**What is Verou?**

If some of you are just as inquisitive as I am, you might have wondered why our class is named Verou. You have to admit, it’s quite a funny word. I mean, would it have a certain significance? Turns out, the answer is yes. Sorry, BeCode, there was never any doubt in my mind that you did things for a good reason. I hope you are up for some instant

**Biography**

Verou is the lastname of Lea Verou, I’m guessing our class name was inspired by. Let’s have a closer look at who she is, what she has accomplished in her career and what her legacy means for us today.

• This colourful personality is an infamous web developer that we should all learn about

• Verou holds master in science degree in Computer Science from MIT

• Elected w3ctag member, CSS WG Invited Expert, HCI researcher at MIT CSAIL. These are basically a bunch of anagrams confirming her status in the community as Queen of CSS

• Founder of many open source projects, PrismJS probably being the most popular one

• She has given over 100 invited talks at web design/web development conferences

• Published countless articles and the bestselling book CSS Secrets

• Equally loves both coding (standards) and (UX) design

Factoid 1.

Verou is originally from the picturesque island Lesbos is Greece, Lea being short for Michailia , And she now resides in Boston, MA

Factoid 2

As aspirational web developers we know better than anybody else that developers aren’t necessarily nerdy social akward and maybe even boring people. Verou demonstrates she is no different, because a quick Google searches shows that Verou is a high-end foodie Her 1-year- old daughter Zoe is sure to follow her mom into her footsteps.

**‘90**

Now, lets dig a little deeper into Verou’s career. Verou had always been a creative mind. Making purses out of kitchen sponges rather than playing with store-bought toys, she was always more interested in making stuff than using something already made.

When she was 10 she went to Athens to visit an uncle that worked at Microsoft. At the time, Windows 95 was the pinnacle of technology. Verou spent her time there poking around the computer, using the apps such as Paint. Not before long she would only do homework, sleep and code. Screen time was to no concern for people then, it seems, and good thing it wasn’t because Verou grew up to become one of the most successful women in the tech industry.

It didn’t start out that way tho. Growing up in a small, close-minded town, Verou had a limited social life as she usually was the kid everybody made fun of. In her teens she ended up quitting programming for a while because of this, only to turn to other nerdy pursuits such as mathematics or technology. This, of course, didn’t last long because, as Verou describes herself “you can never escape who you are”.

**'00 - Studies and Early Career**

Inspired by mother's PhD research at MIT and early passing at the age of 60 Verou came to the realisation that another day isn’t always guaranteed and it was time to make a move. After achieving a bascherlors degree in science in Greece she applied successfully applied at MIT for a Masters degree in computer science. Meanwhile Verou also freelancing for graphic design and web development projects, and co-founded a startup called Fresset Ltd.

**'10-20 - Later Career**

In her later career, Verou kept busy and released several open source projects, such as PrismJS, Dabblet, Mavo (which is also my research at MIT), Prism (a syntax highlighter literally used all over the Web), -prefix-free, Awesomplete and many many others. On top op that Verou also published her bestselling book CSS Secrets.

**Current career**

Verou is currently pursuing a P.h.D at MIT with a focus on human-computer interactions, specifically end-user programming for making web applications. AT 34, she is an elected W3C Technical Architecture Group (TAG) member and Invited Expert within the W3C CSS Working Group, which is a pretty big deal as there are only 7 of them worldwide. They are responsible for designing the CSS language. In her spare time Verou is giving tech talks or writing articles, about, you guessed it, web development.

**Legacy**

So, what’s important to remember here? A quick recap. Verou originates from a small town, yet she made it to the top of her field at a fairly young age, and I bet you she’s not planning on slowing down any time soon. She went From Advanced CSS and Graphic Design to MIT. She has done an killer job at Building a Personal Brand through online presence. Be sure to have a look at her website, showing off her sense of aesthetics and technical expertise. Being a Recognized Woman Expert in Tech, she managed to crush gender stereotypes in what we still know to be a man’s world.

Most importantly, Verou thinks outside of the box and isn’t hesitant to share her knowledge. She goes for practical and userfriendly solutions, those users that’s us guys, without ever losing sight of aestethics.

I found Lea Verou to be quite inspirational and I hope her story will motivate you to pursue your ambitions, become more proactive, stop procrastinating, and say no to the usual excuses. To continue on what Jordi said yesterday, we’ll all encounter more difficult moments in programming, as we also do in life. It’s not about what we encounter, but how we deal with it. No giving up, guys! Even after SASS. On that philosophical note, I give the word back to Bert.