

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John Thomas Schafer Yeoman was born on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1986, in Iowa City, Iowa to parents Diane Schafer-Yeoman and Thomas Yeoman. John spent all of his childhood living in the small town of Monticello, Iowa, where he attended the Monticello Community Schools, took piano lessons and was active in the school's music and drama programs. He recalls interest in the sciences from an early age and a desire to understand the workings of the world around him.

Upon graduating as valedictorian of his high school class of 91 students, he attended Grinnell College in the bustling metropolis of Grinnell, Iowa. A lifelong musician and music lover, John was an active member of the student-led male a cappella group, the G-Tones, and arranged songs for a few of their performances. While taking organic chemistry classes with Prof. James Lindberg, he decided to pursue a chemistry major and conducted undergraduate research.

Following completion of his undergraduate degree in 2008, John moved to Southern California in order to fulfill his dream of appearing as a Jeopardy quiz show contestant while engaging in doctoral studies under the supervision of Prof. Sarah Reisman at the California Institute of Technology, in Pasadena. His work in her laboratory focused on the development of synthetic strategies toward bioactive terpenoids including maoecrystal Z, trichorabdal A, and longikaurin E, for which he earned a Ph.D. In the spring of 2014, John will move to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he will join the medicinal chemistry research group at Amgen.