

# *WOMEN HISTORY MONTH*

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY  
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGIES



*Then* ●

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*INFLUENTIAL  
WOMEN IN STEM  
THROUGHOUT  
HISTORY*

# *Ada Lovelace*

- December 10, 1815 – November 27, 1852
  - Born in London, United Kingdom
- Known as “the first computer programmer” for writing an algorithm for a computing machine in the mid-1800s.
- Her work was published in an English science journal in 1843 under the initials A.A.L.
- Her contributions to the field of Computer Science were not discovered until the 1950s.

<https://youtu.be/J7lTqnEmf-g> The Story of Ada Lovelace





# *Florence Nightingale*

- May 12, 1820 – August 13, 1910
  - Born in Florence, Italy
- Known as the inventor of modern nursing
- Put in charge of nursing British and allied soldiers in Turkey during the Crimean War.
  - Reduced the death rate from 42% to 2%
- She developed a proportional pie chart still used today, designer of many hospital systems, pioneered the improvement of sanitation in working-class homes, and established the first scientifically based nursing school.

<https://youtu.be/Bg4Zf4Vye3Y> Florence Nightingale:  
Changing the Field of Nursing – Fast Facts





# *Grace Hopper*

- December 9, 1906 – January 1, 1992
  - Born in New York.
- She is most known for her contributions to the development of computer languages.
  - Wrote the 561-page user manual for the Mark I.
  - Helped develop the Mark II and Mark III computers.
  - Helped develop the first computer language “compiler” called A-O.
- Has a master’s degree and a Ph.D. in mathematics from Yale.
- Joined the navy after Pearl Harbor
  - Was initially rejected because of her age and small stature.
  - Retired at 79 years old

For more information about her accomplishments visit [news.Yale.edu](https://news.yale.edu) and read the article titled “Grace Murray Hopper (1906-1992): A legacy of innovation and service”

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=meeCAFacrG0> Grace Hopper, Computer Scientist and Military Leader

# *Hedy Lamarr*

- November 9, 1914 – January 19, 2000
  - Born in Vienna, Austria
- She pioneered the technology that is the basis for today's WiFi, GPS, and Bluetooth communication systems.
- She never received any compensation from her work, and she did not receive any awards until decades later.
- Most people recognize her from the many films she starred in since she was also an actress.

[https://youtu.be/\\_rIXHNeQD-s](https://youtu.be/_rIXHNeQD-s) The Brilliant Mind of Hollywood Legend Hedy Lamarr



# *Joan Clarke*

- June 24, 1917 – September 4, 1996
  - Born in West Norwood, London, United Kingdom
- An English cryptanalyst and numismatist best known for her work as a code-breaker at Bletchley Park during World War II.
- The full extent of her mathematical contributions and accomplishments still remains unknown due to secrecy amongst cryptanalysts.

<https://youtu.be/5y-oeq5GOSY> Joan Clarke - WW2  
Enigma Codebreaker



# *Katherine Johnson*

- August 26, 1918 – February 24, 2020
  - Born in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia
- Known for her mathematical work for NASA
  - Astronaut John Glenn said “Call her [Katherine]. And if she says the computer is right, I’ll take it.” before flying Friendship 7 in 1962.
- Her story is featured in the movie *Hidden Figures*

<https://youtu.be/nKxgieXQ82w> Katherine Nichols: An American Hero





# *Roberta Bondar*

- Born December 4, 1945 in Sault Ste. Marie, Canada
- Known as the first Canadian woman and the first neurologist to travel into space.
  - During an eight-day mission, her and six fellow astronauts conducted multiple experiences that focused on the adaptability of the human nervous system to low gravity.

<https://youtu.be/S2b4wyjXGO4> Roberta Bondar





# *Radia Perlman*

- Born December 18, 1951 in Portsmouth, Virginia
- Known for designing the spanning tree algorithm that allows the Ethernet to handle large clouds.
- She also contributes to network security with the trust models for Public Key Infrastructure, data expiration, and distributed algorithms resilient despite malicious participants.

<https://youtu.be/gHpvMBuA1XU> Radia Perlman Profile, 2014 Internet Hall of Fame Pioneer

*Now*



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*WOMEN AT  
VSU'S  
INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY*





# *Cathy Sowa*

- Department: Information Security and Network Services
  - Worked for VSU IT for 3.5 years
- From: Effingham/Charleston, Illinois
- Bachelor's and a Master's degrees in Education with an Associate of Applied Science in Network Administration.
- Certifications: GSEC, GCIH, GPEN, CEH, PenTest+, Security+, Network+, CyberOps
- Currently pursuing a Master of Science in Information Technology (Cybersecurity and Digital Forensics)
- She runs half-marathons in her free time.

# *Jessica Queen*

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- Department: Enterprise Applications and Project Management
  - Worked for VSU IT for 2.5 years
- From: Manhattan, Kansas
- Associates in Business Management
- Currently pursuing a Bachelors in Business Administration (Dual-Major: Accounting & Finance)
- She is a US Army Veteran (served 8 years)





# *Sarah Bring*

- Department: Technical Support Services
  - Worked for VSU IT for 11-12 years
- From: Valdosta, Georgia
- Bachelors of Accounting
- She is in charge of designing and building the current classroom AV standard and is proud of it being used and appreciated.



*VSU'S INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY WANTS TO  
THANK ALL OUR FEMALE IT  
WORKERS AND CELEBRATE  
THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF  
ALL WOMEN*