

Rob Lyons

Reflection Paper

AP Chem

Mr. Reed 4

The interview with Dr. Lucy Comly gave me a different view point of what it takes to be scientist in the world today. Comly was a product of a family of scientists with both her parents working in scientific fields. However, Comly never quite became a stereotypical scientist. She had many different jobs in many different fields. She was also very active in her community with such things as the tree council and also in the political scene of her home town of Niskayuna. I was amazed that she never really worked as a scientist but was still did so many things in scientific fields during her career. She worked at GE and also at the Dudley Observatory. I also gained a new appreciation for women in the field of science. Dr. Comly was able to spread new light onto the subject of women in science. She explained how hard it was for women to be seen as equals in the scientific community. Comly was very receptive to the questions about her personal life and really gave us an insight into her life beyond work. She was able answer us as if we were having a regular conversation. This included questions about what her son was doing right now and also if she had made the right decision to not attend Stanford and instead remaining near her husband. Comly did so many different things throughout the years that she was able to answer a tons of different questions on things that had nothing to do with science at times. This helped to show that she was a regular person and wasn't consumed by a career and put her family and community first and work second. All together the oral history interview was an unique experience that really changed the way that I thought about scientists. Dr. Lucy Comly was able to

provide a unique insight into both the professional life of a scientist and the personal life of one. She really helped me to better understand how scientist worked and also how scientists lived their lives. I was really happy that I had the opportunity to do the oral history project and feel that it was a great experience.