will focus on vivid avant-garde performing art productions, including live entertainment, TV and film. In the master class/workshop students will develop a design concept for an avant-garde costume piece from design inception to final execution. The master class will be open to all Northwestern theatre students, and the workshop will be open to theatre design students.

THE MARY AND LEIGH BLOCK MUSEUM OF ART

Erin Northington, Susan and Stephen Wilson, associate director, Campus and Community Education and Engagement; Kathleen Bickford Berzock, senior lecturer in the Department of Art History, and associate director of Curatorial Affairs; and Janet Dees, Steven and Lisa Munster Tananbaum, curator of modern and contemporary Art, affiliate faculty in the Department of History

“Artist Talks: Northwestern Undergraduates Lead Art Acquisitions at The Block” is a series of public talks featuring professional guest artists [Bethany Collins](#) and [Myra Greene](#), and one of the three following short-listed artists: [Paul Rucker](#), [Leonard Suryajaja](#) or [Chris Pappan](#). Works by these artists were recently acquired by The Block, at the recommendation of 13 Northwestern undergraduate [student docents](#) who participate in the Block’s student-led acquisition program. Twelve undergraduate students participated in the spring 2020 seminar that selected Myra Green’s work. The artist talks will align with the Block’s 2021-2022 exhibition season programming.

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Melissa S. Rosenzweig, interim program director, Program in Environmental Policy and Culture, and assistant professor of instruction, Anthropology and Environmental Policy and Culture.

“Generations of Environmental Justice” is an inclusive student-driven, multi-day Earth Day 2022 series of talks by guest speakers and activities on environmental justice. Environmental justice addresses the unequal distribution of environmental resources, services and hazards that Indigenous people, people of color, and the poor confront in their communities. Campus events next spring will feature and promote women, Indigenous people and people of color in all aspects of its design, and will include student organizers and participants, invited Environmental Justice leaders and faculty participants. “We want students to meet, network, and learn from their heroes,” said Rosenzweig.

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 52nd year of its Continuing Education program, The Alumnae have given more than \$9.5 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.

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