

Grace Series Talks are Women Empowerment
Talks for Grad and Undergrad Students

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GRACE SERIES



FEATURING

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Top 15 Reasons to do a PhD in Computer Science

ABSTRACT

The representation of women and underrepresented minority communities has increased a great deal in Computer Science. However, in many disciplines of Computer Science such as Data Science and Cyber Security, it is vastly underrepresented. Far fewer women have been elected to IEEE and ACM Fellows than men when it should be around 50%. In addition, fewer women are in positions of power both in academic institutions (e.g., Engineering Deans) and in the C Suite in corporations as well as on corporate boards. This is partly because of the number of women at first level management is far fewer than men. Then you must rise up the ladder from that pool, and so women are already at a disadvantage. As a result, we do not have enough women who are senior researchers and practitioners to support younger women in getting promotions and awards such as IEEE and ACM Fellows and various Technical Recognition Awards. As a result, women not only lose out on recognition, but also lose out on high-paying jobs. One way for women and underrepresented minority communities (or for that matter any community) to have an edge is to not only do a BS and MS in Computer Science (CS) but also a PhD in CS. While it takes around three more years to complete PhD after a two-year MS degree, a PhD will open many doors in different sectors, including in academia, industry, and government, but also it enables one to obtain high-paying jobs. A high-paying job is a must, especially for every woman. In this presentation, I will provide a brief background on how I got here and how I benefitted by doing a PhD. I will then provide 15 reasons as to why a person, especially a woman or one from an underrepresented minority community should go beyond a BS and MS and get that PhD. Having a PhD will not only enable a person to get a high paying job, but also make him/her intellectually challenged, provide more opportunities for lucrative.

management positions and get those prestigious awards and fellowships. We are living in a complex world that is rapidly evolving due to technology. While there are numerous career opportunities in areas like Data Science and Cyber Security, the competition is also extremely intense around the globe. As the population gets more educated, the challenge is how do you differentiate yourself from the others? I believe that having a PhD will give you the edge over your colleagues when you compete for most jobs. It also gives you the flexibility to move from industry to government to academia like I did and have the choice to select the projects that you are passionate about.

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