Chrys Demetry '88

Chrys Demetry, at WPI the definition of “family” is expansive as we consider all alumni, students, faculty, and staff part of our extended family. When you became an assistant professor of mechanical engineering at WPI in 1993 as part of its first father-daughter and alumni combination, you redefined the idea of familial bonds at our university.

On your way to earning a BS from WPI in 1988, you captained the women's crew team, which you described as the “ideal sport for me.” Leading this group of talented rowers highlighted your commitment to tight bonds and mechanical engineering because in crew, all the rowers must work together as a single unit—better yet, a well-oiled machine—to propel the shell. As an undergraduate at WPI, you also earned the President's IQP Award, a Kodak Scholar award, and the Pi Tau Sigma Award for Excellence, among many others. You were also a Time College Achievement Award finalist.

You are no ordinary engineering professor. While earning your PhD in materials science and engineering from MIT in 1993, you received a Materials Research Society Graduate Student Award and the John Wulff Award for Excellence in Teaching. Once back at WPI as a faculty member, these were followed by the National Science Foundation's Early Career Development Award and the Trustees' Award for Outstanding Teaching.

When ASM International, the Materials Information Society, presented you the Bradley Stoughton Award for Young Teacher in 2000, the group cited your “exceptional pedagogy as applied to materials education and the ability to motivate students and generate interest in materials science.”

Your dedication to teaching is as strong as your dedication to your field. Your doctoral thesis is as highly regarded as your work with WPI's Camp Reach, a summer residence program seeking to cultivate interest in science and engineering among middle school girls, which you co-founded.

Chrys Demetry, for your outstanding work as an engineering educator, WPI is proud to honor you with the Ichabod Washburn Young Alumni Award for Professional Achievement.