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Twelve Students Awarded Alumnae Undergraduate Research Grants

EVANSTON, Ill. --- The Alumnae of Northwestern University is pleased to honor 12 students who have been named as recipients of the Alumnae Undergraduate Research Grants. Funding for these grants comes from The Alumnae Centennial Endowment for Undergraduate Research, established in 2016 to commemorate the organization’s 100th anniversary. The Endowment, administered by the Office of Undergraduate Research, supports students from all academic areas, giving them opportunities to develop and complete independent research and creative projects across a wide range of fields. These students will work with faculty sponsors this summer to explore answers to questions raised by research projects from many fields of study.

Peter Civetta, director, Office of Undergraduate Research, shared the experience of one previously funded student: “In both the economics core, where theory and methods are prioritized, and my art history classes, where I tend to analyze artworks from lenses of more aesthetic criticism, I’ve struggled with feeling like my work is only useful in the classroom. Conducting this research has shown me that I am able to apply the analytical methods and knowledge I’ve built through class experiences to my own work that goes beyond the walls of Northwestern. Persevering through challenges I encountered while doing this project, such as pitching a research project to a major nonprofit to get access to their data, learning a new software, and my computer crashing repeatedly, have all reminded me that difficulty is part of the process. But when I keep going, the rewards are absolutely worth it.”

“The Alumnae is proud to be a part of this learning experience for undergraduates and excited to have 12 students (11 projects) given this opportunity in 2023 – all made possible through The Alumnae’s Centennial Endowment,” adds The Alumnae president Carol Willis.

Recipients of \$4,000 grants and their sponsors are:

Armoska, Mary

“Sit, Stay, Roll Over: Authority, Punishment and Training in Human-Animal Relationships”
Mary, a sophomore, Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences (WCAS), is studying psychology with an undeclared minor in sociology.

Sponsor: David W Scheiber, WCAS, assistant professor of instruction, Sociology

Bennett, Ty, Taeyoung Lee

“Non-Traditional Recumbent Tricycle Steering”

Ty and Taeyoung, freshmen, are studying mechanical engineering. Taeyoung also has a minor in business institutions.

Sponsor: Nicholas D. Marchuk, McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science (McC), lecturer, Mechanical Engineering

Hall, Brynae

“Foreign Creators Living in Japan”

Brynae, a sophomore, is studying theater.

Sponsor: Henry D. Godínez, School of Communication (C), Carlos Montezuma professor and chair, Theatre

Hernandez, Sam

“La Tabacalera: The Role of Art in Madrid’s Most Diverse Neighborhood”

Sam, a sophomore, is studying theater.

Sponsor: Julie M. Myatt (C), assistant professor of instruction, Theatre

Johnson, Kristen

“Narrative Identity Development in Old Adults’ Perceptions of Aging”

Kristen, a senior in the School of Professional Studies (SPS), is studying advanced studies in psychology for a post-baccalaureate certificate.

Sponsor: Hollen N. Reischer (SPS), a visiting assistant professor in the Department of Psychology at University at Buffalo.

Kennedy, Sofie

“Motion Sickness Research in the Lee Lab”

Sofie, a junior (WCAS), is studying neuroscience and science in human culture.

Sponsor: Hojoon Lee (WCAS), assistant professor, Neurology

Marsh, Arwen-Vira

“Talented Flowers: An Ethnographic Research Play on Romani People in Romania”

Arwen-Vira, a sophomore (C), is studying theatre with a minor in African studies.

Sponsor: Lauren J. Schellhardt (C), associate professor of instruction, Theatre

McDaniels, Ciel

“Album Creation/Research Project – New Dawn”

Ciel, a sophomore (C), is studying communication studies.

Sponsor: Karrie A Snyder (WCAS), associate professor of instructor and director, Undergraduate Studies, Sociology

Morales, Melany

“Investigating the Effects of Infant General Anesthesia on Sensitive Period Timing and Language Development”

Melany, a sophomore (WCAS) is studying neuroscience and psychology.

Sponsor: Laurel Gabard-Durnam, Northeastern University, assistant professor, Psychology

Nayambura, Gaby

“The Latin Mass: Tradition, Family Values and Politics in American Catholicism”

Gaby, a junior (C and WCAS) is studying cognitive science and communication studies.

Sponsor: Robert A. Orsi (WCAS), professor of religious studies, History

Shi, Angelina

“Single-atom Alloy Nanoparticles as Plasmonic Photocatalysts for Carbon Monoxide Oxidation”

Angelina, a sophomore (WCAS) is studying chemistry, with a minor in data science.

Sponsor: Dayne F. Swearer (WCAS), assistant professor, Chemistry

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, The Alumnae has given more than \$9.5 million to the university in the form of grants, fellowships, scholarships, an endowed professorship, funding for special university projects, and summer internships. For more information, visit The Alumnae website (www.nualumnae.org).

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