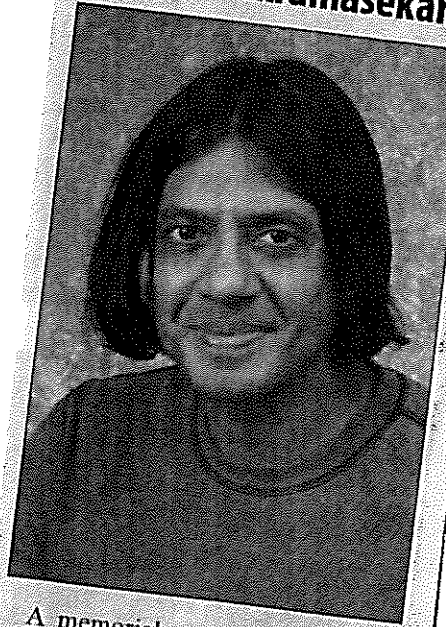


CH-R1-26-2016
Sujeev Wickramasekara



A memorial service for Grinnell College Professor of Physics Sujeev Wickramasekara will be held at 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 31, in Herrick Chapel, 1128 Park St., Grinnell. A reception will follow in Grinnell House, 1011 Park St.

Professor Wickramasekara died unexpectedly of apparent cardiac arrest on Dec. 28, 2015. A visitation and funeral service were held in Iowa City earlier this month. His memorial service on campus will be an opportunity for members of the Grinnell community to share memories and celebrate his life.

Memorial contributions can be made in Professor Wickramasekara's name to support financial aid for Grinnell College physics students from groups that are currently underrepresented in the field. Contributions should be sent to the Grinnell College Development and Alumni Relations office, 733 Broad St., Grinnell, IA 50112.

After joining the Grinnell College faculty in 2005, Wickramasekara quickly gained a reputation as a brilliant scholar and a dynamic, engaging teacher. The author of many publications in some of his field's most prominent journals, he also attained an international reputation. He challenged majors with advanced seminars in quantum theory in addition to teaching sections of general physics and a tutorial on the growth and convergence of scientific knowledge. He was a supportive and thoughtful colleague and mentor to his peers and a generation of Grinnell students.

Survivors include his wife, Tammy Nyden, associate professor of philosophy at Grinnell College, and step-sons, Jonah Bullock and Cole Bullock, all of Iowa City. Grinnell College welcomes and encourages the participation of people with disabilities. Further information on parking and accessibility is available on the college's website: www.grinnell.edu. Accommodation requests may be made to Conference Operations at 641-269-3235 or calendar@grinnell.edu.

Wickramasekara Sujeev

GRINNELL MOURNS LOSS OF PHYSICS PROFESSOR

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Professor Sujeev Wickramasekara, Physics, passed away from an apparent cardiac arrest over winter break on Dec. 28. Due to the unexpected nature of his passing, a medical professional will confirm cause of death.

Since coming to Grinnell in 2005, Wickramasekara earned a reputation in the school community and internationally as a brilliant professor and was awarded both the Cottrell College Science Award and the Harris Faculty Fellowship.

He is remembered fondly by students in the Grinnell Community who recall his dedication to engaging students in physics and for adapting physics education to the liberal arts through advanced seminars and freshman tutorials.

His class reaffirmed my desire to learn physics every day

In his honor, Wickramasekara's friends and family have been posting on a Tribute Wall, a website run by Lensing Funeral & Cremation Service that allows for mourners to write their thoughts and feelings on the loss of a loved one.

"He was always so passionate about

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teaching our class, and when I was struggling with a concept he could explain so clearly that I would understand immediately," wrote Patrick Sheehan-Klenk '19, one of Wickramasekara's students, on the website's message board. "His class reaffirmed my desire to learn physics every day."

A wake and memorial service was held for him in Iowa City on Jan. 2 for friends and family, and a service for the Grinnell community was held in Herrick Chapel on Jan. 31. Wickramasekara is survived by wife and Grinnell Professor Tammy Nyden, Philosophy, and their family.



CONTRIBUTED

Herrick Chapel **Sujeev Wickramasekara**

1-31-2016 9-3-1967 — 12-28-2015

Dr. Wickramasekara joined the Grinnell College faculty in 2005 and quickly gained a reputation as a brilliant scholar and a dynamic, engaging teacher. A theoretician with strong interests in quantum physics, he was a winner of the prestigious Cottrell College Science Award and the Harris Faculty Fellowship. The author of many publications in some of his field's most prominent journals, Sujeev also attained an international reputation

He earned his Bachelor's degree in physics at the University of Southern California and his Ph.D. in physics at the University of Texas at Austin. His specialty was particle physics. Sujeev was a great colleague and a long-time collaborator with both the MathPhys Research Group at the University of Valladolid, Spain (<http://mathphys.uva.es/people/>) and was a visiting professor and participant in the Math Physics seminar at the University of Iowa.

At Grinnell, he displayed the tremendous range that characterizes the work of our very best faculty. While challenging majors with advanced seminars in quantum theory, he also taught sections of general physics and offered a tutorial on the growth and convergence of scientific knowledge. He was a supportive and thoughtful colleague and mentor to his peers and a generation of students.

Sujeev is survived by his wife, Tammy Nyden and step-sons, Jonah Bullock & Cole Bullock, all of Iowa City; his parents, Walter Keerthiraja Wickramasekera of Sri Lanka and Gurukande Wedaarachchige Chandrani of Colombo, Sri Lanka.

Also surviving is a sister, Chamindi Halahakoon and her husband, Chandima Halahakoon, of Ipswich, UK and their children, Chamin and Nevan Halahakoon, also of Ipswich; a brother, Neshan Wickramasekera and his wife, Manisha Wickramasekera, of Cambridge, UK and their son, Thavish Wickramasekera, also of Cambridge, UK; his mother In law, Mary Nyden, lives in Henderson, Nevada; sister-in-law, Millie Godines, of Chapin, South Carolina; a niece, Morgan Godines, of Chapin, South Carolina and a nephew, Austin Godines, of Honolulu, HI and a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Ray and Shireen Nyden, of San Francisco, CA.