

MARSHA BAAR WINS MARM's E. EMMET REID SMALL COLLEGE TEACHING AWARD

May 20, 2021

Lehigh Valley Section is incredibly pleased to congratulate Dr. Marsha Baar of Muhlenberg College *further* as the 2021 E. Emmet Reid Small College Teaching winner for the Mid-Atlantic Region! Martha Hollomon, PhD, Councilor for the Delaware Local Section and MARM 2021 Awards Committee Chair, remarked on how very impressed the committee was with Marsha's nomination package. The award will be presented at the virtual #MARM2021 on Thursday evening, June 10th. More details will follow shortly.

SMALL COLLEGE TEACHER OF THE YEAR



We are thrilled to announce that **Dr. Marsha R. Baar** of Muhlenberg College is the 2021 LVACS Small College Teacher of the Year! In addition to this LVACS recognition, Marsha has been nominated by the Section for the prestigious E. Emmet Reid Award of the Mid-Atlantic Region of ACS, awarded each year at the Mid-Atlantic Regional Meeting (MARM) in June. Receiving a BS in Chemistry at SUNY Stony Brook in 1975 and a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of Pennsylvania in 1981, she was the first woman to be hired in a tenure line (and the first to earn tenure) in a science department at Muhlenberg. Her colleagues at 'berg regard Marsha as a model of teaching pedagogy and a mentor and role model for faculty and students over her 40 years of tenure.

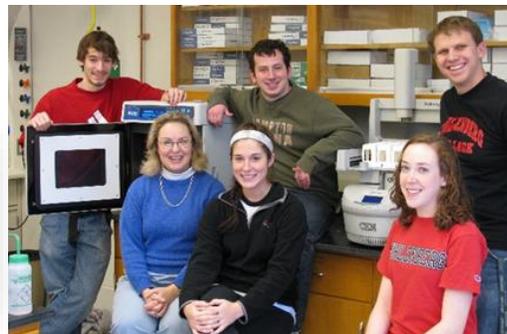
Christine Ingersoll, Professor and Chemistry Department Chair, notes: "Her passion for her subject, Organic Chemistry, is obvious, and her clarity and patience presenting material that is difficult for many of our students is commendable. Marsha teaches beyond the subject matter in her organic courses, taking a holistic approach to teaching scientific writing and keeping electronic laboratory notebooks."

Dr. Ingersoll continues: "Marsha singlehandedly explored and successfully implemented the use of microwave-enhanced organic reactions to advance our teaching laboratories, improving safety, environmental impact, time efficiency and student learning. Students and faculty have benefitted from her expertise and initiation of several microwave systems for the department. It is worthwhile to note that Marsha's scholarship in this area has always prioritized the advancement of pedagogy and teaching effectiveness, rather than her own research agenda. She has presented this work at the Biennial Conference on Chemical Education (BCCE) and has offered workshops for faculty at other institutions and at professional meetings through the vendors who manufacture the microwave systems."

"Marsha's teaching has not been limited to organic chemistry, though. Marsha developed and taught an upper-level course for chemistry and other science majors titled 'Green Chemistry: Benign by Design', building on her knowledge and growing expertise in making chemistry more environmentally-friendly through the use of microwave (and other) technologies." "Marsha has also developed and taught a class for non-science majors in the chemistry of art materials, which led to a several-year partnership with Winterthur Museum in Delaware, and collaborative research projects in the chemistry of art materials with our students. When our general education curriculum changed several years ago to require a two-course 'cluster' (linked courses approaching a common issue from two disciplines), Marsha developed another class 'The Science of Creativity,' partnering with a Psychology professor who taught perception and creativity."

The Lehigh Valley Section salutes Professor Baar for her untiring dedication to small college teaching over her distinguished career.

"I treasure the experience I gained in Dr. Baar's organic chemistry classes. She always encouraged and allowed me to use my chemical intuition to reach my own conclusions about lecture material and results from laboratory experiments. Her commitment to creating space for self-designed projects in undergraduate teaching labs propelled me to become interested in synthetic chemistry research, which led me to pursue multiple undergraduate research opportunities and to apply for graduate school in chemistry." Chemistry Major, class of 2021.



<https://cem.com/en/teaching-organic-chemistry-with-microwave-speed>

'Greener Organic Reactions Under Microwave Heating' Chapter 8 in *Green Organic Chemistry in Lecture and Laboratory*, Andrew P. Dicks, ed, 2011

Research Experience for the Organic Chemistry Laboratory: A Student-Centered Optimization of a Microwave-Enhanced Williamson Ether Synthesis and GC Analysis; *J. Chem. Educ.* 2018, 95, 7, 1235-1237

Small College Teacher-of-the-Year Award Coordinator: Lorena Tribe (lut1@psu.edu)