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**THE ALUMNAE OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY AWARDS $125,000 IN GRANTS FOR 2017 NORTHWESTERN PROJECTS**

**EVANSTON, Ill. ---** The Alumnae of Northwestern University has awarded full or partial funding to projects sponsored by many Northwestern schools, including the Bienen School of Music, Feinberg School of Medicine, the Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Medill School of Journalism, Media, Inegrated Marketing and Communications, and the School of Communication. Awards for 20 grants, totaling $125,000, are included in The Alumnae Grants Program for 2017.

“The Grants Committee was impressed by the quality and variety of the proposals submitted so it was quite a challenge to choose recipients from among them,” according to Grants Committee chair, Margie Eskilson. “The 20 grants will provide funding for such worthwhile endeavors as research, performances, technology and equipment upgrades, conferences, and exhibits.”

The comprehensive range of projects includes full or partial funding to: investigate how the status of pro bono or free legal services changes over time; analyze the variation in yield,as well as best management practice, for successful breadfruit cultivation; evaluate tumor marker status in diagnosis and treatment of newly-detected cancers; support production of a world premiere play *Ever In The Glades*: present an exhibition, *Faces of Roman Egypt: Mummy Partrait Production in Ancient Tebtunis*,showcasing innovative techniques for learning about the artworks’ production and source materials; working in Nigeria, develop a device to help treat burn injuries; research strategies used to achieve gender parity in theater communities; support a graduate student in plant biology and conservation to present at an international conference in Shenzhen, China; study genetic diversity chromosome configurations and effective mating between populations to increase understanding of the benefits of sexual reproduction and its evolution in plants; provide professional development for student organization leaders through their attendance at national conferences; promote cross-cultural music exchanges in Cuba, featuring a blend of American and Cuban musical styles, repertoire and instruments; fund a collaboration with skilled music therapists; immerse health and science journalism graduate students in a laboratory, clinical, or field setting, observing and participating in the work and life of their science/clinician hosts; partner with Searle Center for Advanced Learning and Teaching to engage faculty to incorporate University Design of Instruction (UDI) into their courses, reducing the faculty and staff time required to provide accommodations for the growing number of Northwestern students with disabilities; secure funding for museum visits for German Language and Culture curriculum; explore the ways in which robots and machines simulate human relationships using computer software, 3D printers, and laser cutters; fund travel to the Engineering World Health Summer Institute in Tanzania to repair medical equipment; provide and implement electronic tablet-based learning within the Northwestern Medicine Scholars Program curriculum, whose goal is to increase low-income and underrepresented high school students’ technology literacy; and support a conference, cultural performance and exhibit featuring oral history research about Korean immigrants and Vietnamese refugees in the Chicago area and their memories of war, displacement and migration.

The proposals are in alphabetical order by proposer.

**THE STATUS ECONOMY OF PRO BONO AND ACCESS TO CIVIL JUSTICE**

Atinuke O. Adedioran, Graduate Student, Sociology Department, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences

The status economy of pro bono influences social policies concerning the provision of free legal services to poor individuals. This project seeks to investigate how the status of pro bono or free legal services is maintained, distributed, generated and changes over time. In addition this project examines who is involved in pro bono at large law firms.

**UPGRADING OF PARKES HALL CHOIR ROOM INTO A “SMART CLASSROOM” SPACE**

Stephen Alltop, Director of Music, Alice Millar Chapel, and Timothy Sevens, University Chaplain

The Choir Room in Parkes Hall (Alice Millar Chapel) is a very busy space, hosting seven to ten class music class meetings a week. The space very much needs to be upgraded with technology to make it a “Smart” space, thus making it possible to provide students with the same capabilities and presentations available to them in virtually all classrooms in Northwestern.

**BREADFRUIT AGROFORESTRY IN JAMAICA: A PATH TO FOOD SECURITY AND ECOSYSTEM STABILITY IN A CHANGING CLIMATE** $216**5/$2165 FULL**

Lauren Audi, MS student, Graduate Program in Plant Biology and Conservation, Northwestern University and Chicago Botanic Garden

Food security is a pressing issue in the Caribbean where communities are often impacted by natural disasters and deforestation. Breadfruit is an important underutilized crop species that has become integral to Caribbean ecosystems since it was introduced 300 years ago from the South Pacific. The proposed study seeks to analyze the variation in yield as well as best management practices for successful breadfruit cultivation in agroforestry systems in order to provide valuable information to scientists and farmers alike.

**MULTICOLOR ACTIVITY-BASED PROBES FOR NON-INVASIVE EVALUATION OF TUMOR MALIGNANCY**

Michael Caldwell, PhD Candidate, Chemistry Department, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences

Evaluation of tumor marker status is a pivotal step in the diagnosis and treatment of newly detected cancers. Currently, an abnormal imaging result requires follow-up with potentially invasive biopsies to collect tissue for further analysis. We propose to develop new imaging probes to eliminate the need for invasive follow-ups by specifically and simultaneously detecting the presence of multiple key markers of tumor aggressiveness *in situ* for a rapid, accurate determination of tumor risk.

**EVER IN THE GLADES**

Rives Collins and Laura Schellharsdt, Associate Professor and Senior Lecturer, Theatre Department, School of Communication

The Virginia Wadsworth Wirtz Center for the Performing Arts will produce the world premiere of Laura Schellhardt’s play *Ever In The Glades* in its 2017-18 Mainstage Season. The play will be further developed over the course of the academic year with undergraduate students under the direction of professor Rives Collins and playwright/professor Laura Schellhardt leading up to two weeks of performances in the Louis Theatre in Spring 2018. The Northwestern student production of *Ever In The Glades* will then tour Washington, D.C. for a one-week run in the Family Theatre at the John F. Kennedy Center For The Performing Arts, and mark the first project in what we hope will be an ongoing collaboration between Northwestern’s Theatre Department, The Wirtz Center and the Kennedy Center.

**FACES OF ROMAN EGYPT: MUMMY PORTRAIT PRODUCTDION IN THE ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN**

Lisa Corrin, The Ellen Philips Katz Director, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art

In winter 2018, the Block Museum will present the exhibition *Faces of Roman Egypt: Mummy Portrait Production in Ancient Tebtunis,* which will present some of the earliest extant examples of Western portrait painting through unparalled collection of mummy portraits from the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology (University of California, Berkeley). Co-curated by two faculty curators -- Marc Walton, Research Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at Northwestern and Senior Scientist of NU-ACCESS (Northwestern University/Art Institute of Chicago Center for Scientific Studies in the Arts) and Taco Terpstra,Northwestern Assistant Professor of Classics and History -- the paintings have been the focus of systematic study, conducted by NU-ACCESS. A teaching exhibition bring together the fields of art history, archeology, and materials science. *Faces of Roman Egypt*, will showcase innovative techniques for learning about the artworks’ production and source materials while engaging Northwestern faculty and students in original research, offering the opportunity to contribute to the exhibition’s layout and didactic materials.

**BURN WOUND EXUDATE DETECTION**

Andrew Dai, Josh Hauck, Kelsey Burke, Senior Students, Biomedical Engineering Department, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Sciences

Burn injury in Nigeria, like many places in the developing world, is both common and difficult to treat. Managing the injury in a hospital setting requires regular changes of bandages to present infection. We are working with University College Hospital in Ibadan, Nigeria, to develop a device to notify nurses that the bandages need to be changed before fluids from the wound soak through all the layers of the bandage.

**MOVEMENTS FOR GENDER PARITY IN THE THEATRE SECTOR: AN INTERNATIONAL STUDY**

Shara Feit, Undergraduate Student, Theatre Department, School of Communication

Studies in the USA and internationally have asserted that even though women are writing plays, the vast majority of produced work is written by men Within the last five years, a number of companies and organizations have been founded in response to the gender disparity in the theatre sector. My research project will be an international comparative study of these organizations and the strategies they have used to achieve gender parity in the theatre communities of their cities.

**SUPPORTING A GRADUATE STUDENT IN PLANT BIOLOGY AND CONSERVATION TO PRESENT AT THE XIX INTERNATIONAL BOTANICAL CONGRESS (Shenzhen, China)**

Jessamine Finch, PhD Candidate, Plant Biology and Conservation Program

I am requesting funding to cover costs associated with attending the International Botanical Congress in Shenzen, China July 23-29, 2017 (including registration, travel and lodging) to present my graduate research and represent Northwestern University’s Graduate Program in Plant Biology and Conservation. I have been invited by a member of my thesis committee (Jeffrey Walck, Middle Tennessee State University) to participate in a symposium he is co-organizing, called “Seeds and Climate Change.” My abstract for an oral presentation is titled “Climatic Sensitivity of Early Life Stages: Plant Traits as Indictors of Environmental Tolerance Range.”

**ROLE OF PERMANENT TRANSLOCATION HETEROZYGOSITY (PTH) IN GENETIC DIVERSITY AND REPRODUCTION OF SEXUAL AND ASEXUAL RELATED SPECIES**

Anita Cisternas Fuentes, PhD Student, Department of Plant Biology and Conservation

Sexual reproduction increases genetic diversity and adaptation but is not the only type of reproduction in nature. Asexual reproduction exists and is maintained besides the negative aspects it can carry. A unique form of asexual reproduction is called permanent translocation heterozygosity (PTH), where free recombination of gametes is limited. In this project, I look to work with two species with different PTH to study genetic diversity chromosome configurations and effective mating between populations. This will increase our understanding of the benefits of sexual reproduction and its evolution in plants.

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR STUDENT ORGANIZATION LEADERS**

Kourtney Gray, PhD, Director, Student Organizations & Campus Activities, Campus Life

The Office of Student Organization & Activities would like to send nine student leaders from different student organizations on campus to attend professional development opportunities at national conferences in the 2017-2018 academic year. Student Leaders would be selected to attend conferences at The National Association for Campus Activities (NACA), South by Southwest (SXSW), and Pollstar Live!, which would enhance their leadership skills and effectiveness in producing large and small scale events and activities that benefit the entire Northwestern student body.

**CROSS-CULTURAL MUSIC EXCHANGES IN CUBA**

Pamela Hinchman, Associate Professor and Victor Goines, Director of Jazz Studies, Professor of Music, Bienen School of Music

The Teatro Lirico Nacional de Cuba has invited Professor Goines and me to perform in November 2017 in a joint recital with local artists with the intent to open cross cultural music exchanges between Northwestern University and their recently opened country. This program of American classical, Cuban classical and Afro-Cuban music would be a recital blends American and Cuban musical styles, repertoire, and instruments with musicians in Cuba who do not have access to American classical music. In exchange we would bring back their music not typically studied in our American universities.

**COMMUNICATION THROUGH MUSIC**

Karen Kinderman, M.A., CCC-SLP, Clinical Instructor, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Center for Audiology, Speech, Language and Learning, School of Communicatio

The Northwestern University Center for Audiology, Speech, Language, and Learning (NUCASLL) provides skilled speech and language therapy services to members of the community. In addition, NUCASLL is an arena for graduate students enrolled in the Communication Sciences and Disorders Speech, Language and Learning program to gain valuable clinical experience under the direct supervision of licensed Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs). Clients served by NUCASLL include children and adults who have language and communication disorders as a result of neurogenic differences For example, after a stroke, a person may experience aphasia. Aphasia is an impairment that limits a person’s access to some or all areas of language, such as verbal expression, listening comprehension, written expression, and reading comprehension. This grant would provide funding for a collaboration with skilled music therapists from the Institute for Therapy through the Arts (ITA).

**SCIENCE WRITING FIELD WORK** $5000/$**5000 FULL**

Donna R. Leff, Professor, Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communication

Health and science journalism graduate students spend up to a week immersed in a laboratory, clinical or field setting, observing and often participating in the work and life of their science/clinician hosts. The goal of this experience is to give journalists deeper insight into scientific thought and process without the pressure of daily deadline reporting and with no specific study assignment looming. This project offers funding for students traveling to science sites across the country, capped at $500 per student.

**INCLUSIVE LEARNING AND TEACHING VIA USING UNIVERSAL DESIGN OF INSTRUCTION**

Alison L. May, PhD, and Bennett Goldberg, PhD, Assistant Dean of Students and Director, AccessibleNU and Director, Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching, Dean of Students Office within Student Affairs and Office of the Provost.

Accessible NU (formerly Students with Disabilities) will partner with the Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching to engage faculty to incorporate University Design of Instruction (UDI) into their courses. UDI will benefit faculty, staff, and students by reducing the faculty and staff time required to provide accommodations for the growing number of Northwestern students with disabilities and alleviating the stigma students with disabilities feel when having to request academic accommodations such as extended time on tests. Moreover, as implied by its name, UDI will help faculty to build into their courses design elements that will address an array of diverse learning needs, not just those of students with disabilities.

**MUSEUM VISITS FOR THE GERMAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE CURRICULUM**

Denise M. Meuser, Associate Professor of Instruction and Peter Fenves, Professor and Chair, Department of German, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences

The department wishes to securing funding for field trips for the next three times that the course will be offered.

**STIMULATING HUMAN IMPERFECTION WITH ROBOTIC PERFECTION**

Tara Sennott, Senior Student, Radio, Television and Film Department, School of Communication

This project aims to explore the ways in which robots and machines simulate human relationship. Using computer software, 3D printers, and laser-cutters, I will work with a team of engineers and technicians to create a series of painting and sculptures that imitate the imperfections of hand-made art.

**FUNDING FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE ENGINEERING WORLD HEALTH SUMMER INSTITUTE**

Aaron Shoemaker, Student, Biomedical Engineering Department, McCormick School of Engineering

This summer, I will be participating in the Engineering World Health Summer Institute, where I will be spending two months in Tanzania repairing medical equipment at a regional hospital there. I am requesting funds to help offset various program expenses, including airfare, entry visa, and immunizations and anti-malarial pills.

**CLOSING THE GAP IN COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS FOR LOW INCOME STUDENTS; STUDENT-CENTERED LEARNING THROUGH EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGIES.**

Clyde Yancy, MD, Vice Dean, Diversity and Inclusion, Feinberg School of Medicine, professor of Medicine; Janet Rocha, PhD, Postdoctdoral Fellow, Northwestern University, Feinberg School of Medicine; Lisa Blaskowski, Coordinator of Special Projects, NU Office of the President; Michelle Fluellen, President of NU’s One Step Before (OSB) minority premedical scholars student group

With the goal of increasing low-income and underrepresented high school students’ technology literacy and building bridges between the Chicago and Evanston campuses, we aim to implement electronic tablet-based learning within the Northwestern Medicine Scholars Program curriculum. To date, the lack of program-owned electronic equipment has hindered scholars’ ability to keep pace with like-peers and college and career readiness standards. Given compelling findings in the literature, piloting tablet-based learning in the curriculum provides (a) a promising opportunity to bolster scholars’ college and career readiness, and (b) an opportunity for the program to model best practices in educational technologies used at the Northwestern University Chicago and Evanston Campuses.

**MEMORIES OF WAR: KOREA,VIETNAM, CHICAGO**

Ji-Yeon Yuh, Associate Professor of History and Asian American Studies Department, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences

This symposium and exhibit features the oral history research of Northwestern Undergraduate students with Korean immigrants and Vietnamese refugees in the Chicago area and their memories of war, displacement, and migration. It includes a one-day conference, a cultural performance, and an exhibit that will travel throughout the Chicago area.

The Alumnae of Northwestern University is an all-volunteer organization of women that raises funds for a wide range of projects to benefit the Univeristy and showcases the University’s academic resources with the community through its Continuing Education program. Founded in 1916, and celebrating its centennial last year, The Alumnae has given more than $8 million to the University in the form of grants, fellowships, scholarships, and an endowed professorship, as well as funding special University projects and summer internships. For more information and to view The Alumnae’s Centennial video, visit The Alumnae website ([www.alumnae.org](http://www.alumnae.org)).

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