2022-23 Named Professorships

Vilas Research Professorships (19) were created “for the advancement of learning.” A candidate should be of proven research ability and possess unusual qualifications and promise. The individual must have contributed significantly to the research mission of the university and be widely recognized both nationally and internationally for the quality of research. Vilas Research Professorships provide a $10,000 salary supplement annually, $50,000 for research expenses annually, a reduced teaching load, and a retirement award of $2,500 annually for an individual who has served at least 15 years as a Vilas Research Professor. These professorships for scholarly achievement are funded from the generosity of the Trustees of the William F. Vilas Estate. These professorships are managed by the Office of the Provost and are awarded through a competition process.

Vernon Barger        L&S, Physics
Richard Davidson    L&S, Psychology
Samuel H. Gellman   L&S, Chemistry
Morton Gernsbacher   L&S, Psychology
Francis Halzen      L&S, Physics
Jo Handelsman       OVCGRGE, Wisconsin Institute for Discovery
Judith Kimble       CALS, Biochemistry/Molecular Biology
Stacey Lee          Education, Educational Policy Studies
Chiao-Ping Li       Education, Dance
Miron Livny         L&S, Computer Sciences
Gregg Mitman        L&S, History of Science
Steven Nadler       L&S, Philosophy
Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney L&S, Anthropology
William Reese       Education, Educational Policy Studies
Gurindar Sohi       L&S, Computer Sciences
Karen Strier        L&S, Anthropology
Aili Mari Tripp     L&S, Political Science and Gender and Women’s Studies
Monica Turner       L&S, Zoology
Sau Lan Wu          L&S, Physics
**Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professorships** recognize professors whose distinguished scholarship has advanced the confines of knowledge, and whose excellence has also included teaching or service. The professorship provides a $75,000 fixed allocation of flexible funds. The professor carries the title of Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professor for the duration of their career at UW-Madison.

The Vilas Distinguished Achievement Professorship is a collaborative tool to reward and retain top faculty. The Office of the Provost, through the generosity of the Vilas Trustees, provides $50,000 towards the $75,000 total. The dean who makes a nomination, pledges $25,000 and opens a professorship account with a minimal annual contribution of $5,000 per year. RSP opens a linked account that provides the $50,000 from Vilas. The Vilas funds should ideally be used within three years. The college/department funds must be expended within five years. Per the terms of the Vilas Trust, the professorships may not be used to supplement salary. These professorships may be appointed by the provost and vice provost for faculty and staff affairs, and also through an annual competition process each fall.

Heidi Brown    SMPH, Obstetrics and Gynecology  
Natalia de Leon    CALS, Agronomy  
Theresa Delgadillio    L&S, English; and Chican@/Latin@ Studies Program  
Steve Deller    CALS, Agricultural & Applied Economics  
Ying Ge    SMPH, Cell and Regenerative Biology  
Armando Ibarra    DCS, School for Workers  
Sterling Johnson    SMPH, Medicine  
Pamela Kreeger    Engineering, Biomedical Engineering  
Kris Olds    L&S, Geography  
Brian Pfleger    Engineering, Chemical and Biomedical Engineering  
Douglas Rosenberg    Education, Art  
David Schwartz    Law  
Tehshik Yoon    L&S, Chemistry

**Rebecca Blank and Hanns Kuttner Professorships** were created to honor the leadership and service of Chancellor emerita Rebecca Blank and her husband, Hanns Kuttner. These awards recognize recently tenured professors who have built an outstanding record of teaching, research, and service. These professorships provide $22,500 per year for research expenses and $22,500 for salary coverage. The term is 5-years and is usually not renewable.

Kate McCulloh    L&S, Botany  
Peter Lewis    SMPH, Biomolecular Chemistry
Bascom Professorships (81) have been established at the UW-Madison which honor the distinguished scholar and former University President, John Bascom. They are coveted awards for the faculty members who receive them and represent goals to be aspired to by developing faculty members. Funds for the establishment of Bascom Professorships are given to the University of Wisconsin Foundation. The professorships may be awarded in areas designated by the donor or to individuals designated by the donor. Annual allocations may be used for books, computers, research assistants, travel, and other support of teaching and scholarly activities. Some recipients also receive an annual $5,000 temporary base adjustment to their salary that come from the professorship account if the account can support it. They are usually for a term of 5 years, and most are renewable. These professorships are managed by the Office of the Provost.

Hilldale Professorships are given to faculty who excel in scholarly activity. They have records of outstanding research or creative work and show promise of continued productivity. The appointments are for five years with the possibility of renewal until the individual leaves the university or retires. New appointees to the Hilldale Professorship will receive $15,000 per year for research support, which also may be used for teaching release during the academic year or for summer salary. In addition, each recipient will receive a temporary base adjustment of $7,500 that comes from the Hilldale Professorship account for the term of the professorship. These are awarded through a competition process when there are vacancies. Funding comes through UW Trust Funds. These professorships are managed by the Office of the Provost with financial administration through the Vice Chancellor of Finance and Administration Office.

Richard Amasino CALS, Biochemistry
Michael C. Fiore SMPH, Medicine
Carol Ryff L&S, Psychology

Evjue Chair for the Wisconsin Idea was created with an endowment from the William T. Evjue Foundation to recognize outstanding contributions to outreach and service, and to honor the late William T. Evjue, founder, editor, and publisher of The Capital Times. The chair is designed to provide a boost to the strategic initiative “Enhancing the Wisconsin Idea” and further the legacy of the century-old Wisconsin Idea, which holds that the boundaries of the university are boundaries of the state and beyond. The holder must have contributed substantially to the outreach mission of the university and demonstrated ability to transfer knowledge and research through individual efforts or coordination of multidisciplinary activities. The candidate must also be widely recognized, both nationally and internationally as a distinguished teacher and researcher. This appointment is for a five-year period and may be renewed for additional five-year periods. No other professorships can be held concurrently. The annual allocation at the present time is $75,000. Funding comes through the UW Foundation. This professorship is managed by the provost and is awarded through the competition process.
John D. MacArthur Professorship Chair (4) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison was established by a grant from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The Professorship honors John D. MacArthur who died in 1978 leaving the bulk of his estate to establish the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Mr. MacArthur purchased the Bankers Life and Casualty Company in 1935 and built it into a vast operation with numerous subsidiaries and property holdings. The foundation has awarded substantial grants to individuals and liberal arts colleges as well as research institutions.

The John D. MacArthur Professorship is for five years and is renewable. It is considered one of the more prestigious research chairs on campus. The income from the endowment is available for research support. The usual annual allocation is $50,000 per year for a period of five years. Funding is handled by the UW Trust Funds. These professorships are managed and awarded by the Office of the Provost. No competition is required.

David Beebe  Engineering, Biomedical Engineering
Jordan Ellenberg  L&S, Mathematics
Tony Goldberg  Veterinary Medicine, Pathobiological Sciences
Ken West  L&S, Economics

Wisconsin Distinguished Professorships (2) – The WDP Program was established in 1987 and provides incentive for top faculty to engage industry and other private sources in the UW-Madison research enterprise which benefits the university and the state of Wisconsin. This professorship was moved from the management of UW-System to UW-Madison and includes support of $40,000 annually that can be used for salary support and research. The UW-Madison support must be matched with external support for each of the five years. These professorships are managed by the Office of the Provost and are awarded through a competition process.

Robert J. Hamers  L&S, Chemistry
Daniel R. Noguera  Engineering, Civil & Environmental Engineering

WARF Professorships – managed by the Graduate School
Funding for this professorship comes from the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation. The professorship provides flexible research support totaling $75,000 for five years and is non-renewable.

Other UW-Madison Professorships
UW-Madison schools and colleges also have named professorships/chairs that are designated for specific areas within their school/college. These professorships are managed by the dean of the school/college.