



CHEMISTRYTM

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Olfactophore models for structure
Novel approaches to chiral cyclopropanes
Benefits of Australian chemistry degrees

Obituary

Dr Jeffrey J Gibson, 1952–2001

Jeff Gibson was born in 1952 in Sydney and lived virtually all his life in Blacktown. He attended Blacktown Primary School and later Blacktown High School, achieving the honour of being dux of both schools and senior prefect of the high school. Jeff continued his education at the University of Sydney where he graduated with First Class Honours in Chemistry. In 1984 he obtained his Doctor of Philosophy in Chemistry. Jeff worked as a part-time demonstrator at the University of Sydney during his post-graduate years.

Jeff was appointed to the First Year Unit of Chemistry at the University of New South Wales in 1982 as an associate lecturer. Jeff had a firm commitment to teaching and his students, in return, deeply appreciated his guidance. In 1990 Jeff was asked to develop computer-aided-teaching (CAT) materials for students' use. He took to this project enthusiastically and before long he had the preliminary work completed using very old MacPlus machines. When the school obtained an undergraduate computer laboratory in 1996, Jeff wrote sophisticated programs, handling student registration, student placement to laboratory classes, laboratory pre-lab and post-lab exercises, and teaching materials. By 1998 the computers in the laboratory were used to conduct assessments and as bulletin boards, as well as all the other CAT materials.

Jeff's love and dedication to teaching did not diminish over the years. Many of his students have stated that had it not been for Jeff's encouragement and patience, they would not have made it through their chemistry course.

In 1999 Jeff was diagnosed with melanoma. He fought this cancer in his usual optimistic and courageous way but after two years of struggle he lost the battle.

Devotion to duty was Jeff's life. He was very generous with his time to those who needed his help. Jeff kept his unflinching faith to the end, working and walking with his God. Jeff was a gentle, loving man, an exceptional teacher, a gentleman and a scholar. He is survived by his parents, John and Irene Gibson.

Peter Chia
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