

October 10, 2020

# Geneseo Alumni Manga Comics

Illustration by Akiko Shimojima



The 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
SUNY Geneseo  
Department of Chemistry



This amazing book was produced thanks to the donation of Geneseo Chemistry/Biochemistry Alumni!! Thank you very much for your support!!!

**GENESEO**  
Department of Chemistry

**Akiko Shimojima** (Geneseo Psychology '00)

Akiko is a manga artist from Japan. A teacher of digital comic art at a school in Tokyo, she has contributed work to many publications in Japanese. In collaboration with Sean Michael Wilson she has had six books published in English, including "The 47 Ronin", "Black Ships", and the award-winning "Secrets of the Ninja".





**Kenny Lipkowitz ('72)**

pp. 4 - 5



**My Hang Huynh ('91)**

pp. 6 - 7



**Jamie Vergis ('96)**

pp. 8 - 9



**John Lamar ('00)**

pp. 10 - 11



**Michael Ruggiero ('12)**

pp. 12 - 13

# Kenny Lipkowitz (Class of 1972)

**Ph.D.** at  
Montana State University

SYNTHESIS OF COMPUTATIONAL CHEMISTRY  
AND INFORMATION THEORY

FACULTY MEMBER IN THE  
PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND  
IN THE INDIANA  
UNIVERSITY SCHOOL  
OF INFORMATICS

Post-doctoral at  
Ohio State University

Chairman of Chemistry  
at North Dakota  
State University

Program Officer at  
the Office of Naval Research in  
Arlington, Virginia 2008-present  
running a program in  
Computer-Aided  
Materials Design

I GREW UP IN A SMALL DOWN-STATE DAIRY-FARMING COMMUNITY WHERE THE CONCEPT OF HERMENEUTICS DIDN'T EXIST IN HIGH SCHOOL.

I THINK THERE IS ANOTHER POSSIBILITY OF...

NO.

THAT ALL CHANGED FOR ME AT GENESEO.

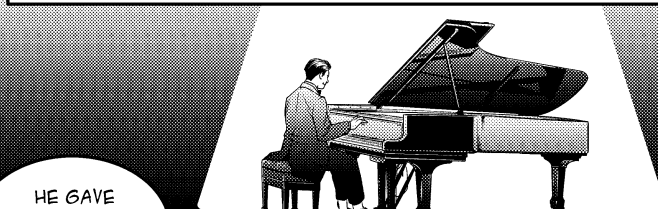
THE PROFESSOR ALLOWING ME TO CHALLENGE CHEMICAL ORTHODOXY AND SEE IF I COULD COME UP WITH A BETTER IDEA.

I HAVE ANOTHER IDEA!

Tell Us!

GOOD!

DR. RICHARD SMITH WAS A TRUE RENAISSANCE MAN, WHO WAS EQUALLY AT HOME IN THE CHEMICAL SCIENCES AS HE WAS IN THE LIBERAL ARTS AND MUSIC.



HE GAVE AN ANNUAL PIANO RECITAL

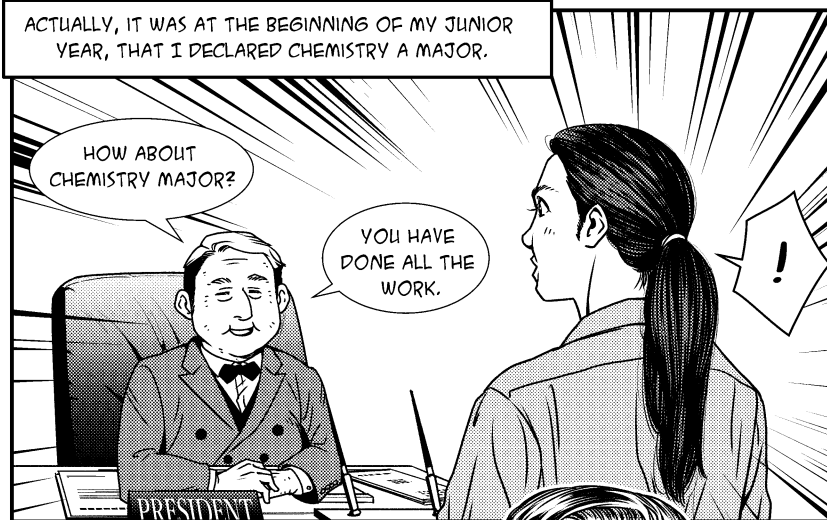
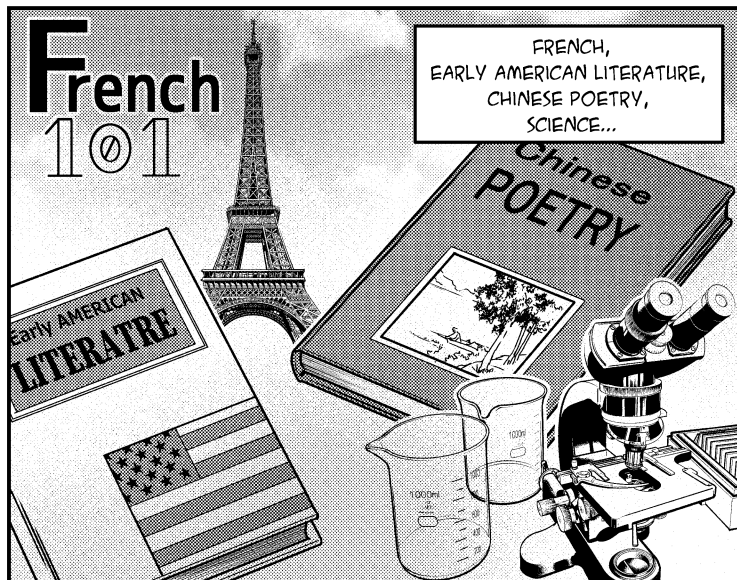
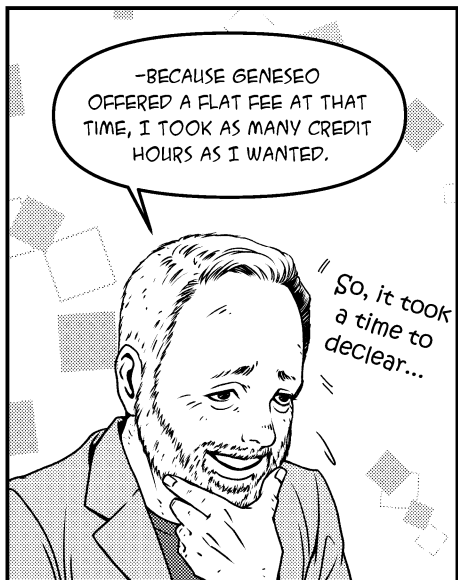
WHAT I LEARNED FROM HIM IS TO BE A LIFE-LONG LEARNER AND TO BE ABLE TO ADAPT TO NEW SITUATIONS.

Post-Doctoral

FOR THOSE REASONS I WAS CAPABLE OF INTELLECTUAL MORPHOGENESIS OVER THE COURSE OF MY CAREER.


Program Officer

Faculty Chair





# My Hang V. Huynh (Class of 1991)



**Inorganic Chemistry at SUNY Buffalo**

Director-Funded Postdoctoral Fellow in the Chemistry Division at Los Alamos National Laboratory  
Proton-Coupled Electron Transfer (PCET) mechanisms

**E.O. LAWRENCE AWARD**  
Individual Postdoctoral Distinguished Performance Award at Los Alamos National Laboratory

**Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

Osmium(VI)-Nitridos and their Os(IV)-Adducts

An Explosive Chemist at the High Explosive Science and Technology Experimentation Division

**MacArthur Fellow**


MY MULTIDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH INVOLVED THE EXPLOITATION OF THE VERTICAL TRIADS "IRON-RUTHENIUM-OSMIUM" AND INDEPENDENT ABILITY TO TRANSCEND PARADIGMS UNBURDENED BY CONVENTIONAL APPROACHES HAVE ALLOWED ME TO MAKE FUNDAMENTAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL, ECONOMIC, AND SCIENTIFIC ARENAS.

improve the safety of workers, who are chronically exposed to high-sensitivity explosives

reduce toxic heavy metal contaminants

improve airbag designs

THESE CONTRIBUTIONS WERE RECOGNIZED BY 13 INTERNATIONAL AWARDS, 8 INTERNATIONAL HONORS, 18 NATIONAL AWARDS, 4 NATIONAL HONORS, 13 INTERNATIONAL MEDIA RECOGNITIONS, 25 NATIONAL MEDIA RECOGNITIONS, 13 ENERGETIC PATENTS, AND 56 PUBLICATIONS IN PRESTIGIOUS PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS.



I MAJORED IN CHEMISTRY AND MATHEMATICS, BUT IT WAS SIMPLY BECAUSE I TRIED TO AVOID ENGLISH, NOT BECAUSE I WAS GOOD AT THEM.



CALCULUS III  
LINEAR ALGEBRA  
Chemistry  
Analytical Methods in Chemistry  
Applied Chemistry

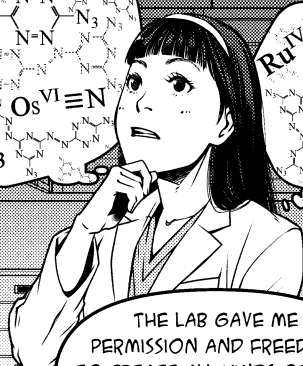
ALTHOUGH I COULD BARELY SPEAK ENGLISH, I OFTEN QUESTIONED ABOUT EVERYTHING.



Office  
Mon-Wed 16:30  
Fri 15:00

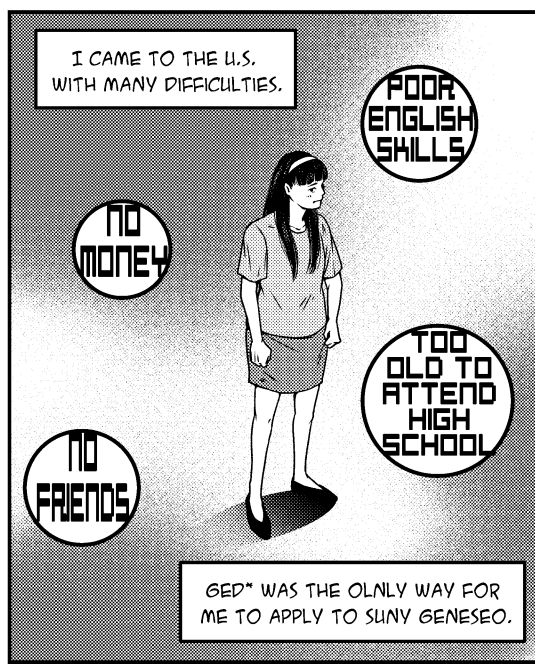
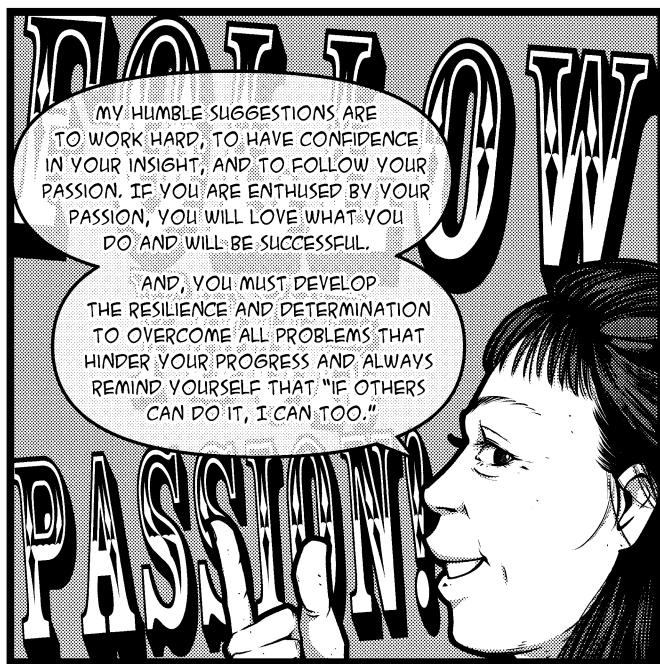
THROUGHOUT MY SCIENTIFIC CAREER, AS A REBELLIOUS STUDENT AND STUBBORN RESEARCHER, I TENDED NOT TO BELIEVE IN WHATEVER PROFESSORS AND RESEARCHERS INSISTED THAT I HAD TO ACCEPT AND MEMORIZE.

I LIKED TEACHING, BUT I ENJOYED WORKING IN THE LAB A WHOLE LOT MORE.

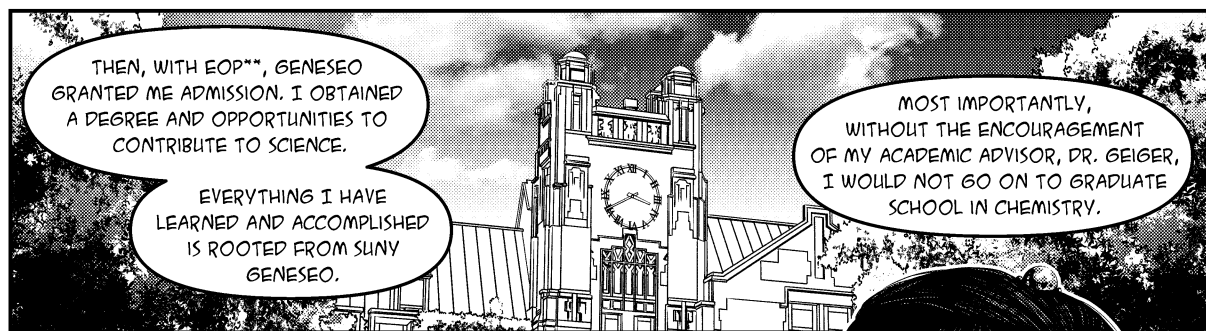


THE LAB GAVE ME PERMISSION AND FREEDOM TO CREATE ALL KINDS OF NEW CHEMICAL COMPOUNDS THAT I COULD RATIONALLY IMAGINE.

Chemical structures:  $N_3$ ,  $N=N$ ,  $N=N$ ,  $N=N$ ,  $Os^{VI} \equiv N$ ,  $Ru^{IV} = O$



\*GENERAL EQUIVALENT DIPLOMA



\*\*EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM



SEE GENESEO SCENE FALL 2008 PP. 08-11 FOR DETAILS.

# Jamie Vergis (Class of 1996)

**P.H.D.**  
MOLECULAR BIOPHYSICS  
AND BIOCHEMISTRY AT  
YALE UNIVERSITY  
Senior Scientist leading  
a research group at the  
Uniformed Services University  
A technology consultant for a physician  
in the Yale Hemophilia Center

Postdoctoral Fellowship  
at the  
University of Virginia  
Medical Center  
STUDIED BACILLUS ANTHRACIS  
AND RELATED ORGANISMS  
DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ON THE  
SCIENTIFIC CONSORTIA MANAGEMENT TEAM AT THE LAW  
FIRM OF FAEGRE DRINKER BIDDLE & REATH, LLP  
A system administrator  
in the Yale Center  
for Structural Biology  
Computer core

WHILE ATTENDING  
GRADUATE SCHOOL

I MARRIED ANOTHER  
'96 GENESEO GRADUATE,  
AMY LUDWIG!

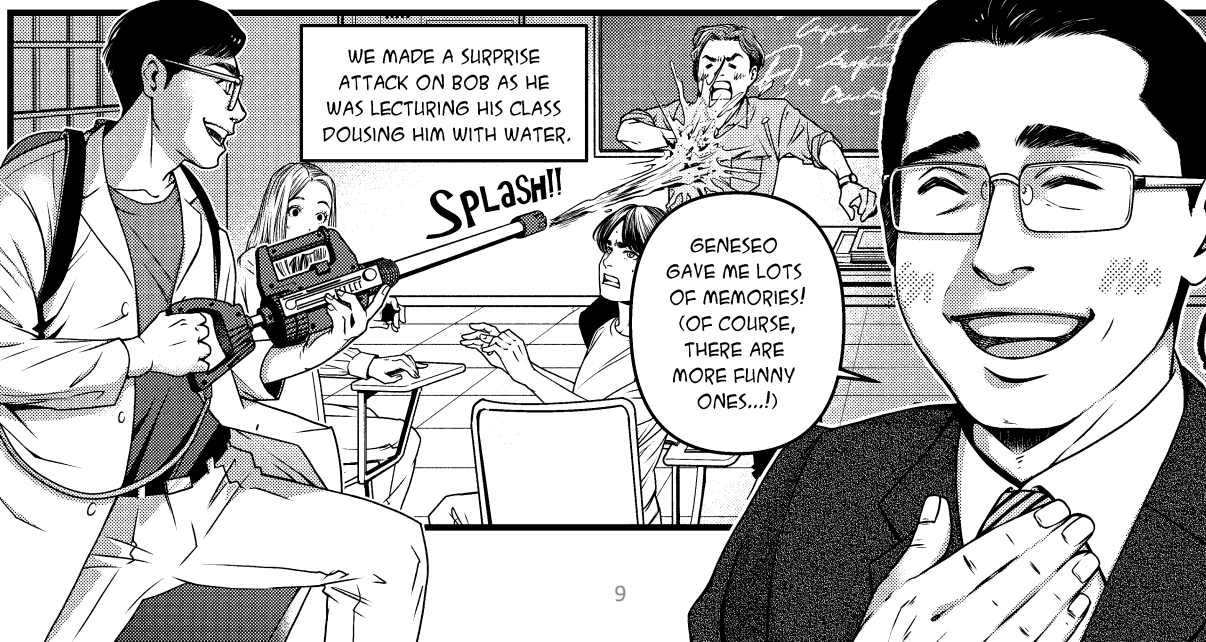
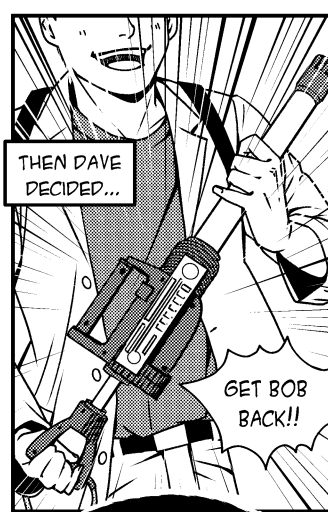
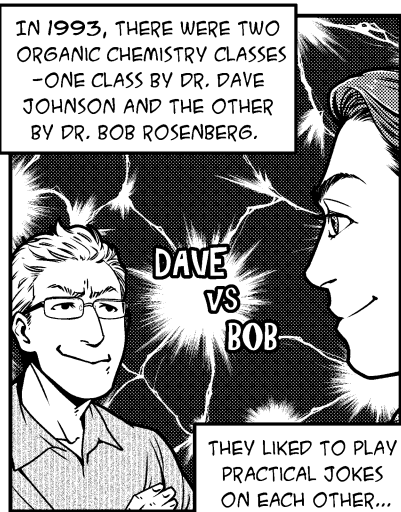
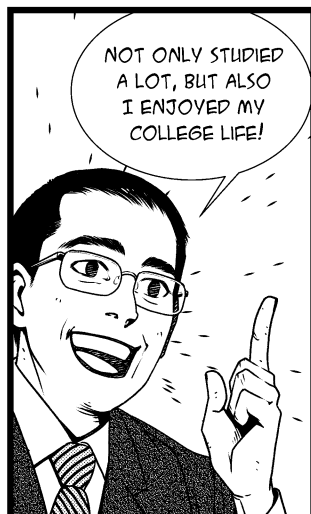
GENESEO GAVE ME THE GREAT  
EDUCATION THAT LAID THE FOUNDATION  
OF MY SCIENTIFIC CAREER.

WHILE MAJORING BIOCHEMISTRY  
I ALSO HAD A MINOR  
IN COMPUTER SCIENCE.

MY SCIENTIFIC  
CAREER TOOK  
MANY DIFFERENT  
DIRECTIONS AND  
ENDED UP WITH  
FAEGRE DRINKER  
BIDDLE + REATH,  
LLP, MY  
CURRENT JOB.

THE COMBINATION OF  
BIOCHEMISTRY AND COMPUTER  
SCIENCE PROVIDED ME WITH A  
SKILL SET THAT I LEVERAGED  
THROUGHOUT MY CAREER  
POST GENESEO.





# John Lamar (Class of 2000)

2 years as a research technician at Albany Medical College cancer cell invasion

postdoctoral fellowship at MIT

mechanisms of cancer metastasis

PH.D. PROGRAM AT ALBANY MEDICAL COLLEGE

AN ADHESION RECEPTOR AND ITS ROLE IN TUMOR GROWTH AND TUMOR CELL INVASION

Assistant Professor at Albany Medical College

running a research lab

I'VE PUBLISHED 18 PAPERS IN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS AND HAVE BEEN AWARDED SEVERAL FELLOWSHIPS AND RESEARCH GRANTS THROUGHOUT MY CAREER.

ALSO CO-ORGANIZE AN ANNUAL SCIENTIFIC WORKSHOP THAT HAS ATTRACTED ALL THE LEADERS IN MY FIELD.

I CAME TO GENESEO THINKING I WANTED TO GO TO MEDICAL SCHOOL. BUT...

**SOPHOMORE**

AM I REALLY INTERESTED IN MEDICINE?

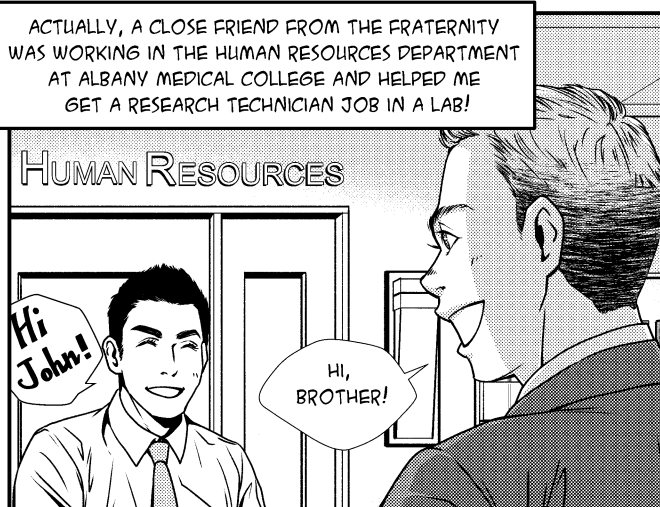
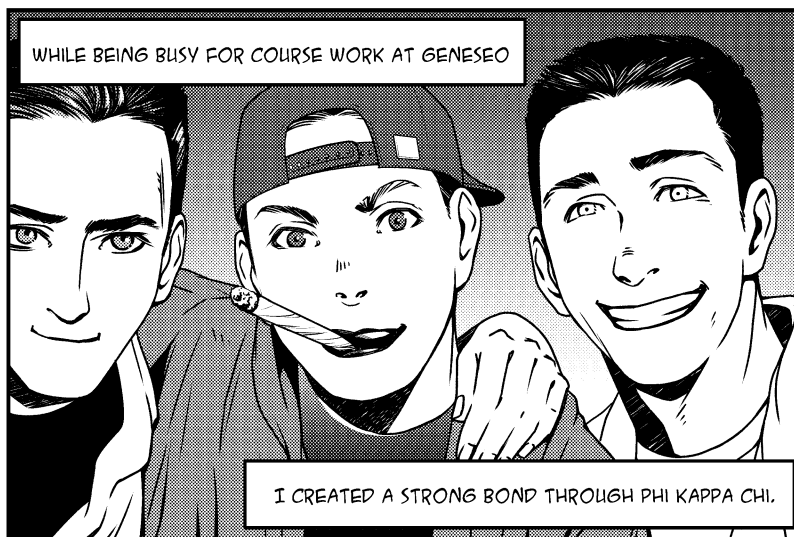
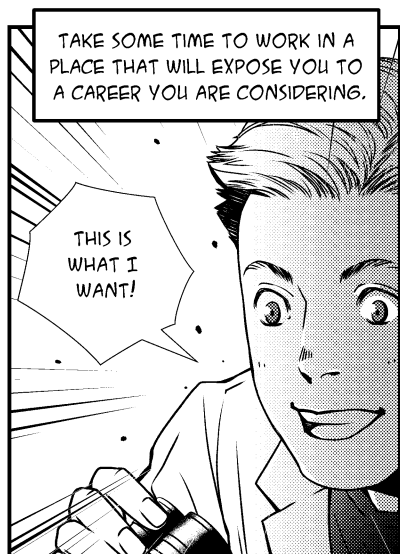
WHAT SHOULD I DO?

JOHN, WHY DON'T YOU WORK AS A RESEARCH TECHNICIAN FOR A FEW YEARS TO ENSURE IF YOU REALLY LOVE WORKING AT BENCH?

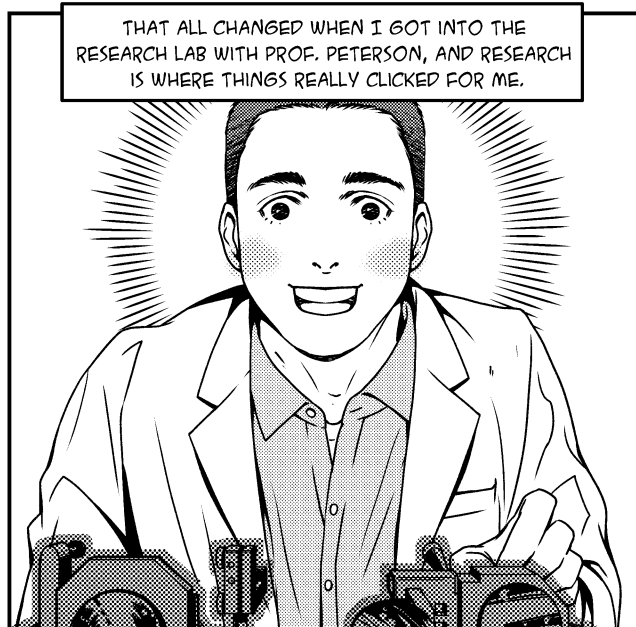
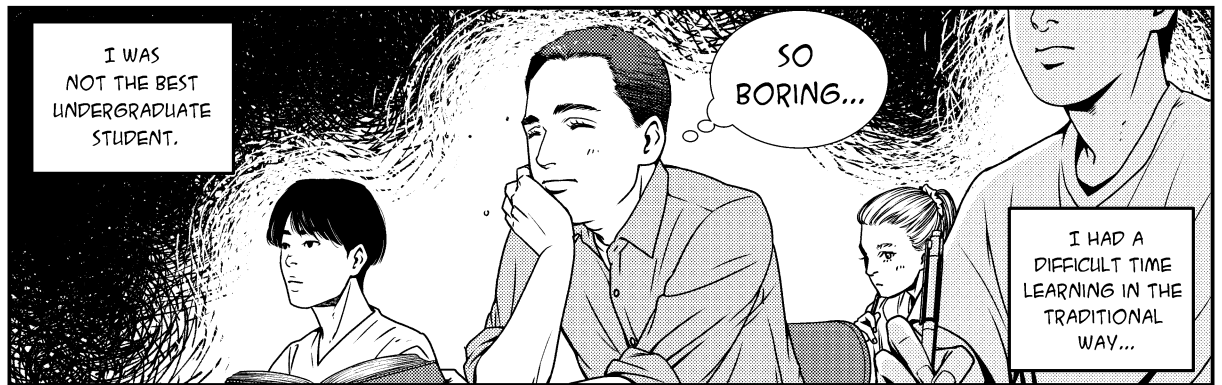
WITH DR. POGOZELSKI I CONDUCTED RESEARCH INVESTIGATING MUTATIONS IN MITOCHONDRIAL DNA.

THE TRAINING I GOT AS A RESEARCH TECHNICIAN ALLOWED ME TO EXCEL ONCE I BEGAN MY PH.D. WORK AND ALSO CONVINCED ME THAT A CAREER IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH WAS WHAT I WANTED.

SO IF YOU DO NOT HAVE STRAIGHT A'S OR ARE NOT SURE EXACTLY WHAT YOU WANT TO DO WHEN YOU GRADUATE GENESEO, THAT IS OK.

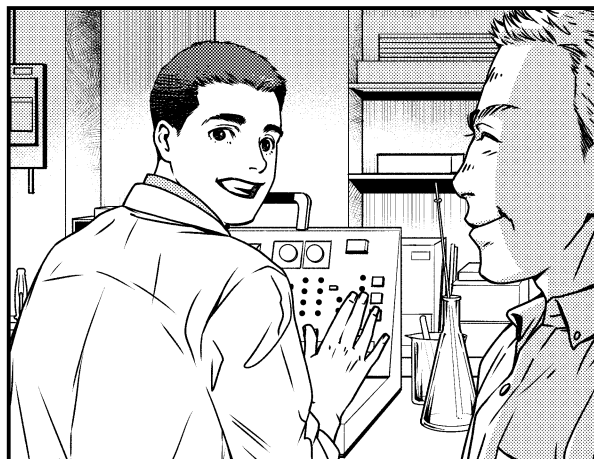


# Michael Ruggiero (Class of 2012)





MY BIGGEST PIECE OF ADVICE FOR CURRENT STUDENTS IS TO REALIZE THAT EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT, AND JUST BECAUSE THINGS MIGHT NOT BE CLICKING IN CLASS YOU SHOULDN'T GIVE UP.

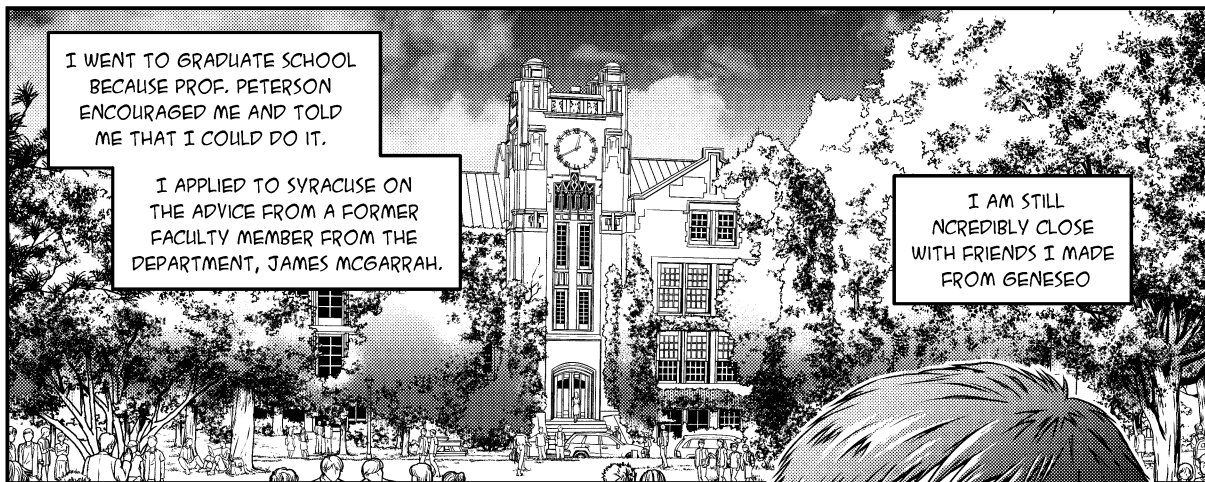


EXPLORE OTHER AVENUES FOR LEARNING, TALK TO THE FACULTY, GET IN THE LAB, PLAY WITH THE INSTRUMENTS, AND SEE WHAT INTERESTS YOU. DON'T EVER GIVE UP, AND TRY TO FIND YOUR NICHE.

I WENT TO GRADUATE SCHOOL BECAUSE PROF. PETERSON ENCOURAGED ME AND TOLD ME THAT I COULD DO IT.

I APPLIED TO SYRACUSE ON THE ADVICE FROM A FORMER FACULTY MEMBER FROM THE DEPARTMENT, JAMES MCGARRAH.

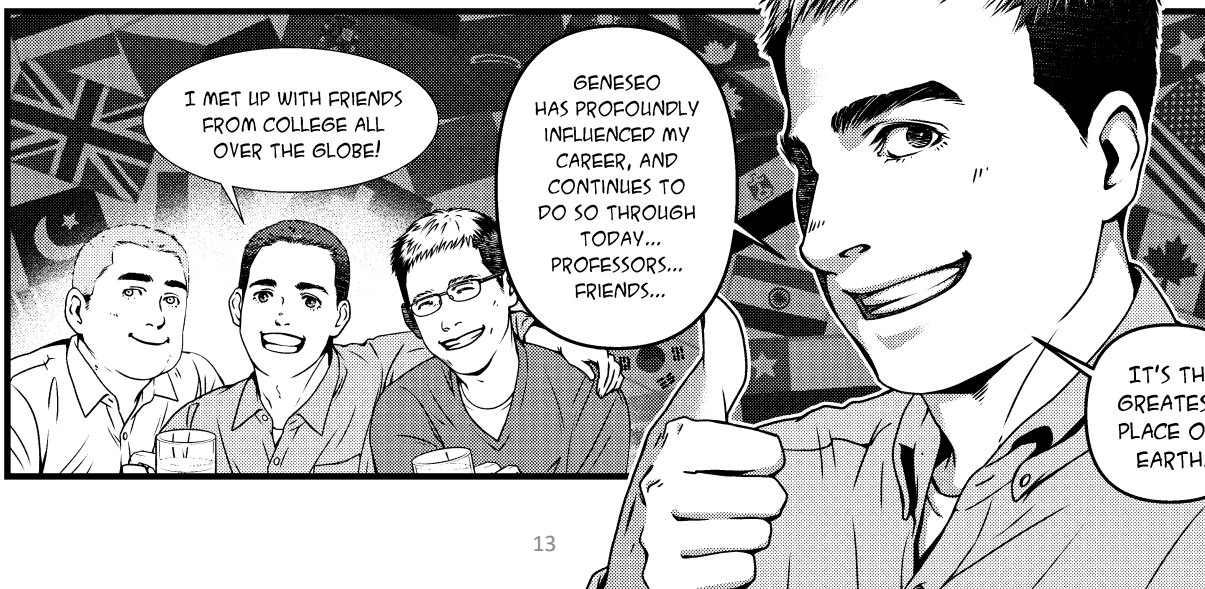
I AM STILL INCREDIBLY CLOSE WITH FRIENDS I MADE FROM GENESEO



I MET UP WITH FRIENDS FROM COLLEGE ALL OVER THE GLOBE!

GENESEO HAS PROFOUNDLY INFLUENCED MY CAREER, AND CONTINUES TO DO SO THROUGH TODAY... PROFESSORS... FRIENDS...

IT'S THE GREATEST PLACE ON EARTH!





Happy 55<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

**GENESEO**

Department of Chemistry

**1965 - 2020**

