



2020 NATIONAL INVENTORS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

Born: June 28, 1950

Primary Connection:

- ExxonMobil: Senior Scientific Adviser (retired)

Education:

- National Taipei University of Technology (Taiwan): B.S., Chemical Engineering, 1970
- University of Rochester: M.S., 1974; Ph.D., Physical Organic Chemistry, 1976

Key Memberships/Awards:

- National Academy of Engineering: Member, 2019
- Research & Development Council of New Jersey: Edison Patent Award, 2014 and 2005
- American Chemical Society: ACS Industrial Chemistry Award, 2007

10 Things You Need to Know About

Margaret Wu

Inventor of Synthetic Lubricants

U.S. PATENT NOS. 4,827,064; 4,827,073

1. Wu was born in Taipei, Taiwan, in 1950.
2. As children, she and her siblings would talk to their father, a meteorologist, about the weather.
3. In college, Wu enjoyed hiking with friends.
4. Wu says of her time living in Rochester, New York, that the city “represents the best part of America.” She found her classmates to be helpful to her in overcoming language barriers and found the community to be welcoming.
5. When she started working at Mobil, she was one of only a few female chemists at the company.
6. She was the first woman to be named to the rank of senior scientific adviser at ExxonMobil, and she was the first woman from ExxonMobil to be inducted into the National Academy of Engineering.
7. Wu compares cooking to chemistry, in that cooks combine ingredients to create something new.
8. Wu officially retired from ExxonMobil in 2009, though she continued as emerita and consultant until 2016.
9. She describes herself as “a very dedicated laboratory chemist.”
10. Wu holds over 100 U.S. patents.