Let's Play COMPUTER SCIENCE Stereotype BINGO!

Are nasty stererotypes preventing you from learning more about computers and computer science?

Studies have shown that men and women have the same abilities when it comes to understanding computer science; however, most young women reject computing as a potential interest as early as age 12.

This year in COMP 1631, we're holding a separate lab for women students to try to understand some of the ways in which we can make computing more accessible for women. Women form less than 30% of the computing workforce, yet the first computer programmer was a woman (Ada Lovelace), the first operating system was written by a woman (Admiral Grace Hopper) and for the first time, this year's winner of the most prestigious award in computer science, the Turing Award, was Frances Allen!

If you're interested in helping in this study of women and computing, all you have to do is sign up for the women-only lab (Thursday afternoons) and complete a survey at the end of the semester. It's as easy as that! Your computer science professors are more than happy to help you rearrange your schedule to accommodate the change of lab time.

In the meantime, play along with Computer Science Stereotype Bingo. The rules are simple: whenever you find an article that talks about girls or women with respect to "geeky" hobbies, mark down the points the article makes – if you get three in a row, you win, if you get a blackout you win even further! What do you win? The satisfaction of knowing that you've made fun of another ridiculous article about stereotypes of women in computing.