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The Alumnae of Northwestern University Awards Six Academic Enrichment Grants

EVANSTON, Ill. --- The Alumnae of Northwestern University has awarded funding for six projects that will bring guest artists and distinguished scholars and speakers to campus to enhance the undergraduate experience during the 2023-2024 academic year.

The grants, totaling more than \$26,700, 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 astronomy, global health, politics and feminism, visual and theater arts, Indigenous and Black artistry, and more.

"The projects selected for grant funding this spring reflect Northwestern's commitment to excellent teaching, innovative research and the personal and intellectual growth of its students in a diverse academic community," said Judy Moore, chair of the 2023 Academic Enrichment Committee. "The programs also are expected to attract broad audiences and provide outstanding campus experiences."

In addition to undergraduate students, most of the upcoming events scheduled for the upcoming academic year will also be of interest to graduate students, faculty, other Northwestern community members and alumni. Some programs also will be open to the public.

The following projects are slated for Northwestern University's 2023-2024 academic year:

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

• **Nitasha Sharma, professor of Black Studies and Asian American Studies, director of Asian American Studies, and co-director of the Council for Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES) at Northwestern.**

“New Black Music in Chicago: A Series of Artist Panels, Masterclasses and Performance.”

The series of artist panels, masterclasses, and an end-of-quarter jazz performance relates to Professor Sharma's Winter 2024 course in Black Studies titled, “New Black Music in Chicago: Artists Reflections on Music, Race and Entrepreneurship.” The project will give students direct exposure to people working at the highest level of artistry. The jazz concert will be open to all.

• **Peter Locke, associate professor of instruction, Global Health Studies (GHS) and anthropology, and co-director of Undergraduate Studies, GHS.**

“Global Health Studies Speaker Series.” Funding will help cover the honoraria for a new, ongoing quarterly speaker series in Global Health Studies, and a keynote speaker for a one-to-two-day symposium, which will celebrate GHS's 20th anniversary and founder Prof. William Leonard's last year as director.

• **Domietta Torlasco, professor of Italian and Comparative Literary Studies, French and Italian departments.**

“After Berlusconi: Populism, Sexuality, and the Future of Feminism.” Weinberg's Italian Program is organizing a series of lectures and workshops on women and politics in the wake of the recent resurgence of populism and far-right politics in Italy and other Western countries. To launch the series, Professor Torlasco plans to invite internationally renowned Italian feminist philosopher, political theorist and journalist, Ida Dominijanni, to Northwestern for a week of on-campus events that include a public lecture, a film screening at the Block Museum, and a workshop for graduate and undergraduate students.

CIERA

• **Kari Frank, director of operations, and research assistant professor, Center for Interdisciplinary Exploration and Research in Astrophysics (CIERA).**

“2024 CIERA Annual Public Lecture.” The guest speaker will be a leader in the field of astronomy, who will talk about a timely and fascinating topic. Free and open to students, faculty, staff, alumni and the public, the lecture is for audiences of all ages interested in astronomy. It will take place in October 2024, during Homecoming Weekend. *(CIERA is a research center in Northwestern University's Office for Research, under the Vice President for Research.)*

SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION

- **Thomas Bradshaw, professor and chair, department of radio/television/film.**

“Heroes of the Fourth Turning” Production and Residency. A collaboration between the department of radio, television and film, and Northwestern’s Wirtz Center for Performing Arts, Professor Bradshaw has proposed a full production of the play “Heroes of the Fourth Turning,” by Will Arbery, an alumnus of the MFA Program in Writing for the Stage & Screen, accompanied by a weeklong residency with the playwright. Arbery is a Pulitzer Prize finalist and one of the most celebrated playwrights of his generation. The production and residency will showcase the department of radio/television/film’s writing program and connect undergraduate students in acting, directing, design and writing to an acclaimed playwright whose intellectually and emotionally challenging play gets to the heart of our current national political divide.

MARY AND LEIGH BLOCK MUSEUM OF ART

- **Erin Northington, Susan and Stephen Wilson Associate Director, Campus and Community Education and Engagement, Block Museum.**

“Rosalie Favell: Facing the Camera” -- Opening Program. Guest artist, Rosalie Favell, will talk about her expansive portrait photography series, “Facing the Camera,” featuring Indigenous artists and arts professionals, on view at The Block from September 20-December 3, 2023. Favell will be in conversation with two Chicago-based Indigenous arts professionals who are participants in the project. The event aligns with The Block’s ongoing commitment to Indigenous art and artists, as part of a Fall 2023 exhibition program that centers on diverse perspectives enriching the co-curricular experience of Northwestern undergraduates.

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 54th 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 professorships and summer internships. For more information, visit The Alumnae website at www.nualumnae.org.

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