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AP Chemistry Period 4

Mr. Reed

Prior to the interview I had mixed feelings and extreme nerves, however, it was a treat to meet someone as comforting as Dr. Lucy Comly. What first struck me was the genuine and honest nature of her character. Dr. Comly spoke freely of her life experiences. She was never apprehensive when speaking of the obstacles and hardship she faced. One could tell that she acknowledged every aspect of her life and was able to gain knowledge from every experience. For this reason we were able to believe that her story was real. The passion and drive she puts into everything she does is astonishing. She applies the same effort to the Niskayuna Tree Council and as she did writing her first paper, "Interaction of Soluble Ribonucleic Acid and Microsomes." Having worked in a lab last summer that focused highly on post-transcriptional gene regulation, I found her RNA/protein synthesis work especially interesting. It is remarkable to think that some of the information I took for granted in my research was discovered by the person sitting in front of me.

As a female, I feel especially fortunate to have met Dr. Comly. Even though when Dr. Comly entered the field of science she was faced with many more indestructible obstacles than women as scientists face today, I could still relate to the hardships she was presented. She was reassuring in saying that women scientists should not feel at all threatened or challenged by men, but women should stand their ground and defend their convictions.

Besides facing arduous males in the work place, Dr. Comly was faced with being a mother and maintaining a relationship. In order to be with her husband she declined the opportunity to study for a Microbiology PhD at Stanford in favor of marrying her husband who was going to Harvard. We asked her if she would make the same decision if faced with the same situation again, and she said yes. She stated that she would have loved to see how Stanford was, but she will never know. She reiterated the importance of staying with the person you love. In doing so, she has successfully balanced a life full of science, art, and a family.

With my deepest sincerity I am truly impressed by the life that Dr. Comly lived. Although when asked, Dr. Comly could not think of her "one major accomplishment," I believe it is much more triumphal to uphold integrity in an industry dominated by males and exude passion in every endeavor.