Barbie has a Pink Laptop: Redefining How the World Views a Computer Scientist
-Discussion Points-

Think of a time in which you introduced yourself as a "computer scientist" and it was clear from the response that the other person had a different understanding of the title than you have. Describe the circumstances of the conversation…who was involved, work or social, etc.

How would you describe your definition? How would you describe theirs?

How did this "disconnect" influence the nature of the dialogue (or didn't it?)

How did it make you feel?

EMERGING VIEW	CONVENTIONAL VIEW
- Social; Have friends that aren't computers/online only - Creative; Design - Work *with* (*e.g.,* collaboratively, in groups) and *for* humans - Improve quality of life; Strive for world impact - Research; Innovation - Applications (*e.g.¸*tools for communication) - Mimic the behavior of machines to improve the situation - Make products for non-tech people and purposes	- Software/Coding-focused - Only works with 1s and 0s - Tech support - Geek - Math lover - Dresses badly - Male - Only performs routine, machine-like tasks - Independent - Anti-social - Works on hardware - Builds websites

Consider each of these two views of how we might define a computer scientist. For each one, answer the following question:

If we define each definition of a computer scientist as our "figure," let's determine what makes up its "ground"…What values, beliefs and assumptions influence each of these definitions?

EMERGING VIEW	CONVENTIONAL VIEW
- Seeing computing everywhere - Non-technical people gain exposure and attitudes to technology - Collaboration - Diversity is valued - More people breaking the conventional stereotype	- Many don't understand technology; fear - Popular culture's dated view and portrayal of computer science - Applied problems/solutions don't give computer science credit - Independent contributor

What can we do to shift the "value equation"—what actions might we take and what conversations could we have that would promote these values and beliefs, and in turn make the Emerging View more visible to others? This is not necessarily to replace one definition with the other, but to find ways to allow the best of both to co-exist. What might change in our environment as a result of these efforts?

- Be who we are
- Break stereotypes inside computer science world
- "So what? I *am* a computer scientist"—response to doubters
- Show the end result and how powerful computing can be
- Mandatory computer science at college level (just like science, writing, math, *etc.*); Georgia Tech is doing it!
- Middle school workshops
- Form diverse social groups; be public about your non-computer science interests
- Demonstrating what a great lifestyle it offers-- "It's a cool thing!"
- Programming that solves world problems