

## **Professor Jill Whitman**

Professor Jill Whitman is a community-oriented geologist with a deep commitment to service. Jill received her BA in Geology from Middlebury College in Vermont. At the University of Miami's Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science, her master's degree focused on marine geology and geophysics. She arrived at PLU in 1988 and received her PhD in Oceanography in 1989 from Scripps Institute of Oceanography. She is noted for her expertise in geophysics and marine geology, her mentorship of students and colleagues, her role in founding the Environmental Studies program, and her leadership in PLU faculty governance. She is perhaps best known for how her career embodies PLU's mission 'to educate for lives of thoughtful inquiry, leadership and care. . .for the Earth.'

Throughout her career, Jill has carefully crafted upper-division geology courses that offer students a structured learning environment in which they can master difficult quantitative geological material and synthesize data from ocean cores. She has a passion for sharing her love of and knowledge about the ocean through hands-on activities involving sand, water and dry ice in her introductory oceanography class. For Jill, teaching is only one facet of student education. She often has students in her office engaged in a vibrant conversation about their studies, their extracurricular activities or their lives outside of PLU. She pushes students to nuance their critical thinking within a carefully structured framework designed to foster their success. Her advisees rely on her deep understanding of PLU, and because she knows them well, she can offer pathways to success and help them discover their aspirations. She offers similar mentorship to her colleagues, helping them to discover their roles and to manage their careers in the context of PLU. For that work, she was awarded the PLU Faculty Excellence Award for Mentoring in 2007.

Jill has also been influential in the lives of countless other PLU students through the Environmental Studies program. With a team of colleagues from across campus, Jill developed Environmental Methods of Investigation, the keystone course for the program that has been taught since 1992. Students still pull on waders to measure the water quality and biological diversity of Clover Creek. Her early leadership provided a strong base for today's robust Environmental Studies program, which she returned to chair again in Fall 2016. She encouraged students

to present Clover Creek data at professional meetings, which has given them insight into professional environmental careers. She received the Bay Hero Award for Excellence in Environmental Education from Citizens for a Healthy Bay in 2006.

When Jill arrived at PLU, she had a scholarly record that encompassed topics from ocean tectonics to micropaleontology. In 1992, she served as sedimentologist on the *D/V Glomar Challenger* studying sediments in the Mariana Basin and the Ontong Java Plateau. More recently, she has focused on the scholarship of teaching. At its inception, the Environmental Studies of Investigation course provided students with a rare opportunity for hands-on study. Jill presented the effective methodologies and approaches used in the course design and implementation at professional meetings. She was a team member that developed study away curriculum for Trinidad & Tobago and worked on a National Science Foundation grant that provided professional development opportunities to local K-12 earth science teachers.

Jill has served PLU and the community through an array of activities. As Geosciences chair, she kept the department prepared for the future through her consistent engagement in faculty governance and awareness of emerging issues. She has served many roles in the faculty governance, often rising to leadership positions. She offered her scientific expertise to local watershed councils and the Holden Science and Technology committee. She served as Faculty Secretary (2010-2011), Vice Chair (2012-2014) and Chair (2014-2016). For her exemplary service and leadership, she received the PLU Faculty Excellence Award for Service in 2016.

For Jill's passion for teaching geology, mentorship of students and colleagues, commitment to student success and learning, leadership in academics and faculty governance, dedication to the university and community, and the continued impact of her work, we are deeply grateful.