

**Memorial Resolution in Remembrance of Professor Dmitri Vezenov
Lehigh University Senate Meeting, May 6, 2022**

What we knew about Dmitri Vezenov 16 years ago —and why we hired him in the Department of Chemistry— was his brilliance and accomplishments as a scholar. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry at Moscow State University, a Master’s Degree in Chemistry at Case Western Reserve University, and PhD in Chemistry at Harvard University. After 3 years in industry, he returned to Harvard as a Postdoctoral Fellow. He then launched his independent academic career at Lehigh in 2006 and continued to flourish, advancing the state-of-the-art in the physical chemistry of surfaces and interfaces, chemical force microscopy, nanomechanics, and microdevices for analytical applications. Throughout his career, Dmitri published almost 100 peer-reviewed publications that have been cited more than 4000 times ...and counting.

What we learned in the years since 2006, however, was Dmitri’s humanity –his kindness, generosity, and his wit and sense of humor. He was a colleague who not only succeeded individually, but also made those around him better. That quality is rarer than it should be. As an example, I remember looking up to see Dmitri at the door of my office several years ago, and he asked, “When you teach General Chemistry, how do you rationalize the “missing” concentration of water in its autoionization constant, and why the constant has no units?” My answer mirrored the descriptions found in most textbooks in the field, but Dmitri was unsatisfied. His reply? “That’s not actually correct and here’s why....” He then suggested that we can ask a bit more of our students, so that their understanding would be more solid. I gave his arguments some thought and realized that he was right. That short conversation changed the way I have treated the general topic of equilibrium constants in my courses since.

Dmitri was enormously generous and resourceful in research as well, and he looked for opportunities to engage with others. You could have an informal conversation with him over coffee about a research problem in your lab, and without being asked, he would show up a few days later with pages and pages of thermodynamic derivations elucidating the crux of the issue. This commitment to his colleagues and enthusiasm for their work extended to our students as well. He not only spent time working with his own graduate students, who sing his praises as a mentor and a friend when given the opportunity, but he also spent countless hours helping students in other research groups.

As you might expect based on this brief description, Dmitri was always a reliable colleague when it came to service roles. He gladly accepted requests to serve on committees, even when it involved reading between one and two hundred applications for a faculty position. And he was among the first, and sometimes the only, colleague to offer to help when a departmental proposal needed to be written against a tight deadline. If something needed to be done, he found a way and seemed to drop everything to help.

Dmitri was indeed a rare and beloved colleague, son, husband, father, brother, and friend. We’ll never forget him, and likewise, never stop missing him. I encourage you to read Kelly Hochbein’s Lehigh News *In Memoriam*, which helped to inform this resolution:
<https://www2.lehigh.edu/news/in-memoriam-dmitri-vezenov-associate-professor-of-chemistry>.

Respectfully submitted,
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