

“The Art of Science Communication in Astronomy”

by

Dr. Gerard T. van Belle

Dr. Gerard T. van Belle is foremost a teacher and an educator. He is also an astronomer and the new Director of the Navy Precision Optical Interferometer (NPOI) Telescope Array at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona. His research delves into the fundamental properties of stars—masses, linear radii and temperatures. These parameters tell us about the internal structure and evolution of stars, which, in turn, is essential to an understanding of new planets discovered around nearby stars. He has also interests in cutting-edge, high-precision, high-resolution astronomical techniques used to detect the multitudes of new planets to map the surfaces of stars. To that point, Dr. van Belle has worked on every major optical interferometer (which connects many, extremely-precise, laser, wave-length measuring optical telescopes), on the planet. Most recently, Dr. van Belle and his team won a \$3.27 million grant to upgrade that NPOI research project, partnering with the Naval Research Lab and the US Naval Observatory. He has been on Lowell’s faculty since 2011, and has earned his doctorate in physics from the University of Wyoming in 1996.

More information on Dr. van Belle’s pioneering, award-winning research and the historic, scientific advancements of Lowell Observatory can be found at www.Lowell.edu.

Head Shot for Dr. van Belle (Please acknowledge photo credit to Lowell Observatory)



Portrait Shot for Dr. van Belle (Please acknowledge photo credit to Andrew Holt Frazier, NAU)

