

The K.T. Tang Faculty Excellence Award in Research is made possible by an endowment established by Wilfred Chan, a 1974 alumnus of PLU, in honor of his former professor, K.T. Tang, Professor Emeritus of Physics. The awards recognize faculty scholars who have made significant contributions to their disciplines through dissemination of research findings related to the discovery, integration, or application of knowledge. This year we honor:

Dr. Jennifer Jenkins, Associate Professor of German

For nearly a decade, Jen has studied the work of Hermann Broch, one of the major German-speaking novelists and thinkers of the first half of the 20th century. On her last day of a month-long research trip at Yale University's library last fall, Jen made a startling discovery, finding hitherto undiscovered handwritten notes of Broch's in a box labeled "Writings by others." The handwriting revealed that a piece previously attributed to another author was actually composed by Broch himself, writing under a pseudonym. From there, Professor Jenkins followed a trail of evidence that ultimately led to her finding three texts under the pseudonym that had not been previously attributed to Broch.

Professional colleagues from her discipline wrote to support Professor Jenkins's nomination, including several who acknowledged that they first became acquainted with Jen's work through the publication of these findings. Indeed, professional colleagues around the world describe Jen's work as "invaluable", "gripping" and "outstanding."

In less than a year's time, Professor Jenkins wrote two articles and two critical editions on her discovery. A colleague at another university describes one of her publications in the "absolute flagship journal of German studies" as amounting to "the highest international recognition to be earned in the field."

For her excellence in research, we honor Jennifer Jenkins.