

For immediate release

September 14, 2016

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# EIGHT NORTHWESTERN STUDENTS GRANTED STEM SCHOLARSHIPS

# BY THE ALUMNAE OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

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EVANSTON, Ill. --- The Alumnae of Northwestern University has selected eight students to receive 2016-2017 Alumnae of Northwestern University STEM scholarships, which are awarded to students who excel in a STEM major (science, technology, engineering, mathematics). Criteria for selection include academic excellence and financial need. The intent of this scholarship is to free students from work commitments so they may more vigorously pursue their chosen area of study and other university endeavors.

Jane Knight Dampts, chair of The Alumnae’s STEM Fellowship Committee, notes: “Our members are proud to support these hard-working students who are pursuing STEM careers in diverse fields, allowing them to continue their studies, do research, and actively participate in campus life. It was challenging for our committee to select eight recipients from a large field of deserving applicants.”

**Ailey Adorjan**, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences (WCAS), from Highland Park, Ill., is a physics/linguistics major who aspires to pursue a career in forensic science. She has been honored for her problem-solving skills. She has always loved science, solving puzzles and helping people, making forensic science a natural choice for her.

**Tasfia Azim**, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science (McC), from Arlington Heights, Ill., majoring in chemical engineering, wants to become a research pharmacist, hoping to be at the forefront in the development of new drugs. Tasfia is described as “naturally inquisitive, proactive, reflective, and collaborative.” She is currently working in a student-run synthetic biology lab on a team of eight students, which will represent Northwestern for the International Genetically Engineered Machine (iGEM) competition.

**Carolyne Guo**, WCAS, from Niskayuna, N.Y., with a combined BA/MS chemistry major and economics minor, is a second-time Alumnae STEM scholarship winner. A high achiever, she is also the recipient of a Weinberg Summer Undergraduate Research Grant. Carolyne is interested in the pharmaceutical field and has already received a patented innovation for her work. She performs independent research in the lab of Dr. Richard Silverman.

**Taran Lichtenberger**, WCAS, from Wheeling, Ill., is a second-time Alumnae STEM scholarship winner. She is currently involved in research at the Chicago Botanic Garden, has a goal of getting her research published, and hopes to be accepted into the combined BA/MA degree in plant biology and conservation. Taran has the distinction of being a NU Bioscientist, and was a NU Bioscientist mentor last year.

**Sarah Lim**, WCAS, from Bellevue, Wash., is majoring in computer science. She is interested in teaching computer science at the university level, along with research and development of software engineering partnerships with the education technology industry. Sara is committed to education technology and the wide accessibility of computing education initiatives.

**Nneoma Oradiegwy**, McC, from Pearland, Texas, is pursuing a BS in computer engineering, with concentrations in systems and cognition and artificial intelligence. She is a gifted problem solver and aspires to solve complex world problems through her knowledge of robotics and computer science. Nneoma is described as “thoughtful beyond her years, driven, intellectual curious, and overall just an ideal student.”

**Alexander Ortiz**, WCAS, from Santa Fe, N.M., is majoring in mathematics, physics, and integrated science. His goal is to pursue a doctorate in physics, and then to work at Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he has already worked as a researcher and from which he received a top scholarship. He has many honors and will be first in his family to achieve college and graduate degrees.

**Taylor Shelton**, WCAS, from St. Peters, Mo., has worked as a Posner Fellow in a lab at the Feinberg School of Medicine, and has a strong interest in attending medical school and finding therapies or a cure for Alzheimer’s disease, a passion she has had for years due to experiencing the ravages of the disease within her own family. Taylor is described as “exceptionally mature and professional.”

The Alumnae of Northwestern University is an all-volunteer organization of women that raises funds for a wide range of projects to benefit the University and showcases the University’s academic resources with the community through its Continuing Education program. Founded in 1916 and celebrating its Centennial this year, it has given more than $7.5 million to the University in the form of grants, fellowships, scholarships, an endowed professorship, as well as funding special university projects and summer internships. For more information and to view The Alumnae’s Centennnial video, visit The Alumnae website ([www.nualumnae.org](http://www.nualumnae.org/)).

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Rev.2-22-2017/pj