

# DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARDS



L to R: James A. Kettinger, Mark F. Nielsen, Thomas A. Lutz, and Luann J. Simpson

## ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

### James A. Kettinger, '80, Business Management, Accounting Concentration

Starting fresh out of UW-Parkside as an accountant in the Milwaukee office of Price Waterhouse, James Kettinger began a steady ascent through the ranks of major Wisconsin corporations. Over the years, he has led the planning, accounting, legal, treasury, human resource, IT, investor relations, and purchasing operations for a variety of companies.

Kettinger currently serves as president and CEO of Kenosha-based equipment manufacturer IEA, Inc. The company makes heating and cooling systems for large internal combustion engines used mainly for power generation. The company also manufactures heat management enclosures for data centers. IEA employs 270 people in Kenosha and Menomonee Falls, Wis.

In 2010, he engaged UW-Parkside students in a project for IEA through the university's Ralph Jaeschke Solutions for Economic Growth Center. This spring, he served as the School of Business and Technology's Executive In Residence.

### Mark F. Nielsen, '76, Economics and Political Science

Mark Nielsen began earning accolades before graduating from UW-Parkside and has been collecting honors ever since.

The year he completed his studies at UW-Parkside, Judge Nielsen was the university's outstanding social sciences graduate. He

added Outstanding Alumni Volunteer awards in 1989 and 1991.

A 1979 graduate of Harvard Law School, education has been an important part of Judge Nielsen's professional life. He regularly addresses legal conferences on subjects such as handling hearsay, defending cold cases, and issues unique to notorious cases.

Nielsen began his career as an assistant district attorney in Racine, and moved into private practice in 1982. Since 1984, he has been a shareholder in the firm of Schwartz, Tofte and Nielsen Ltd., and has tried more than 150 cases before juries including litigation on 34 murder trials. Since becoming a Racine municipal court judge, Nielsen's innovative approach to truancy problems, according to one nominator, is "beginning to make a difference."

## ALUMNI SERVICE AWARDS

### Thomas A. Lutz, '78, Life Sciences

It's a long journey from Illinois to Mexico. It's even farther from Kansas to Honduras, and farther still to Costa Rica. Dr. Thomas Lutz took these journeys, first with the Illinois College of Optometry Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH) to Mexico and then to Honduras and Costa Rica with Kansas VOSH. His goal was to provide eye care to the poor in Central America.

Of his Costa Rica mission, Lutz said people began to arrive early for treatment.

"That first morning, we were met by hundreds of the local citizenry already

waiting for us, neatly lined up in rows that extended several blocks," he said. "Over the course of the next two weeks, we examined thousands of individuals."

Lutz has dedicated his professional life to service through the public health-care system. He is currently staff optometrist in the Veterans Affairs Eastern Kansas Health Care System.

### Luann J. Simpson, '85, Psychology

"She is a credit to her profession and an inspiration to the many people who live with mental illness in Racine County."

As program coordinator for the Consumer Advocacy Team of the National Alliance on Mental Illness of Racine County (NAMI-Racine), Luann Simpson "has challenged the mental health community to look at treatment and programming issues through the eyes of those they serve," said a nominator.

As a person living with bipolar disorder, Simpson has been called a positive role model to people fighting mental illness. She is a strong voice on behalf of mental health consumers and their families at all levels of advocacy and she promotes self-advocacy through education and empowerment.

Simpson received the NAMI Wisconsin Outstanding Consumer Award in 2001 and Gateway Technical College C.L. Griebler Award of Merit in 2005. In 2009, she was named a Champion in Women's Health in the area of mental health by the Wisconsin Women's Health Foundation.