2015

ALLIANT ENERGY FOUNDATION AWARD CEREMONY

Alliant Energy/Erroll B. Davis, Jr.
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Alliant Energy/Underkofler
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

Friday, October 30, 2015
The Pyle Center, Alumni Lounge
702 Langdon Street, Madison, Wisconsin
Program Highlights
Ceremony will be held from 2 – 4 p.m.
Award presentation commences at 2:30 p.m.

WELCOME
Vicki Washington, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, UW System

ALLIANT ENERGY/ERROLL B. DAVIS, JR.
ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD PRESENTATION

AWARD HISTORY
Bob Bartlett, Director of Public and Community Affairs,
Alliant Energy Foundation

AWARD PRESENTATION WITH REMARKS BY RECIPIENTS
Vicki Washington, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, UW System

STUDENT RECIPIENTS
Eddie Espinoza, College of Engineering, UW-Madison
Vanessa Mariscal, School of Business, UW-Madison
Chinyere Nwabeke, UW-Platteville Collaborative Engineering Program,
UW-Fox Valley
Jessica Rubio, College of Engineering, UW-Madison

ALLIANT ENERGY/UNDERKOFLER
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD PRESENTATION

AWARD HISTORY
Bob Bartlett, Director of Public and Community Affairs,
Alliant Energy Foundation

AWARD PRESENTATION WITH REMARKS BY RECIPIENTS
Greg Lampe, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic and Student Affairs,
UW Colleges

FACULTY RECIPIENTS
Richard Gustin, Communications-Theatre Arts, UW-Fond du Lac
Annie Kinwa-Muzinga, School of Agriculture, UW-Platteville
John Zumbrunnen, Department of Political Science, UW-Madison
ALLIANT ENERGY/ERROLL B. DAVIS, JR. ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

In 2006, the Alliant Energy Foundation established an endowed fund, the Alliant Energy/Erroll B. Davis, Jr. Academic Achievement Award. This award annually honors outstanding scholarship and community service of undergraduate students from traditionally underrepresented minority groups pursuing a degree in Business or Engineering at UW-Madison and UW-Platteville. Up to four students are nominated by their home institutions during the fall of their final year, and receive the award upon graduation.

Alliant Energy established the award to recognize and honor Erroll B. Davis, Jr., former CEO of the Alliant Corporation. Mr. Davis was the first African American to head a “Business Week 1000” company, and reportedly was the only Black CEO of a major public power utility. He was also named one of the “50 Most Powerful Black Executives in America” by Fortune magazine in 2002. From 1987 to 1994, Mr. Davis served as a member of the Board of Regents for the University of Wisconsin System.
ALLIANT ENERGY/UNDERKOFLER EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

In 1990, the Wisconsin Power and Light Foundation (Alliant Energy’s Wisconsin Utility) established an endowed fund, the Alliant Energy/Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Award. This award honors outstanding faculty and academic staff whose dedication to teaching and ability to inspire students exemplify the best values of the University of Wisconsin (UW) System. The award is presented annually to up to four recipients who teach at UW System institutions within the company’s service area. Candidates are nominated by their home institutions.

This award was established to recognize and honor James R. Underkofler (Oct. 25, 1923–March 18, 2015), who served Wisconsin Power and Light for more than 48 years – retiring as Chairman of the Board in 1990.

Mr. Underkofler was a staunch supporter of teaching excellence and believed in the importance of connecting public and private educational systems to enhance learning and motivate young minds. The Underkofler Award reflects Alliant Energy’s strong historical dedication to education and supports UW System’s longstanding commitment to excellence in teaching and providing high-quality education to people from throughout Wisconsin and the nation.
2015

Alliant Energy/Erroll B. Davis, Jr. Academic Achievement Award

RECIPIENT BIOGRAPHIES
EDDIE ESPINOZA

Eddie Espinoza is an undergraduate student enrolled in UW-Madison’s College of Engineering. He plans to graduate with a bachelor’s degree in Civil Engineering in May 2016. Eddie decided to attend UW-Madison in part to experience a different culture from his hometown of Los Angeles, Calif. He received a full-tuition scholarship from The Posse Foundation, which identifies talented students to form multicultural teams (“posses”) of 10 to 12 posse scholars. He was one of 80 students out of 2,300 applicants to receive this highly competitive national scholarship.

Eddie’s willingness to explore different places has served him well in his career as an engineering student. Over the last several years, Eddie has traveled to Nejapa, El Salvador, and Hangzhou, China, working on engineering projects aimed at improving the daily lives of the people who live there. In Nejapa, for example, Eddie worked alongside members of the local community installing water pipelines that ran to each house. In Hangzhou, Eddie worked on a prototype for a concrete toilet-top sink that would minimize water-borne illnesses. More recently, Eddie completed internships in Madison and Los Angeles focused on learning the ins and outs of project management and the construction industry.

He currently serves as the president of the UW-Madison chapter of Engineers Without Borders, a nonprofit student organization that partners with disadvantaged communities to implement sustainable solutions for community problems.

Eddie’s ultimate career goals are to attain a professional engineer license and start his own nonprofit organization tailored toward providing engineering projects to communities in Latin America, in partnership with local engineers and local students.
Vanessa Mariscal is an undergraduate student currently enrolled in UW-Madison's School of Business. She plans to graduate with a double major in Marketing and Management and Human Resources in December 2015. Vanessa, originally from West Allis, Wis., has used her experience as a first-generation college student to help other students understand the demands and rewards of pursuing a business degree.

Currently, she works as a Lead BBA (Bachelor of Business Administration) Ambassador, providing prospective high school students and their families with a student-centered view of the application process. Previously, Vanessa worked as a Compass Course Facilitator, teaching newly admitted business students soft business skills and introducing them to larger issues of privilege, power, oppression, and identity in this one-credit course. She also worked as a peer advisor for the School of Business SOAR (Student Orientation, Advising, and Registration) program, helping students register for classes and introducing them to the larger BBA community. In addition to her work on campus, Vanessa has spent the last two summers interning for companies such as Macy’s and Baker Tilly Chicago. Since 2013, Vanessa has been a member of the Alpha Kappa Psi Professional Business Fraternity. Through her service on the executive board, she was effective in enlisting the support of corporations in providing chapter members with unique professional development and networking opportunities.

Upon graduation, Vanessa intends to find employment in the consulting industry, using her degree to improve human capital practices. She also plans to return to school for a master’s degree in higher education. Eventually, Vanessa hopes to work within the field of higher education as a dean of student life.
Chinyere Nwabeke is an undergraduate student majoring in Mechanical Engineering through the UW-Platteville Collaborative Engineering Program at UW-Fox Valley. She plans to graduate with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering in May 2016. Chinyere’s experience as one of the only African American women in her courses has helped her develop strong collaborative skills considered essential in the field of engineering. Chinyere’s advisor and instructor, Associate Professor Michael A. Zampaloni, described her inclusive approach in the following way: “...we have a wide diversity of student types ranging from the traditional students coming right out of high school, to the non-traditional students that have been in industry for many years and are now returning to school to complete their degree. Chinyere has demonstrated...that she can bridge the gaps typically found between these groups of students and create an environment of mutual support and respect to foster a sense of collaboration.”

Chinyere’s collaborative spirit is also evident in her leadership roles at UW-Fox Valley, including secretary of the Engineering Club, student ambassador, and member of the Fox Engineering Innovation Club. Through her participation in these volunteer organizations, she has worked diligently to raise funds, coordinate tours and meetings, plan club projects, and introduce middle school-aged girls to the fields of science, technology, engineering, and math.

Chinyere is the recipient of numerous scholarships, including the Ethel D. Keller Scholarship, the William R. Bassett Engineering Scholarship, the Miller Electric Manufacturing Company Scholarship, and the Northeast Wisconsin Manufacturing Alliance Scholarship.
Jessica Rubio is an undergraduate student enrolled in UW-Madison's College of Engineering. Originally from Oak Lawn, Ill., she plans to graduate with a bachelor's degree in Nuclear Engineering in May 2016. To date, Jessica is the only member of the Rubio family who has chosen nuclear engineering as a primary field of study.

On campus, Jessica holds memberships in several prestigious, highly competitive student scholar programs, including the Chancellor's Scholarship Program, the Powers-Knapp Scholarship Program, and the Leaders in Engineering Excellence and Diversity Scholarship Program. Volunteer experiences include serving as past vice president of the National Society of Black Engineers, membership in Alpha Omega Epsilon and the Women in Nuclear network, and contributing to Wisconsin Engineer magazine. Jessica has served as an undergraduate research assistant in the Department of Nuclear Engineering and the Department of Plasma Physics, where she worked on projects related to the applications of fossil fuel consumption and analyzing the sustainability of different materials such as steel, aluminum, and wood when machining parts.

Upon graduation, Jessica intends to pursue a graduate degree in nuclear engineering to better understand nuclear reactors and identify alternative energy resources, such as fusion technology. She then hopes to gain some professional work experience either with Fermilab or Argonne Labs in Illinois. Ultimately, she expects to earn her doctorate and eventually work her way into becoming a dean in a college of engineering, where she plans to create more support programs for students of diverse backgrounds.
2015

Alliant Energy/Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Award

RECIPIENT BIOGRAPHIES
Professor Richard Gustin has taught communication and theatre arts at UW-Fond du Lac for more than 20 years, becoming a member of the faculty in 1998. He also taught at the UW Colleges campus of UW-Washington County for several years. He holds a Master of Fine Arts from Wayne State University's Hilberry Repertory Theatre, Wisconsin State Secondary Teacher's Certification in Theatre and English, and a Bachelor of Science in Theatre from UW-Stevens Point.

Professor Gustin teaches a variety of courses at UW-Fond du Lac, including Public Speaking; Introduction to Theatre; Acting; Literature in Performance; and Interpersonal Communication. As director/producer of the Theatre for College program, he oversees the yearly budget, hiring of artistic staff, selection and direction of the main stage season, publicity, community outreach, and program development. He also serves on various governance committees at the institutional and departmental level. From 1998 to 2000, he served as building planner and equipment consultant for the state-of-the-art, multi-million dollar Prairie Theatre.

He has received several Arthur M. Kaplan Awards to produce and direct plays, including *My Soldiers*, an Iraq war drama depicting problems of post-traumatic stress disorder; *Diversity Workshop*, a play that promotes peace, self-awareness, and respect for diversity; and *Surviving the Cycle*, a show about domestic violence, which he wrote and developed in collaboration with Agnesian HealthCare of Fond du Lac.

Professor Gustin believes that dynamic learning environments are created by fostering inclusive dialogue; promoting use of technology and cooperative learning models; and bringing diverse groups together. His philosophy is that students have the best opportunity to develop intellectually, socially, and globally in an interdisciplinary learning environment.
Dr. Annie Kinwa-Muzinga has been a professor in the School of Agriculture at UW-Platteville since 2002. She earned an M.B.A. in Finance and a doctorate in Agricultural Economics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She has been the coordinator for the School of Agriculture Agribusiness program and has served on many UW-Platteville shared governance committees, including the Faculty Senate, the Academic Planning Council, the School of Agriculture Review Board, the School of Agriculture Internship Committee, the University Ad Hoc International Education Committee, and the General Education Review Task Force.

The many awards and honors that Dr. Kinwa-Muzinga has received include the UW System Outstanding Women of Color in Education Award, the North American Colleges and Teachers of Agriculture Teaching Award of Merit, the UW-Platteville Outstanding Faculty Member in the School of Agriculture Award, the American Association of State Colleges of Agriculture and Renewable Resources Distinguished Educator Award, the Thomas and Lee Ann Lindahl Teaching Excellence Award, and two nominations for the prestigious U.S. Department of Agriculture National Awards for Excellence in College and University Teaching in the Food and Agricultural Sciences. She has also participated in the UW System Office of Professional and Instructional Development’s Wisconsin Teaching Fellows program.

Dr. Kinwa-Muzinga immigrated to Wisconsin from the Democratic Republic of Congo. She gives her students global perspectives by organizing, every two years, a credit-bearing, short-term study abroad program to Ghana, Africa. Participating students spend several days learning about African and Ghanaian agriculture before working on their respective projects that aim to help women in agriculture and in education.
JOHN ZUMBRUNNEN

Dr. John Zumbrunnen joined the UW-Madison Department of Political Science in 2008, becoming a full professor in 2012. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Minnesota and a B.S. in Political Science from Southwest Missouri State University. Since 2010, he has been the director of UW-Madison’s American Democracy Forum, a program he co-founded to encourage conversations about the founding principles of American political thought. The affiliated Benjamin Franklin Initiative – supported by a grant he acquired – explores links between law, science, and politics.

Dr. Zumbrunnen is a classically trained political theorist, steeped in the great works of antiquity and able to demonstrate to students that these classic works remain relevant to contemporary political issues and debates. He has been a productive scholar, with two major books and many articles in leading journals of political science and political theory. His work crosses fields, disciplines, and methods of inquiry. Described as a “master instructor” by his department chair, he encourages critical thinking and role playing in his teaching style.

Dr. Zumbrunnen has received many recognitions, including the 2012 University Housing Honored Instructor Award and the 2012 UW-Madison Chancellor’s Distinguished Teaching Award. He has actively participated in UW-Madison’s Educational Innovation Initiative, receiving a grant in 2013 to redesign his course on Contemporary American Political Thought as a blended classroom. This work has led him to a greater use of technology in his teaching with an emphasis on design.