The Alumnae of Northwestern University Awards Seven Academic Enrichment Grants

EVANSTON, Ill. --- The Alumnae of Northwestern University has awarded funding for seven projects that will bring guest artists and distinguished scholars to campus to enhance the undergraduate experience in 2022-2023.

The grants, totaling more than $26,000, 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 help facilitate faculty-sponsored projects that address important and timely issues related to the visual and performing arts, environment and climate change, religion and politics, astronomy, indigenous literature, and peace activism in Korea.

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

“This spring our committee selected a variety of proposals that will broaden the intellectual and artistic experience of undergraduates, and uphold Northwestern’s strong commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion,” said Judy Moore, chair of the 2022 Academic Enrichment Committee.
The following projects are slated for Northwestern University’s 2022-2023 academic year:

MARY AND LEIGH BLOCK MUSEUM OF ART

Erin Northington, Susan and Stephen Wilson Associate Director, Campus and Community Education and Engagement, and Kathleen Bickford Berzock, The Block’s associate director of cultural affairs, and senior lecturer, department of art history, Weinberg College

The Block Museum’s “Artist Talks: In Conversation with Northwestern Students” project is a series of public talks and engagement activities for undergraduates and the Block Museum Student Associates (BMSA) with two artists featured in The Block’s 2022-2023 exhibitions. It also includes the 2022 Student Acquisition artist, whose work will be selected by the BMSA for the museum collection in May. These programs will align with The Block’s curriculum-focused collections and with the upcoming exhibitions: “Taking Shape: Abstraction from the Arab World, 1950s-1980s,” (September 20-December 4, 2022) tied to a course offered by Professor Hannah Feldman, in the department of art history, and “Dario Robleto: The Aorta of an Archivist,” (January 23-July 9, 2023).

McCORMICK SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE

Alessandro Rotta Loria, assistant professor, department of civil and environmental engineering

The second edition of the daylong “Northwestern Sustainability Lecture Series,” scheduled for May 2023, will feature discussions by world-renowned experts 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, above and below the surface, with a focus on energy, climate and the environment, and urban transformations. Conceptually developed for Northwestern undergraduate and graduate students, this event also targets its faculty members and aims at involving the industry and other stakeholders.

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, professor of political science, department of political science, and department of religious studies

Funding for the “Visiting Scholar (Brazil)” project will support the month-long, Spring Quarter 2023 campus residency of international scholar, Dr. Joanildo Albuquerque Burity. Dr. Burity will give at least one public lecture geared for undergraduates and a second guest lecture in one of Professor Hurd’s undergraduate courses. He also will meet with undergraduates in the International Studies Honors Program, which Professor Hurd directs, who are writing their senior theses. Dr. Burity also will serve as a mentor for undergraduate and graduate students interested in global perspectives on religion and politics.
WEINBERG COLLEGE (Cont’d.)

Kari Frank, director of operations, and research assistant professor, Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics (CIERA); and Shane Larson, CIERA’s associate director, and research professor of physics, Weinberg

CIERA’s Fall 2023 Annual Public Lecture series will bring the Northwestern campus and the Chicago-area community together to hear a prominent astronomer speak on a timely topic of interest. Past speakers have included Nobel laureates and others of renown. These lectures are aimed at audiences of all ages interested in astronomy. The October lectures are free and open to all, and are scheduled for Homecoming Weekend.

Kelly Wisecup, associate professor of English, and affiliate faculty, Center for Native American and Indigenous Research

The Fall 2022 “Indigenous Periodicals & Poetry: A Symposium on the Ojibwe Muzzeniegun/Literary Voyager,” is a collaborative, multidisciplinary project that will bring Indigenous poets and translators together with Indigenous Studies scholars and students for a one-day conference about the first Indigenous-edited periodical, the Ojibwe “Muzzeniegun” or “Literary Voyager.” Edited by the Ojibwe poet Jane Johnston Schoolcraft and her American husband, Henry Rowe Schoolcraft, in 1826-1827, the “Muzzeniegun” consists of 15 manuscript issues. The periodical gathers Johnston Schoolcraft’s poems with biographies of Indigenous leaders, translations of Ojibwe stories originating with other Johnston family members, and Henry’s ethnographic writings.

Jeong Eun Annabel We, assistant professor, Korean literature and culture, department of Asian languages and cultures

The “International Feminist Peace Activism in Korea: Film Screening and Speaker Panels” project is a one-day, in-person Spring Quarter 2023 public event that will focus on the 2021 film, “Crossings,” directed by Deann Borshay Liem. The film documents the peace activism of “Women Cross DMZ,” a group of international women peacemakers who walk across the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea to forge a path toward peace and reconciliation. It will benefit undergraduate students and the diasporic community on the issue of peace activism in Korea.
SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

Shireen Dickson, managing director, SLIPPAGE Lab, and Thomas F. DeFrantz, professor of performance studies and theater, and artistic director of SLIPPAGE, a new Evanston campus think tank and interdisciplinary performance research group that explores connections between performance, history, theater and emergent technology.

During Spring Quarter 2023, the “Making Live Art Mentors” project will feature six contemporary American artists who will serve as virtual mentors and presenters for Northwestern undergraduate performance artists. The quarter will culminate with a three-day slate of live art events during the weekend of May 12-14, 2023, which will include in-person immersive artistic experiences led by the Making Live Art mentors, and showings by the undergraduate students.

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 53rd 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, and endowed professorship and summer internships. For more information, visit The Alumnae website at www.nualumnae.org.

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