



2016

ALLIANT ENERGY
FOUNDATION AWARD
CEREMONY

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

Alliant Energy/Underkofler
EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD

*Friday, October 28, 2016
The Pyle Center, Robert P. Lee 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

James P. Henderson, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs,
UW System

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

AWARD HISTORY

Julie Bauer, Executive Director, Alliant Energy Foundation

AWARD PRESENTATION WITH REMARKS BY RECIPIENTS

James P. Henderson, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs,
UW System

STUDENT RECIPIENTS

Janerra Allen, College of Engineering, UW-Madison

Catherine Finedore, College of Engineering, UW-Madison

Nicole Maala, College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science,
UW-Platteville

Angela Yang, College of Business, Industry, Life Science and Agriculture and
College of Liberal Arts and Education, UW-Platteville

ALLIANT ENERGY/UNDERKOFLER EXCELLENCE IN TEACHING AWARD PRESENTATION

AWARD HISTORY

Julie Bauer, Executive Director, Alliant Energy Foundation

AWARD PRESENTATION WITH REMARKS BY RECIPIENTS

James P. Henderson, Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs,
UW System

FACULTY RECIPIENTS

Kristin N. Plessel, Chemistry Department, UW-Rock County

Jennifer Beth Smilowitz, School of Medicine and Public Health, UW-Madison

M. Keith Thompson, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering,
UW-Platteville

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. The award is presented annually to up to four students who are nominated by their home institutions during the fall of their final year. The students 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. 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/UNDERKOFLE 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 the late James R. Underkofler (1923–2015), 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 world.

2016

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



RECIPIENT BIOGRAPHIES



JANERRA ALLEN

Janerra Allen is an undergraduate student enrolled in UW-Madison's College of Engineering. She plans to graduate with a bachelor's degree in Materials Science and Engineering in May 2017, with a certificate in Integrated Studies in Science, Engineering and Society. She is excited by the materials science and engineering field because it combines human biology and engineering, as well as research and public outreach.

Janerra was selected to participate in the 2016 Summer Undergraduate Research Experience in Engineering, a national program that selects promising students from across the country to engage in a 10-week summer research project. During the program, Janerra completed a project investigating neuroplastic brain changes in stroke patients associated with rehabilitative therapy using a brain-computer interface system. She currently serves as an assistant researcher for UW-Madison's neuroimaging research program.

Janerra is president of the National Society of Black Engineers–Wisconsin Black Engineering Student Society. She participated in the Wisconsin Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (WiscAMP) Excel program in the summer of 2014 and served as an undergraduate project assistant for the program the following summer. She is a peer mentor supporting success for students in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and mathematics) disciplines.

Janerra plans to earn a doctorate in Biomedical Engineering with a focus in brain imaging. Whether she decides to pursue a career in academia or industry, she would like to serve as a mentor to help engineering students persist in the field. She would like to continue to support the mission and vision of the National Society of Black Engineers.



CATHERINE FINEDORE

Catherine Finedore is an undergraduate student enrolled in UW-Madison's College of Engineering. She plans to earn a degree in Biomedical Engineering in May 2017, with a certificate in Design Studies. She is interested in developing wearable medical devices – particularly for children and young adults – that are functional, comfortable, and attractive.

Catherine was part of a student team that developed an Infant Cardio-Respiratory (CaRe) Monitor. The purpose of this research was to develop a sustainable, affordable, and accurate detection method for hospitals and clinics in developing countries. Her role in the project was to create a washable and aesthetically pleasing neonatal monitor. Her team competed in an international conference showcasing its work. While the project did not win, the team was invited to India for three weeks to meet students, doctors, and nurses from various universities, clinics, and hospitals. The team's device was allowed to be put on newborns, which helped team members learn the strengths and weaknesses of the design and modify the design accordingly.

A Powers Knapp Scholar, Catherine has worked as a co-chair for the program for the past two years to organize monthly meetings and act as a spokesperson. She also regularly volunteers during UW-Madison Engineering advising days to talk to incoming freshmen.

After graduating, Catherine plans to work for a company exploring wearable technology or attend graduate school so that she can help others interested in following a similar career path. She is eager to help redefine modern technology so that it leads to the creation of state-of-the-art garments and medical devices.



NICOLE MAALA

Nicole Maala is an undergraduate student enrolled at UW-Platteville. She plans to earn a degree in Engineering Physics in May 2017, with an emphasis in Bioengineering Design and Controls and a minor in Spanish. Participating in her high school robotics team introduced her to mentors in the industry and inspired her interest in an engineering career that combines electrical and mechanical systems.

Nicole has studied abroad at two international universities, Jönköping University in Sweden and University of Newcastle in Australia. She later helped welcome international students to UW-Platteville when she served as an orientation leader during the university's 2015 international student orientation. She has explored several different industries through internships at John Deere and Rockwell Automation, as well as a co-operative education experience at Georgia-Industry, where she earned academic credit while learning real-world skills as an engineering project manager.

Nicole describes herself as passionate about helping others find opportunities that can improve their lives and education. She has served as a tutor and peer mentor for the UW-Platteville DRIVEN (Directives for Retention Initiatives and Valuing Education Network) Scholars Program, which serves underrepresented students. In fall 2015, Nicole served as the Education Abroad Marketing and Outreach Intern, leading study abroad presentations, helping facilitate events such as the Education Abroad Fair, and advising her peers about the study abroad process.

Nicole would like to further her studies in graduate school and participate in advanced research in mechatronics – a field in which technology combines electronics and mechanical engineering. She would like to focus her work on mobility devices, from wheelchairs to exoskeletons, applying her knowledge and experience to improve the lives of others.



ANGELA YANG

Angela Yang is an undergraduate student enrolled at UW-Platteville. She plans to graduate with a double major in Business Administration and International Studies in May 2017, with a minor in French. Her interests in different countries, cultures, and world travel prompted her to add the second major, with emphases in international business and supply chain management. This past summer, she travelled to China and South Korea, and she is currently studying abroad in Thailand.


Angela is active in several clubs at UW-Platteville, holding leadership roles in the A.S.I.A. (Asian Students in Action) Club, the Hmong Club, and the International Student Club. She has also participated in the Student Ambassadors Corps, where she was elected recruitment chair and assisted the chancellor with event planning. She has been a campus tour guide, given presentations to prospective students, served on panel discussions for students of color, and was a resident assistant for one academic year. A year ago, she held a summer internship at School-Pak Inc. as the production coordinator.

Angela is a peer mentor for the DRIVEN (Directives for Retention Initiatives and Valuing Education Network) Scholars Program, which creates social, cultural, recreational, and educational opportunities for DRIVEN Scholars. She enjoys being a resource for her peers and educating people about Hmong culture.

As the oldest child in her family, as well as a first-generation college student, Angela wishes to serve as an exceptional role model for her younger siblings. She hopes to further her travels and eventually work overseas so that she can continue to explore other cultures and practice the several languages she is learning. Her future plans include opening an Asian restaurant or café serving different Asian cuisines.

2016

Alliant Energy/Underkofler
Excellence in Teaching Award



RECIPIENT BIOGRAPHIES



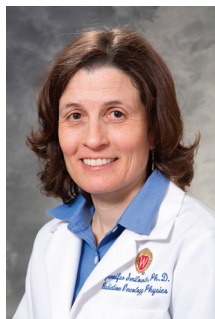
KRISTIN PLESSEL

Dr. Kristin Plessel joined the UW Colleges campus of UW-Rock County in 2010, becoming an associate professor in the Chemistry Department in 2016. She earned a Doctor of Philosophy and Master of Science in chemistry from UW-Madison and a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from the University of Nebraska. She teaches a variety of courses at UW-Rock County, including lectures and labs in Organic Chemistry;

Survey of Biochemistry; Introductory Chemistry; and Chemistry in Society. She is currently the institutional assessment coordinator for the UW Colleges and has served on many shared governance committees for the UW Colleges.

As a graduate student, Dr. Plessel was introduced to a teaching method called POGIL – Process Oriented Guided Inquiry Learning, which she employs in all of her classes. In a POGIL classroom, students work in small groups on specially designed activities that introduce them to new concepts. Students learn not only the material but also skills such as working in a team, analyzing data, and commutation, which is the act of substituting one thing for another. POGIL compels students to be engaged in learning and understanding rather than passively listening to lectures.

Dr. Plessel shares her expertise by leading workshops offered nationwide on facilitating POGIL in the classroom. For her use of POGIL, she was recognized with the Gil Sedor Excellence in Teaching Award in 2014 and with the Arthur M. Kaplan Fellows Award in 2011.



JENNIFER SMILOWITZ

Dr. Jennifer Smilowitz is a clinical associate professor of medical physics at UW-Madison. She splits her time between the departments of Human Oncology and Medical Physics. She graduated from UW-Madison with her PhD in 2002 and has been a clinical physicist and educator since that time.

Professor Smilowitz developed the first lab-based course on the physics of radiotherapy treatment planning. She has taught this course to graduate students, medical residents, and veterinary radiation oncology residents for 10 years. In 2013, she implemented a Clinical Preceptorship program in Madison to train students from the UW-La Crosse Medical Dosimetry program. In 2015, Dr. Smilowitz traveled to China as a member of UW faculty to teach in the China Top Physicist Development Project.

In addition to her teaching responsibilities, Dr. Smilowitz is a board certified medical physicist. She is the physics supervisor for the two TomoTherapy units at the UW hospital and leads the UW/Accuray Radixact research collaboration.



M. KEITH THOMPSON

Dr. M. Keith Thompson is a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UW-Platteville. He grew up in Panama City, Florida. His father was a civil engineer and his mother was a teacher. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering from North Carolina State University in 1994, then worked briefly as a bridge engineer before continuing his education at the University of Texas at

Austin. He received MS and PhD degrees in 1998 and 2002 respectively. His graduate specialty was structural engineering and his early research interests included behavior and design of bridges and the mechanics of reinforced concrete.

In the years following his graduate work, Dr. Thompson was an active member of the American Concrete Institute, helping to develop portions of the Building Code for Structural Concrete. After joining the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at UW-Platteville in 2004, he gradually shifted his research interest to the scholarship of teaching and learning. Working with colleagues at UW-Platteville, he has secured grants from the National Science Foundation and other agencies to explore new curriculum; student retention initiatives; and programs to enhance success of first generation, female, and underrepresented minority students in STEM majors.

In addition to his research work, he teaches courses in structural engineering and infrastructure. Recently, he became the assistant dean for academic affairs for the College of Engineering, Mathematics and Science at UW-Platteville. He and his wife, Shanshan, are the proud parents of a (soon-to-be) three-year-old son.

