

# Home



Dr. Jennifer Polack is UMW's premier academic in the field of iOS development – the operating system that drives iPads, iPhones and iTouches. In addition to teaching sought-after CSPC courses, Dr. Polack works with talented students chosen for their skill and creativity to develop apps that are used in Virginia public schools.

She has long held the reputation as the go-to professor for graphics and game programming courses, and she is continually encouraging students to think outside the box. She knows that math, science and technology fields pave the road to an innovative future.



## Bio

My name is Jennifer A. Polack and I am a Full Professor of [Computer Science at the University of Mary Washington](#). I was born and raised on [Long Island, NY](#). I did the majority of [primary and secondary education](#) in [Mineola, NY](#). I go back every year, especially because I attend the Egan Family Picnic, which has been going on for at least 50 years.

### **B.S. Bachelor's of Science .**

Next I was off to the [University of Scranton](#), PA where I almost quit computer science but my Mom urged me to continue with it (actually she said if I was going to study education then I could go to a public University). In my sophomore year while taking Data Structures, my professor [Fernando Nevada](#) told me he didn't think computer science was my thing. I was glad to prove him wrong and tell him when I unexpectedly found out we were both [FIE Conference Chairs](#) in 2010. He didn't even remember me but we are friends now and enjoy laughing together. Two years later I received my B.S. in computer science from the University of Scranton.

### **M.S Master of Science**

While I applied to a ton of jobs, 1992 was a horrible year to graduate and find employment. But on a bright note, I was accepted to [Pace University](#) and got a full ride as a research

assistant in downtown NYC. The only problem was I needed to start the day after I graduated from Scranton and moved back to Long Island. It was a very exciting year commuting on the LIRR and subways, meeting new friends (Juan Trinidad) and of course studying computer science. I found out very quickly I wanted to get my PhD and put my M.S. on the fast track. Fourteen months later I had my M.S. in Computer Science.

### **PhD: Doctorate of Philosophy**

Once again the day after I graduated I was already at a new University starting my Ph.D. at the [University of South Florida](#), Tampa. In fact I was already down in Florida starting my new path when I was suppose to be walking graduation at Pace University. Once again I was fortunate to get a full-ride and served as a lecturer at the [University of South Florida in Lakeland](#). In December of 1997 I earned my Ph.D. in Computer Science and Engineering.

### **Drinking Buddies**

My six years in Florida were amazing and where I found out I love to teach, I love warm weather and played soccer with some great friends, called the drinking buddies. Actually the team still exists and Chris & Tracey my former buddies own the [Tampa Bay Club Sport](#).



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But when the classroom closes down for the summer you'll find Dr. Polack with a different kind of student – at the pool. Between coaching swim team and giving lessons, Dr. Polack swims through life from May to September. In fact, if you have a class with her during the summer you would find that her summertime perfume is chlorine. Now she's just waiting for waterproof iPod technology...

Dr. Polack is a devoted parent with two young girls, Elizabeth and Brianna. She moved to Virginia in 1998 after completing her PhD at the University of South Florida. Even though she loves living in Fredericksburg, she still happily returns to Florida or further south each winter to enjoy the sun & sand. When she is not spending her free time at the pool, she enjoys reading on her iPad, scrapbooking (digital of course!), and spending time with her family and friends.



Isn't she cute!

*Did you know...?*

...Dr. Polack earned her PhD through thousands of hours perfecting her skill in "The Art of BS" with friends, family and stupid people? Stop by her office some time and see if it's true.

...she's from Long Island New York?

...she loves elephant's?



## The good Old Days