

THE DAVIES AWARD

The Davies Award was established at the University of San Diego in 1984 by Mrs. Darlene Davies in memory of her husband, R. Lowell Davies, a beloved member of the Dean's Council who died April 29, 1983, and by Dr. Joe Pusateri, former Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Author Hughes was president of USD at the time. The first Davies Award recipient was Dr. Iris Engstrand, Professor of History, in May 1984. The second was Professor of Art Therese Whitcomb in 1985.

The Davies Award was originally given for Faculty Achievement within the College of Arts and Sciences, but its focus was changed in 1995 to recognize teaching excellence as seen through the following five criteria: 1) commitment to the values of a liberal arts education; 2) a demanding intellectual presence in the classroom; 3) accessibility to students; 4) impact on student lives beyond the classroom experience; and 5) contributions to the growth of colleagues as effective teachers.

Dean Patrick Drinan suggested the renaming of the award to focus on teaching excellence in the College of Arts and Sciences, where teaching excellence is expected of all faculty. A set of plaques on the wall in the College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Office recognizes both versions of the Davies award over the years—Faculty Achievement and Teaching Excellence. The Honors Convocation, which takes place toward the end of each spring semester, includes the Davies Award.

On April 30, 2014, the College of Arts and Sciences recognized 30 years of the Davies Award for Teaching Excellence, the most prestigious faculty award given in USD's College of Arts and Sciences. Twenty-three of the past Davies awardees attended the reception, hosted by the College, the USD Honors Program, and Mrs. Darlene Davies. Only a few days later, the 31st recipient was honored at the annual USD Honors Convocation on the stage of Shiley Theatre. Dr. Veronica Galvan, Psychological Sciences, received the distinction on May 4, 2014.

The current Dean of the College, Dr. Noelle Norton, Professor of Political Science, was the 2005 recipient of the Davies Award. At the 30-year reception, Dean Norton remarked that receiving the Davies award was her most significant academic achievement. "To be recognized by my peers, students, and alumni as being a great teacher means more to me than any other achievement, even more than becoming Dean." Dean Norton added that she looks forward to reading the nominations for the 32nd Davies Award honoree in 2015.