



Randy Kobes

The Marsha Hanen Award For Excellence in Creating Community Awareness

Making science fun was the impetus for University of Winnipeg Physics Chair Randy Kobes to found the Manitoba chapter of *Let's Talk Science* in 1998.

Ironically, as the world relies more on technology, many people continue to harbour a dislike and fear of science. Math and physics seem to be particularly intimidating.

But Kobes wanted to change these perceptions, aiming his campaign at children. "The purpose of *Let's Talk Science* is to install a sense of excitement about science outside of the University and counteract this negative mindset," explained Kobes.

The *Let's Talk Science Partnership Program* is a national non-profit organization working to develop scientific literacy through innovative educational programs. Volunteer University students visit public school classrooms and help science teachers make their curriculum up-to-date and interesting.

Remarkably, in tandem with establishing and growing *Let's Talk Science* in Manitoba, Kobes has chaired the Physics Department, supervised graduate and summer undergraduate research assistants, published and refereed papers, maintained an NSERC research grant (one of the largest in the University), taught courses, and worked effectively on many departmental and University committees.

"There is no doubt that Randy's selfless devotion to the promotion of science has resulted in an increased appreciation for science in the province, as well as an increased awareness of science programs at The University of Winnipeg," said Gabor Kunstatter, Dean of Science.

Dean of Education Annabelle Mays added, "Randy's project has contributed significantly to creating connections with the community, in particular, between University students and school children. In addition, it has highlighted the nature of the expertise which resides in the University."

Each year, 70 University of Winnipeg student volunteers "talk science" with over 500 youth at their elementary and high schools and in UWinnipeg classrooms and labs—part of 600 scientist volunteers at universities across Canada who interact with 20,000 students annually through *Let's Talk Science*.

For his contribution to the promotion of science awareness, the University is proud to award Randy Kobes the Marsha Hanen Award for Excellence in Creating Community Awareness.