Revista Mexicana de Astronomía y Astrofísica, **47**, 439–440 (2011)

OBITUARY

JOHN PETER PHILLIPS
1949–2011

If we wanted to describe Peter using only two words we might choose "Indefatigable Scientist", his incredible productivity would certainly bear it out. But we would be forced to add: good friend, admired teacher, loving husband, a human being of many qualities, an enthusiast of classical music and archaeological sites, and many other interests besides.

He started his research career in his native England, obtaining his PhD in Astrophysics in Imperial College (University of London) in 1978. Afterwards he worked in various postdoctoral positions, holding Research Fellowships in Imperial, Queen Mary College (University of London) and the European Space Agency, ESTEC, Netherlands. He was a Visiting Professor in the Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, Spain before relocating to Mexico to work in the Instituto Nacional de Astrofísica, Óptica y Electrónica, Puebla, where he met Maru, his wife for 14 years, with whom he lived a happy and full life.

In 1997 he moved to Guadalajara, Mexico, where he created a research group in Astrophysics based in the Instituto de Astronomía y Meteorología at the Universidad de Guadalajara. He continued to work there for the rest of his life as a *Profesor Investigador Titular B* and the head of the group.

In Guadalajara he enjoyed one of the most successful periods of his academic life, publishing approximately 70 papers in international refereed journals between 2000–2010, and 4 more by April 2011. In total he published more than 150 papers in international refereed journals (more than 200 papers in total) with more than 1600 citations. He was named 'International Scientist of the Year 2004' by the International Biographical Centre of Cambridge, England.