

The Faculty Excellence Award in Advising recognizes a faculty advisor who embodies the qualities of effective and caring concern for student academic progress. This year we honor **Dr. Tyler Travillian, Assistant Professor of Languages and Literatures and Multi-Disciplinary Programs**.

The packet of material supporting Dr. Travillian's nomination for this award demonstrates the extent to which he goes above and beyond in his service to advising students, including the additional load of overseeing the entire Classics program, first while his senior colleague was on sabbatical, and then in re-imagining and restructuring the program after recent reductions, endeavors he skillfully undertook as a pre-tenured faculty member. A colleague wrote that through these transitions, Dr. Travillian "put a particular priority on ensuring that current students did not have any negative repercussions from these changes, and has worked closely and personally with each Classics major and minor. To that end, Tyler has taken the majority of the advising duties under his wing, and has developed a robust set of documents and processes for helping Classics students manage their major or minor along with another major."

Dr. Travillian's advisees rave about his thoughtful support. He treats his students with respect and consideration, makes himself readily available for conversation, maintains a constant campus presence, and almost always has his door open for students. An advisee with a major in another division spoke to these qualities when she reflected back on her first semester in college. She wrote, "I was taking Dr. Travillian's Intensive Latin course and he expressed his willingness to meet with individual students and discuss our academic careers. I reached out, communicating my frustrations and doubts regarding my future at PLU. With much skill and care, Dr. Travillian helped craft my four-year plan. Though he was not my assigned advisor, nor a professor in my division, he exuded the dexterity, efficiency, and compassion that you would hope to find in any great advisor." The student went on to say, "I was so grateful and impressed by the level of detail in my plan and his commitment to my academics. The burden of being on my own, of trying to figure out my undergraduate years without guidance, was immediately lifted from my shoulders."

Another student who wrote in support of Dr. Travillian's nomination remarked that "Dr. Travillian established a clear, helpful advisory protocol for me. Periodically, he would take down the schedule of course offerings, create sample 4-year plans that would accomplish my goals, and talk them over with me. This was to ensure that I while I was exploring courses in a wide array of disciplines, the courses that I chose satisfied both my intellectual curiosity and the university requirements in the timeliest manner."

Dr. Travillian's efforts represent a student-centered approach to advising. He embodies the qualities of effective and caring concern for student academic progress, and has been instrumental in helping students plan their academic schedule and navigate the challenges of college life from their initial interviews at PLU, through the challenges and changes they face while here, and in transitioning them to their post-graduate lives of thoughtful inquiry, leadership, service, and care.

For his excellence in advising, we honor Tyler Travillian.