Replacement for the 9/14/16 UVIC Media Release re Lynn Conway

Lynn Conway, 9/15/16 + update of 9/16/16

1. Original UVIC Media Release:

http://www.uvic.ca/home/about/campus-news/media-releases-tips/2016+nov-2016-honorary-degree-recipients+media-release

"Lynn Conway (honorary doctor of engineering, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m.) is a computer scientist and engineer who helped to pioneer modern information technology. She's also a leading activist for transgender rights.

Conway invented the technique that paved the way for the first superscalar computer in the 1960s. A decade later she, with Carver Mead, revolutionized the world of integrated systems and they co-authored the influential textbook, Introduction to VLSI Systems. Conway taught at MIT and developed an Internet-based system for silicon chip prototyping, leading to today's models for semiconductor design.

Fired by IBM in 1968 as she underwent gender transition, Conway rebuilt her career in "stealth mode"—taking a new name and starting over as a contract programmer. Since 1999 she's been a leading voice for the transgender community and was included in Time magazine's 2014 list of 25 transgender people who have influenced American culture."

[Stats: words, chars, chars-w-spaces = 147, 804, 947]

2. Meta-Analysis

Original Story-Arc: By visualizing the media release as a Vonnegut graph [1,2], and noting that most people do not process the time-sequencing of dates when skim-reading, we predict that the media release will generate the following statistical-mean reader-take-away impression**:**

Many years ago, Lynn did pioneering research in computers and microelectronics at IBM . . . but IBM fired her when she transitioned . . . She started all over again as a contract programmer in a secret new identity . . . went on to became a leading voice for the transgender community . . . and made it into Time magazine's 2014 list of 25 influential trans people . . .

Thus we see that, unfortunately, the original story-arc projects and drapes Lynn's story onto common 20th-century media-tropes regarding the transgender life-experience. It does so by omitting Lynn's current title and university affiliation and by inversions and reversals in the unfolding historical events . . . thus giving the false impression that:

(i) Lynn's contributions were all made before she transitioned.
(ii) after she transitioned she could only find work as a contract programmer.
(iii) her major activity post transition was trans-advocacy
(iv) her major recognition as a trans-advocate was 'getting mentioned in Time magazine'.

Actual Story-Arc: The historical record will reveal the following:

Lynn made pioneering contributions to computer architecture at IBM . . . sadly, IBM fired her when she transitioned in 1968 . . . a gritty survivor, she started all over again as a contract programmer in a secret new identity . . . rising rapidly through the ranks, she went on to become internationally famous for her research innovations in VLSI silicon chip design and production . . . coming out after she retired as Prof. of EECS, Emerita at UM, she went on to become a leading voice for the transgender community . . .

(i) Lynn began a promising career as a young researcher before she transitioned
(ii) IBM fired Lynn when they learned she was transitioning.
(iii) starting all over again in stealth, Lynn quickly rose into the top-ranks of computing research.
(iv) She gained international fame for her work in VLSI chip design and fabrication methods.
(v) Coming out on retirement, Lynn went on to become a leading figure in trans advocacy

3. Revision to replace original UVIC Media Release re Lynn Conway:

Working backwards from the actual historical story-arc in (2.), we generated a corrected replacement for Lynn's entry in the original UVIC's media release, which reads as follows:

"Lynn Conway (honorary doctor of engineering, Nov. 9 at 10 a.m.) is a computer scientist and engineer who helped to pioneer modern information technology and a leading advocate for transgender rights.

Conway did foundational research in computer architecture at IBM in the 1960s. Sadly, IBM fired her in 1968 as she underwent gender transition, and she had to rebuild her career in "stealth" in a new name and identity. A decade later she was teaching at MIT, co-authoring with Carver Mead the seminal textbook, *Introduction to VLSI Systems*, innovating an Internet system for rapid chip prototyping that led to today's models for semiconductor production, and receiving many high honors for that work.

Conway came out upon retirement in 1999 as Emerita Professor of EECS at University of Michigan. A tireless voice for trans people, she was included in Time's 2014 list of 25 transgender people who have influenced American culture."

[Stats: words, chars, chars-w-spaces = 150, 784, 931]
Note that the revised version is actually shorter than the original, thus will easily swap it out.

4. References:

[1] Maya Eilam, "The Shapes of Stories by Kurt Vonnegut":
http://www.mayaeilam.com/2012/01/01/the-shapes-of-stories-a-kurt-vonnegut-infographic/

[2] Video of Kurt Vonnegut lecturing "On the Shapes of Stories":
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oP3c1h8v2ZQ

5. Update of 9/16/16:

On 9/16/16, the UVIC news folks very graciously replaced the original posting with the revised one.