

# WOMEN IN STEM PANEL

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Caroline Sonnen

# How?

- Women in Tech Panel in Seattle
  - Five women talking about their careers specifically in the medical field
  - Their own experience and their journey
- I left completely inspired

# When?

- Started planning a few months ago, when my dad came up with the idea
- We started working with administration and faculty and eventually we had exactly who and what we needed
- Date set for February 15<sup>th</sup>

# What?

- Six women specifically in STEM fields
- We wanted them to share about their experiences in general but specifically as women
- BUT we also wanted it to be available for male students at EC as well

# Why?

- Often young men are heavily encouraged to pursue STEM careers
- Look around you....there is one other girl in this class – THAT IS THE PROBLEM
- We wanted to get the message of what STEM careers can really look like (not just the stereotype) and not just for men
- BUT we wanted this information available for all people to better introduce STEM

# Fears?...No one would come...

- I was very interested in CS as was Shubhra (APCS alumni) but not everyone is interested...
- We worked on spreading the word through announcements, posters, etc. but would this be enough?

# YES!

- We had around 90 students come and actively listen to the speakers
- Thank you to all who came 😊

# Patricia Carroll – Data Scientist at The Climate Corporation

Studied physics, math and chemistry and has a doctorate in astronomy

Ms. Carroll is a data scientist at a company called The Climate Corporation. Climate Corporation uses "big data" to help farmers make the best decisions for their crops in a constantly changing climate and environment. Her job is to build computer models to predict the risk of corn diseases so farmers don't spray pesticides unless they really need to. Ms. Carroll has climbed Mt. Rainier twice.



**Favorite Gadget/Tech:**  
Neural Networks

**Favorite Quote:**  
"The universe is full of magical things  
patiently waiting for our wits to grow  
sharper."

*- Eden Phillpotts*



# Elizabeth Driscoll – Business Development Manager at Aerojet Rocketdyne

Ms. Driscoll earned her M.S. in mechanical engineering at the University of Huntsville in Alabama and a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering, magna cum laude, from the University of Dayton.

Has 13 years of experience working in spacecraft propulsion,

Business Development Manager at Aerojet Rocketdyne

In April, she will relocate to Washington, D.C. to launch a new venture in small satellites.

She also loves to play soccer and rock climb.

**Favorite Gadget/Tech:**  
My Kindle

**Favorite Quote:**  
“To boldly go where no one has gone before.”



# Katie Van Zyl – Director of Product Management at GoDaddy



undergraduate degree at the University of Washington where she studied history.

She had an unusual path to a career in tech, but says she has loved every minute of it!

She believes you need to enjoy a balanced life so she makes time to do things she loves. Mrs. Van Zyl loves to watch her kids do what they love, travel, eat good food, listen to live music and play volleyball every week.

**Favorite Gadget/Tech:** One of my favorites has always been the Kindle, but I also really love Sonos speakers and tech that unlocks so many scenarios, for example, how GPS location can be leveraged.

**Favorite Quote:** "Rarely are opportunities presented to you in a perfect way. In a nice little box with a yellow bow on top. 'Here, open it, it's perfect. You'll love it.' Opportunities—the good ones—are messy, confusing and hard to recognize. They're risky. They challenge you."  
– Susan Wojcicki, CEO of YouTube

# Vanessa Feliberti – Partner General Engineering Manager

Boston University (ENG '93) with a master's degree in software engineering and from MIT (EECS '91) with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering and computer science

Partner General Engineering Manager for Microsoft's Office 365 Team, is responsible for a team of 80 engineers focused on innovation in the time continuum.



## **Favorite Gadget/Tech:**

I don't really have a favorite gadget. My favorite app is Spotify because I love music and my kids create playlists for me so I can keep modern.

## **Favorite Quote:**

"If failure is not an option, then neither is success."

– Seth Godin

# Paige Ormiston – Native Design

2011 EC alumni. Ms. Ormiston is a user interface designer and front-end developer at Native Design in San Francisco where she turns digital products into beautiful experiences. Ms. Ormiston graduated from Western Washington University with a B.A. in design and a B.S. in computer science. She loves video games and spends most of her free time playing/reading, about/learning, about/making video. Games are what got her into computer science in the first place.



- **PAIGE ORMISTON**
- **Favorite Gadget/Tech:**  
Super Nintendo—all the games were written in assembly code! Crazy!!

# Mary Ellen Smith – Corporate VP of Worldwide Operations at Microsoft

She is responsible for global operations supporting order-to-cash processes for essentially all Microsoft products and services. Primary functions include contract processing of more than \$80 billion in revenue, launch and enablement processes for mobility and cloud services, and hardware forecasting. She leads a global organization of 1,300 Microsoft professionals and 8,000 external contract providers. Under her leadership, Microsoft's regional operating centers have all been consistently recognized as the Best Place to Work in each of their respective locations.

Ms. Smith earned an MBA with a specialization in Logistics from Wright State University, and a BSBA from Bowling Green State University with a dual major in Operations Management and Procurement and Materials Management.



**Favorite Gadget/Tech:** My Microsoft Surface!

**Favorite Quote:** I think this message applies to personal life as well: "Most people think of success as riding one wave, but the reality is, it is the ability to catch multiple waves that lasting companies are built on."

– Satya Nadella, Microsoft CEO

# What went well...

- Lots of overall interest!!
- We had a really strong variety of speakers to really help keep everyone engaged
- The snacks were also a hit 😊

# What will we do differently?

- Larger location...
- Snacks at the end
- Possibly an evening event so more people from different schools can come

# What I learned...

- I learned a lot about different forms of organization
  - Talking to different professional and even through their assistants
  - Many different aspects of planning with
    - Parking spots
    - Snacks
    - Exact information for working professionals



Thank you! The school is going to make this panel an annual event so keep an eye out next year!!