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An Interview with Songyi Paik

Songyi Paik
SUNY Geneseo

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An Interview with Songyi Paik

**Hometown:** Daejeon, South Korea

**Major:** Economics

**Hobbies:** Listening to music and radio, swimming, traveling, drawing beautiful calligraphy.

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**Do/did you like Geneseo? Why did you choose to come to Geneseo?**

*Songyi:* I chose Geneseo because there was less burden of tuition fees and because it was a liberal arts college (meaning I could immerse myself in other subjects necessary for deep learning).

I do like Geneseo. I’ve learned about the benefits of a small town and campus. When I first arrived at Geneseo, everyone was very nice and kind. Since it was my first time in America, it was a great environment to be in while I was adapting to American culture. Because there aren’t many graduate school students at Geneseo, I am able to talk with my professor more easily and frequently. It is good to learn from professors and not only TAs.

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**Why do you feel that GREAT Day is important?**

GREAT Day is a time to present what I learned and found in and out of class. While I prepared the GREAT Day presentation, I met with my professor many times and learned how to apply what I learned in class to my research. Learning and practicing are different in some sense. Practicing allows me to understand and remember more principles and theories. Also, getting feedback for presentation helps me further develop my thoughts and research paper.

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**How did it feel to present your work at GREAT Day?**

I was very nervous to present in front of people. Usually I presented in class and it was less nerve-wracking because people in class were my friends and had the same major. So, I had to prepare my presentation for people from other majors to understand my work. It is one of the first steps preparing for graduate school. I learned the format of a PowerPoint in the academic field from my professor. In graduate school I will be posed hard or unexpected questions. During GREAT Day, I learned how to how to respond to difficult questions. For example, if I really do not know a concept, I accept that I do not know and I also prepare additional slides to explain other things which I studied but did not present because of the short time allotted for my presentation.