Engaging Minds, Enriching Lives

2022 Alumnae Award

Honoring
Nina Kraus

Hugh Knowles Professor
Communication Sciences, Neurobiology and Otolaryngology
Northwestern University

Wednesday, October 26, 2022
The Allen Center, Northwestern University

The Alumnae of Northwestern University’s Alumnae Award is presented annually to an outstanding alumna who has made significant contributions in her field and who has attained national recognition.

Award Committee Chair: Michele Bresler
Committee: Sheila Gideon, Gail Joy, Elaine Kisisel, Marjo Kraft, Della Rae Moore, Sandy Riggs, Mary Schuette, Greta Sims, Susie Stein, Katy Sutter, Amy Van Gorp
Nina Kraus

Nina Kraus, High Knowles Professor of Communication Sciences, Neurobiology, and Otolaryngology, is a biologist and amateur musician, focusing on the relationship between sound and brain health. Through her diverse partnerships, her work on the effects of music experience on the nervous system has targeted African American and Latino children living in low-income areas. Her research on HIV takes place in under-resourced communities in China and Tanzania.

Her latest book, *Of Sound Mind- How our Brain Constructs a Meaningful Sonic World*, which was written for the intellectually curious, has received international recognition. When talking about her book, Kraus notes in the *Evanston Round Table*: “This is my love-letter to sound, how sound connects us, its biological impact on making us *us*, and how it affects the world we live in. Sound is an underrecognized, powerful force in our lives. The hearing brain engages what we know, our emotions, our movements and every sense.” A *Wall Street Journal* review of the book notes: “*Of Sound Mind* offers a deeply scientific yet often poetic look at the hearing brain and provides an in-depth narrative about why such explorations are important.”

In her deep examination of sound and the brain, Kraus makes the case for the far-reaching impact of sound, showing how hearing engages how we think, feel, move and combine our senses. Through auditory neuroscience, she discovered how the sounds of our lives engage our neurological health for better (musicians, bilinguals) and for worse (concussion, language disorders, poverty).

Kraus has more than 400 books and articles in peer-reviewed publications. Her diverse partnerships encompass: community partnerships, partnerships with education, partnerships with athletics, and partnerships with the arts, among other areas.

She runs a far-reaching lab website ([https://brainvolts.northwestern.edu](https://brainvolts.northwestern.edu)) and enjoys regular media coverage (e.g., *New York Times*, BBC, NPR, *Time*, *Nature*, *Science* and *Scientific American*). She embraces podcasts and interviews to communicate the science of sound through sound. Unscripted and spontaneous, these exchanges build empathy with an audience, capitalizing on sound’s ability to connect us. She holds five patents, with three pending, for assessment of sound processing in the brain.
Alumnae Award Program
4 p.m. (CST)

Welcome and Introduction of Special Guests

Carol Willis
President, The Alumnae of Northwestern University

Speakers

Sumit Dhar
Associate Provost for Faculty, Office of the Provost
Northwestern University

Ann Bradlow
Abraham Harris Professor of Linguistics
Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences
Northwestern University

E. Patrick Johnson
Dean, School of Communication
Northwestern University

Remarks

Nina Kraus
2022 Alumnae Award Recipient

Award Presentation

Carol Willis, Michele Bresler
PAST WINNERS OF THE ALUMNAE AWARD

1976  Lee Phillips, television personality
1977  Joan Beck, journalist, columnist
1978  Carol Kamr Introduction, Illinois Bar Association President
1979  Olga Jonasson, physician, Cook County Hospital chief of surgery
1980  Patricia Neal, actress
1981  Georgia Anne Geyer, journalist, author, columnist
1982  Ardis Kralik, Lyric Opera director
1983  Mabel Smythe, ambassador, educator, author, lecturer
1984  Marla Comnou, civil engineer
1985  Barbara Uehling, University of Missouri chancellor
1986  Lois Wille, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist
1987  Neena Schwartz, professor of neurobiology and physiology
1988  Wendy Lee Gramm, Commodity Futures Trading Commission chair
1989  Sherry Lansing, Hollywood film producer
1990  Nancy Dussault, actress, singer, talk show host
1991  Nan Robertson, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, author, columnist
1992  Sondra Galr, National Public Radio personality
1993  Phyllis Elliott Oakley, State Department spokesperson
1994  Lynn Nesbit, literary agent, partner at Janklow & Nesbit Associates
1995  Jeanette Wagner, Estee Lauder International President and CEO
1997  Grace Bumbry, opera star
1998  Founding members and professors, NU Alumnae Continuing Education
1999  Mary Zimmerman, playwright and MacArthur "Genius" grant recipient
2000  Augusta Read Thomas, Chicago Symphony Orchestra composer in residence
2001  Barbara Gaines, Chicago Shakespeare Theater founder and artistic director
2002  Laura S. Washington, columnist, editor and publisher
2003  Lois Welsberg, City of Chicago Commissioner of Cultural Affairs
2004  Martha Lakey, Artistic Director, Steppenwolf Theatre Company
2005  Carol Browe Segal, Chief Executive Officer, Crate & Barrel
2006  Christine Brennan, award-winning journalist
2007  Nancy Gustafson, opera star
2008  Teresa K. Woodruff, Dean The Graduate School
2009  Marie Arana, author and editor
2010  Sandy Neville Haggart, international charity founder
2011  Bonnie Anderson, Emmy winning journalist
2012  Marg Helgenberger, actress
2013  Johnnetta Betsch Cole, educator and humanitan
2014  Kelly O'Donnell, journalist and television news anchor
2015  Gwynne Shotwell, president and chief operating officer, SpaceX
2016  Lisa M. Franchetti, Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy
2017  Alicia Boler Davis, executive VP, General Motors Mfg., engineer
2018  Marla Carrillo, Chief Science Officer, Alzheimer's Association
2019  Susan Page, journalist
2020  Heather Headley, singer, songwriter and actress
2021  Roslyn Brock, health policy advocate, Chairman Emeritus, NAACP
2022  Nina Kraus, neuroscientist