

Computing Educators Oral History Project

***Andrea Lawrence* video snippet transcript**

Recorded November 2007

Available both via the ceohp.org website and on CEOHP's YouTube channel
<http://www.youtube.com/user/CEOHP#p/u/7/Hvji2h2g7O8>

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We recommend that this video transcript be cited as follows:

Andrea Lawrence, "Encountering preconceptions while a graduate student," a video interview from 2007, Computing Educators Oral History Project. Online: ceohp.org.

Encountering preconceptions while a graduate student

Well, one thing I remember about my time at Georgia Tech was that I didn't know how to dress. If I wore jeans they asked me to empty the trash — they thought I was the maid. If I wore a skirt and heels, they asked me to make copies — they thought I was an administrative assistant. I had to be anything but a middle-aged black woman in the Ph.D. program in computer science. So it was kind of fun in a way because I used to make a joke that when we had a meeting of the black graduate student association and I was there, they didn't have to call the roll. I was there. That story was a little funny, a little bitter at the time, but it inspired me to make strenuous efforts to encourage young women to pursue graduate degrees in computing for their Master's, for their Ph.D.s, for whatever kind of degree. I've worked really hard over the last fifteen years to get girls to go ahead and get those degrees.