Russell Robb
Department of Physics & Astronomy

2014 Recipient for the Excellence in Service Award

Russ is with the department of Physics and Astronomy – which would explain the comet. He has been a valued member of that department for 32 years, in the dual capacity of Senior Scientific Assistant and Senior Lab Instructor in Astronomy. However, his contributions have extended far beyond his job description, to become an integral part of the department’s teaching and public outreach programs.

The multi-faceted role that Russ plays as course instructor, laboratory coordinator and manager of the campus telescope facilities has put him in daily contact with students, faculty, staff, postdoctoral fellows and researchers. His expertise and high standards, combined with his enthusiasm and approachability, have greatly contributed to UVic’s highly productive learning and research environment.

Russ’ passion for astronomy and his dedication to the students and their learning experiences have led to his mentorship of countless grads and undergrads. He has inspired and engaged them, encouraged and taught them with tireless enthusiasm and endless patience.

Not to be confined to our campus, Russ has also actively promoted outreach activities to the broader community. For many years he has organized and hosted the Astronomy Open Houses and tours of the telescope facilities. These hugely popular activities are a significant commitment for Russ, since they run weekly, rain or shine, 11 months out of the year.

Russ has shown remarkable dedication to UVic and to his role, and his work ethic, leadership, vision and commitment, combined with his remarkable range of contributions, make him most deserving of the President’s Distinguished Service Award, Excellence in Service.