Preparing All Learners for the Future of Work

> **1:00 – 2:00pm** June 13, 2019





# PRESENTERS



Carrie Parker Education Development Center *Chair* 

Ritu Raman Massachusetts Institute of Technology *Presenter* 

Emily Reid AI4ALL

Presenter



Sheryl Sorby University of Cincinnati *Presenter* 



### Preparing all learners for the future of work:

How I learned to build with biology

Ritu Raman

Postdoctoral Fellow, MIT

RituRaman.com | ritur@mit.edu | @DrRituRaman

### A little personal history



NSF ITEST Summit | June 13, 2019

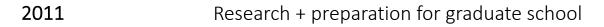
### Innovation is a force for social change



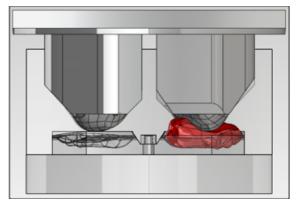
# STEM journey

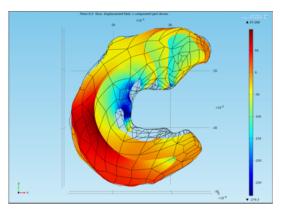
**1991 – 2007** 3 continents, 5 languages, 10 schools, no particular STEM focus

- 2007 How do you apply to college?
- 2008 Cornell, Aerospace to BME
- **2009** Bird watching, rat walking, and water cleaning (oh my)
- 2010 Entrepreneurial fellowship at a biotech startup



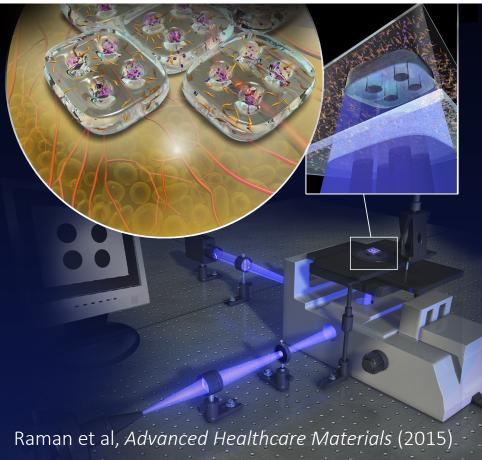




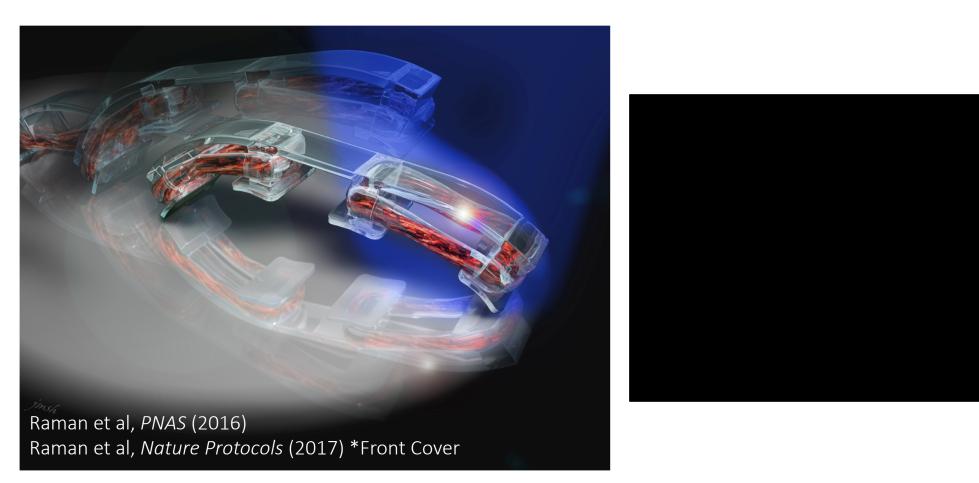


### Learning how to build with biology





# Can I build beyond biology?



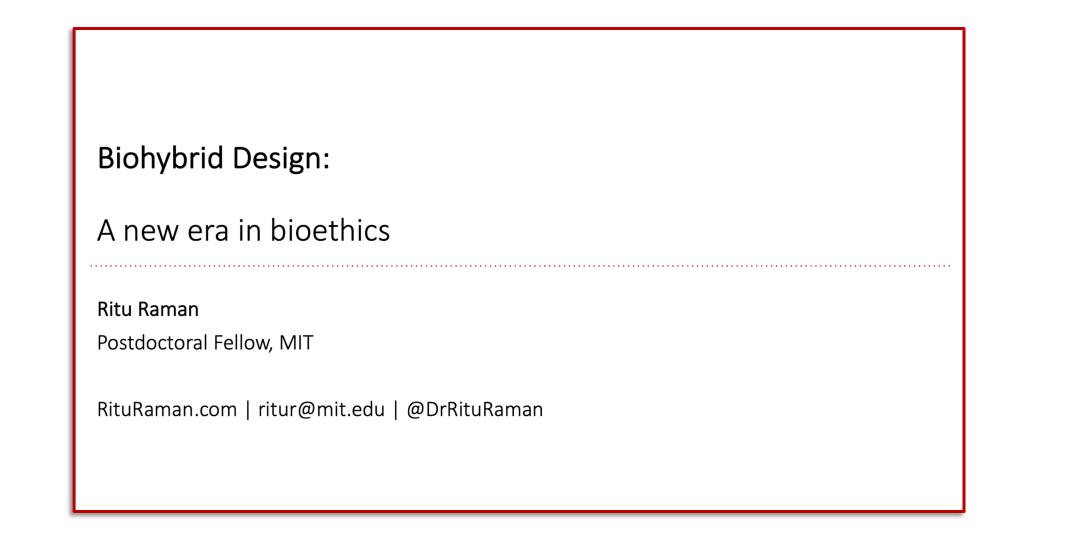
ritur@mit.edu

### Can I teach others to build beyond biology?



Raman et al, Journal of Biological Engineering (2016)

## Should you build beyond biology?



### Encouraging young people interested in STEM

Focus on goals external to yourself

Find good friends and mentors

Learn to work with others

Live by your conscience and trust your instincts

Don't be afraid to change and adapt!

### Encouraging young people: real world example



### Empowering young women: real world example



### WiSDM

Women in STEM Database at MIT

Mission
Search For Speakers
Join The Database
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The Women in STEM Database at MIT (WiSDM) is an initiative designed to promote the visibility of women in our academic community. The goal of WiSDM is to provide a curated searchable online database of MIT women, making it easier to find talented and diverse speakers for conference talks, panels, news stories, and outreach events.

WiSDM includes MIT faculty, postdocs, research staff, and graduate students from all STEM fields. In addition to including each listed speaker's areas of technical expertise, the database also includes information about non-technical expertise, ranging from science policy to entrepreneurship to outreach. WiSDM's searchable database makes it easy to find qualified and talented speakers for your event.

Stay up to date by signing up for our newsletter and searching our regularly updated database.

*Why use WiSDM*? We believe that the best conversations are sparked by diverse voices, and we want to make those voices easy to find. Search WiSDM to find speakers for your next event!

*Why be listed in WiSDM?* Speaking opportunities are an incredibly effective way to engage with your academic community, and contribute to your professional advancement. Make your voice, your story, and your perspective a part of the conversation by joining WiSDM today.

Don't see someone who should be listed? Contact us and we will invite them to join the database.

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

# Takeaways for training the next (diverse) generation

Identify the real-world impact of every basic scientific or mathematic concept

Especially important to find a range of relevant examples that connect with diverse audiences

Provide examples of role models and invite them into the classroom

Virtual or in person lunch with a scientist (WiSDM, 500 Women in Science, etc.)

Fight the stereotype of the "lone scientist" and incorporate ways to acknowledge the unique contributions of each group member

Include discussions of ethics, regulatory, and funding frameworks – innovation is a team sport!

Read science news articles and talk about the importance of not overstating the conclusions of a research study Split the classroom into a "news article" group and a "research article" group and compare conclusions

## Acknowledgements

Mom, Dad, Granddad

Large bubble of incredibly supportive friends in and out of STEM

Fantastic mentors and role models

Great teachers throughout the years: Mr. Harrison, Prof. Bonassar, Prof. Bashir, Prof. Langer

Academic, professional, financial support for women in STEM

### Preparing all learners for the future of work:

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### Creation over Preparation in CS Education

**Emily Reid** 

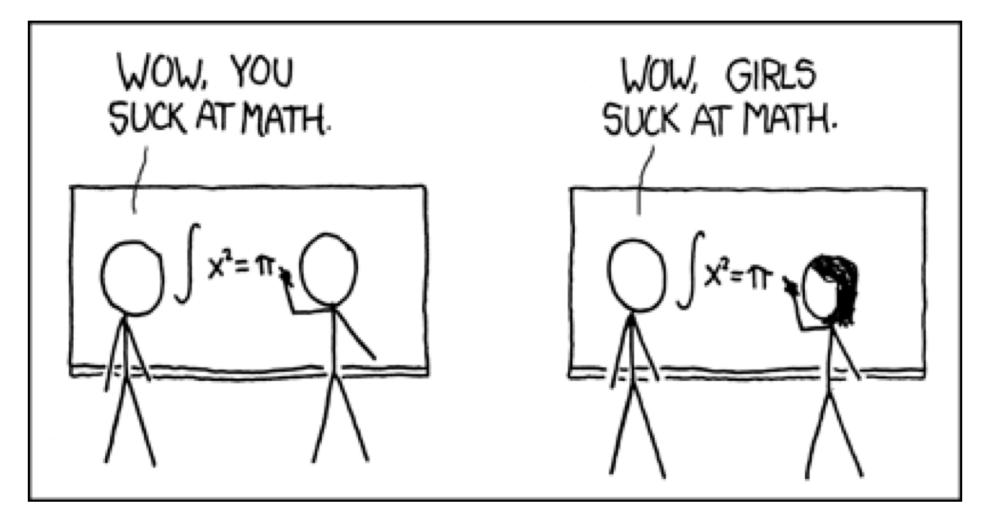
@emilyerinreid
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 ai-4-all.org

Images via Wikimedia Commons & Emily Reid unless otherwise noted

### Where I'm Coming From

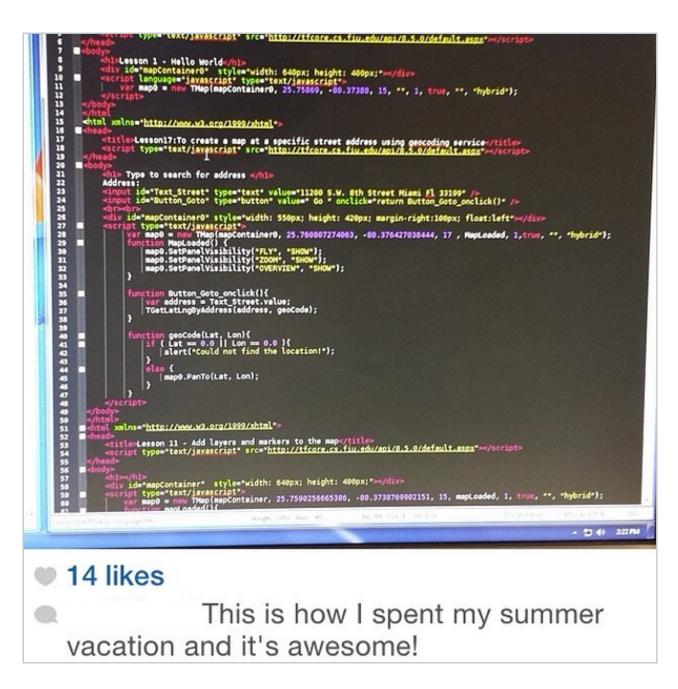


# Gerald



### The Students Who Changed My Life





### **Computer Science Education/D&I Work**

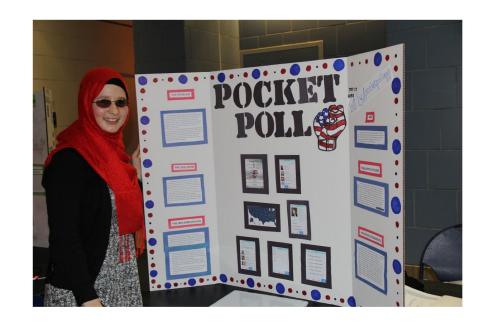


PALM BEACH TECH

UC Berkeley

### What Has Worked in my Experience

- 1. Belief in every student's capability to learn, create, and influence
- 2. Connecting to what students already care about
- 3. Building community
- 4. Understanding the value of role models & mentors
- 5. Growth mindset approach (vs. a "weed-out"-style course)
- 6. Emphasis on "future-proof" skills:
  - Computational thinking
  - Communication
  - Creativity
  - Leadership
- 7. Project-based learning



### We Could Be Doing Better

#### **Two Petty Theft Arrests**

reoffend.

Two Petty Theft A	rrests	Two Petty Theft Ar	rests
		VERNON PRATER	BRISHA BORDEN
	100	Prior Offenses 2 armed robberies, 1 attempted armed robbery	Prior Offenses 4 juvenile misdemeanors Subsequent Offenses
		Subsequent Offenses 1 grand theft	None
VERNON PRATER	BRISHA BORDEN		
LOW RISK 3	HIGH RISK 💦	LOW RISK 3	HIGH RISK 8

reoffend.

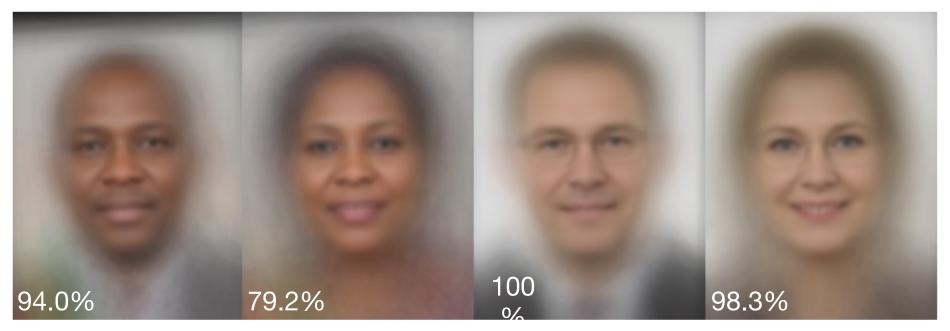
	stephani	stephanie williams			
My Network	d Jobs	Interests			
2,	513 results for ste	ephanie williams			
D	id you mean	you mean stephen williams?			
	me search results have been filtered to improve relevance. ow all results				

https://www.propublica.org/article/machine-bias-risk-assessments-in-criminal-sentencing

https://www.seattletimes.com/business/microsoft/how-linkedins-search-engine-may-reflect-abias/

### **One Example: Bias in Facial Recognition**

Darker-skinned Darker-skinned Lighter-skinned Male Female Male Lighter-skinned Female





### **Social Impact Opportunity**

Water

Al can help model global water supply to better respond to clean water shortages.



Agriculture

Al can help monitor the health of farms, in turn helping farmers to better address looming food shortages.



Climate Change

Al can help accurately model climate change to help communities respond.



Biodiversity

Al can help detect and monitor biodiversity and predict the spread of disease.



**Economic Opportunity** 

# 2.3 Million Jobs

Projected AI Job Growth, compared to 1.8 Million Jobs Replaced by AI by 2020



Projected new value for tech industry that will result from improving diversity

### **Student Examples: Akka Creativity Team**

### **Student Examples: Stephanie**



Stephanie is researching AI solutions for predicting the flow of contaminated water and created an AI club at her high school.

For every student that goes through our programs, they educate 14 more.

Sparking interest is not enough. We need to let students know they can create our future using technology. They are active participants.

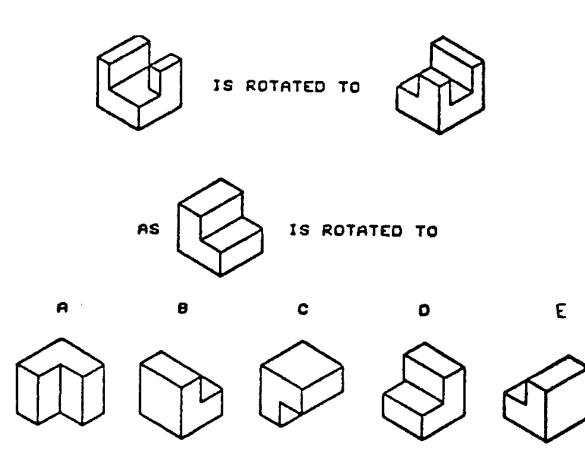


Message to students: Computer science is a **tool** to **solve problems** you care about.



# Gateway to STEM: Improving 3-D Spatial Skills

### What are spatial skills?



Guay, 1976

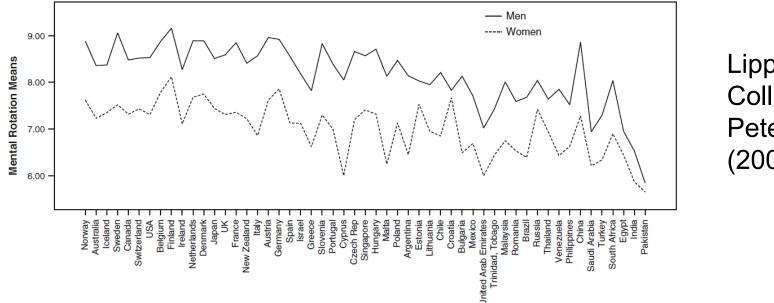
# Longitudinal Study

- Followed 400,000 students over a 30 year period
- A child's spatial skills level is a better predictor of STEM attainment than is their math skill level

Wai, Lubinski, & Benbow, 2009

# Who is at risk of poor spatial skills development?

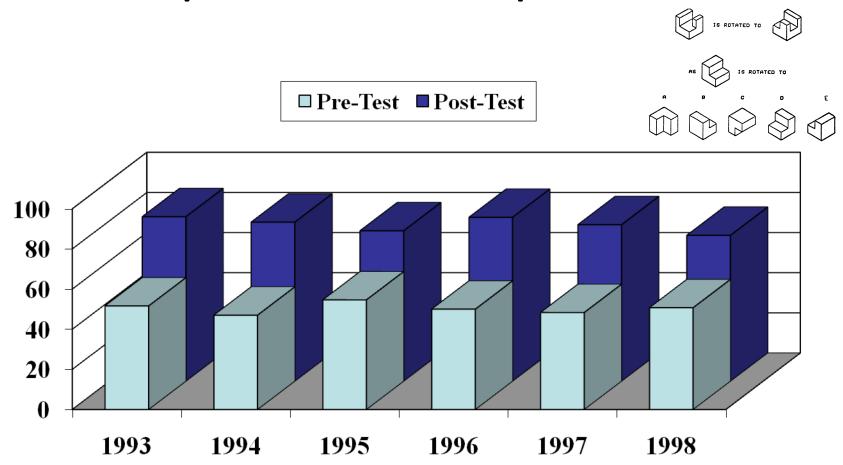
- Girls/women
- Students from low SES backgrounds



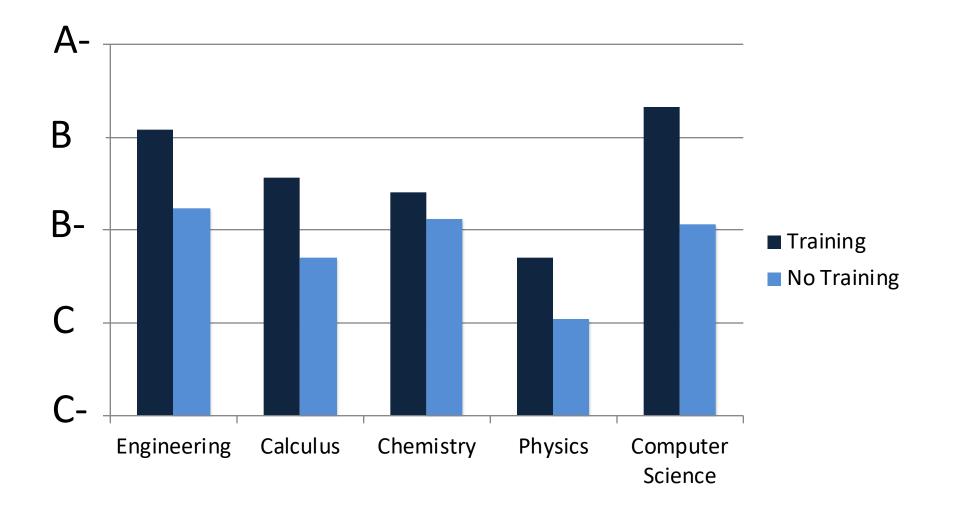
Lippa, Collaer, & Peters (2009)

### Spatial Skills can be learned!

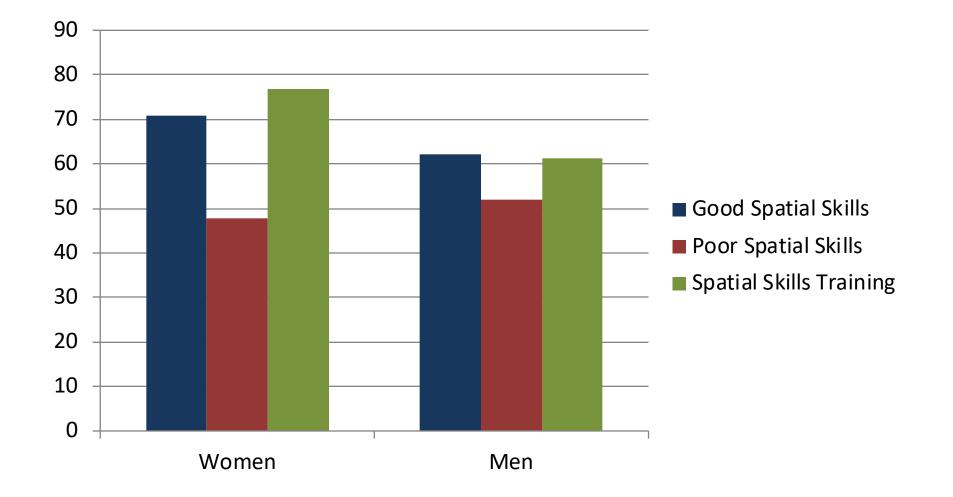
### Spatial skills improved



### Grades in STEM Courses Improved



### More Students Graduated from Engineering



# **Current Projects**

- Impact of spatial skills training on performance in:
  - Computer Science
  - Mathematics
  - Others.....

# Fewer students scored "Unsatisfactory" on state math assessment



## **Computer Science**

- Summer Camp for rising senior girls
  - Intervention helped girls from low SES groups learn to code
- First-year CS at the university level
  - Intervention helped students learn to code
  - Improved attitude about CS

### Teacher Quote:

Students love the blend of using software to watch visualizations of different types of transformations, modeling with snap cubes, and the change of pace of conversation with their peers about mathematics.

Teaching spatial skills has allowed some of my students, who struggle with traditional numeric operation and algebraic mathematics, to really shine and lead their peers. Several of my "struggling students" have taken leadership roles during these lessons; teaching their classmates, walking their peers through problems, and explaining what they are able to visualize.

# Conclusions

- Well-developed spatial skills are a key to success in STEM fields
- Spatial skills training has a positive impact on STEM performance
  - Especially for women and girls

# Acknowledgement

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  - Current:
    - USED IES Award #R305A17640-17A
    - NSF DUE-1818758
  - Prior Awards from NSF
    - DUE-9254207
    - DUE-9752660
    - HRD-0429020
    - HRD-1159252
    - DUE-1407123