

I spent great years studying at the Chemistry Department of the UFPE. I have my Bachelor and Doctorate degree in Chemistry from there in about ten years total. That was back in the 1990's. I was lucky to be part of a newly created Chemistry Department where much of the Faculty was made of people really excited and engaged to teach Chemistry in all its beautiful areas. I was also lucky for the privilege of having colleagues of all ages and backgrounds.

From those years, I carry not only the degrees, but something greater that helped me when I saw no future after looking for jobs and finding none. There is something about us, from the Chemistry Department, in particular from that generation. We did not have the best resources, sometimes none in comparison to other institutions in the south of the country, but we had true Scientists teaching us the way of true Science. Dr. Spock once said "I'm endeavoring to construct a mnemonic memory circuit using stone knives and bearskins." That's how many things were accomplished in the Chemistry Department of the UFPE: very creative, hard working people teaching and studying Science in a region where science was not appreciated enough to receive proper funding.

The Chemistry Department at UFPE believed in their students. There was sad stories, they happened, but we were forged in difficulties. And so is Science. Successful stories are abundant.

I finished my Doctorate in Organic Synthesis with Dr. Lothar Bieber (retired) and I thought I could pursue a post-doc in an area new in Brazil. I was so convinced I would not make it, I was really depressed. So I got advice from a post-doc of the DQF back in those days, now a Professor, Dr. Madalena C. da Cunha Areias. She said - You have to try. The worse to happen is you'll hear 'NOS'. Such advice was as important as my training. I tried and I got accepted to be a post-doc at Professor Peter Wipf group at the University of Pittsburgh, USA, in Combinatorial Chemistry and Methodology. Although lacking techniques and knowledge compared to others in the group, I went through the challenge and learnt the most from it. Attitude acquired in my years persevering at the DQF.

Personal reasons brought me to Australia where I got a job in the peptide industry, since 2007. Although I'm not an academic, like many of my peers, I'm still doing Chemistry, despite the market, despite my lacks, despite everything that could go wrong. I'm still in the area I chose.

The times are different. The Chemistry Department has increased in resources, it's modernized, it has much more to offer to its students. If the 1990s students made it, imagine what the new students will accomplish?

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