LYNN CONWAY

2717 Beyster Building University of Michigan Ann Arbor, MI 48109-2121 | http://www.lynnconway.com
| http://ai.eecs.umich.edu/people/conway/Memoirs/VLSI/SSCM/VLSI_Reminiscences.pdf
| http://www.huffingtonpost.com/lynn-conway/the-many-shades-of-out_b_3591764.html

SUMMARY

Lynn Conway is Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Emerita, at the University of Michigan.

After earning her BS and MSEE from Columbia University's School of Engineering and Applied Science, Lynn joined IBM Research. There she made foundational contributions to computer architecture, including invention of multiple-out-of-order dynamic instruction scheduling. Fired by IBM as she underwent gender transition in 1968, Lynn started her career over again in 'stealth mode', soon becoming a computer architect at Memorex.

Joining Xerox Palo Alto Research Center in 1973, Lynn invented scalable MOS design rules and elegantly simplified methods for silicon chip design, became principal author of the famous Mead-Conway text, and pioneered at M.I.T. the teaching of these methods – launching a world-wide revolution in VLSI microelectronics design in the late 1970's.

Lynn also invented an internet-based e-commerce infrastructure for rapid chip-prototyping in 1979, spawning the modern "fabless design" plus "silicon foundry" business model for semiconductor design and manufacturing. Institutionalized by DARPA, the resulting 'MOSIS' system enabled rapid development of thousands of chip designs, triggering a wave of major startups in the 80's and beyond.

As Assistant Director for Strategic Computing at DARPA, Lynn next crafted the meta-architecture and led the planning of the Strategic Computing Initiative, a major 1980's effort to expand the technology-base for modern intelligent-weapons systems.

Lynn joined the University of Michigan in 1985 as Professor of EECS and Associate Dean of Engineering, where she continued her distinguished career. Now retired, she lives with her engineer husband Charlie on their 23 acre homestead in rural Michigan. They've been together for 26 years.

Specialties: Computer science, systems architecture, electrical engineering, microelectronic design, research management, engineering education, human rights advocacy.

EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN   *1985 - Present*
Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Emerita

DEFENSE ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY (DARPA)   *1983 - 1985*
Asst. Dir. for Strategic Computing

XEROX PALO ALTO RESEARCH CENTER (PARC)   *1973 - 1983*
Research Fellow and Manager, VLSI Systems Area

MIT   *08 / 1978 - 01 / 1979*
Vis. Assoc. Professor of EECS

[While on sabbatical from Xerox PARC]

MEMOREX CORPORATION   *1969 - 1973*
Senior Staff Engineer

IBM CORPORATION   *1964 - 1968*
Member of the Research Staff

EDUCATION

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK   *1961 - 1963*
B.S., M.S.E.E. , Electrical Engineering, Computer Science

M.I.T.   *1955 - 1958*
Physics

WHITE PLAINS HIGH SCHOOL   *1952 - 1955*

HONORS

Fellow of the IEEE; Research Fellow, Xerox Corporation; Pender Award of the Moore School, University of Pennsylvania; Wetherill Medal of the Franklin Institute; Major Educational Innovation Award, IEEE EAB; National Achievement Award, Society of Women Engineers; Secretary of Defense Meritorious Achievement Award; Member, U.S. Air Force Scientific Advisory Board; U.S. Air Force Academy Board of Visitors, Presidential Appointment; Engineer of the Year Award, NOGLSTP; Stonewall 40 Trans Heroes; Electronic Design Hall of Fame; Computer Pioneer Award, IEEE Computer Society; Member of the Corporation, Emerita, Draper Laboratory; Fellow Award, Computer History Museum; Honorary Doctorate, Trinity College; Honorary Doctorate, Illinois Institute of Technology; Member, National Academy of Engineering.

INTERESTS

Hiking, Whitewater canoeing, Motocross-racing, Trail-riding, Backpacking, Cross-country skiing, Snowshoeing, Hunting, Fishing, Wildlife observing, Natural landscaping, Amateur astronomy, Photography, Travel

ASSOCIATIONS

IEEE, ACM, AAAS, ASEE, National Academy of Engineering