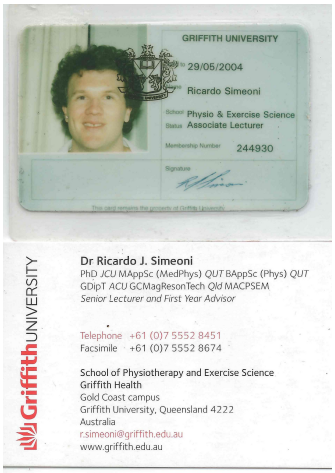
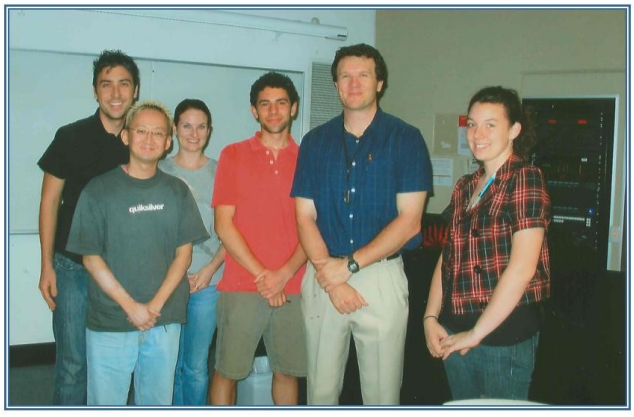
Griffith University 1998-2015

This period represents my primary time as a University Academic (approximately 15 years full-time and the remaining 2 or so years part-time). By far the best part of being a Griffith University (GU) Academic was the many and varied positive interactions with the fantastic GU students. Holding the formal position of First Year Student Advisor in a large cohort School (Physiotherapy and Exercise Science with some subsequent name changes along the way) in a large cohort Faculty (Health), and being the Convenor of two large cohort Courses (Subjects) for many years, meant that I had the privilege of meeting, contributing to the education of, and hopefully helping literally thousands of students. Collectively I Convened Bioinstrumentation, Biophysics, Mathematics for Clinical Sciences, and Bioinstrumentation in Physiotherapy.



The photo here is a snapshot taken with some such fantastic GU students. Like most educators I can honestly say that all students (with whom there was opportunity to have significant interaction) remain uniquely memorable and it is especially heartfelt and inspiring (though completely unexpected) when any student goes out of their way to gesture words, cards or similar of appreciation. For example, the most beautifully artistic card ever received, which I have kept to this day, was from Choi in the photo who is remembered for being incredibly respectful in accordance with his Korean culture (the card being a Korean Christmas card), with others in the photo similarly fondly remembered for their admirable voluntary Mentor and representation roles within the School of Pharmacy (note that some years the Health Faculty ran in a Foundation Year mode where up to around 600 students from multiple Schools attended first year lectures, and so unfortunately sometimes there was not the opportunity to get to know all students).



Many other great GU memories come to mind and here are just a few:

- Attending the wedding of two brilliant students from my first year of delivering lectures.
- A large rat causing riotous laughter by running across the floor of a full lecture theatre (as the former students noted above would likely remember).
- Progressing from Associate Lecturer to Lecturer to Senior Lecturer.
- Being First Year Student Advisor for such an extended period (even in the early days when the role was less formal and known by the name of First Year Coordinator). Counting that early period it is quite possible that I am GU's longest serving First Year Advisor.
- All of the facets of being First Year Advisor such as running Orientation Day (mostly with School Administration Officer, Denise) and Mentoring/Support programs etc.
- Working with great sessional teaching team members (often students who had gone on to postgraduate or other senior student positions).
- In the early days working as a "double-act" with an experienced physiotherapist within laboratories that taught physiotherapy students practical and theoretical knowledge on the safe and effective application of electrotherapy devices. They were most fun and interesting topics, and the physiotherapist (Cath) as well as being quite a character was much respected and loved by students for practical skills and having a kind, generous soul.
- Teaching Labview programming within computer laboratories.
- Receiving two GU teaching Commendations.
- Being a member of GU's Educational Excellence Committee.
- Working alongside and getting to know Dr Geoffrey Cornish (OAM).
- Completing a Graduate Certificate in MRI Technology at UQ during formal study leave in 2005, and writing a published paper on a new MRI reconstruction algorithm.
- Convening a Biophysics Summer School for year 11/12 Queensland Academies Health Academies (QAHS) students for accelerated tertiary entry, see attached QAHS newsletter.

In 2008 I was also the Queensland State Secretary of the Australasian College of Physical Scientists and Engineers in Medicine. It was a rewarding time since during the Committee's tenure (under the Chair of respected physicist, Lawrie Sim) we saw State College Membership and participation turn the corner from almost strugglingly to flourishing, which it has continued to do ever since. Perhaps it was just the right cyclic time for College growth in the State, but I honesty believe that the committee also made real positive contributions to the turnaround.

Except for say the last 12 months or so of the 17 year or so period, the many facets of academia (e.g., political and administrative facets, and philosophies around teaching, research, service, funding, etc.) made it an enjoyable world of which to be a part and, with support from several Heads of Schools over the years, as well as from the Pro Vice Chancellor of Health and Science (early days), Professor Max Standage (a distinguished Fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics), expectations were naturally met or exceeded within all formal annual reviews. The environment subsequently facilitated what I like to think were quite original and even "outside the box" research publications, despite research being my lowest priority. In fact, my official research workload allocation (established at formal annual reviews) for several years was only 10% (which was quite atypical at that time with 20% being the typical minimum). A research innovation award nomination with embedded reference from the primary Head of School during this time, Professor Greg Gass, is attached.

The presentation shown within the GU lecture theatre photo represents my full paper submitted to the 2011 Education in a Changing Environment International Conference in Sulford UK, on creativity and engagement in higher education. My paper was one of only a small handful from the conference selected to be published within the *Practice and Evidence of Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education* Journal. However, while that publication is one of my favourite papers, my most favourite publication during this GU period was a highly original extension to Bohr's model of the hydrogen atom. The extension is just amazing in its analytical elegance and gives quite accurate predictions of fine structure energy levels (comparable to Dirac's relativist predictions). The 2003 publication was within *Physics in Canada* (a publication of the Canadian Association of Physics). It seems that *Physics in Canada* may no longer be peer reviewed, but at the time I certainly had to await an accepting Referee report from the Managing Editor. I even still have quite a supply of hard copy offprints of my paper which are quite neat memorabilia since offprint publications even then were not offered by all journals and these days are almost historical academic artefacts (today's early career academics probably will not even recognise the term). The Referee report for my paper in part stated:

"This is an interesting and puzzling observation! I could imagine that this idea will stimulate further discussion and considerations. The paper is well written and appears to be sound."

Now that's what academic publications and the manner of Refereeing should be all about! To me it did not matter that *Physics in Canada* was not a high impact physics journal (such academic formalisms have never mattered, I have even published in the Gazette of the Australian Mathematical Society but naturally at times have conversely published in journals with higher formal rankings). One of the reasons my "Bohr paper" was expected to stimulate discussion was that it breaks with conventional quantum mechanics. That is, Bohr's model is considered a *classical* approach rather than a quantum approach (even though it contains one of the most important quantum postulates in history). But classical thinking can still provide helpful insights and so can coexist within modern governing truths of atomic/quantum physics. In particular I received kind and encouraging comments from Professor Emeritus Ben Engelen of the Netherlands following my 2003 publication. I did not know of Professor Engelen beforehand and we intermittently stayed in communication for some time afterwards (I was always sorry that I was never able to take up an appreciated invitation to visit him and his Family in Amsterdam). One of Professor Engelen's communications expressed commendation for "perseverance in bringing out your controversial ideas".

Despite this happy local environment, for various reasons 2015 was the right time for me to leave Academia (as it was for several respected colleagues around the same time), leading to an exciting new, but very much contrasting, teaching challenge (see next period). A letter from the President and Vice Chancellor of GU acknowledging my service contribution is attached.

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 26 – February 5, 2009

HEALTH SCIENCES
QUEENSLAND ACADEMIES

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Welcome back to the 2009 school year.

A special welcome to our new students and families. I would like to take this opportunity to personally invite you all to our "Meet and Greet" Evening on the 10th February. It is chance for parents to meet staff in a more informal setting. Students are welcome. (More detail later in the newsletter)

Things have started at a hectic pace. I would like to highlight a few exciting things that have happened since our last newsletter at the end of 2008, and the beginning of the school year in 2009:

- Firstly our first set of results for the IB Diploma Programme arrived. Students who anticipated Business and Management, Mandarin and Psychology sat the official IB exams in November last year. We were all thrilled when their results arrived in January. The average mark was 6.4 out of a possible 7. These students and staff are to be congratulated on these outstanding results.
- Mathuja Bavanendrakumar has been selected as one of 16 Australian Finalists in the BHP Billiton Science Awards. Mathuja will attend a camp in February in Melbourne and the overall winner will be announced that week. Congratulations to Mathuja - this is an outstanding achievement. As well we were notified that 8 (see article page 7/8) other QAHS students were semi-finalists in this same competition, another amazing achievement. 14 Year 12 students have begun their Health Sciences Certificate at Griffith University with a summer school in January. This is the program which allows them upon completing, and with their IB Diploma, to enter second year Health Science University courses at the end of Year 12. The feedback has been very positive and I believe they all received a Credit or above for their first university exam. 30% received a high distinction.
- We have been notified by Education Queensland that we have earned a AAA rating for ICT. This is the highest rating available and is pleasing recognition of the work done by staff in 2008.

UPCOMING EVENTS

10 February
- Meet & Greet for Parents 5.00 – 6.00pm

18 February
- School Photos

19 February
- Parent Forum Seminar presented by Michele Juratowitch 6.00 – 7.30pm Lecture Theatre

21 February
- Learning Performance Seminar 9.00am – 3.30pm Lecture Theatre

4 March & 11 March
- ISC/Library Parent information Sessions 5.30am – 7.00pm Library

STUDENT ABSENTEE LINE
5510 1137

Staffing Update

Welcome to our new staff - they have had a great first week:

Mr Garry Brown - Deputy Principal and Mathematics teacher
Mr Gary Fox - Mathematics
Ms Françoise Moir - French
Ms Kezia Rhode – Psychology
Miss Claire Batilliot – French Assistant

We will ask each of them to share something about themselves in the newsletter in the coming weeks.

Goodbye to Ros Reeve

Just to let you know that Ros Reeve will be leaving us on Friday this week. Ros has been fortunate enough to gain a well deserved permanent AO3 position at the LOTE Centre in Brisbane. This represents a deserved significant promotion for Ros. Although we are sad to lose her, and all her knowledge, we wish her the best of luck in her new position.

To many of our students and parents she is the face of QAHS and has had significant personal professional continued contact with families since they first made inquiries about the Academy, through testing, enrolment interviews, enrolment and beyond. She will be sorely missed. Those moments of truth for families who are making hard decisions about moving their child from one school to another are vital in instilling confidence in families that they are making the right decision. Ros' professionalism, attention to detail and genuine concern for families has helped make our Academy's reputation as a professional and caring environment.

I am sure you join with me in thanking Ros for her dedication and professionalism.

Ms Leanne Nixon, Principal

(Please note: If you have previously used Ros' email address to contact our office, please now use qahs-admin@eq.edu.au

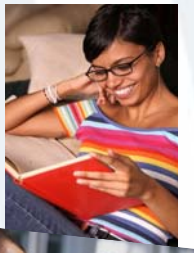
Term1 and maintain as much evidence of their CAS activities eg, journals, pictures, certificates, letters of appreciation, podcasts, vodcasts, etc.

The CAS learning outcomes are:

1. Increased their awareness of their own strengths and areas for growth.
2. Undertaken new challenges.
3. Planned and initiated activities.
4. Worked collaboratively with others.
5. Shown perseverance and commitment in their activities.
6. Engaged in issues of **global importance**.
7. Considered the ethical implications of their actions.
8. Developed new skills.

We have included a CAS calendar with this newsletter and your child can access CAS information via Sharepoint (daily notices) at the Academy. Please talk to your child about what they might select as their CAS focus. Students should not over commit themselves but ensure that they have a range of activities either at the Academy, externally or a combination. Some activities will commence in Week 3, with most commencing in Week 4.

Learning Performance Seminar



One of our students in last year's Year 10 attended a workshop run by Learning Performance. Based on her feedback and the evaluation from the students we have arranged a workshop for Saturday, 21st February from 9.00 – 3.30pm for $45 per student. Priority will be given to Year 10 students but it is open to all students at the Academy.

Students have identified that Motivation, Speed Reading, Summarising and Note-taking are areas in which they need assistance and hence these will be the focus of the day.

We will need a minimum of 50 students to undertake the course for it to run. If interested can you please pay $45 to the Finance Office at the Academy and ask your child to collect a permission note and return it asap to the Front Office. The closing date is Friday, 13 February. Students will need to bring their lunch, a drink and a pen/pencil. No computers required. This day seminar would normally cost $100 per person. However the cost has been specially negotiated for QAHS students.

Mrs Annette Jackson, HOD Student Services

Griffith University Health Sciences Certificate

In January I had the pleasure of teaching 14 Queensland Academy for Health Sciences Students during a Biophysics Summer School within the Griffith Health Studies Certificate, which offers commencing Year 12 Baccalaureate program students an opportunity to fast track their University studies. The Summer School is equivalent to the First Year Biophysics Course within Griffith Health's Foundation Year, but is run over an intensive 2 week period. Biophysics teaches the fundamental physical principles that govern a wide range of phenomena, instruments and procedures relevant to the Health and Medical Sciences, while also developing analytical problem solving skills. The students are congratulated for their hard work ethic, challenging questions, courteous manner, enthusiasm, focus and dedication. Indeed, these 14 young adults acquitted themselves and the Queensland Academy for Health Sciences with the highest distinction and Griffith University wishes them continued success in the future.

Dr Ricardo J. Simeoni MACPSEM
Senior Lecturer and First Year Advisor
School of Physiotherapy and Exercise Science
Griffith University

GU Health Sciences Certificate student reflections

Studying the Health Studies Certificate at Griffith not only offers us a fast track for a range of University studies, and helping us to prepare for future health professions and careers, it is certainly a great experience for further understanding of university style of teaching. The two weeks of Biophysics summer course, provided us with very compacted teaching, allowing us to clearly learn something new and interesting everyday. I would have no hesitation in recommending anyone who is considering it, to do the Griffith Health Studies Certificate next year.

Peter Chou, 12A

Initially, I was slightly worried about not being able to do the work and ending up looking silly. Luckily we had a lecturer who was really helpful and everyone was willing to help each other if there were certain things that someone else didn't understand. The transition from our style of learning, to a more independent style was seamless for most of us, which I think was really assisted by the support we got from the university staff, especially Ricardo, our lecturer. Overall it was a really challenging experience. I'm not a huge fan of maths, but the physics side of the course got me really interested. I recommend that anyone who is interested in it give it a go, because it was a great program!

Maddee Cox, 12E

BOND UNIVERSITY
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CRICOS CODE 00017B

March 19, 2009

Professor Angelo Raffaele Meo
President
Accademia Delle Scienze di Torino
Via Maria Vittoria, 3
10123 Torino
Italia

.Dear Professor Meo,

It gives me great pleasure to nominate Dr Ricardo Joseph Simeoni for the Premio Gili Agostinelle 2009, and I ask that you please accept this nomination for your and the Committee's fair consideration.

Dr Simeoni is a most unique researcher who has applied classic mathematical physics across a broad range of areas to produce a collection of quite extraordinary discoveries and new applications of fascination and interest. Dr Simeoni's pursuit of highly original research, with an enthusiasm towards uncovering new scientific ideas and possibilities, is also reflected in his University lecturing, being awarded an Excellence in Teaching Commendation from Griffith University in 2007, and being highly regarded by his students. I have known Dr Simeoni professionally and personally for 12 years and know him to be a person of strong integrity. Additionally, from Dr Simeoni's enclosed Curriculum Vitae, you will see that he has always strived for the highest academic standards, having won a number of school and tertiary academic awards as a student.

Within the enclosed folder are copies of Dr Simeoni's research papers relevant to this nomination, along with introductory dialogue as to why each paper is significant. The enclosed papers are summarised in Dr Simeoni's priority order as follows:

2007 Discovery of a remarkable mathematical association between noble gas atomic numbers (atomic magic numbers), quarks and quasars.

2003 Discovery of a highly accurate and elegant extension to Bohr's classical model of the hydrogen atom.

2003 Discovery of strong evidence for the famous Fibonacci sequence within human electroencephalogram and electromyogram (the mathematical nature of the universe is an area of passion for Dr Simeoni).

2003 First reported application of Bicoherence analysis to the electromyogram.

2000 Development of an original Fourier Analysis algorithm.

2005 Development of a thermodynamical-based mathematical model that explains the slow component of oxygen uptake kinetics, a component that has confounded exercise physiologists for decades.

2003 Development of an original and simple mathematical model of rowing which accurately predicts the variation in boat velocity throughout the rowing stroke.

2009 Development of a new mathematical algorithm for fast data collection and image construction within Magnetic Resonance Imaging.

Furthermore, Dr Simeoni has a Masters degree in Medical Physics and PhD in Theoretical Atomic Physics, with his PhD research, published in *J. Phys. B: At. Mol. Opt. Phys.*, representing the first fully quantum application of Laser Induced Collisional Energy Transfer theory to rare gas systems.

Such a prestigious award from the Accademia Della Scienze de Torino I know would be received as the highest possible honour by Dr Simeoni and, on a personal level, would bring much pride to his family and allow himself and his Father to return to Italy to visit family in Dignano and Padova who they have not seen since 1994.

Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Yours Sincerely,

Professor Gregory Gass
Head of School,
Faculty Health Sciences and Medicine

Professor Ian O'Connor
Vice Chancellor and President

Griffith University
Gold Coast Queensland 4222 Australia

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10 November 2015

Dr Ricardo Simeoni
527 Old Bay Road
BURPENGARY QLD 4152

Dear Ricardo

It has been brought to my attention that you recently left the University after significant service of over 17 years at Griffith.

This is a tremendous achievement and I wanted to take the opportunity to personally acknowledge your contributions and thank you for your loyal service during this period. Much has changed within the University over the past 17 years. However, at least one aspect remains the same. We continue to be very fortunate to have dedicated staff like you who give much of their time, energy and hard work to the institution over a very long period of time and I am most grateful.

I'm sure that the School of Allied Health Sciences, and the wider University community, join me in thanking you for your valuable contributions.

Best wishes for the future.

Yours sincerely

Ian O'Connor
Vice Chancellor and President