From Sorceress to Scientist: Women in Computing

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Abstract

This panel will explore the reasons that Women, to this day, are still an under represented minority in Computing. The OOPSLA Community will acquire insight on how to attract and retain women into the industry, by learning from successful women and men working in the field today.

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1. Panel Overview

From the first ENIAC programmers to Industry leaders such as Yahoo President Susan Decker, women have played important roles in computing. In OO design and development, women were important pioneers.

Yet, the percentage of women OOPSLA attendees hovers around 10%. Moreover, the number of women receiving undergraduate degrees in Computer Science and related fields continues it's 20-year slide to an estimated 20%. While OOPSLA leadership has promoted strong female representation, OOPSLA suffers from the same imbalance as the rest of the industry, only more so.

Successful companies including Google and many others realize the importance of a gender-balanced work force, and work hard to recruit and retain women. This panel will hear from several successful women and men in the field of Computing, who will share their ideas on recruiting women into academia and industry. Through a panel debate and discussion, the OOPSLA community will learn, and even have an opportunity to participate, in exploring successful strategies to encourage intellectually ambitious women to seriously consider a career in computing.

2. Aki Namioka (Moderator)

Aki Namioka (Cisco Systems) has been in the computing industry for over 19 years, where she has specialized in Natural Language Processing, Participatory Design, Software Engineering, and is currently a Software Development Manager with Cisco System's Voice Technology Group. Her previous employers include Active Voice, IBM Global Services, and Boeing's Advanced Technology Center.

3. Julie A. Adams

Julie A. Adams (Vanderbilt University), Ph.D. received the B.S. (1989) and B.B.A. (1990) in Computer Science and Accounting, respectively from Siena College and her M.S.E (1993) and Ph.D. (1995) in Computer and Information Sciences from the University of Pennsylvania. Since 2003 she has been an Assistant Professor in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department at Vanderbilt University. She worked in Human Factors for Honeywell, Inc. and the Eastman Kodak Company from 1995 to 2000. She was an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Rochester Institute of Technology from 2000 until 2003. She conducts research in human-robotic interaction and distributed algorithms for multiple robotic systems. She is the head of the Vanderbilt University Human-Machine Teaming Laboratory. She is a member of

the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, the Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, the Association of Computing Machinery, and the Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence. She is a recent recipient of the NSF CAREER Award.

4. Juanita Ewing

Juanita Ewing (FiREapps, Inc) has been involved in the development of object-oriented languages, systems and applications for 25 years. She has been fortunate to work with varied groups of men and women, all of whom have been supportive and accommodating of her professional and personal aspirations. Currently, Juanita is Software Architect at FiREapps, Inc.

5. Nadyne Mielke

Nadyne Mielke (Microsoft) is a user experience researcher at Microsoft. Her interests lie in the intersection of programming languages, software engineering research, and human-computer interaction. She is the UX architect in the Macintosh Business Unit for PowerPoint, Entourage, Messenger, and Remote Desktop Connection

6. Eliot Moss

Eliot Moss (University of Massachusetts Amherst) received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, culminating in a Ph.D. in computer science in 1981, on the subject of nested transactions. He served in the U.S. Army until 1985 when he joined the faculty of the Department of Computer Science, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where he now holds the rank of Professor. He co-directs the Architecture and Language Implementation Laboratory. Dr. Moss's research focuses on efficient implementation of modern and emerging language features on modern and future hardware. With Maurice Herlihy he is one of the originators of transactional memory. He has two daughters in school and hopes their opportunities will be as good as those of their male classmates.

7. Lucy Suchman

Lucy Suchman (Lancaster University) is Professor of Anthropology of Science and Technology in the Department of Sociology at Lancaster University, and Co-Director of Lancaster's Centre for Science Studies. Before taking up her present position she spent twenty years as a researcher at Xerox's Palo Alto Research Center, where she was a founding member and Manager of the Work Practice and Technology area. Her research included ethnographic studies of everyday practices of technology design and use, as well as interdisciplinary and participatory interventions in new technology design.