

**The Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching** recognizes a member of our faculty who embodies a commitment to excellence in their ability to communicate knowledge and inspire students. The 2019 Faculty Excellence Award in Teaching is presented to Dr. Tom Edgar, Associate Professor of Mathematics.

Dr. Edgar is an accomplished, passionate, and nationally-recognized instructor who is always looking to grow as a teacher and mentor. His enthusiasm for mathematics is contagious and his ability to inspire students is unparalleled. He carefully considers his audience to deliver just the right amount of rigorous delivery, discovery learning, storytelling, and support.

Students praise Dr. Edgar for the care and concern he shows, such as the former student who shared that Tom's class was challenging for him since English was not his first language, and "learning how to write mathematical proofs was a whole new world." The student wrote that "Despite my frustration at that time, Dr. Edgar was very patient in helping me improve my mathematical writing and understanding."

Dr. Edgar's dedication to fostering students' vocational discernment is exceptional. For example, a current student shared that, as an incoming first-year student, she intended to complete the Pre-Health Sciences track. Dr. Edgar's teaching sparked her passion for math and changed the trajectory of her undergraduate career. The student wrote, "It wasn't until taking Dr. Edgar's class that I felt truly confident in my ability to succeed. He creates an environment in which students feel comfortable asking questions and exploring the material we were learning." Another student shared that Dr. Edgar's effectiveness as a teacher springs from his commitment to knowing his students as people. The student wrote, "Dr. Edgar makes every effort to get to know us beyond the student level. Not only does he listen to how we learn, how we study, and how nervous we are for an exam, he wants to know where we're from, where we're going, what our hobbies are, and what we enjoy in life. In my experience at PLU, I have never felt more appreciated, noticed, and understood than I do with Dr. Edgar."

Dr. Edgar is an advocate and champion for all students. As a colleague wrote, Tom is "so deeply convinced that mathematics is beautiful and important for everyone, that he works tirelessly to spread this message."

For his excellence in practicing the craft of teaching, we offer our congratulations to Tom Edgar.