

THE RADA DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD

Professor emeritus Ron Rada and his wife Jane created this award in 2002 to honor recent to mid-career alumni who have made exceptional contributions to their professions and/or communities. The award provides another point on UWL's continuum of awards that recognize excellence at various career stages of our alumni.

THE PURPOSE ...

of the Rada Distinguished Alumni Award is to recognize living alumni who have graduated within the last 20 years from UW-La Crosse and meet one or more of the award criteria.

THE AWARD IS PRESENTED ANNUALLY ...

at the UWL Distinguished Alumni Awards Luncheon and Ceremony in September. Up to two awards may be given each year. The award includes a scholarship of \$2,000 presented to a current student in a department of the recipient's choosing. Recipients receive a gift showcasing their accomplishments.

CRITERIA ...

for the award. Recipients must meet one or more of the following:

- » achieved distinction in a chosen field of endeavor since graduation
- » made an outstanding contribution to their profession
- » demonstrated exceptional personal qualities through participation in activities that provide long-lasting benefits to communities and society

TO NOMINATE ...

an alum, contact Janie Morgan at jmorgan3@uwlax.edu or 608.785.8495. Simply forward the alum's name; the Alumni Association will contact nominees.



Ron and Jane Rada

PAST RADA AWARD RECIPIENTS



2017
Patrick Gonzales, '05
High-impact, peer-reviewed researcher in microbial genetics and genomics, addressing problem of antibiotic resistance.



2017
Hollie Nyseth Brehm, '08
Asst. professor of sociology, The Ohio State University, since 2014. Ohio State Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching, College of Arts and Science Outstanding Teaching Award, 2016.



2016
Ryan Johnson, '01
Emerging entrepreneur, real estate and restaurant owner. Board of directors member of UWL L-Club, La Crosse County Convention and Visitor's Bureau.



2016
Ron Sissel Jr., '95
Deputy associate administrator for budget at the National Nuclear Security Administration, providing leadership and direction for a \$12.5 billion budget.



2015
Brian Puerling, '06
Innovative educator using digital technology. Authored "Teaching in the Digital Age: Smart Tools for Age 3 to Grade 3."



2014
Corey Sorenson, '03
Professional actor in more than 50 plays nationwide, numerous network TV appearances, films, web series, voiceovers and commercials.



2013
Brian Lammi, '96
Founder and president of the Lammi Sports Management, focusing on athlete appearances and endorsements, sports media.



2013
Nathaniel J. Melby, '02
Chief Information Officer (CIO) at Dairyland Power in La Crosse. Served as a firefighter for the Town of Campbell since 1997, currently as fire chief.



2012
Thomas Harris, '01
Distinguished professional in the field of student affairs. Assistant Director of the UWL Multicultural Student Services Office since 2003.



2011
Robert F. Jacobs, '94
Immigration lawyer in Los Angeles County honored as a Certified Specialist and Super Lawyer with nationwide court appearances.



2010
Brenda Moraska Lafrancois, '97
Great Lakes Area Aquatic Ecologist for the National Park Service since 2002; advocate for restoring native ecosystems; Midwest Region recipient of many National Park Service awards.



2009
Chris Finn, '96
Advocate for people with disabilities; Worldwide leader in power soccer; Vice chair and commissioner to the Oakland (Calif.)



2009
Jennifer Shilling, '92
Wisconsin State Senate Democratic Leader; State Senator for the 32nd Senate District; representing Vernon, Crawford, La Crosse, and part of Monroe Counties since 2011.



2008
Chad Hammerschmidt, '97 & '99
Assistant professor of Earth & Environmental Sciences at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio; a top young scientist in the country in mercury chemistry.



2008
Elice Rogers, '83, '89, & '91
Assoc. professor in Counseling, Administration, Supervision, Adult Learning and Development at Cleveland State University.



2007
Lauren Lieberman, '88
Distinguished Service Professor & Director of Camp Abilities, The College at Brockport Department of Kinesiology, Sport Studies Physical Education.



2006
Jay Hertel, '93
Professor of Kinesiology at the University of Virginia and a renowned researcher in athletic training and sports medicine.



2006
Michelle Schry, '92
Development Manager, National Cooperative Grocers; former General Manager, People's Food Co-op, La Crosse.



2005
Todd Ellenbecker, '85
Physical Therapist and Clinic Director of Physio in Scottsdale, AZ. Doctorate in physical therapy from Massachusetts General Hospital - Institute of Health Professions in 2006.



2004
Rob Steffan, '84
Current owner of Blue Crab Lures in Cape Coral, Florida; worked in the environmental industry for more than 25 years; authored more than 85 scientific papers and has received 11 patents.



2003
Stan Davis, '94
Former assistant attorney general in the Wisconsin State Justice Department and deputy chief of staff and chief legal counsel for Wisconsin Gov. Jim Doyle.



2002
Jan Gallagher, '88
Retired director of the UWL Small Business Development Center; founding member of the 7 Rivers Alliance; leader in various civic, business and economic development activities.



2002
Kelly Rusch, '86
Assoc. professor of civil and environmental engineering at Louisiana State University; founding member of the Women in Engineering Leadership Institute at the University of California-Davis.



2018
Matthew C. Brantner, '05
Dedicated conservation advocate. Founding executive director of WisCorps, a statewide conservation corps; executive director since 2009.



2018
Marc R. Gall, '03
Successful bank consultant; respected humanitarian, philanthropist. Currently, vice president of BOK Financial, Milwaukee.