

## IN MEMORIAM

### Dr. Marni Goldman, Stanford University

It is with regret that we convey to the NSF MRSEC and NRCEN communities news of the death of Marni Goldman, education director of CPIMA. She died peacefully in her sleep while on vacation with her family March 3.

Marni was born with a severe form of muscular dystrophy that caused her doctors to predict she would not live beyond the age of two. She exceeded that prediction by 35 years, as a result of her amazing family and her own keen intelligence, indomitable spirit, high energy, tenacity, and love of life. Although she spent her life as a quadriplegic, Marni was able to accomplish much with her life. She earned two bachelors degrees from the University of Pennsylvania in Materials Science and Psychology and went on to earn a PhD in Materials Science from the University of California at Berkeley. In addition to her academic and professional achievements, Marni lived to the fullest in her personal life. She was able to independently drive a specially modified car through the help of technology and the reach of her multi-inch fingernails, always decorated in beautiful colors and designs. Marni surrounded herself with an amazing community of people who together shared books, games, theater, music, food, travel and so much more.

Marni was among the very first people to be hired at Stanford specifically for the purpose of designing and carrying out “science outreach” programs. She started her Stanford career in 2000 as Research Associate in Stanford’s Center for Polymer Interfaces and Macromolecular Assemblies, under the direction of Chemical Engineering Professor Curtis Frank. She worked closely on educational outreach with Chuck Wade at IBM, a co-director of CPIMA. Marni later added to her tasks simultaneously jobs as the outreach coordinator for Stanford’s Nanofabrication Facility and the Associate Director of Stanford’s Office of Science Outreach.

Marni cared passionately about attracting students into science and engineering, with a special emphasis on those students who would increase the diversity of these fields by virtue of being an under-represented minority, a woman, or a person with physical disabilities. She directed programs that brought undergraduates from other universities to Stanford during the summers for research experience with Stanford faculty. She helped to create Stanford’s Summer Program for High School Science Teachers that brought local teachers to work as interns in Stanford faculty members’ labs. She worked tirelessly to help local middle school students in underserved areas on their science fair projects, and she helped to place disadvantaged high school students in internship positions in Stanford labs. She created an annual program that brought community college students – primarily under-represented ethnic minorities -- from throughout California to Stanford for day-long tours of Stanford labs and talks with Stanford faculty and students about science and engineering. Marni also was instrumental in creating a sense of community throughout the University among all of the faculty, staff, and graduate students engaged in various kinds of “science outreach” activities.

Marni was an amazing individual who touched the lives of all people who had the privilege of knowing her. She was an inspiration to all. A memorial service in her honor will be held in the near future at Stanford, and a scholarship in her name will be announced soon. Marni’s memory will continue to live on through this scholarship helping others with the opportunity to become more than they ever could have imagined.

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