

THE WAY I REMEMBER THINGS.

(L. De Boni, Editor)

After almost 20 years working with scientific publications, this is the first time I am not sure how to proceed. However, I will try to do an excellent special Issue about Professor Lavinel. If you are wondering why this edition is late, the answer is simple. It is because I am stubborn, and I learned from the best about how to be stubborn. Also, it is not so fun to work in Professor's Lavinel Journal without him. In fact, it is very hard.

I start to work with Professor Lavinel around 2002 or 2003, I was a student of his in the classes of wave-mechanics or quantum chemistry, as he used to say. Until that time, the graduation course in Chemistry was not so interesting to me, but the classes were so impressive that when I was approved, I made to Professor Lavinel the most awkward request "next semester can I retake this course?". I remember the expression in his face, and he said: "you were approved, why to retake this class?". My answer was not the best, but in the end, he allowed me to see the classes again. So during the next semester, there was I, in every class paying attention. The support of my friends and family was exceptional. The phrases "are you crazy?" and "this is a hard class why are you taking it twice?". But as Goldani used to say "your criticism only makes me stronger.". In the end, there was I learning how to make new things. At that time it used to make sense to me, and chemistry becomes much more straightforward.

If my memory is correct, later that year, I was in a bar with some friends (Brambilla, Rubensan, and Goldani), drinking beer and discussing over wave mechanics, chemistry publications, and journals and so on as any normal bar conversation. As we talked, Rubensan said something more or less like this "we could make our own journal. Lavinel has one; let's ask him how it is done." A short time later we started the journal Periódico Tchê Química.

As the position of electrons and this kind of stuff were now so trivial to my colleagues and me, I convinced Dr. Goldani to work with me in a pet project. The idea was to make a simple sensor in order to determine the ideal concentration of catalyzer to be added in the transesterification reaction. Eventually, we did the sensor, and I used our sensor in the classes of Analytical Chemistry. We were all surprised since it worked so well. And this brings this history back to Professor Lavinel, in this particular case, to picture 1.



Picture 1 – the papers.

The sensor performed well but it was not very nice to look at, and we didn't know what to do with it after it was used. The plan was apparently to discard it. So one-day Goldani and I were talking with Lavinel about a small scientific award from our local oil company. We could apply the project of the sensor if he agrees to keep working with us in this project. Professor Lavinel requested to take a closer look in the project, he made some changes into it, we printed it in three copies (in the highlighted area of picture 1), and we applied the project to that award. A few months later a nice lady called me on my telephone and gave us the news we were awarded in the 3rd place of 1st PETROBRAS's national award. It was, in a first moment, both for Goldani and me, unbelievable we could reach such a prestigious award. But, after a few minutes of uncontrollable happiness, we realize that we couldn't reach that without Lavinel's support and knowledge. Picture 2 shows three of us minutes before the award announcement in Rio de Janeiro.



Picture 2 – Day of the award. From left to right, De Boni, Lavinel and Goldani.

Later to this, things proceed as expected. We went to work a little, study a little more, Goldani, and I have completed our PhDs and life took its course. I got married, Lavinel and Janaina, and Goldani and Tayane were the groomsmen of my wedding. Great party. Not so long after that my daughter arrived, just as my wife she was also a friend of Professor Lavinel. She even gave him a gift when we visited him for the last time, babies, babies. We laughed a lot with that.

It is planned to improve as many as possible in the journal. First of all, it's time to launch a new SBJC website which is on the way. It should be ready in a few weeks. Secondly, we also have done a new template to help authors submitting their papers. Apart from that, we will invite some researchers to join us and make this journal as strong as Professor Lavinel. The new SBJC will also have an e-ISSN (electronic ISSN) to make it known and recognized worldwide. It is also in our plans, in the future, to make SBJC a two-year issue journal instead of one. But let's allow the time to do its job, and as time goes on, we can think about doing more improvements.

To finish, we (Goldani and De Boni) can say that there is no doubt Professor Lavinel has left a legacy that goes beyond the knowledge. His way to lead with people, problems, classes, knowledge, and research is unique and has helped many former students to improve their careers and personal skills around the world.

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