

2019

## Excellence in Scholarship or Creative Activity Award Citation for Marcia Bjornerud

Lawrence University

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## 2019 AWARD FOR EXCELLENCE IN SCHOLARSHIP OR CREATIVE ACTIVITY

### *Marcia Bjørnerud*

In 1995 you gave up a tenured position at Miami University in Ohio to come to Lawrence University, where you almost immediately established yourself as one of our finest teachers and scholars. The appearance earlier this year of your third book, *Timefulness: How Thinking Like a Geologist Can Help Save the World*, was greeted with acclaim by reviewers in the *Wall Street Journal* and *Science* magazine, among others, who praised your skill in making erudite geological concepts into elegant, accessible prose. In *Timefulness*, you draw on your research into the physics of earthquakes and mountain formation to show how an understanding of the multiple, overlapping temporalities of the Earth's deep past can help us gain the perspective we need if we are to confront and address the environmental challenges that face us. Long-listed for the PEN/E.O. Wilson Prize for Literary Science Writing, *Timefulness* was a finalist for the Los Angeles Book Prize in Science and Technology and received the PROSE Award in Popular Science and Popular Mathematics from the American Association of Publishers.

This is the second time your contributions to increasing scientific understanding have been honored by Lawrence. You received the Excellence in Scholarship Award in 2007, two years after the publication of *Reading the Rocks: The Autobiography of the Earth*, a work that was included in our *Freshman Studies* syllabus. That same year, you were named the inaugural holder of the Walter Schober Professorship in Environmental Studies. The founder of our Environmental Studies major, you have served as director of that program and chair of our Geosciences department. You have held not one, but two Fulbright Senior Scholar awards to support field research in Norway and New Zealand. In 2003, you were named a Fellow of the Geological Society of America; in 2011, you received the Outstanding Educator Award from the Association of Women Geoscientists; and in 2016, you were named a Fellow of the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts, and Letters, the first Lawrence Faculty member to be so honored. It gives me great pleasure to present you with the 2019 award for Excellence in Scholarship.

June 2019