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THREE FACULTY MEMBERS RECEIVE CURRICULUM INNOVATION AWARDS FROM THE ALUMNAE OF NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Curriculum Enhancements Will Include Chatbots for Korean and Chinese classes and Raising Ethics Awareness in Computer Science Curriculum

EVANSTON, Ill. --- The Alumnae of Northwestern University has selected three faculty members to receive awards to fund 2024 curriculum enhancements. The Curriculum Innovation Awards are funded by interest earned from an Endowment Fund presented to the University on the occasion of Northwestern's Sesquicentennial (the \$12,500 award is split to support development of the curriculum, provide a stipend for the awardee, and support the faculty member's department). Administered by the Office of the Provost, this award supports the development of innovative course materials and new modes of teaching, including online education.

"By sponsoring these awards, our organization is pleased to provide financial support for faculty members who have innovative ideas for new courses and methods of instruction," notes Carol Willis, president of The Alumnae.

Recipients of the 2024 Alumnae Curriculum Innovation Awards and their projects (information from the Provost's office and *Northwestern Now*):

Eun Hee Kim, assistant professor of instruction, and **Chin-Hung Chang**, associate professor of instructions, both teach in the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences.

Kim and Chang plan to enhance Korean and Chinese language learning with a conversational chatbot that will help students practice their skills outside the classroom. Their curriculum enhancement responds to growing student interest in learning Asian languages. They will devote a customized conversational chatbot to create more extensive practice with the target language outside of the classroom. This interactive technology will be a powerful tool for facilitating language learning to second-year Korean and Chinese language students, laying the foundation for effective engagement in diverse cultural communities.

Kim has been teaching Korean for eight years. As a language instructor and researcher, she is interested in the types of linguistic structures that the second/foreign language learners can have difficulty with and ways to overcome such difficulties.

Chang has been teaching Chinese for 15 years. Her research interests include the intersection of technology and language learning. Her current research focuses on new learning in the digital era - examining AI-enabled applications to facilitate students' speaking outside the classroom.

Sarah Owsley Sood is a professor of instruction and associate chair for undergraduate education in the McCormick School of Engineering. Her teaching interests include introductory programming and artificial intelligence.

Sood's curricular innovation project was inspired and led by student interest in raising awareness of the need to consider the ethical implications of technology. In 2022, a team of mentors and fellows created the Northwestern University Tech Ethics Initiative, which has been developing an open-access resource hub with various curricular artifacts that encourage both students and instructors to reflect on their power, position, and agency from a technology perspective. Sood will work with the fellows to create ethics modules that can be embedded across the Computer Science curriculum.

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, the group celebrated the 50th year of its continuing education programming in 2019. Since its beginning, The Alumnae has given more than \$10 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, visit The Alumnae website (www.nualumnae.org).

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NR 2024 Curriculum Innovation Recipients/mb



Eun Hee Kim



Chin-Hung Chang



Sara Owsley Sood