

# The American Association of Variable Star Observers

The twelfth **AAVSO William Tyler Olcott Distinguished Service Award** is presented to

*Edward F. Guinan*

“for his promotion of variable star research and astronomy education globally; his tirelessly empowering generations of scientists of various backgrounds; his own ongoing cutting-edge variable star research, promoting the AAVSO; his dedicated student and peer mentoring; his demonstration of and advocacy for best practices; and his leadership and service within the AAVSO and the astronomy communities.”

It is a great pleasure to present the Olcott Award to our colleague, mentor, fellow AAVSO member, and friend Ed Guinan. The breadth and depth of Ed’s endeavors and collaborations in the realm of variable stars and beyond are dazzling. He discovered Neptune’s moon Larissa as a Ph.D. student, and has continued in this pioneer spirit. Ed’s impressive publication list reveals that he has a heart for variable stars; he leads programs with poetic titles such as “The Secret Lives of Cepheids” and “Living with a Red Dwarf”.

As a good friend and colleague of the AAVSO for many years, he and Janet Mattei collaborated on several research projects, and he continues to use AAVSO resources frequently. A former Council member, he is a strong advocate for the AAVSO, demonstrating best practices for the organization as he does for other astronomy boards he serves on. Whenever his schedule allows, he attends AAVSO meetings and presents new exciting results. We know him as a cheerful colleague and friend who is never too busy to give encouragement or advice, look for solutions, and have a pleasant chat with members and staff. While embedded in state-of-the-art, big astronomy projects, Ed continues to study the “traditional values“ (e.g., Polaris, Rigel), thereby marrying the old and the new, completely in the AAVSO spirit.

We also know Ed for tirelessly empowering generations of scientists, including amateurs. As an example of his invaluable contributions to global capacity building through variable star astronomy, in the 1970s he was intensely involved in building Iran's first high-powered telescope, and its heritage continues to produce Ph.D. astronomers. Also, for over forty years, Ed has been extremely active in global astronomy training programs, having begun this work in Iran and in 1997 joining in the IAU’s International School for Young Astronomers (ISYA). During these workshops for young astronomers in remote corners of the world, he orients his teaching towards using small telescopes and simple equipment for studying variable stars. In parallel, Ed has guided and mentored numerous students at all levels in variable star studies.

Let’s raise a toast of Ed’s favorite Sancerre/Blanc wine to celebrate him for his dedication, his friendship, and his invariably stellar accomplishments! We are proud to present him with the AAVSO William Tyler Olcott Award.

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Dr. Jennifer Sokoloski  
President

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Dr. Stella Kafka  
Director

*Presented at the AAVSO 104th Annual Meeting  
Woburn, Massachusetts, November 14, 2015*