



DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



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Introduction

- In 2001, number of women starting in CS at UIUC was ridiculously low: 9%; way lower than fraction of women among faculty, or among students starting in mechanical engineering; retention was also worse than for men.
 - Decided to work on retention and recruitment
- Fixed first retention; started next outreach activities to increase recruitment
- No significant change in recruitment of women, so far
- But outreach activities very appreciated by participating undergraduate volunteers and high school students

U of I Recruitment Initiatives

- **ChicTech** (“SHEEK-tek”) – CS roadshow
- **Technical Ambassadors Competition (TAC)** – for high school girls
- **Games 4 Girls competition (G4G)** – for college girls
- **ChicTech retreat** – weekend on campus
- **WCS** – Women in CS club



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ChicTech Presentation

University - 005785 - I



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CHICTECH

What is Computer Science?

The art of utilizing the power of computers to solve problems.



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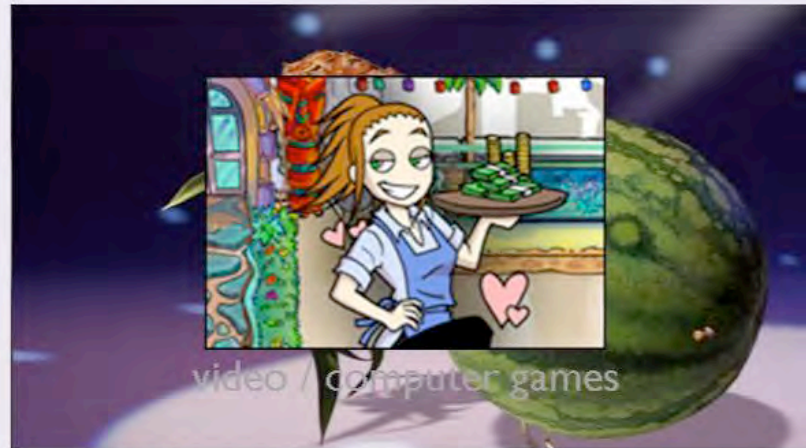


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Σακετοειδής - 07/02/07

creative?



video / computer games

computer graphics

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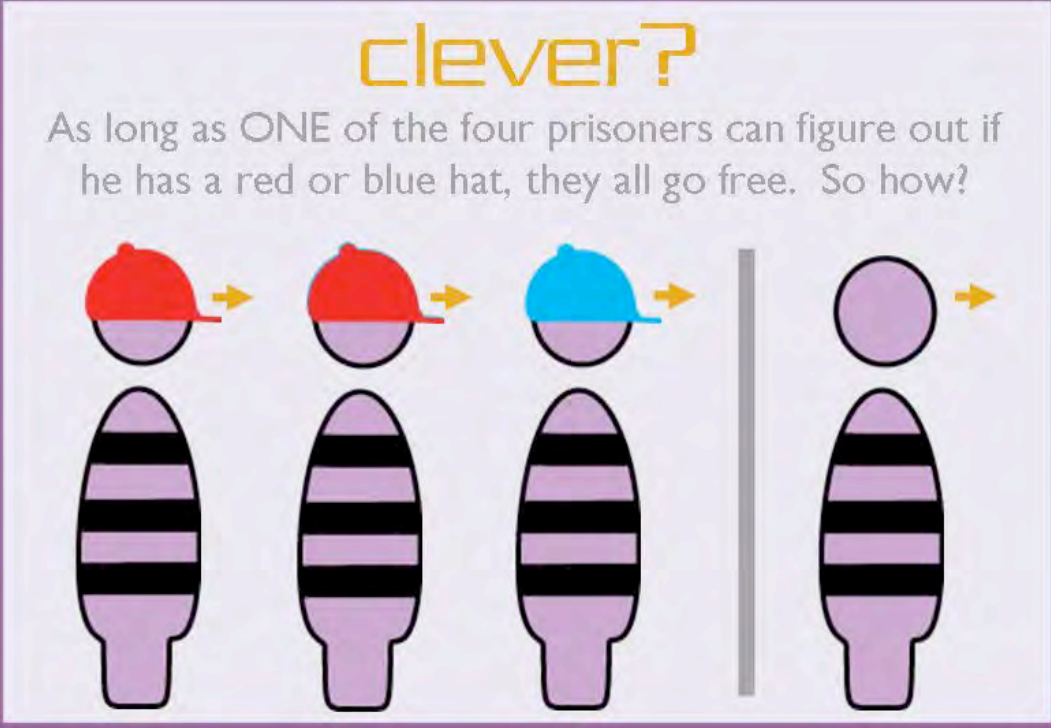
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clever?

As long as ONE of the four prisoners can figure out if he has a red or blue hat, they all go free. So how?



The diagram shows four prisoners in a line, each wearing a purple and black striped shirt. The first three prisoners are wearing hats: the first two are red, and the third is blue. The fourth prisoner is not wearing a hat. A vertical grey line is positioned between the third and fourth prisoners, representing a mirror. Yellow arrows point from each prisoner towards the mirror.

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can you
why
won't

few women

YOU can change this!
The world cannot
afford to have only men
designing technology
for everyone!

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job flexibility

- ✓ Telecommuting
- ✓ Casual dress code
- ✓ Flexible hours
- ✓ On-site luxuries

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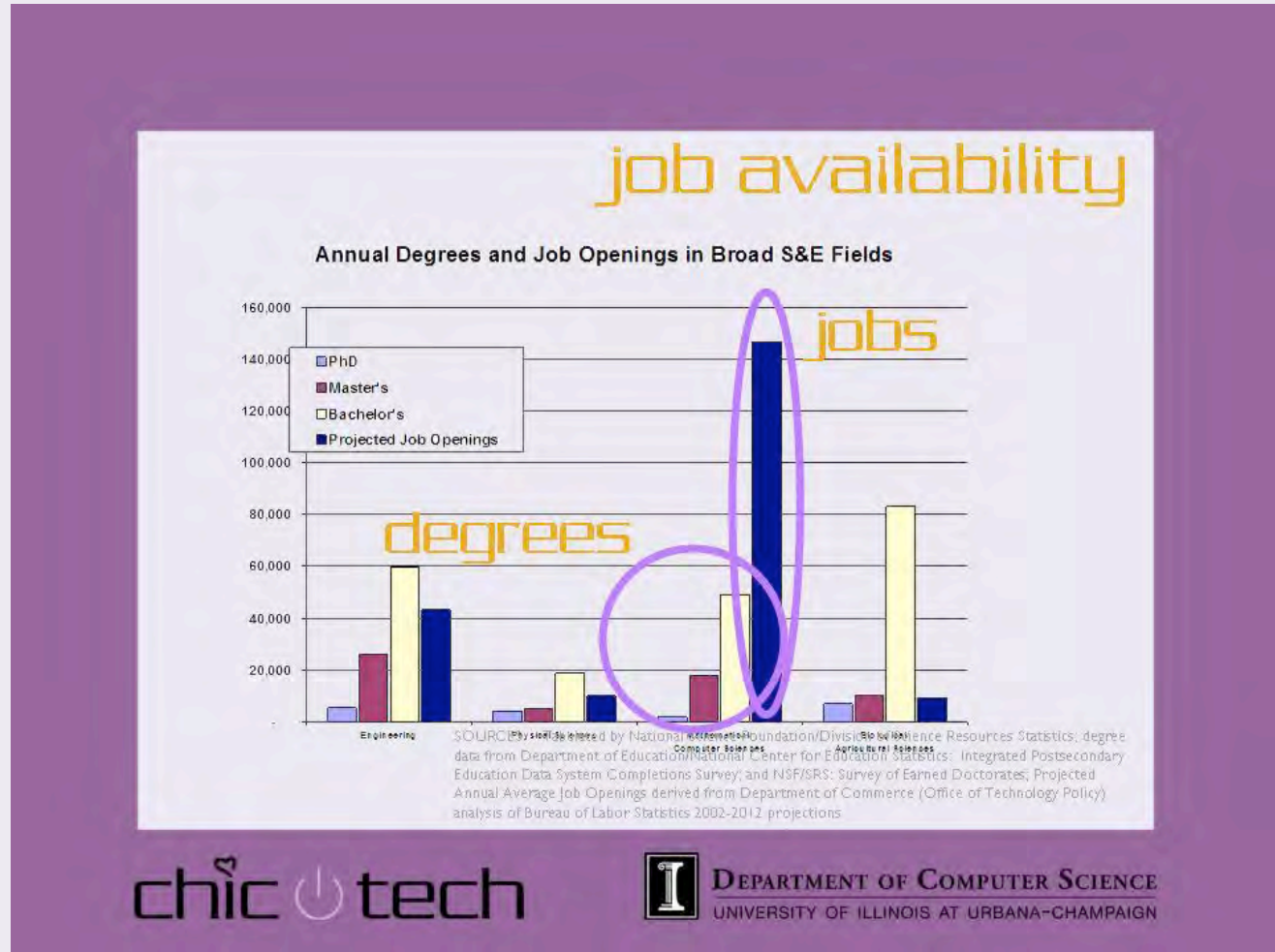
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Yt---Da---QKA QJW



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Yt0-i-rav a3a


What types of jobs are available to computer science majors?

the possibilities are endless!

computer science

The infographic features a central cluster of yellow flowers of varying sizes, each with a white center. Surrounding these flowers are labels for various career paths: energy, marketing, science & research, transportation, astronomy, government, military, telecommunications, environment, engineering, education, gaming, manufacturing, medicine, law, finance, and theatre. The text 'the possibilities are endless!' is written in a bold, yellow, sans-serif font. Above the flowers, the question 'What types of jobs are available to computer science majors?' is written in a smaller, yellow, sans-serif font. The words 'computer science' are written in a grey, sans-serif font at the top right of the infographic.

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ChicTech

The numbers game: Need to address a lot of young women, because only a fraction will be interested, no matter what.

In 2007, Girls attending presentation by:

WCS/Alums: 315

Partner colleges reached several hundred.

Need an order of magnitude better!

Main challenge: Getting into schools

Technical Ambassadors Competition

- **G**roups of girls build a technical project for the benefit of a non-profit organization in their community
- **F**inal projects are evaluated by a panel of faculty judges
- **P**rojects are judged according to a variety of criteria, especially usefulness of the product to the client
- \$300 cash prize for 1st Place; \$150 for 2nd & 3rd Place

Technical Ambassadors Competition

Examples of 2008 TAC projects:

- Website for Albany Park Community Center



- Intro Video for Excel Youth Center
- Website for FASHIC



Technical Ambassadors Competition

- **W**ith this competition ChicTech offers an opportunity and an incentive for girls to realize the satisfaction of applying technology to address community problems. It shows that solving such problems requires creativity and teamwork
- **A**fterwards, contestants are invited to a two-day weekend retreat on the UIUC campus

Games for Girls Competition

- **C**omputer competition for college girls, known as 'Games 4 Girls' (G4G) Objective is to create games that will appeal to high school and younger girls
- **T**eams up to five college women students + faculty advisor to create computer games
- **E**ntries judged by professionals and high school girls at Retreat
- 1k for 1st place; \$500 2nd & 3rd Place
- 1k Donation to 1st Place Women's Program
- Mostly built using Gamemaker

2008 Winners



1st place AU

The game is a narrated spy game where you have to solve the codes (similar to 'Hang Man') in order to catch the criminal who travels from country to country.



2nd place OSU

This is a story about the dreams of a hot-tempered girl named Kaliope

2008 Winners

- 3rd place: Cornell and Hobart & William Smith
- Games are available for download!

ChicTech Retreat

- Takes place in April after the Competition deadline
- Involves high school and college women who participate in the TAC and G4G competitions
- In addition to many of the planned activities, the retreat features judging for both competitions
- High school girls interact personally with ChicTech volunteers and participate in engaging activities and workshops
- At presentation and award ceremony, winners win cash prizes and team acrylics, and all participants received an award certificate

ChicTech Retreat Weekend

April 19 – April 20, 2008



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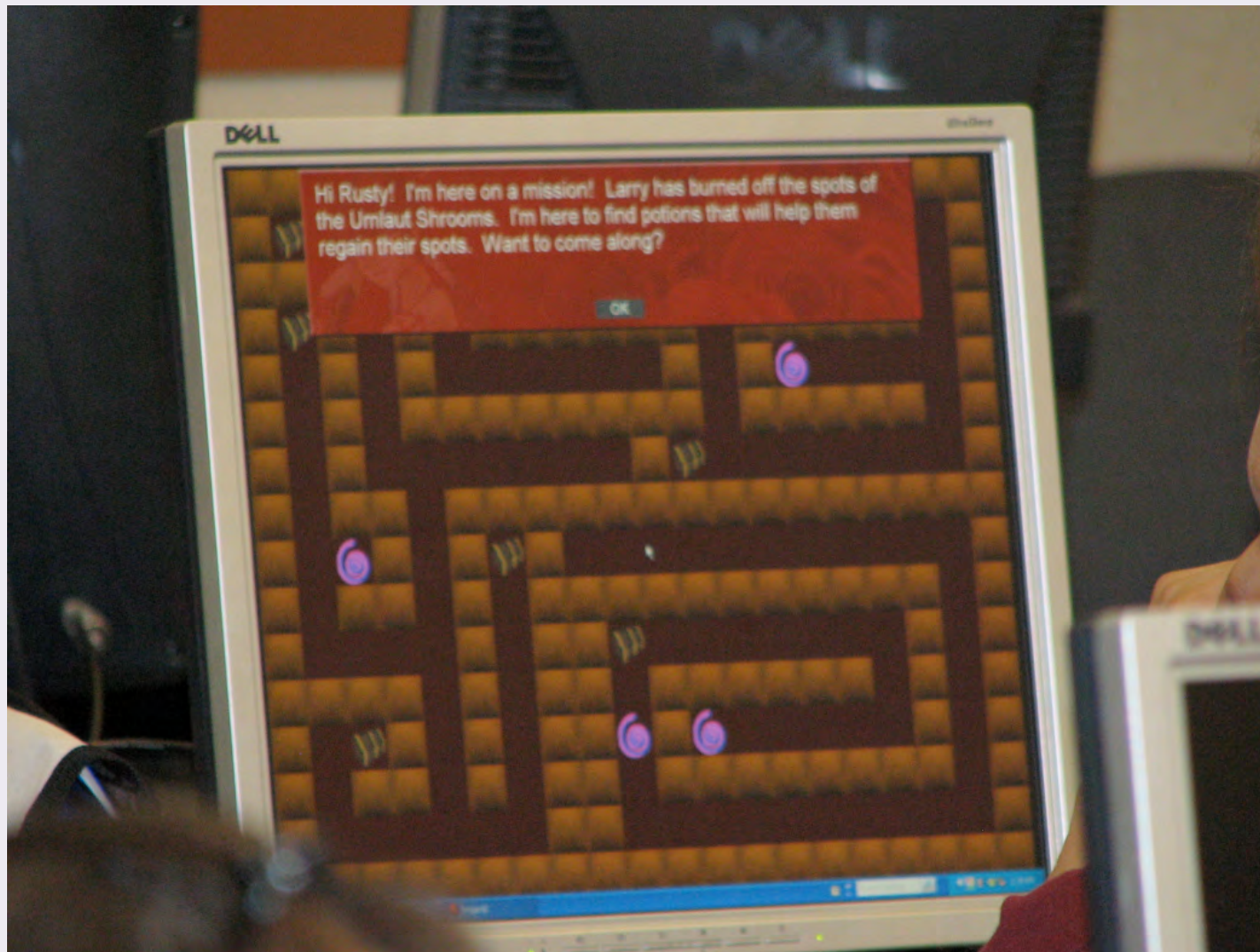
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Other Outreach Initiatives

- **Summer GAMES camp:** Twenty middle-school girls, one week, game programming
- **'Squeak' workshops:** Exposure to introductory programming for middle-school children
- **LEGO Robotics competition** – over 100 girls participate

Women in CS

Department support helps WCS engage in numerous activities

- **ChicTech, TAC, Retreat**
- **Freshman picnic**
- **Annual awards banquet**
- **Mentoring (jrs/srs mentor freshmen)**
- **Technical project for Engineering Open House**
- **Outside speakers, social events, etc.**

Acknowledgements

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Acknowledgements

Outreach coordinator:

Lasonya Harris



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Sam Kamin



Partner: Illinois State U, Eastern Illinois U,
Bradley U, Parkland CC, Heartland CC,
Illinois School District U46

For more info, see www.cs.uiuc.edu/outreach

The End

