



2022 ALLIANT ENERGY FOUNDATION AWARD CEREMONY

Alliant Energy Erroll B. Davis, Jr.
ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Alliant Energy James R. Underkofler
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

Friday, October 28, 2022

Pyle Center, Alumni Lounge, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

702 Langdon St, Madison, Wisconsin



Program Highlights

Ceremony 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. | Award Presentation 2:30 p.m.

In Attendance: Andy Kitslaar, Senior Community Affairs Program Manager,
Alliant Energy Foundation

WELCOME

Jay Rothman, President, UW System

ERROLL B. DAVIS, JR. ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

AWARD HISTORY

Benjamin Bilitz,

Chief Accounting Officer and Controller, Alliant Energy

AWARD PRESENTATION WITH REMARKS BY RECIPIENTS

Jay Rothman, President, UW System

STUDENT RECIPIENTS

Asalia Diaz Ortega, College of Engineering, Mathematics and
Science, UW-Platteville

Astrid Boado Harrison, College of Engineering, UW-Madison

Azaria Osgood, School of Business, UW-Platteville

Jayla Thompson, School of Business, UW-Madison

JAMES R. UNDERKOFER EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

AWARD HISTORY

Benjamin Bilitz, Chief Accounting Officer and Controller, Alliant Energy

AWARD PRESENTATION WITH REMARKS BY RECIPIENTS

Jay Rothman, President, UW System

FACULTY RECIPIENTS

Dr. Daniel Erman, Professor, Department of Mathematics, UW-Madison

Dr. Matthew Fencil, Associate Professor, Health and Human
Performance, UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County

Dr. Christopher Schulenburg, Professor, Department of
Humanities, UW-Platteville

Dr. Catherine Woodward, Teaching Faculty III, Department of Botany,
UW-Madison

ERROLL B. DAVIS, JR. ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

In 2006, the Alliant Energy Foundation established an endowed fund, the Alliant Energy Erroll B. Davis, Jr. Achievement Awards. These awards annually honor outstanding scholarship and community service of undergraduate students from traditionally underrepresented minority groups pursuing a degree in Business or Engineering at UW-Madison or UW-Platteville. The awards are presented annually to up to four students who are selected by their home institutions during the spring semester of their junior year. The students receive the award upon graduation.

Alliant Energy established these awards 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. 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.

JAMES R. UNDERKOFER EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARDS

In 1990, the Wisconsin Power and Light Foundation (Alliant Energy’s Wisconsin Utility) established an endowed fund, the Alliant Energy James R. Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Awards. These awards honor 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 awards are presented annually to up to four recipients who teach at UW System institutions within the company’s service area. Candidates are selected by their home institutions.

These awards were established to recognize and honor James R. Underkofler (1923–2015), who served Wisconsin Power and Light for more than 48 years, retiring as CEO and 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 James R. Underkofler Excellence in Teaching Awards reflect Alliant Energy’s strong historical dedication to education and support UW System’s longstanding commitment to excellence in teaching and providing high-quality education to people from throughout Wisconsin and the world.

2022

Alliant Energy
Erroll B. Davis, Jr.
Achievement Awards

RECIPIENT BIOGRAPHIES



ASALIA DIAZ ORTEGA

Asalia Diaz Ortega plans to graduate in May 2023 from UW-Platteville with a Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering, a minor in Business Administration, and an Engineering Management Certificate. A Chancellor Scholar, Asalia works at the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs and is a mentor for Women in STEM.

Asalia has served as a peer mentor for first-generation college students in the SUCCEED Summer Bridge program. She has also mentored students ages 13

through 17 in Pre-College Academy summer camps. She has participated in a manufacturing engineering co-op at the Kohler Co. and is the public relations coordinator for the university's Asian Students in Action Club. She is a member of the Latinx/e Student Union, Society of Women Engineers, and Institute of Industrial and Systems Engineers.

Asalia is an active alumna of the Wisconsin Leadership Seminar, which focuses on student leadership development through responsibility, service, inclusiveness, and decision making. She is an emerging leader with the Wisconsin Leadership Summit, sponsored by Madison365 to bring together Wisconsin's influential leaders of color to build community, address issues, and develop strategies for Wisconsin's future. Her career aspiration is to become an engineer, which she knows will be both challenging and rewarding.



ASTRID BOADO HARRISON

Astrid Boado Harrison plans to graduate in May 2023 from UW-Madison with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering and a Certificate in International Engineering. Astrid is a Chancellor's Scholar and a Leaders in Engineering Excellence and Diversity (LEED) Scholar. She is a tutor in UW-Madison's Undergraduate Learning Center, offering drop-in tutoring and one-on-one tutoring by request in engineering courses. She has been head tutor since September 2020.

Her experience working for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation in the Bureau of Structures confirmed her interest in working with structures, including buildings and bridges. In 2021, Astrid participated in a Bridge Rating Co-op quantifying the structural ability of bridges and culverts to support vehicles using modeling software. She also calculated load rating using construction plans. In 2020, Astrid was a data management intern for the Bureau of Structures.

Astrid is publicity coordinator for the UW-Madison chapter of Engineers Without Borders. She has been active in the chapter's Guatemala Project, coordinating fundraisers and co-leading the pumphouse design for a clean drinking water system that will serve a community of 400 people living in rural Guatemala. She is also a past member of the Filipino-American Student Organization. Drawn to working in the public sector, Astrid aspires to be a structural engineer with a goal of making an impact globally.



AZARIA OSGOOD

Azaria Osgood graduated in August from UW-Platteville with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. As a student, Azaria fulfilled her passion for philanthropy and serving her community by joining the Theta Phi Alpha Sorority and being a member of the campus's United Greek Council. Being a part of Theta Phi Alpha allowed her to take on leadership roles, such as social chair and parliamentarian, in addition to performing

community service volunteer work and connecting with other student organizations. She was an active member of the Pioneer Leadership Institute, a collaborative partnership between the Department of Athletics and Recreation and greater campus community. Azaria was also involved in the Society for Human Management student chapter and the Black Student Union.

Azaria observes that working in healthcare while gaining her education during the COVID-19 pandemic presented unforeseen challenges and also provided insights that she will always carry with her. She would like to develop her career as a manager within a small, growing company and eventually create her own business. She is inspired by business owners and managers who have created financial independence as well as their own brand.



JAYLA THOMPSON

Jayla Thompson plans to graduate in May 2023 from UW-Madison with a Bachelor of Business Administration. Her major will be marketing with minors in African American Studies and Gender and Women's Studies, as well as certifications in personal training and nutrition.

Her professional experience includes serving as a diversity consultant for the UW-Madison School of Business, an intern for American Family Insurance Institute for Corporate and Social Impact, and a programming intern for the UW-Madison Division of Diversity, Equity and Educational Achievement.

Jayla is a publicist for the Wisconsin Black Student Union and chief operating officer for Diverse Leaders for Tomorrow. She was awarded first place for the spring 2020 American Family Insurance gALPHA Social Justice Program by developing a mentorship program for high schoolers. She was the graphic designer for the Black History Month Planning Committee, part of UW-Madison's Black Cultural Center. She wishes to use her lively personality along with her background growing up on the north side of Milwaukee to impact UW-Madison and empower the marginalized voices of her community wherever she goes. She aspires to have her own marketing consulting firm that works to provide support for black business owners by helping them with their digital marketing, branding, and strategic business planning objectives.

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James R. Underkofler
Excellence in Teaching
Awards

RECIPIENT BIOGRAPHIES



DANIEL ERMAN

Dr. Daniel Erman is a professor in the Department of Mathematics at UW-Madison. He earned his Ph.D. in Mathematics from the University of California, Berkeley, and his Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics from Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island. He joined UW-Madison's teaching faculty in 2013. In addition to teaching popular advanced undergraduate and graduate algebra courses, he typically teaches two to three calculus lectures a semester to a total of 500 to

800 students. To manage this scale, he introduced changes to increase quality, consistency, and accessibility, many of which are now part of a campuswide educational innovation program, known as REACH, which aims to improve the teaching of large-scale courses.

One of his key innovations requires all course mathematical or logistical questions be submitted to the online Piazza forum, rather than emailed. Questions are quickly and consistently answered, and replies can be viewed by the entire class. Dr. Erman has also helped grow tutoring services, assisting in creating a major new Math Learning Center. Since 2013, he has organized the Madison Math Circle outreach program, sponsored by the UW-Madison Math Department, which introduces hundreds of middle and high school students to ideas in math and science. He created a Numberphile YouTube video on a famous mathematical problem that has been viewed over six million times. Dr. Erman chairs the department's committee on teaching assistant (TA) performance, where he engaged students, faculty, and academic staff to evaluate TAs more equitably. He also provides guidance on logistical aspects of teaching, especially for large calculus courses, for many new faculty and academic staff.



MATTHEW FENCL

Dr. Matthew Fencl is an associate professor in the Department of Health and Human Performance at UW-Platteville Baraboo Sauk County, where he has worked since 2011. He previously served as the athletic director. Dr. Fencl earned a Doctorate of Curriculum and Instruction from the University of Louisiana-Monroe and a Master of Science in Physical Education (Adventure Education and Outdoor Pursuits emphasis) and Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and

School Health Education from UW-La Crosse.

Dr. Fencl's expertise is in personal fitness, adventure education, and outdoor pursuits. During his career, he has taught and developed multiple new courses, successfully converted many face-to-face courses to be used in online curricula, and has been an innovator in new methods to maximize student learning, growth, and development.

Many former students still stay in touch, and he has had students tell him how they changed majors and began new and different careers in education, athletic training, and public health because of classes they took with him.

He holds Exercise Physiology and Exercise in Medicine - Level II certifications from the American College of Sports Medicine and has presented at the Wisconsin Health and Physical Education Association. He has also published articles in health- and fitness-associated scholarly journals.



CHRISTOPHER SCHULENBURG

Dr. Christopher Schulenburg is a professor of Spanish in the Department of Humanities at UW-Platteville, where he has worked since 2007. He earned a Ph.D. in Spanish from UW-Madison, a Bachelor of Science in Education Certification from UW-Madison, a Master of Arts in Spanish from the University of Colorado-Boulder, and a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish and History from UW-Madison. He is active in regional and national associations of foreign language instructors.

Dr. Schulenburg's teaching philosophy encourages tomorrow's employees to communicate with coworkers across borders and between cultures. He keeps his teaching strategies, course materials, and curriculum aligned with best practices in the field. His pedagogical methods demand hands-on participation among his students, using the target language in situations similar to those students might encounter in their professions. Other strategies create an atmosphere in class that strives to replicate study-abroad circumstances. A key objective of all his courses is that of communicative competence.

Dr. Schulenburg has published over 20 articles on Latin American literature in various refereed journals. He has worked to support students in study abroad and undergraduate research initiatives. He earned the Excellence in Teaching Award from the National Society of Leadership and Success in 2020, the UW-Platteville Faculty Award for Teaching Excellence in 2019, and the UW-Platteville College of Liberal Arts and Education Teaching Excellence Award in 2015.



CATHERINE WOODWARD

Dr. Catherine Woodward is a teaching faculty III in the Department of Botany at UW-Madison. She earned a Doctor of Philosophy in Botany from UW-Madison, a Master of Science in Botany from the University of Florida-Gainesville, and a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from UW-Madison.

Dr. Woodward has dedicated over 20 years to teaching botany and conservation biology. Her goal is to engender “biophilia” – a love of nature – by helping students understand how their own well-being is linked to the biology and conservation of the world’s most biodiverse and threatened ecosystems. Since 2007, she has offered students a tropical semester abroad in Ecuador, spending time in various environments ranging from high in the Andes mountains to the Galápagos Islands to the Amazon rainforest.

Dr. Woodward recognizes that students come from a diversity of backgrounds and perspectives. She finds that students learn best when they make connections between new content and prior knowledge and experiences. Her role as a teacher is to help students discover those connections for themselves.

In 2017, Dr. Woodward obtained a Professional Certificate in Online Education to improve her online pedagogy and recently participated in the Discussion Project to become a more effective facilitator of inclusive and productive class interactions. In 2020, Dr. Woodward earned an Exceptional Mentorship Award from the university’s Undergraduate Research Scholars program.