

The Faculty Excellence Award in Mentoring was established by a gift from Tom Carlson, Professor of Biology, and honors Professor Emeritus of Biology Art Gee who excelled as a mentor to colleagues and students in his many years of service on the faculty. This award recognizes the efforts of a faculty member who serves as a “personal or professional guide” to students or colleagues and who makes a profound difference in the lives of others as a role model, confidant, critic or co-learner. This year we honor **Dr. Bill Greenwood, Professor of Physics**.

Dr. Greenwood has advised and informally mentored several generations of physics and 3-2 dual-degree engineering students, and has nurtured to success numerous junior faculty in the Physics Department and across campus at PLU.

To students, Dr. Greenwood is an inspiring teacher, adviser and guide, someone who has helped them steer the right course in their education and careers. A former student wrote to say “In the classes that I took under Dr. Greenwood, I realized I was under the tutelage of someone who was not only knowledgeable, but also caring and attentive towards the progress of his students. Through advising meetings to discuss classes to the office hours I attended seeking clarification on course material, Dr. Greenwood has become one of the most integral influences that have made me who I am today.” As the student transitioned to graduate school, she noted “Dr. Greenwood has continued to be a strong source of support and inspiration, setting an example for the type of relationship I want with faculty [in my graduate program]. He has been a defining part of my undergraduate education and I consider myself lucky to have him as a mentor.”

Faculty colleagues describe Dr. Greenwood as someone who has helped them build their careers, taking them from newly hired assistant professors to senior colleagues who strive to emulate the model that Dr. Greenwood has so clearly provided. A former colleague wrote with reflections of his early days of teaching at PLU, saying, “I immediately, and naturally, turned to Bill as a mentor and role model. I learned from him how to prepare lectures, develop syllabi and lesson plans, make exams to test student’s knowledge, and how to appropriately pace my classes. We had many discussions on how best to teach particular physics concepts to students. Bill’s main focus was, and still is, that students successfully learn. I learned a great deal from Bill, and he helped guide me through my teaching experience at PLU. My time as a PLU faculty member would have been much more difficult if it wasn’t for Bill’s mentorship and sharing of his experiences.”

His mentoring has gone well beyond the formal roles of Adviser, 3-2 Director, or Chair. His departmental colleagues report that when anybody faces a problem, the first thought that comes to mind is “Let’s ask Bill...” Through his wisdom and insight, care for students and faculty, and willingness to help and guide others, Dr. Greenwood has become the very heart and soul of the Physics Department—so much so that one colleague wrote “it is almost impossible to imagine the department without him”. For his colleagues across campus, Dr. Greenwood models calm, patient, unwavering support. One colleague marveled that “Never have I ever seen him lose his temper, raise his voice, or have an unkind word to say about anyone, no matter how high the pressure or the stakes. He never complains about anything or anyone. I repeat: not...one...

single... time. He is PLU's Mr. Spock.”

In speaking to his seemingly unlimited patience, wisdom and empathy toward one's colleagues and students, Dr. Greenwood displays the same attributes as the award's namesake, Art Gee. A colleague wrote, “In some quarters, professors acknowledge academic lineages, and trace their own mentorship, much like a family tree, back through the decades. I will be forever be grateful that I am part of Dr. Bill Greenwood's lineage.”

For his excellent mentorship, we offer our congratulations to Bill Greenwood.