#### Diversifying the Faces in Computing

Susan H. Rodger Duke University



Juniper Networks
June 27, 2023
San Jose, CA

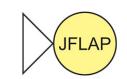
#### Outline

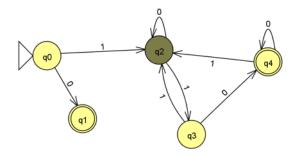
- About Me and My Journey
- Diversifying Computing
- Programs for Change
- Recognition and Visibility

#### About Me

- Professor of the Practice of Computer Science, Duke University, since 1994
  - Teaching primarily
  - Research, write grants, supervise students
- Research Areas:
  - Computer Science Education
  - Visualization and Animation
  - Tools for learning CS
    - JFLAP used worldwide
  - Integrating computing into K-12

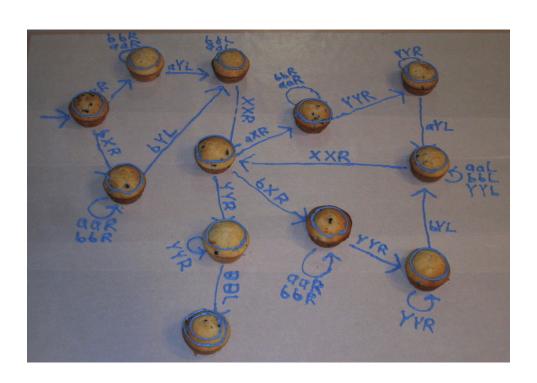






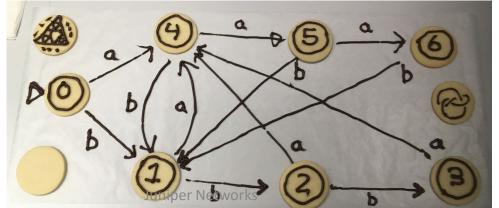


### Hobby: Edible CS





Turing machine made out of blueberry muffins and icing



Finite State
Machine
made out of
cookies
and icing

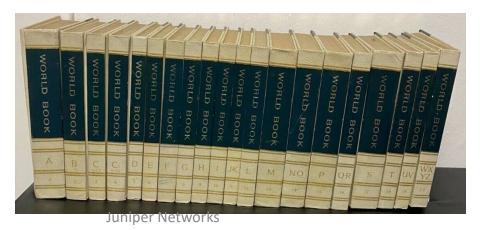
#### My Journey to Full Professor

- Overcoming Struggles
- Lack of Diversity

#### Starting way back

- Very shy
- Me and my sisters
- Liked math and puzzles
- No internet
- My World Wide Web





### Where to go to College in 1979?

- Lived in Raleigh, NC
- Mother did not finish college
- Father had BS degree in Engineering

Went to local university

#### College – North Carolina State University



- Took programming course first semester
  - PL/1
- Double major Math,
   Computer Science
- Systems programmer in University Computing Center

```
Hello2: proc options(main);
    put list ('Hello, world!');
end Hello2;
```

#### Where to go next?

You should go to Purdue

- No one in my family had a graduate degree
- Assumed I would get a job
- Undergraduate Research Assistant
  - David McAllister, Numerical Analysis



**David McAllister** 

- Question led me to meet my Math Advisor
  - Dana Latch, Math Professor



Dana Latch

You are going to graduate school, aren't you?

### Applied for jobs and PhD programs

- Issue with my GRE score
  - Quantitative 90%, high GPA

Huge Discrepency!

- But Verbal low score 28%
- Prof. Latch referred me to psychologist

I would never have thought to do this

### Applied for jobs and PhD programs

- Issue with my GRE score
  - Quantitative 90%, high GPA
  - But Verbal low score 28%

Huge Discrepency!

- Prof. Latch referred me to psychologist
  - Evaluation (Feb 1983):
    - "...Miss Rodger has a learning disability. ... this disability is a subtle one and a discreet one that affects her ability to retain small bits of verbal information."
    - "I believe that deficits in both of these areas are primarily responsible for her low GRE Verbal score...
    - "present no reason to indicate that Miss Rodger's intellectual capacity would not be sufficient to handle graduate work in the area she will enter."

Sent letter to graduate schools

#### Graduate School at Purdue





- Purdue admitted me conditionally
  - Demonstrate proficiency in English Composition

Nailed that first month!

- Completed PhD in Algorithms 1989
  - Advisor: Greg Frederickson
- What was the diversity like?
  - Few women there
  - Only female student in some courses
  - One year only female PhD student
  - Only one female faculty member my first year
  - Two female faculty the rest of the time





Greg Frederickson

### Assistant Professor Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Rensselaer

- 1989-1994
- Continued research in algorithms
- Fell in love with teaching
- Diversity?
  - 1989 Hired only two women faculty in dept me and Ellen Walker
  - No other women hired while I was there



# Assistant Professor of the Practice Duke University

- Since 1994
- Assistant -> Associate -> Professor of the Practice
- Diversity?
  - There was one female faculty there when I came in 1994, Carla Ellis
  - Two women faculty were hired in 1994 – me and Xiaobai Sun
  - 1994 3 women faculty 12%
  - 2008 Ellis retired, Hired Xiaowei Yang
  - 2015 Hired Sudeepa Roy and then more
  - 2023 now have 12 women, 27 men 30%







Xiaobai Sun

Only 3 women faculty for 21 years



Xiaowei Yang

# That is my journey What about my disability?

### What about My Disabilty?

- Diagnosed as heading to Graduate School
- Never got accommodations in Graduate School
- Never got any accommodations as a Professor
- It has been hard!
- Takes me longer to do things
  - Writing
  - Organizing thoughts

Access **Computing** 

- November 2021
  - Diagnosed with high-functioning Autism and verbalbased disability
- Been easier to talk about with several organizations





Nice to have names

for my disabilities

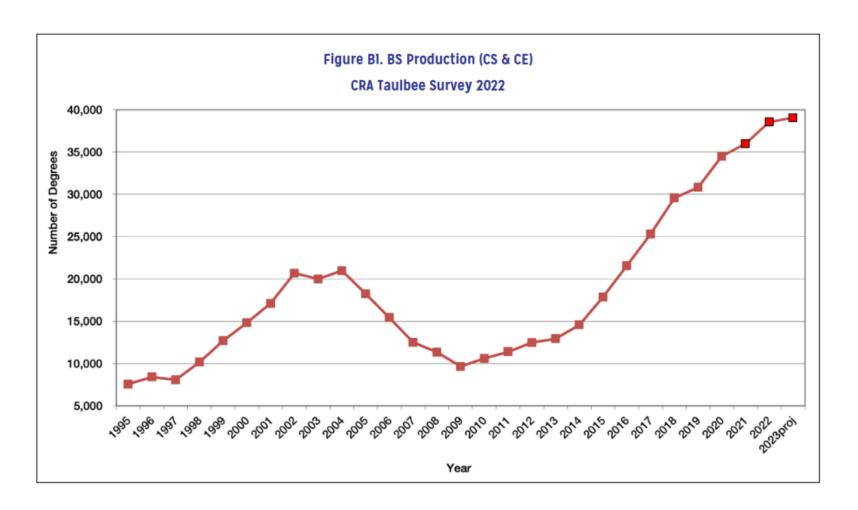
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- Recognition and Visibility

### How did we get from 12% women CS faculty at Duke for 21 years, to 30%?

- All science depts had 0 to 3 women faculty
  - Created Senior Women in Science in 2004
  - Met with the Dean regularly
  - Got funding to bring in outside women speakers and other initiatives
    - Hired one of the speakers
    - Clare Booth Luce Assistant Professorship for women only
- Now all science depts have 8+ women faculty

## CRA Taulbee Survey 2022 There are a lot of students in CS!



### Are there women in CS?

- CRA
  Computing Research Association
- Computing Research Association (CRA)
  - Taulbee Survey 2020-21
    - 22% female PhD's granted in computing
    - 26% female PhD's current enrollment
    - 31% female MS graduated
    - 23% female BS graduated

We need to do better!

# Missing underrepresented groups in Computing

- Computing Research Association (CRA)
  - Taulbee Survey 2020-21
    - 1.7% Black/AfA PhD's granted in computing
    - 1.7% Hispanic PhD's granted in computing
    - 1.9% Black/AfA PhD's enrolled
    - 2.1% Hispanic PhD's enrolled
    - 1.9% Black/AfA MS graduated
    - 2.8% Hispanic MS graduated
    - 3.9% Black/AfA BS graduated
    - 9.6% Hispanic BS graduated

These numbers are really dismal!

21

If they don't know about computing or see themselves in computing, they won't choose it as a field

### Alice programming Program 3D objects – drag and drop

alice.org – by Randy Pausch, CMU

### Alice programming Program 3D objects – drag and drop

alice.org – by Randy Pausch, CMU



#### My Alice efforts

- 2002 added Alice to one section of a course, was favorite part of course!
- 2005 Created a Non-majors course on Alice programming
  - Course attracts around 50% females
- 2006 Duke Femmes program
  - Taught Alice to 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade girls
- Realized need to
  - Get into K-12
  - Teach teachers

### Adventures in Alice Programming www.cs.duke.edu/csed/alice/aliceInSchools

- 2-week Teacher workshops
  - Over 500 teachers, middle school, high school, some elementary
  - First week Teach Alice, Practice
  - Second week Develop Lesson Plans
  - All disciplines: math, science, history, language arts, foreign language, art, music, business
  - Summers 2008-2017
- Main Sites:
  - Duke University, Durham, NC
  - Charleston/Columbia, SC
  - San Jose, CA
  - Lincoln, Nebraska
- THANKS IBM and NSF

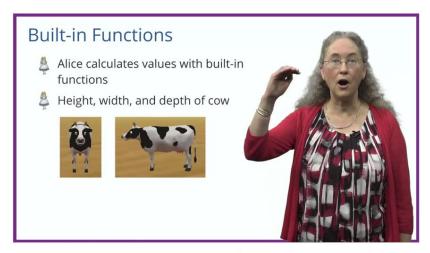






#### Created online Coursera course

Introduction to Programming and Animation in Alice Launched in January 2020, with Steve Cooper





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# Grace Hopper Celebration on Women in Computing

- Anita Borg, co-founded GHC conference in 1994 (with Telle Whitney), 500 attendees
- She died in 2003, Brain cancer
- GHC: 1994, 1997, 2000, 2002, 2004, 2006, then annually
- Now run by the Anita Borg Institute
- 2010 (2000 attendees), 2019 (25,000 attendees)
- Mentoring talks, See many people like yourself – Empowering!



**Anita Borg** 



# Grace Hopper Celebration on Women in Computing





**Anita Borg** 

- 2010 (2000 attendees), 2019 (25,000 attendees)
- Mentoring talks, See many people like yourself – Empowering!



# Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing

- Founded by Valerie Taylor and others, sponsored by ACM and CMD-IT
- Named after Richard Tapia, Mathematics Professor at Rice, leader in education and outreach
- Connect with common backgrounds, race, ethnicities, disabilities and gender to create communities.



Valerie Taylor





Richard Tapia

# Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing





Valerie Taylor

- Connect with common backgrounds, race, ethnicities, disabilities and gender to create communities.
- Started in 2001, with 164 attendees
- 2001, 2003, 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013 now annual
- In 2019, 1920 attendees





Richard Tapia

# Computing Research Association — Widening Participation (CRA-WP) https://cra.org/cra-wp/ CRA-WP COMPUTION (CRA-WP) CRA-WP COMPUTION (CRA-WP) CRA-WP COMPUTION (CRA-WP) CRA-WP) COMPUTION (CRA-WP) CRA-WP) CRA-WP)

- Mission: Increasing the success and participation of populations underrepresented in computing research
- Been a Board member since 2009 and currently Co-Chair
- Since 1991, over 30 years!
- Formerly CRA-W (Women)

#### CRA-WP Programs - Undergraduates

(Computing Research Association Widening Participation)
(Previously CRA-W, for Women)

- DREU Summer undergraduate Research program with Faculty at another university
- Mentoring at Grace Hopper Conf and Tapia Conferences
- UR2PHD new research program to increase more women to graduate school (with CRA-E (education))

#### CRA-WP Programs – Grad Students

(Computing Research Association Widening Participation)
(Previously CRA-W, for Women)

- Grad Cohort Workshop for Women Mentoring workshop for women grad students
  - 2-days in person in April annually
- Grad Cohort Workshop for Inclusion, Diversion, Equity, Accessibility and Leadership Skills (IDEALS)
  - 2-days in person in March annually
- CSGrad4US Fellowship
  - Mentorship for a year while you apply to PhD program to go back to school (BS degree in computing before 2021), plus Fellowship to attend (must be US Citizen or perm resident)

#### CRA-WP Programs – Faculty/Researchers

(Computing Research Association Widening Participation)
(Previously CRA-W, for Women)

CRA-

- Early Career Mentoring Workshop (CMW)
  - For Postdocs, Assistant Professor or equivalent level in Industry/Gov labs
- Mid-Career Mentoring Workshop (CMW)
  - For Associate professors or equivalent level in Industry/Gov labs
- Both are:
  - 2-day Mentoring workshops with senior leaders
  - For women and underrepresented researchers in computing
  - Nov 2-4, 2023 in Chicago, IL

Apply now by July 10!

https://cra.org/cra-wp/mentoring-workshop/

# National Center for Women and Technology (NCWIT)

- Network of change leaders focused on advancing innovation by correcting underrepresentation in computing
- Three main alliances
  - K12, Academic, Workforce
- Example of Workforce Alliance resource:
  - Resources on recruiting and retaining employees, being inclusive, etc



Recruiting, Retaining, and Advancing a Diverse Technical Workforce: Data Collection and Strategic Planning Guidelines

Published on 01/21/2015 | SKU #6013

Developing a diverse workforce must be treated like any other critical business issue. Use this guide to help you collect important data and develop a strategic plan for increasing the meaningful participation of diverse groups in your organization.

#### **Access Computing**



- Mission: Increasing the participation of people with disabilities in computing fields
- Undergraduates and Graduate students can connect with mentors and professionals.
- Undergraduate research program
- Resources
  - Disability- and Neurodiversity-Focused Employment Websites

## National Science Foundation (NSF) BPC and INCLUDES Alliances

 "broad coalitions of academic institutions, K-12 schools, government, industry, professional societies and other not-for profit organizations that design and carry out comprehensive programs addressing underrepresentation in computing disciplines"

#### **NSF** Alliances

- Access Computing people with disabilities
- AIICE Alliance for Identity Inclusive Computing Education
- CAHSI Computing Alliance of Hispanic Serving Institutions
- CRA-WP Computing Research Association Broadening participation
- CSforAll Resource for CS in K-12 education
- NCWIT National Center for Women and Technology – create resources, they have a Workforce Alliance
- And many more...













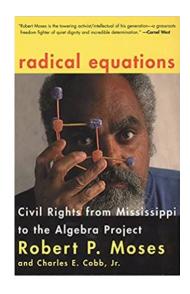
### Cultural Competence in Computing (3C's) Fellows

https://identity.cs.duke.edu/

- National Program for Computing faculty and professionals
  - To learn more about social science topics (identity, intersectionality, racism, bias and discrimination) and how they impact computing environments
  - To develop some deliverable
- Lot of homework/reading books (6 months)
- Virtual meetings for 6 months of discussion
- My project: developing an online Python Coursera course that is culturally relevant

# For Example: Bob Moses – Interactive Techniques for Algebra

- 1960's Civil Rights Activist
  - Organizer Black voter registration drive in Mississippi
  - Fighting the use of law to oppress the black vote
- 1982 MacArthur Genius Award
- 80's Closing the gap with algebra
  - No algebra in 8<sup>th</sup> grade in his kids' school
  - First step get all kids to be able to take algebra
  - Second step How to empower students, start with a train trip
  - Algebra as a gateway to higher level math/science
  - Huge movement! Interactive approach increased pass rates



Strongly recommend his book

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#### Recognition

- Nominate those underrepresented in computing for awards
- Example 1, Duke Distinguished Professor
  - No women in science had received the award
  - Once pointed out, they started receiving it
- Example 2, Triangle Distinguished speakers
  - Duke, UNC, NCSU
    - 9 speakers annually, 3 to each university
    - Some years no female speakers

# How Visible are Notable Women in Computer Science?

- Pondered this question in early 2012
- Looked at Wikipedia
  - The internet encyclopedia
  - Who writes those pages?
  - Why did some notables have pages and others not?
- Turing Award Winners
  - Only two women at that time



#### Fran Allen

- School teacher got a job at IBM
- Compilers and Optimization Technology
- IBM Fellow First Women
- Turing Award (2006) First Woman
- The Turing Award was announced on Feb. 21, 2007
- Her Wikipedia page was created on...
  - Feb. 6, 2007
- On Feb 21, 2007 the Turing Award was added to her Wikipedia page.

#### Here is that first page for Fran Allen

Create account Log in

Search

Q



Main page
Contents
Featured content
Current events
Random article
Donate to Wikipedia
Wikipedia store

Interaction

Help
About Wikipedia
Community portal
Recent changes
Contact page

Tools What links here

_		
Frances	E. A	llen

Article Talk

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

Fran Allen has made outstanding contributions to the field of programming languages for more than forty-five years, and her work has significantly influenced the wider computer science community.

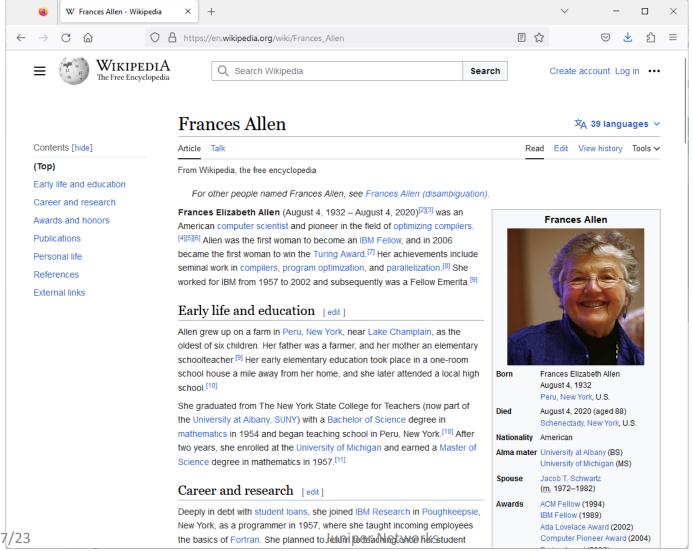
Read Edit View history

Ms. Allen is a pioneer in the field of optimizing compilers. Her achievements include seminal work in compilers, code optimization, and parallelization. In the early 1980s, she formed the Parallel TRANslation (PTRAN) group to study the issues involved in compiling for parallel machines. The group was considered one of the top research groups in the world working with parallelization issues. Her work on these projects culminated in algorithms and technologies that form the basis for the theory of program optimization and are widely used in today's commercial compilers throughout the industry.

Ms. Allen's influence on the IBM community was recognized by her appointment as an IBM fellow, the first woman to receive this recognition. She was also president of the IBM Academy of Technology. The Academy plays an important role in the corporation by providing technical leadership, advancing the understanding of key technical areas and fostering communications among technical professionals.

In 1997, Ms. Allen was inducted into the WITI Hall of Fame. Ms. Allen retired from IBM in 2002.

#### Her Wikipedia page now



# What about other Notable Women in Computer Science?

- ACM Fellows
  - Noticed few women, and most did not have a Wikipedia page

### Investigate: Write Wikipedia pages for Notable women in Computing

- How hard is it to write a Wikipedia page?
  - Lots of rules you have to follow
- Another area with few women
  - 2013 study 16% of Wikipedia writers are female

#### Wrote a Wikipedia page

- We had no idea what we were doing....
- In April 2012, at a CRA-W Board meeting ...

#### Mary Jane Irwin

- Professor at Penn State University
- VLSI Architecture and Automated Design



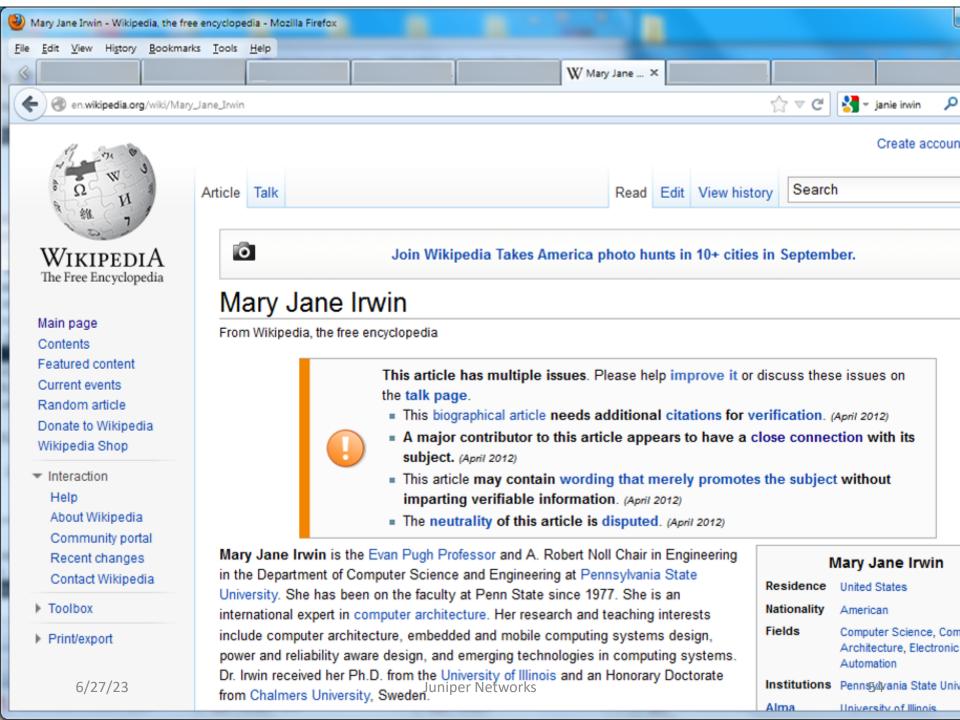
- Arithmetic Cube, MGAP, and SPARTA
- Architecture, Logic & Circuit Design Tools
  - ARTIST, PERFLEX, LOGICIAN, DECOMPOSER
- Awards
  - National Academy of Engineering
  - ACM Fellow, IEEE Fellow
- No Wikipedia page!



#### In writing her Wikipedia page,

Here is what happens when you don't know what you are doing...

Checked her page two weeks later...





- This article contains wording that promotes the subject in a subjective mannwithout imparting real information. (April 2012)
- The neutrality of this article is disputed. (April 2012)



## Spent some time figuring out basics of how to write a biography page

- Checked out other pages
- Did some edits on pages

Then tried again

#### Mary Lou Soffa

- Professor at University of Virginia
- Programming languages
- Compiler technology
- Software Engineering
- Ken Kennedy Award, 2012
  - "provided analytical and experimental models for understanding, predicting and verifying the optimization of software"
- ACM Fellow, 1999
- IEEE Fellow, 2012
- Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Math and Engineering Mentoring, 1999

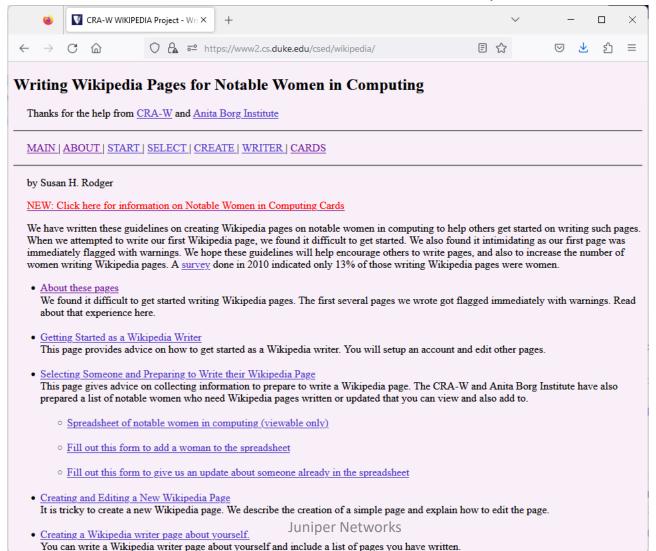


#### I think I figured out how to do it.



# Wrote a Guide on How to Write Wikipedia Biography

www.cs.duke.edu/csed/wikipedia



#### Our Wikipedia Guide

www.cs.duke.edu/csed/wikipedia

- Shorter and more focused then Wikipedia Guide
- Getting Started
  - Get an account
  - Edit some pages
- Select someone to write about
  - Make sure they don't already have a page
  - Use our template and fill it in

## Our Database of Notable Women in CS www.cs.duke.edu/csed/wikipedia

- Over 300 women
- Why notable
- Status of their Wikipedia page
- Forms for adding women and updating status

	Title/Position	Web page	Prestigious Award or why notable	Wikipedia page?
	Professor of Human-Computer Interaction, CS	http://www.daimi.au.dk/~bodke	Member, CHI Academy	no page
	Founder	http://anitaborg.org/about/histor	WITI Hall of Fame, Fellow ACM, EFF Pioneer	has a page
at	Professor	http://polaris.gseis.ucla.edu/cb	ACM Fellow	has a page, needs work

6/27/23

## To Share These Achievements.... www.cs.duke.edu/csed/wikipedia

 August 2014, with Katy Dickinson and Jessica Dickinson Goodman....

Created Notable Women in Computing

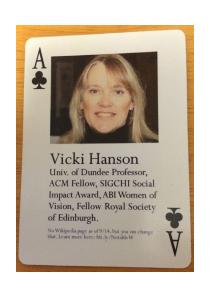
playing cards

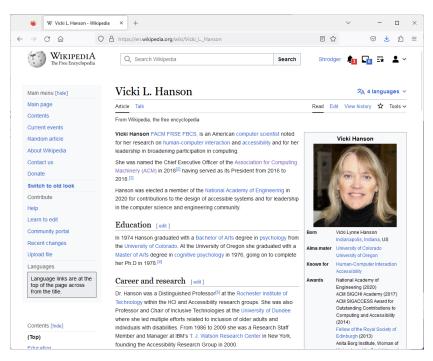
• 54 cards

- You can
  - Print a deck
  - Print a poster



#### Vicki Hanson Had no Wikipedia page, now does

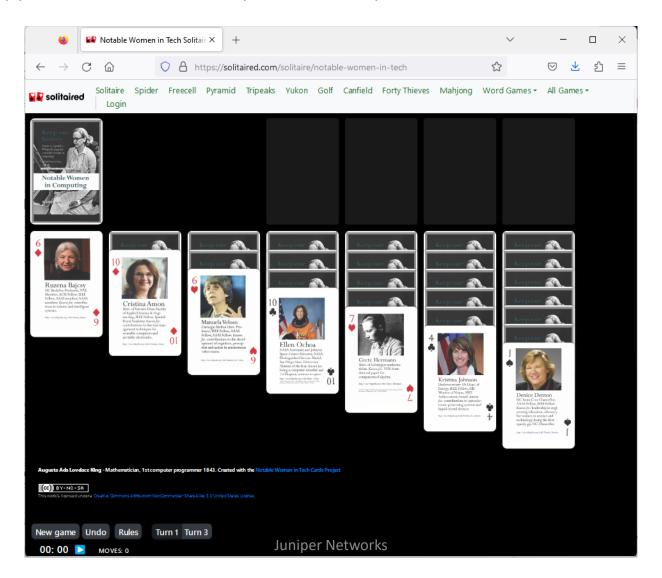




 4<sup>th</sup> edition of deck (2019), same women, but updated as everyone now has a Wikipedia page

#### Play Solitaire online with NWC cards

https://solitaired.com/solitaire/notable-women-in-tech



# What can you do to get more underrepresented people into computing?

- Make Change Happen
  - Create those conversations
  - Point out discrepancies
  - There is recognizing problems, and there is action!
- Mentorship and Guidance
- Recognize Achievements

