



New York Celebration of Women in Computing

Promoting the Academic, Social, and Professional Growth
of Technical Women and Their Allies in New York State

April 14-15, 2023
Lake George, NY

Friday, April 14

- 10:00 am – 6:00 pm Registration (Foyer)
- 12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Kick Off Lunch (Lake George)
- 1:40 – 2:40 pm ● Breakout Session 1
 - *Panel: My Job is So Cool (Lake George North)
 - *Talk: Navigating International Student Employment (Lake George South)
 - *Workshop: What they don't tell you about technical interviews (Long Lake)
 - *Workshop: Resume Critique (Tupper Lake)
- 2:50 – 3:50 pm ● Breakout Session 2
 - *Talk: Don't Drink My Ciphertext! Basing Cryptography on Biological Polymers (Lake George North)
 - *Talk: Simulating New Breast Cancer Immunotherapy: A Comparison of Two Different Models (Lake George North)
 - *Panel: IBM Women's Panel (Lake George South)
 - *Talk: A Semi-automated Approach to Generate an Adaptive Quality Attribute Relationship Matrix (Long Lake)
 - *Talk: Key Concepts in Tech Careers (and Tech Ethics) in 2023: AI-Generated Content, Open Source + Open Data, and Beyond (Tupper Lake)
 - *Talk: Automatic Playtesting of Dungeons and Dragons Encounters (Tupper Lake)
- 4:00 – 4:30 pm Hotel Check In
- 4:30 – 6:00 pm ● Career and Graduate School Fair (Albany Room and Ft. Edward Room)
- 6:00 – 7:30 pm ● Dinner & Keynote Speaker: Lori Bajorek (Lake George Room)
- 7:40 – 8:40 pm ● Breakout Session 3
 - *Talk: Comparison of Quantum Computing Algorithms to Mitigate DDoS Attacks (Lake George North)
 - *Talk: Code injection attacks and data exfiltration in IEEE Precision Time Protocol (PTP) (Lake George North)
 - *Talk: Notice Volunteer: A Match-making Platform for Volunteers and Service Organizations (Lake George South)
 - *Panel: Thinking About Graduate School? (Long Lake)
 - *Workshop: Researching as an Undergraduate (Tupper Lake)
- 8:50 – 9:50 pm ● Birds of a Feather
- 10:00pm - 12:00am ● Game Design Challenge (Albany Room)
- 10:00pm - 12:00am ● Trivia Night (White Lion Room)

Saturday, April 15

- 8:30 – 9:00 am Breakfast (Lake George Room)
- 9:00 – 10:00 am ● Keynote Speaker: E. Maria Boonie (Lake George Room)
- 10:00 – 10:15 am ● Poster Pitch (Lake George Room)
- 10:15 – 11:15 am ● Poster Session (Lake George Room)
- 11:25 am – 12:25 pm ● Breakout Session 4
 - *Talk: VPNs as a Security Risk (Lake George)
 - *Talk: Comparison of Neural Networks for Reverse Image Search (Lake George)
 - *Workshop: How boundaries can help avoid burnout (Long Lake)
 - *Workshop: Responsible Adult Things: Tech Job Survival Guide (Tupper Lake)
- 12:35 – 1:35 pm Lunch with Closing and Awards (Lake George Room)

Welcome!

Welcome to the 10th New York Celebration of Women in Computing! We have another great conference planned for this weekend and are so glad to see so many returning attendees along with many new participants.

As this is the 10th NYCWiC executed over 14 years, I've done a lot of reflection on what's changed since our first NYCWiC in Albany in 2011. Collectively, many of us have had babies, gotten married, graduated, started graduate school, changed jobs, learned new technologies, learned new skills, traveled to new places and made new friends and colleagues. Together, we've suffered the unimaginable and grieved the loss of so many people, experiences, and time. We've broadened our understanding of who people truly are, and how multi-layered and complicated we are.

The mission of NYCWiC hasn't changed—we are creating a space to celebrate women, people who identify as women, and men who support women in computing. Collectively, some things about being a woman in computing are better, but in many ways, we aren't done yet. There is so much more to do. Some of you have been part of NYCWiC in some role since the beginning and some are just joining us. Either way, thank you. Thank you for being part of this community and thank you for being the change. In the previous 9 NYCWiC conferences, no one ever reported back that they weren't affected by the experience or that our work is done here.

So thank you. Thank you for everything you've done before coming, this week, this year, this past 14 years. Thank you for taking advantage of all the opportunities we planned for you to meet new people and learn new things this weekend. And thank you for taking it away with you, to your school, to your family, to your job, where ever you're heading. And we hope to see you next year!

Sincerely,
Caroline Buinicky
Jennifer Goodall
Chris McEvoy

NYCWiC'23 General Co-Chairs



KEYNOTES





Friday Keynote

6:30 - 7:30 pm

Lori Bajorek

President and CEO of the National Esports Association (NEA)

Lori Bajorek is president and CEO of the National Esports Association (NEA), through which she champions esports in education. She pioneered what is considered the first educational program for esports and continues to build upon her 16 years of experience creating and implementing game-centered programs for enhanced K-12 learning, including establishing academic standards and developing curriculum. She continues to work globally with school districts and leading tech partners to further esports in education, elevating student engagement, attendance, and academic success. Microsoft named Bajorek an honoree of the 2022 Microsoft Legacy Project, alongside luminaries like Jane Goodall, Jane Fonda, astronauts, a Nobel Prize laureate, and athletic pioneers. In 2022 she also presented her first Tedx Talk, on the topic of esports in education. Under Bajorek's leadership, the NEA was ranked third in the country in 2021 among esports entities "on the cutting edge of gaming" by Yahoo! Sports.

Bajorek speaks often at events and conferences on several esports' topics, including education, engagement, inclusion, and women in gaming. She studied at Emma Willard School, a leading college-prep private school, and earned a bachelor's degree in child psychology from the University of Buffalo. She and her husband, Ronald, are the proud parents of two grown children — Alia, a professional comedian, and Trip, a talented gamer.



Saturday Keynote

9:00 - 10:00 am

E. Maria Boonie

Vice President, IBM Z Support and Client Care

Maria Boonie is the Vice President leading IBM Z Support and Client Care for IBM Z and LinuxONE. This includes taking care of clients that have built their business on the Z mainframe platform by providing top quality support and issue resolution. The Z platform delivers millisecond response time, extreme reliability, near 100% uptime and the world's best security in a hybrid cloud environment, including leading scalability, resiliency and availability to innovate with new business applications.

In addition to her current position, Maria is also the Senior Location Executive (SLE) for three IBM facilities located in New York's Hudson Valley region: Poughkeepsie, East Fishkill and Sterling Forest. Her SLE responsibilities include overseeing day-to-day operations at these IBM sites.

Maria joined IBM in 1986 as a TPF Systems Software Engineering Tester and subsequently held leadership positions in TPF, S/390 Customer Enablement, Quality, Test, Lab Services, IBM Z Development, IBM Z Offering Management, and now IBM Z Support & Client Care.

Her various leadership positions within IBM include: Vice President of Offering Management for IBM Z and LinuxONE Growth – work across the hardware and software stack to drive platform growth; Vice President of Operating System & Firmware Development – delivery of the z/OS portfolio and zFirmware; Director of Training and Technical University Delivery – providing deep technical training on IBM Systems products; Director of Integrated Solution Test – verifying IBM's solutions prior to general availability; Director of Quality/RAS/Product Introduction – responsible for the quality delivery of IBM products to our clients; z900 PDT Leader – managing the z900 product line; and Manager of Transaction Processing Facility (TPF) – responsible for the TPF Systems suite of software products.



WORKSHOPS



Friday 1:40 – 2:40 pm

(Long Lake) How to Crush the Technical Interview

Christy Schroeder, IBM-Marist Joint Study Program Director

You perfected your resume and secured an interview for your dream job, now what should you do to ace the technical interview and get the offer? Attend this session to learn from an employer's perspective, valuable hints and tips (and important dos and don'ts) to help you better prepare you for your technical interview and land the job.

(Tupper Lake) Resume Critique

This session allows students from all years who are seeking professional feedback on their resume to speak with an employer representative. Students can take advantage of this opportunity to share their resume with professionals and receive valuable advice on how to highlight their skills and experience to get noticed by employers.

Friday 7:40 – 8:40 pm

(Tupper Lake) Researching as an Undergraduate

Faiza Naeem, Undergraduate Senior, Farmingdale State College

When thinking of the future, students often focus on gaining internships for the summer, which can at times be challenging to attain. Research internships are a key pointer often missed by students. This workshop discusses research opportunities, their benefits and the application process, from the student perspective.

Saturday 11:25 am – 12:25 pm

(Long Lake) How Boundaries Can Help Avoid Burnout

Cathy Parker, Associate Director, Office of Career and Professional Development, University at Albany

Being engaged with your work is a good thing. When we engage with work but do not watch out for our wellbeing, we can overdo it and start feeling burned out. This session will talk about how maintaining boundaries can help improve your wellbeing and minimize the risk of burnout.

(Tupper Lake) Responsible Adult Things: Tech Job Survival Guide

Sara Gazoorian, Recruiter, Velan Studios

Clair Hayden, Programmer, Velan Studios

Jason Lee, Technical Artist, Velan Studios

Dan Yost, Tools Programmer, Velan Studios

Congratulations! You will be graduating soon and are looking for your first job in tech. Join us for a whirlwind tour starting with landing an interview, all the way through your first year on the job. Learn what to expect from people who have recently done it themselves. Plus lots of opportunities to ask questions.



BREAKOUT SESSIONS



Breakout Session 1, Friday 1:40 – 2:40 pm

(Lake George North)

Panel: My Job is So Cool

Panelists: *Lori Bajorek, President/CEO, National ESports Association*

Katie Towey, Physical Risk Geospatial Analyst, MSCI

Allison Moshier, Product Manager, IBM Z Security

Cassandra Sammartano, 3D Environment Artist, Velan Studios

Jesse Parent, Research Coordinator & Lab Manager, Orthogonal Research and Education

Mary Kavaney, Chief Legal Counsel, Affiliation Global Cyber Alliance

Moderator: *Michael Baumgardner, Assistant Dean, University at Albany's College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security & Cybersecurity*

Folks working in different computing-related roles will explain why their jobs are so cool and talk about the career paths that led them to their current positions. Come to this panel to get a glimpse of the variety of computing careers and career paths.

(Lake George South)

Talk: Navigating International Student Employment

Christopher Bock, Assistant Director of International Student Services, Marist College

Mary Jones- Executive Director of CareerServices, Center for Career Services, Marist College

Discuss challenges faced by International Students maneuvering the regulations and paperwork maze to gain employment in the United States while attending a college/university, or after successfully completing undergraduate or master's degrees in computing technology fields. Learn about the resources available to successfully seek, apply, interview, and become employed.

Breakout Session 2, Friday 2:50 – 3:50 pm

(Lake George North)

Talk: Don't Drink My Ciphertext! Basing Cryptography on Biological Polymers

*Ghada Almashaqbeh, Assistant Professor of Computer Science and Engineering,
University of Connecticut*

We introduce an interdisciplinary direction that combines biology with cryptography. We use proteins to build unclonable and consumable storage that self-destruct after a few data retrievals, and employ them in novel cryptographic applications. This work paves the way towards exploring new approaches and hardness assumptions for cryptography and security.

Talk: Simulating New Breast Cancer Immunotherapy: A Comparison of Two Different Models

*Kerri-Ann Norton, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Bard College
Tina Giorgadze, 4th Year Undergraduate, Bard College*

This research introduces a novel antigen distribution of Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cell therapy, a promising new cancer immunotherapy, to an existing 3D agent-based breast cancer model. Specifically, we include cancer cells that have graduated antigen distribution and compare the effectiveness of this therapy to a previous binary antigen distribution.

(Lake George South)

Panel: IBM Women

Panelists: Doris Conti, Vice President IBM Power Systems

Megan Hampton, IBM Z AI & Analytics - Deep Learning Compiler

Allison Moshier, Product Manager, IBM Z Security

Stephanie Rivero, z/VM Product Manager | Linux & Virtualization on IBM Z

Moderator: Christy Schroeder, IBM-Marist Joint Study Program Directory Program Director

Interested in pursuing a career in technology but have some questions? Attend our IBM Women's panel and get the honest answers you need. We'll share our experiences, provide insight, and give tips on how to navigate and succeed in the male dominated tech industry. All questions are welcome! Our panelists range in experience from entry-level up to the executive level and cover roles in AI, Security, Software Development, and Product, Project, and People Management. This will be a fun, engaging, and informative session to help you understand what it's like to be a working woman in tech.

(Long Lake)

Talk: A Semi-automated Approach to Generate an Adaptive Quality Attribute Relationship Matrix

Unnati Shah, Professor of Computer Science, Utica University

Requirements analysts need to invest significant time and non-trivial human effort to acquire knowledge for the newly discovered Quality Attributes (QAs) and influence among them. The proposed approach discusses how to acquire knowledge for QAs and construct an adaptive QARM from available unconstrained natural language documents and web search engines.

(Tupper Lake)

Talk: Automatic Playtesting of Dungeons and Dragons Encounters

Fiona Shyne, 4th year Undergraduate, Union College

Matthew Anderson, Professor of Computer Science, Union College

TJ Schlueter, Professor of Computer Science, Union College

Dungeons and Dragons is a game where a player, the Game Master (GM), creates content for a set of other players. It is challenging for GMs to predict the difficulty of potential combat encounters. To aid GMs in balancing combat, we create a simulation environment where virtual agents automatically play-test potential encounters and predict difficulty.

(Tupper Lake)

Talk: Key Concepts in Tech Careers (and Tech Ethics) in 2023: AI-Generated Content, Open Source + Open Data, and Beyond

Brian McCorkle, undergraduate senior, University at Albany, SUNY

Angela Risius, graduate, Justus Liebig University

Ankit Grover, undergraduate senior, Orthogonal Research and Education Laboratory

Valeria Schanke, undergrad senior, University of Chile, School of Law

Amanda Nelson, graduate, University of Michigan

Bradly Alicea, Director, Orthogonal Research and Education Lab

Jesse Parent, graduate, Orthogonal Research and Education Lab, JOPRO Research

How are critical developments such as AI -Generated content (DALL-E, GPT-X) and Open-Data efforts changing the tech landscape? We investigate these alongside our efforts in Open Source Ethics & Communities, including our Sustainability Auditing Tool for developers, and other key issues shaping the landscape for those in technology-centered careers.

Breakout Session 3, Friday 7:40 – 8:40 pm

(Lake George North)

Talk: Comparison of Quantum Computing Algorithms to Mitigate DDoS Attacks

Meghan O’Loughlin, 4th year undergraduate, Marist College

Harrison Zheng, 4th year undergraduate, Marist College

Casimer DeCusatis, Associate Professor, Marist College

Quantum computers can rapidly classify DDoS traffic using the Max Cut algorithm. We describe two implementations of the Max Cut algorithm; the Variational Quantum Eigensolver and Quantum Approximate Optimization Algorithm. We also compare the speed and accuracy of these quantum approaches with a classical brute force approach.

Talk: Code injection attacks and data exfiltration in IEEE Precision Time Protocol (PTP)

Elizabeth Herrera, 4th year undergraduate, Marist College,

Luke Jacobs, 4th year undergraduate, Marist College

Casimer DeCusatis, Associate Professor, Marist College

The IEEE 1588 standard, known as Precision Time Protocol (PTP), is an emerging candidate for high precision timing and clock distribution networks. We present experimental results that demonstrate new types of covert channel communications, which allow PTP protocol to be used for data exfiltration and other network communication that violates the implemented cybersecurity policy.

(Lake George South)

Talk: Notice Volunteer: A Match-making Platform for Volunteers and Service Organizations

Manasa Bala, CEO, CTO, and Co-Founder of Notice Volunteer, Emma Willard School

Karissa Gu, President and Co-Founder of Notice Volunteer, Emma Willard School

Angel Wang, COO and Co-Founder of Notice Volunteer, Emma Willard School

Notice Volunteer is a cross-platform mobile app that matches people to the volunteer opportunities they are passionate about with local service organizations that need their time, contributions, and skills. Our talk will explore the company’s experience developing and deploying enterprise-grade software, building client networks and brand identity, and more.

(Long Lake)

Panel: Thinking About Graduate School?

Erica Shudt, PhD Student, Educational Policy and Leadership, University at Albany

Crystal Jones-Howe, PhD student, Information Science, University at Albany

Prairie Goodwin, Visiting Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Vassar College

Jack McDaid, Master’s student, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Moderator: *Cathy Martensen, Lecturer, Marist College*

What is grad school like? Why should I go to grad school? How do I get into grad school? Panelists will use their own experience to help any questions that students might have about applying and attending graduate school.

Breakout Session 4, Saturday 11:25 am – 12:25 pm

(Lake George)

Talk: VPNs as a Security Risk

Gina Marie Roma, undergraduate student of Cybersecurity, Marist College

Danielle Scalera, undergraduate student of Cybersecurity, Marist College

Casimer DeCusatis, Associate Professor, Marist College

Virtual Private Networks (VPNs) are commonly known for the many features they can provide in use of basic security. However, VPNs can also provide a false impression of security, and unknowingly increase security risks. In our research, we tested a few features, so as to display these security risks.

Talk: Comparison of Neural Networks for Reverse Image Search

Esther Wekesa, 4th year undergraduate, Marist College

Casimer DeCusatis, Associate Professor, Marist College

Reverse image search using machine learning has become a widely available technique, using plug-ins for modern search engines to access information for cybersecurity analysis. Twenty-four reference images are tested, and the results are used to recommend best practices for OSINT digital image analysis.



POSTER SESSION



Poster Session, Saturday 10:15 – 11:15 am (Lake George Room)

Predicting AirBnB Rents in NYC: A Machine Learning Competition

Elizabeth Henry, Dropbox, M.S of Applied Analytics, Columbia School of Professional Studies

Using AirBnB listings data, this competition requires a model that best predicts the price of AirBnB rental prices in NYC. The lower the Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE) the better the model. Data cleaning and transformation are required to create dependent variables to be tested using different regression methods.

The Apple Watch Feedback Loop: Examining motivation, self-talk, & running output for one month

Nicole Baz, 1st year graduate student, The Graduate Center, City University of New York

This poster aims to examine the impact of wearable tracking technology on individual users via a case study of the author's own experience. As more people utilize wearable tech, the tracking of health data has been presented as a "pro," or as a beneficial tool for the user to be more empowered about their own health (Apple.com, 2022). However, considerations such as accuracy and impact of targeted push notifications have been less present in the conversation around wearable tech.

Brain Drain: A Looming Problem for New York State IT

Sarah Lauser, 1st year PhD student, University at Albany

Employee separation and replacement are well-known to be costly to any enterprise, and the cost is magnified in the public sector due to its highly bureaucratic environment and rigid procedural constraints. Government employers must therefore prioritize the retention of existing employees, so my research proposes to identify factors affecting voluntary turnover in New York State's Information Technology (IT) title series via a survey and longitudinal study of turnover behavior. My poster will discuss some of the literature review, hypotheses, and proposed methods and analysis to be used in this research effort.

Predicting Diabetes Diagnosis using Bayesian Data Analysis

Jahnavi Bonagiri, 3rd year undergraduate, University at Albany

Nidhi Vadner, 3rd year undergraduate, University at Albany

Labika Baral, 3rd year undergraduate, University at Albany

The Pima Indians are a group of North-American Indians who are one of the most at-risk populations for diabetes. This poster demonstrates various data models that depict accuracy of a person obtaining diabetes. Analyzing and improving accuracy of these models can help predict the risk of obtaining diabetes early on.

Magic Murder Mystery: An Android Application*Abigail Kotar, 3rd year undergraduate, Vassar College**Emily Granville, 3rd year undergraduate, Vassar College*

Magic Murder Mystery is an app designed by two Vassar College students. It tells a fun, interactive story for the user supported by a network-like data structure and customizability options supported by enums so the user can insert themselves into the story and enjoy the app.

Academic Achievement: Difficulty underrepresented and first-generation students encounter relating to technology-based tools in their transition to college*Mayra Santiago, 3rd Year PhD student, University at Albany**Dwi Sari, 1st Year PhD student, University at Albany*

The study aims to identify gaps in technological capital that expose inequity in the use and comprehension of technology and to track the corresponding effect on measurable college persistence among historically underrepresented and first-generation high school seniors and incoming college freshmen in New York State.

Supporting Women in Computing Presents: The Past, Present, and Purpose*Sidra Naru, 4th year undergraduate, Farmingdale State College, SWiC Co-President**Faaiza Naeem, 3rd year undergraduate, Farmingdale State College, SWiC Co-President**Amna Sajid, 3rd year undergraduate, Farmingdale State College, SWiC Vice-President**Chelsea Rosario, 4th year undergraduate, Farmingdale State College, SWiC Co-Treasurer**Sherin Joseph, 2nd year undergraduate, Farmingdale State College, SWiC Co-Treasurer**Catherine Arevalo, 3rd year undergraduate Junior, Farmingdale State College, SWiC Secretary**Dr. Mary Villani, Associate Professor, Farmingdale State College, SWiC Co-Advisor**Dr. Ilknur Aydin, Associate Professor, Farmingdale State College, SWiC Co-Advisor*

Supporting Women in Computing (SWiC) is a club here at Farmingdale State College. The objective of the poster created by the board is to showcase previous impacts, current events and doings, as well as future goals for the club. As membership grows so do the plans for SWiC!

NSBE (National Society of Black Engineers) at Marist College*Hodo Duale, 3rd year undergraduate, Marist College*

The National Society of Black Engineers is a nonprofit organization based in the United States. Founded in 1975, NSBE aims to promote the aspirations of students and professionals gearing toward engineering and technology careers. NSBE frequently offers students the opportunity to apply for scholarships and attend various conventions held across the nation; not only improving their quality of years in college, but also developing their professional and networking skills. Marist NSBE plans to focus on developing students' professional and technical skills they can utilize in the future.

Machine Learning Assisted Anomaly Detection in SDN

Hanna Sharkey, 3rd year undergraduate, Marist College

Bowu Zhang, Assistant Professor of Computer Science, Marist College

This research seeks to extend these solutions and improve efficiency when detecting and defending Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) attacks. In particular, we will investigate various machine learning algorithms such as Deep Neural Network, Support Vector Machine, and Random Forest in detecting network anomalies in Software Defined Network (SDN).



OTHER SESSIONS



Career & Graduate School Fair, Friday 6:00 - 6:30 pm

(Albany Room and Ft. Edward Room)

The Career Fair takes place on Friday, April 14th. Participating in the Career Fair will enable you to meet some of New York State's best and brightest computing students. Students at the conference will be looking for full-time jobs, co-op positions, and internships. You don't want to miss this!

Table	Organization
1	CEHC
2	Marist
3	Velan
4	Broadcom
5	IBM
6	FBI Albany
7	Northeastern
8	NYS ITS
9	Rational
10	redShift Recruiting
11	Tanium

Birds of a Feather, Friday 8:50 – 9:50 pm

We are crowdsourcing our Birds of a Feather Sessions this year! Birds of a Feather (BoF) sessions are meant to be informal discussions around a shared interest. Some examples from previous NYCWiC's include How to be an Ally, Ethics in Tech, and What Inspired You to get Into Tech. We will be asking participants to suggest and vote on which BoF you would like to lead and/or participate in during lunch on Friday. So get your ideas ready! We will update the program with the most voted on Bof's and their locations before Breakout Session 3.

Game Design Challenge, Friday 10:00 pm - 12:00 am

(Albany Room) Limited Space! Must Sign Up at Lunch!

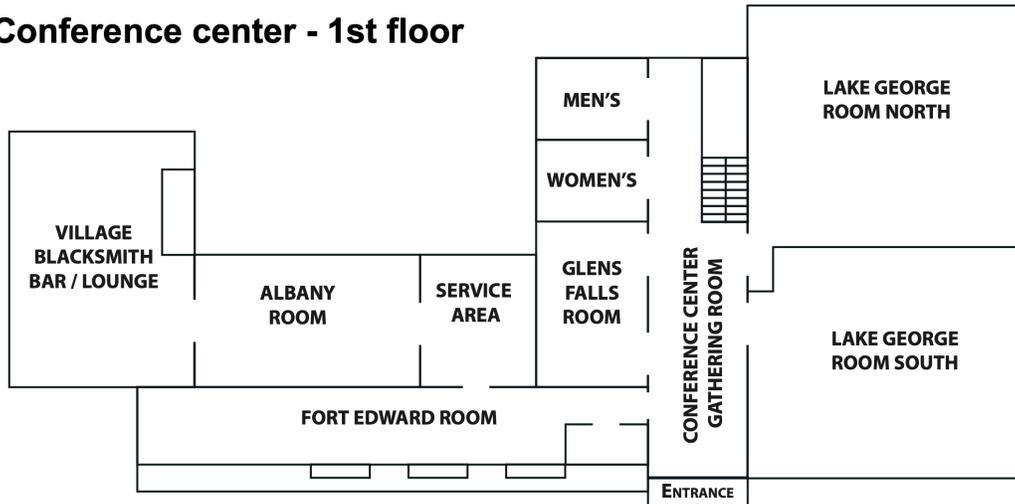
Moderator: Rachel Maille - Sr Game Designer Blizzard Entertainment

In the game design industry, designers specialize in different types of design. A brief overview will be presented of the different specializations followed up by a fun team-wbased workshop on how to make your own game modifying an existing game using design goals. Making fun games requires some structure and is also fun.

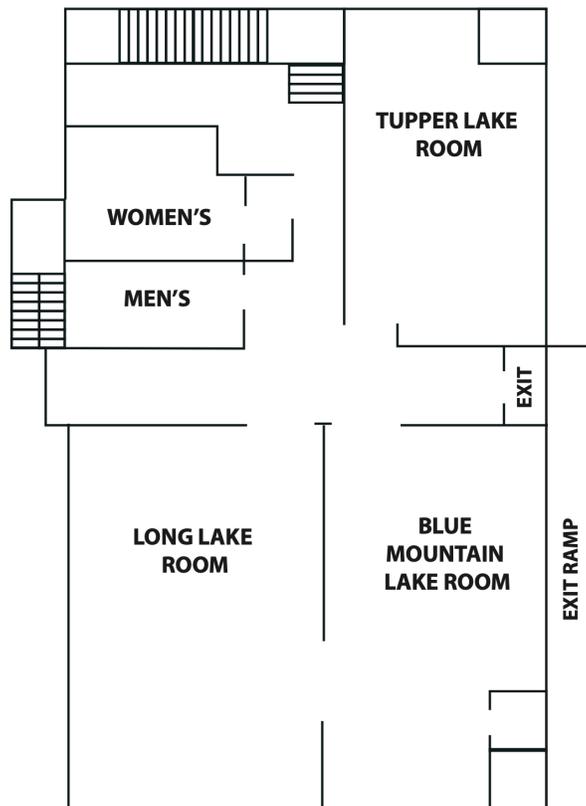


FORT WILLIAM HENRY
HOTEL

Conference center - 1st floor



**Conference center -
basement**



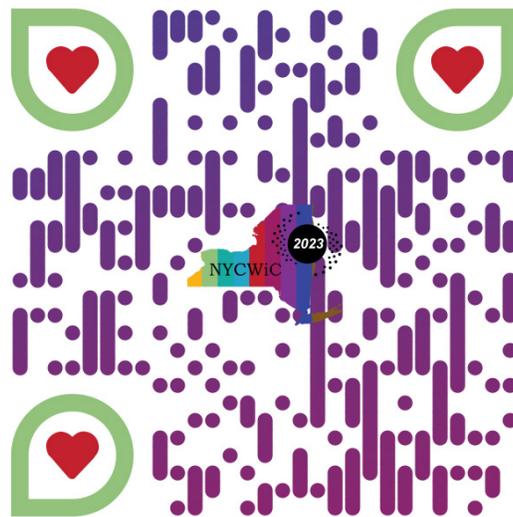
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Table Topic leaders
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Platinum


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