

**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 award recognizes 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. Claire Todd, Associate Professor of Geosciences and Environmental Studies**, with this award.

Dr. Todd investigates glacial systems and their response to climate change. She has built an impressive scholarship resume through her study of the deglaciation of Antarctica and its impact on sea level, glacial retreat in the Southern Andes, and, closer to home, glacial processes on Mt. Rainier. Recent accomplishments include articles published in the *American Journal of Science* and *Quaternary Science Reviews*, two National Science Foundation (NSF) grants funded by the Office of Polar Programs, and another proposal to investigate ice sheet collapse in East Antarctica that is currently under review.

In speaking to her reputation in the field, a colleague at another university wrote “Basically, there are only a handful of researchers worldwide who have the field experience in Antarctica necessary for accurate recognition and mapping of geological deposits characteristic of frozen-based glaciers, and Claire is one of them.”

Dr. Todd’s scholarly agenda also includes research into the ways in which interdisciplinary teaching can help students navigate complexities associated with environmental change. Indeed, notable in Dr. Todd’s research record is the large number of PLU student researchers she has mentored. She has leveraged her large NSF grants with smaller grants to support her research program, providing support for over 30 undergraduate researchers since 2008. These students have presented posters at the Geological Society of America national meeting and the Northwest Glaciologists meeting. In just the past 3 years, she has been coauthor and primary research mentor for 10 PLU students who presented at Geological Society of America meetings. Her former students credit Dr. Todd’s program with developing vital research skills and the confidence to see themselves as geologists. One colleague observed, “she’s done an exceptional job of addressing the challenge of creating and executing undergraduate research projects that are both achievable in the context of an undergraduate program and scientifically meaningful in a broader context.” Another colleague said, “Her summer undergraduate glacier research program is truly a model we can all learn from, which achieves all that it does because of her expertise and enthusiasm.” Dr. Todd’s leadership and dedication that makes her research programs scientifically successful life-changing experiences for her students.

Dr. Todd’s research is a testament to the idea that we can create meaningful research agendas that support both local and global communities at the same time they advance our academic understanding. The questions she poses are not just scientifically relevant, they are vital to helping society navigate the impacts of glacial hazards and climate change. As one colleague noted, “Dr. Todd’s accomplishments and impact on both her field and her colleagues embody the spirit of this award” For excellence in research, we offer our congratulations to Claire Todd.