

Vita of Winola Lenore Carman Rasmussen

Winola Lenore Carman Rasmussen was born in Fairfax, Virginia on January 1, 1963. She graduated from Pennsboro High School in Pennsboro, West Virginia. The author attended Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University in Blacksburg, Virginia, graduating in May 1986 with Bachelor of Science degrees in biochemistry and chemistry. She completed a Master of Science degree in biology, with a concentration in biophysics, at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, graduating in May 1988. The author pursued a Master of Science degree at Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University under the guidance of Professor James E. McGrath, graduating in May 1992. In 1998, she resumed her research for a Ph.D. in chemistry at Virginia Tech under the guidance of Professor James E. McGrath, graduating in December, 2001. Both of her advanced chemistry degrees were in the area of polymer chemistry.

After completing her M.S. in chemistry, the author taught at Raritan Valley Community College in Somerville, NJ. She also explored electronically responsive materials, known as smart or intelligent materials, receiving a United States Patent for this work in 1998. The author worked as an associate scientist for the Johnson & Johnson Corporate Biomaterials Center, from 1996 to 1998, and resumed research for Ph.D. while working for Johnson & Johnson. In 1998 she joined Rutgers University as a visiting scientist and also formed her own small business, conducting technical searches in the chemical and biotechnology fields, with an emphasis on patents. These skills were extremely beneficial for her own research. In 1999, her Ph.D. research received funding from the Spectacle Lens Group, formerly Innotech, of Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, Inc. The author intends to use her chemical and biotechnological knowledge for medical applications, and plans to continue her investigations involving smart materials.

The author married Dr. Henrik Torstholm Rasmussen on October 13, 1990. On May 6, 1991, Paul Henrik Rasmussen was joyously born. Lars Thomas Rasmussen was joyously born on May 28, 1993. Paul is now ten, and Lars is eight. The author co-chairs the Science Committee at Woodfern Elementary School, and is very involved with the Hillsborough district science program. She is a member of the American Chemical Society and is active in ACS Public Outreach Programs. The author is also a member and past editor for the Virginia Tech Chapter of the Phi Sigma Honorary Society of the Biological Sciences.

While working on her thesis, the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City, which were visible from her children's east bedroom windows, vanished on September 11, 2001. Science can build a better tomorrow, whatever the future may hold.