Described as “inspiring” by colleagues and students alike, Senior Laboratory Instructor Rossi Marx has provided personalized, hands-on learning opportunities for more than 5,000 undergraduate biology students since 2007. She is a major contributor to more than nine biology courses, spanning all years of the undergraduate curriculum, and has primary responsibility for the aquatic animals used in a variety of laboratories.

She “makes biological science accessible and appealing to diverse audiences within and beyond the university. Her students love learning from her,” says Kerry Delaney, chair of biology. Her innovative initiatives to improve the learning environment and care and management of aquatic animal species help to integrate lecture-based material with experiential, laboratory-based learning.

Marx is also a skilled mentor for new lab instructors and graduate students and a passionate contributor to community outreach activities. She has been the chair of the Vancouver Island Science Fair since 2006, and is involved in Science Venture and Let’s Talk Science, amongst other programs.

“She always goes above and beyond; her hard work, her commitment to quality and her compassion lead her to invest many, many extra hours simply because she cares about ‘her’ kids deeply,” says Verena Tunnicliffe, professor and Canada Research Chair in Deep Oceans.

Marx’s students speak of the impact of her dedication and enthusiasm, as well as her emphasis on critical thinking and excellence. “She made countless efforts to make the time for all of her students,” says former student Fawn Yastremski. “Dr. Marx inspired me to view life in an entirely different way.”