

2013 WCC Rising Stars

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We would like to wish *Dr. Hamm* luck in all of her future endeavors and we look forward to watching her continue to find success in her very important role as an educator in the chemical enterprise. Congratulations again to our Rising Star!

—Amber Charlebois

PROF. SUNGHEE LEE



Prof. Sunghee Lee, one of the 2013 WCC Rising Stars, believes in creating and maintaining high goals. Her greatest inspiration was her mother, whose motto was, “First, it seems impossible: Then it is done.” Following this advice, she obtained her B.S. in Chemistry at Sung Kyun Kwan University, her M.S. in Physical Chemistry from POSTECH, and her Ph.D. in Analytical/Inorganic Chemistry at Brown University. After completing a

postdoc at Duke University, she began her independent career at Iona College, a small undergraduate institution in New Rochelle, NY. *Sunghee* is currently Professor, Department Chair, and Research Advisor to 12–15 undergraduates examining microdroplet interfacial science and crystal nucleation.

Sunghee credits her graduate and postdoctoral work towards influencing her current research interests in surfaces and interfaces. Furthermore, she desires to expose undergraduate students to this modern research by introducing new laboratory results in the classroom, including her first-year chemistry courses in research, and encouraging interested students to join her research group. *Sunghee* finds interacting with the students to be the most rewarding part of her career. “Seeing their eyes widen upon learning something mind-blowing about chemistry is really a rewarding experience. But the most rewarding thing about students is seeing how they can take their beginning level of skills, knowledge, and confidence and watch it build and grow as they do research in my lab.” She further nurtures the students by including them as co-authors on publications and allowing them to present their research at regional and national chemistry conferences.

Sunghee believes that compromise is not needed to be successful. Rather, she considers that one must know what the right priorities are and make corresponding choices on what to accomplish, typically performing the most meaningful task first. “My career path has taken me to a small undergraduate institution, where I try to accomplish a nearly impossible balance: among full-time teaching, student advising and mentoring, and doing publishable research.” Through her independent career, *Sunghee* has published several publications and co-authored over 75 undergraduate researcher presentations. Furthermore, she has received various local and national grants including a Camille and Henry Dreyfus Foundation and ACS-PRF grant.

When asked what advice she would provide to other women in chemistry, *Sunghee* responded: “Follow your heart and be confident about

your choice. One can only engineer so much about a successful career or life path. Rather, simply follow where your heart leads you and thoroughly enjoy every moment of the path. Trust yourself and your decision along the way. Before you know it, you will be in a place where you have not imagined to be, but even better.” *Sunghee’s* accomplishments demonstrate that she has performed the impossible and will continue to get it done in the future.

—Amy Balija

DR. LISA MARCAURELLE



“If you work hard for me, I’ll work hard for you.” This phrase by her graduate advisor has stuck with WCC 2013 Rising Star awardee *Lisa Marcaurelle* throughout her career. Besides hard work, you also need to be passionate about your job to do it well. *Lisa* has always enjoyed science but fell in love with chemistry in college. She feared that organic chemistry would prevent her from pursuing a career in medical school, and she was right! Not because she did not succeed in the course, but rather because she loved it.

Lisa did research in organic chemistry with Prof. *Timothy Curran*, who was influential in her decision to attend graduate school. After completing her degree in chemistry with honors at the College of the Holy Cross in 1997, *Lisa* joined the laboratory of Prof. *Carolyn Bertozzi* at the University of California, Berkeley, where she focused on the synthesis of glycoproteins and glycopeptide mimetics. She received an ACS Division of Organic Chemistry Graduate Fellowship in 2000. From 2001 to 2002, she performed postdoctoral work at MIT with Prof. *Peter Seeberger*.

Lisa began her industrial career at Infinity Pharmaceuticals where she became engaged in the creation of novel small-molecule libraries through diversity-oriented synthesis (DOS). In 2007, she joined the Broad Institute of Harvard and MIT where she served as Director of Synthetic Chemistry in the Chemical Biology Platform. She established a synthetic platform for the large-scale production of DOS libraries, generating a collection of over 100,000 small molecules for use in high-throughput screening. In 2011, *Lisa* joined H3 Biomedicine, a newly established oncology company in Cambridge, MA, where she serves as Vice President of Discovery Chemistry.

Lisa has been fortunate enough to have great peers and mentors throughout her career. Her Ph.D. advisor inspired her during difficult times and helped make graduate school a fulfilling and memorable experience. She credits *Mike Foley*, her supervisor and co-worker for almost a decade at both Infinity Pharmaceuticals and the Broad Institute, with helping to shape her career in industry. He taught her to not fear risk taking or doing things differently. *Lisa* has noticed that sometimes she is one of just a few women in a room full of men (such as advisory board meetings). With more female students and postdocs entering the chemical profession, we hope that many will end up in leadership roles and sitting at the table with successful women like *Lisa Marcaurelle*.

—Christine Chow