

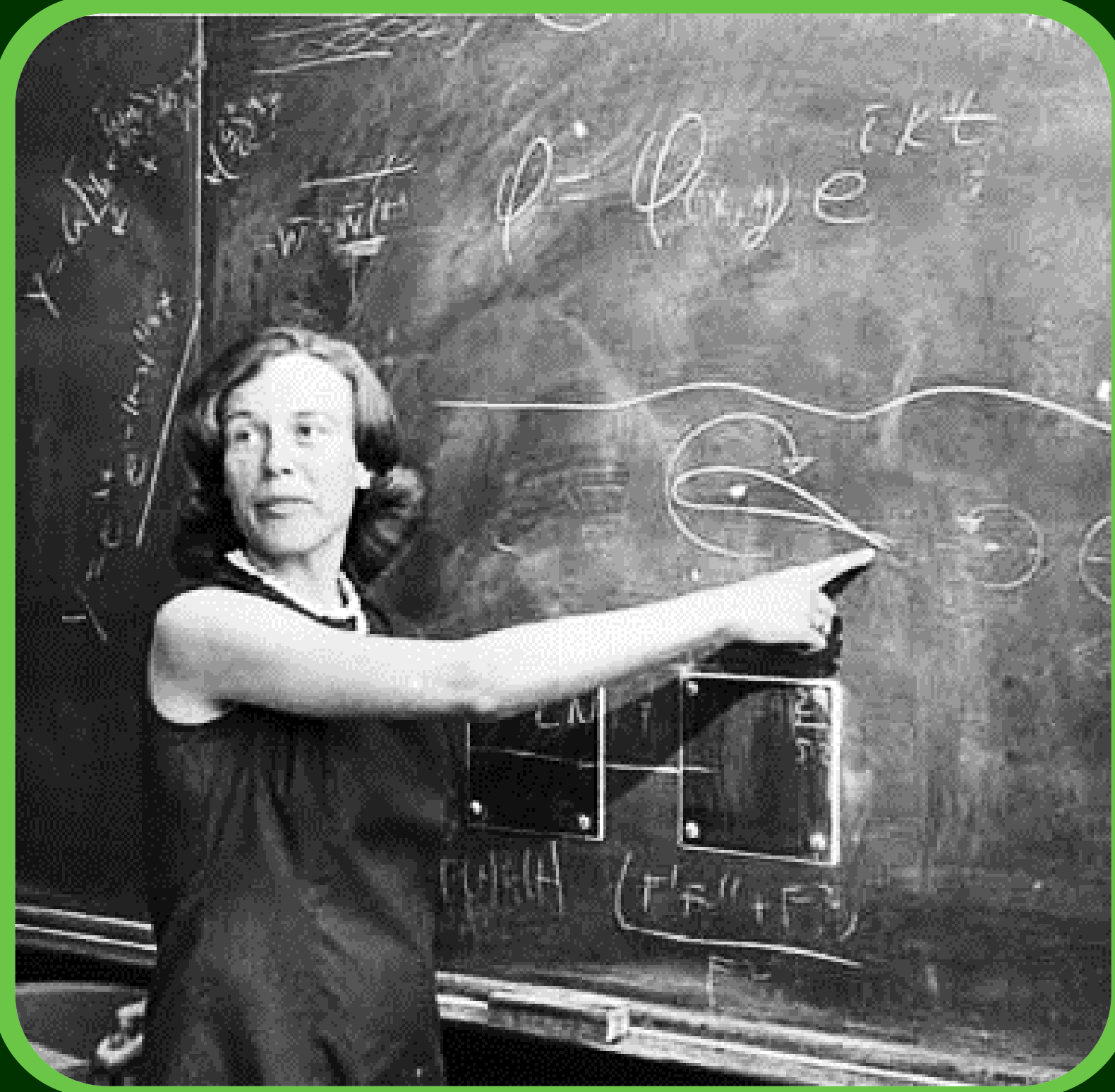
Women



*Sheila
Widnall
SecAF #18*



- 1960-1993 Student, Professor, and Assoc. Provost at MIT
- 1993 Became the first female Secretary of the Air Force
- 2003 Served on Columbia Space Shuttle disaster board of investigation



In 1956, she was one of only 23 women in her freshman class at MIT. After graduating with her Bachelor's, Master's, and Ph.D., she became a professor and eventually led the institute as its Associate Provost. Dr. Widnall has been described as a "ROCK STAR," a "TRAILBLAZER," and an "INSPIRATION."

From Dr. Widnall's famous Digits of Pi speech: "We all have unconscious attitudes that impact our effectiveness... when I was a young professor, I walked in to give the first lecture and was met by two new students. One knew who I was. The other thought I was the professor's secretary and was impressed I was able to give the lecture. I did in fact eventually become a Secretary—but that is another story..."



*What paths will you trailblaze that
no one has traveled before?*

Trailblazer