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Title: Paul Satoh Interview
Narrator: Paul Satoh
Interviewer: Naoko Wake
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[Mr. Satoh's son Gordon Satoh was present at the interview, and when he speaks, he is denoted as GS]

<Begin Segment 14>

NW: Going back a little bit in time, what was your impression when you first came to the States?

PS: You know . . . um, I was overwhelmed because of the . . . the second, well—the second day I attended this school that I thought, I understand everything that people—professor write on the blackboard. Equations and uh, chemical formulas. And then, the problem I had was that the . . . I can't read fast enough. I can't write fast enough. And for that reason, my grades started dropping like nobody's business. But then I started . . . writing and uh, the uh, the um . . . reading quite differently. I skipped the lines and tried to get organized at first. And then another thing I did was I usually write in diagrams, so that everything is in diagrams. So even now, the—when I give a lecture to the engineering—chemical engineering students, um, I just put all this [?] chart and diagrams. And my students say, how do you remember all these methods? It's almost like a word. So, the most . . .

NW: Mm. But it's faster to write down.

PS: It's for me faster than—so the yes and no and the arrows and the chemical reaction that write another reaction, this happens. And uh that actually made the professors much easier to grade it. So by the time I graduated uh, my wife and I got probably the top class and um, the uh—She writes everything in the blue books. Ten of them. I write in blue books. We got about the same points. And the difference is that mine is all pictures and hers are all sentences. And that's the . . .

NW: By then you were both graduate students. Am I right, or?

PS: Yes.

NW: And that's how you first came to the States? To Wayne State?

PS: Yes, because I went to the uh . . . Rikkyō University.

NW: Right, and you graduated then.

PS: By the way, Rikkyō had a very interesting history. 19 . . . I think it's 1953, uh Episcopal Church of the United States gave them first research-grade nuclear reactors. And for that reason, I had all the techniques of the nuclear chemistry.

NW: I see.

PS: I know how to count the—uh the radiations and how to purify the radioactive element. And how to make a compound that contains a radioactive compound. And um, so by the time I went to Wayne, uh, Americans did not have the techniques. So . . . I was one of the . . .

NW: More advanced.

PS: . . . you know, the rare student. We had technologies there. So I synthesized the cholesterol molecule that had the Carbon-14 in one areas and then at the [?] the other end. And that kind of things—I was able to do that. So.

NW: Yeah. That's interesting.

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