

Bolte is an extremely popular teacher with many student comments showing that he is effective, clear, and engaging in his classes. He puts a great deal of work into his classroom preparation. The course on stars is a difficult one to teach, as there is a wide variety of backgrounds and mathematical abilities of the students in it. Dr. Bolte has taken on this challenge with enthusiasm, and each time he has taught it, he has developed more material for the course and made it more rewarding for the students. The last time he taught it, he developed a full set of notes and lectures in PowerPoint and made the PowerPoint slides available on the web. Thus the students had access to all of his lectures, and they served as a good substitute for a textbook for the course. In addition, there were solutions to the homework sets and exams posted on the web, along with the lecture notes. This provided the students with an excellent opportunity to master the material of the course. The response from the students was extremely positive for a course of this type, and clearly Dr. Bolte is another one of our extremely successful teachers of undergraduate introductory courses.

The graduate course he taught on modern observational techniques is one that he has developed himself; this is a course that is evolving as he teaches it, since there are no guidelines for what might go into such a course. However, the students who have taken this course have found it invaluable, and well after they have taken it they have commented to Dr. Bolte how much they have used what they learned in it. It has been challenging and time-consuming for many of the students, but as Dr. Bolte when taught it again, he has found ways to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the course.

Dr. Bolte is also a superb advisor of graduate students. During the review period, two of his graduate students completed their PhD, bringing this to a total of four to date. He is currently supervising another student who is well along on his thesis. He also supervised two undergraduate physics senior theses and one postdoc. At any time when one walks by his office, one is likely to find students there talking about their research, if they are graduate students, or talking about their coursework, if they are undergraduates. He is extremely popular with his students, because they find him very approachable, very helpful, and very generous with his time in helping them to understand and solve the problems they are dealing with. There is no question he is an outstanding teacher of our faculty, and during the review period he continued the outstanding performance he has shown in teaching throughout his career here. We feel this performance is well beyond that one would expect for a "normal" merit increase, given the nature of his appointment.

Service:

It is very difficult to give a full accounting of the level, quality, and extended nature of service that Dr. Bolte has provided during the review period because of its extensive nature. During the review period he has served on quite a number of committees and provided leadership of great distinction and extraordinary value to the University of California and to our campus.

One of the most time consuming of these activities was his co-chairmanship of the Keck Science Steering Committee (SSC) from 2001 to 2004. The SSC is the committee that represents the scientific interests of the entire scientific community of the University of California in their use of the Keck Observatory. Thus, it plays an extraordinary role in