Marin K. Clark

GRFP Recipient: 1998

Undergraduate Institution:
A.B 1995, Cornell University

Graduate Institution:
Ph.D. 2003, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Graduate Field of Study:
Geosciences

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Current Position:
Assistant Professor, University of Michigan

RESEARCH INTERESTS //

Marin K. Clark studies explores how the Earth's topographic surface changes through time and how these changes related to dynamic processes deep within the Earth. Clark's work on the mechanisms behind the growth--and deceleration--of the Himalayan Mountains and Tibetan Plateau, including Mount Everest, was recently published in the journal Nature. When the movement of tectonic plates caused India to collide with Eurasia, which started around 50 million years ago, the result was the biggest mountain range on our planet: the Himalaya and the Tibetan Plateau. Her research suggests that the plateau has grown smaller in north-south extent as it has grown higher, rather than expanding northward as it uplifted, as previously thought. More excitingly, the speed of slowdown of India's collision, and ultimately the demise of mountain building, relate directly to the strength of the continent as it deforms by plate motion.

AWARDS/ HONORS //

- Outstanding Woman in Science Award, Subaru of America Inc. (2003)

POSITION PROFILE //

1995-1997 - Field geophysicist, Schlumberger Technologies, Inc.

1997 - Field technician, U.S. Geological Survey

2003-2005 -Texaco Prize Postdoctoral Scholar, California Institute of Technology

2006-Present - Assistant professor, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

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