A Short Stroll down Memory Lane:  
Reflections on Women in Computing in the Last Decade and a Half

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... the 80’s

- 1984: Martha Sloan first female president of IEEE Computer (women=5 out of 40)
- 1987: Cooper-Huff experiment on sex-stereotyping in educational software
... the early 90’s

- 1990: “They’re not Dumb, they’re Different” by Sheila Tobias.
- 1990: “Becoming a Computer Scientist” by ACM-W.
- 1991: “Why are there so few female computer scientists?” by Ellen Spertus of MIT.
... the mid 90’s

• 1993: Martha Sloan first female president of IEEE (women=1 out of 42).

• 1993: First CRA-W workshop on academic careers for women in CS at FCRC’93.

• 1994: First Grace Hopper Celebration. Organized by CRA-W under leadership of Anita Borg & Telle Whitney.


• 1996: Nico Habermann Award to Caroline Wardle, NSF.

• 1997: “The Incredible Shrinking Pipeline”, by Tracy Camp of Colorado School of Mines.
... The late 90’s

• 1997: Welcome Address at 2nd. Grace Hopper Celebration, Caroline Wardle.

• 1997: Institute for Women in Technology (IWT) established by Anita Borg.


• 1999: Carly Fiorina appointed CEO of Hewlett-Packard.

• 1999: NSF virtual workshop on expanding opportunities for women in IT. Organized by Doris Carver of Louisiana State.

• 1999: MIT Study on the Status of Women Faculty in Science. Led by Nancy Hopkins of MIT.
... The early 2000’s

• 2000: “Tech-Savvy, Educating Girls in the New Computer Age” by AAUW.

• 2000: “Obtaining Federal Funding” in CRA-W’s “Career Mentoring Workshops”, by Caroline Wardle.

• 2000: First NSF ITWF competition. Directed by Caroline Wardle.

• 2001: Fran Berman appointed Director of SDSC and NPACI.

... Reaching 2003

• 2002: ACM SIGCSE Special Issue on Women and Computing, editors John Impagliazzo and Tracy Camp.


• 2002: Maria Klawe elected president of ACM (women=5 of 29).

• 2003: Maria Klawe appointed Dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Science, Princeton U.

Source: National Science Foundation SRS Data

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CS doctoral degrees awarded, by sex: 1975-2001

Source: National Science Foundation SRS Data
Women as a percent of IT workers with college degrees (includes non-citizens)

NOTE: IT workers are computer programmers and computer systems analysts and scientists with at least a bachelor's degree. Annual estimates are averages of 12 months.

CISE Support for Increasing the Representation of Women in IT

Note: CISE funds additional NSF-wide programs such as ADVANCE