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About Sam Cubero.

Sam was my first doctoral student when I moved to Australia, joining me in 1994. His research concerned pneumatically powered wall-climbing robots at what was then the forefront of the art. His 'STIC' is still on regular display in Sydney's Powerhouse Museum. It combined all the essential features of mechatronics.

When he gained his doctorate he moved to take up a lectureship at Curtin University of Technology (Perth). I was able to follow his activities through research papers that he published, many based on highly innovative undergraduate projects that he supervised.

In 2003 he played a major role in the hosting of the tenth IEEE conference on Mechatronics and Machine Vision in Practice on the Curtin campus. Indeed each year he has been valuable as a reviewer of papers for this conference series.

I was very pleased when he chose to move hack to USQ in 2007. He has been extremely energetic in supervising undergraduate projects, but his personal research might have suffered from our heavy teaching loads.

He has maintained very close engagement with the students on the courses he teaches and this has been appreciated in the student feedback of his course reviews.

If I had to describe him in a single phrase, it would be, "Bursting with enthusiasm and ability."

I would give him my strongest recommendation,

Yours

John Billingsley

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16 February 2010

TO WHOME IT MAY CONCERN

Academic reference for Dr Sam Cubero

I write this academic reference as the Head of Mechanical Engineering Department at Curtin University where Dr Sam Cubero Sam was formerly employed as a lecturer until June 2007. I was his immediate line manger and assessed work performance in view of university academic expectations.

Dr Cubero was one of the four staff members involved in the Mechatronic Engineering programme of the Department where he undertook both teaching and research activities. He was actively involved in the courseware development for this newly launched degree programme at Curtin (Perth) as well as its overseas campus at Sarawak, Malaysia. While being the unit controller, he enthusiastically taught the core units Mechatronic Project 234, Mechanical Design 321, Engineering Graphics 232 and Mechatronic Automation 331 in this course.

Dr Cubero introduced several up-to-date teaching tools and problem-based learning (PBL) methods that gave the mechatronic engineering programme a modern outlook. He was very natural with specialised software and keenly adopted such aids for effective teaching. Through PBL approach, he addressed varying student learning needs for which he received high level of student satisfaction feedback for his teaching units. His contributions and initiatives not only improved the public image of this new course but also significantly helped Curtin to stay ahead of competition in similar teaching programmes in Western Australia.

Dr Cubero carried out very innovative and applied research in machine vision, instrumentation development and mobile robotics. He received international acknowledgements for his work on machine vision. He received invitations to share his wealth of knowledge at international forums, and attracted international recognition and industry partnership. He regularly published outcomes in journals and conferences. In his research involving innovative and novel development work, Dr Cubero attracted industry funding, sponsorships and a whole range of industrial links for collaborations.

With commitment, he supervised and successfully completed many higher degree research and undergraduate student projects involving numerous innovative ideas. He undertook many professional development activities with hands-on training experience useful for mechatronic research and teaching.

As the Enrolment Officer for the mechatronic engineering stream, Dr Cubero advised students on their study plans and handled special enrolment issues. In addition, he showed leadership qualities through organising Open Day activities, Curtin promotional presentations for prospective high school students and international conference organisation.

Dr Cubero is a capable academic who has proven expertise in the mechatronic discipline area, in particular machine design, computer control, embedded microcontrollers, robotics and machine vision. As demonstrated at Curtin, he is very competent in technical skills and possesses necessary experience for developing new courseware for an accredited mechatronic engineering course. In my opinion, he can also adopt himself to teaching within traditional mechanical engineering discipline. His research spans from fundamental developments to industry applications warranting external partnerships and funding support. He showed good interpersonal skills with peers, superiors and students.

I am confident that, given the appropriate employment opportunity, Dr Sam Cubero will continue to be successful in his pursuit of academic excellence while contributing to the progress of his workplace.

Yours faithfully

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8 February 2010

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Reference for Dr Sam Cubero

I have known Dr Cubero since he first joined the Faculty of Engineering and Surveying at the University of Southern Queensland in 2007. Sam was assigned to the teaching staff team for ENG2102, Engineering Problem-solving 2 as part of his teaching workload.

From his initial meeting with the staff teaching team as we designed the set problem for the following semester Sam played a significant role taking responsibility for the mechanical engineering aspects of the set problem. Initially, it was the intricacies of wind turbines including propeller design, gearing and related stresses, and in the following year, his suggestion of a ski lift became the core of the set problem for 2009.

Throughout his time with the team he always delivered his design components in a timely fashion, and accepted his facilitator role with enthusiasm. He prepared very thorough student on-line questionnaires and tutorials on stresses for the entire student cohort of approximately 500 students, and these were well received. Student course evaluations reflect very positively on his contributions to student learning in his technical discussion forum and within his assigned student teams.

Sam set high standards for the students in his expertise area and while the teaching team may have had to lower his expectations of the students on a few occasions, many students praised his efforts to extend their learning with his challenges. I believe that Sam gained satisfaction from his contributions to problem-solving 2.

I wish Dr Cubero every success with his future career in whatever direction he chooses to pursue his interests.

Yours sincerely

John M. Worden

Assoc Prof John Worden
Head of Engineering Studies