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## An Interview with Jaime DeVita

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# An Interview with Jaime DeVita

Ethan Owens

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Jaime DeVita acted as a student editor for the *Proceedings of GREAT Day* for 2019 and 2020

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## **Why did you become an editor for the *Proceedings of GREAT Day*?**

It was the end of sophomore year and I was in organic chemistry. There was a part of the lab where we had to use a database, and Jonathan Grunert came as a librarian and showed us how to navigate the databases. He mentioned the *Proceedings of GREAT Day* during the lab and said he could really use someone in the STEM field, due to the various STEM disciplines we get with submissions. It intrigued me because, at the time, I was just a normal writer for *The Lamron*. So, being a biology major, and having a minor in math, I rarely ever wrote any papers, but felt that I had a knack for writing and enjoyed it. *The Lamron* sort of fulfilled that for me but after Dr. Grunert explained what the internship was about and was looking for submissions, it piqued my interest and I reached out to him, applied and I got it. I've been doing it for two years now and I've thoroughly enjoyed it.

## **Could you tell me about some of the things that you learned through the *Proceedings of GREAT Day* that you might use after you graduate?**

I'd say I learned a lot about time management, and how to juggle something that's outside of my course material which I found was sort of a learning curve within my first year of being a part of the proceedings internship. I now know how to properly communicate with people via email, I have a template in my head on how to sound professional and how to get your point across in a concise manner. I also just learned a lot about the various fields of study here at Geneseo. I learned about that last year, citing the different kinds of studies. It taught me more about what Geneseo students can do and what they are doing here on campus.

## **What are your plans for after graduation?**

I have nothing really in the works but I'm studying actuarial science. I figured that out a little late in the game here at Geneseo being a biology major, I realized my junior year, that's what I wanted to do. So I've taken the actuarial science class with Dr. Tom here at Geneseo and have been studying for my first exam, which is just a little behind track of if you knew from the get go by like a year. So my plan after graduation is to really lock in studying and passing those exams to be able to join the field and become an actuary.

## **Do you think that this internship has prepared you to be an actuary?**

One hundred percent. As for applying to internships and looking at job postings, a lot of them want the ability to communicate proper language and to have communication skills, which I find the proceedings has really kind of strengthened. Throughout the years, I have become confident in my abilities to communicate, like I said previously to communicate via email. Tweaking and ripping apart a bunch of papers to make sure they are up to the standard of the proceedings, I find, gives me more critical thinking and can help me find what's wrong with something, for lack of a better word, or what we want to hold to our standard. Other than that, I gained a lot of professional development, how to meet deadlines and how to follow up a month long deadline that we have to follow to a tee. That takes a lot on our end to make sure that things are running smoothly and hitting those checkpoints throughout the semester is also a useful skill I believe for any career.