**Stefanie Centi**

I graduated from Rutgers University in 1986 with a Degree in Comp Sci. and later went on to complete my masters in Comp Sci at FDU. After graduation, I started working at a small company that built software for schools to help with such tasks as attendance, grading, etc. In addition to fixing bugs and taking customer service calls, I also traveled out of state to install the system and teach faculty how to use it. That was quite a stretch for me as I was very quiet and had never traveled on my own before. From that job, I worked at AT&T as a contractor. At that time, I knew I wanted to focus on C development so I worked hard learning everything about it and when my contract came to an end I went to a company called General Logistics International, that built logistical software for Mitsui OSK Lines. The systems that were built by that company were all built using the latest technology at the time such as C++ and Sybase and it instilled my interest in object oriented design.

The experience that I gained there, I took with me when I went back to AT&T to work on their teleconference system. Even though that system was built using C code, it was designed using a state machine and introduced me to concepts such as using event driven design to manipulate the bridge that was used to connect the calls together. The state machine used pointers to functions that were executed when certain events occurred. I found that system so interesting in how it used such a simple coding language that C to build a complex system that was beautifully written. I have always enjoyed art and believe that aesthetics is important in the design of software just as it is in the design in everything we use.

When my contract ended at AT&T, I went into the financial industry to work at Salomon Brothers. I worked on their Portfolio management system and learned all about the stock exchange. Even though, our office was in New Jersey, I needed to go into the city often to work with the traders on the trading floor to get requirements for and to install and test the system. It was a great experience working in the city and to work in the financial industry you need to be a bit tough. Even though I was certainly a lot more mature with a lot more confidence in my development skills it certainly was a learning experience for me as I still was somewhat quiet and could still be intimidated by strong personalities. I ended up working there five years and would have continued but it was a very long commute and after the birth of my second child it was no longer feasible. Upon returning from maternity leave, I started a new contract at Telcordia, where I learned Remedy and worked on their system until my contract ended.

At that point, I started working at a startup company call Pivotech Systems. That company was where I started using Java. With my interest in object oriented analysis and design, this was a perfect fit. As it turned out, with a little less than a year at that company, I had my third child. I soon found that the pace of a startup was a bit more than I was looking for at the time so I took time off to raise my children as my other two children were entering elementary school and I wanted to be available to help with with homework and other things I felt were important or them to know.

Since I have been home, I have several different interests that have kept me busy in addition to taking care of my home and family. Although, after starting this class most of these are on the back burner. 

Sustainability and Environmental Issues – Growing up in a rural area of New Jersey, I have always loved the outdoors so the environment was always close to my heart. These days, more than ever, I think it is important for products, buildings and everything that we build or use with sustainability in mind. I would like to get involved or work with a company that makes products or even in local government to work on projects that don’t impact the earth in a negative way and, even better, contribute to helping it heal. I believe we are in dire need of major changes quickly but I have no idea where to start or how I can help.

Health & Fitness - I feel as if the daily grind we are all being put through is truly a detriment to our health. Including brain health! I am really interested in the brain and the research is fun to read about.

Sports - playing and watching my children play. Particularly, I like softball and tennis and my daughters like soccer and softball.   
  
Music - I have always loved to listen and even play music. I played the sax in high school and even in the marching band at Rutgers. My favorite music genres are Alternative, Rock and Jazz but I like all types of music. 