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**Title:** Women of Los Alamos: A Brief Overview of the Contributions of Women to the Laboratory 1943 - Present

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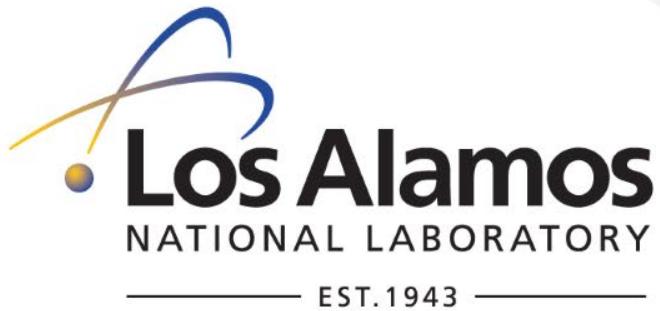
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# Women of Los Alamos

**A Brief Overview of the Contributions of Women to the  
Laboratory: 1943 - Present**

Alan Carr  
Madeline Whitacre

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Slide 1

# The Manhattan Project



*“Some of the wives were scientists in their own right, and they, of course, were in great demand, but with labor at a premium we could put to good use everyone we could get,*

*whether as secretaries or as technical assistants or as teachers in the public school that we started for children.”*

**General Leslie Groves**

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**Charlotte Serber**

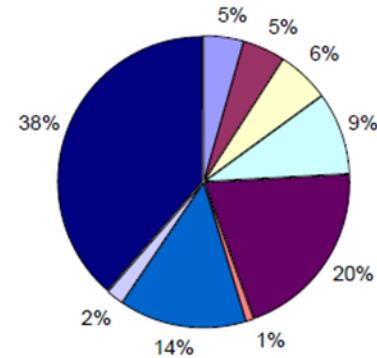


**Priscilla Duffield**

*"To have been a working entity on the Project is something we [the women of Los Alamos] don't forget easily. Even at the time, it was impressive. We were doing a war job in a period when people were needed badly."*

**Charlotte Serber**

**Distribution of Worker Categories  
(WACs and Women Civilians)**



- Physicists, Chemists, and Scientific Technicians
- "Computers" and Mathematicians
- Doctors, Nurses, Biochemists, and Medical Technicians
- Other Technical Workers
- Secretaries, Clerks, and Other Administrative Staff (Supply and Procurement)
- Intelligence and Security
- Personnel, Housing, and Domestic Services (Household and Laundry Workers)
- Teachers and Childcare Providers
- Unknown

The Women of Project Y: Working at the Birthplace of the Bomb – Ellen McGehee

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# The Early Cold War



Beverly Wellnitz

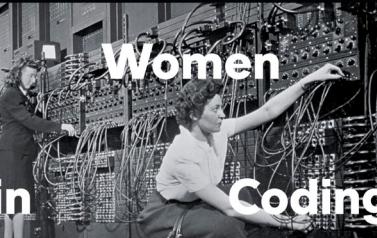
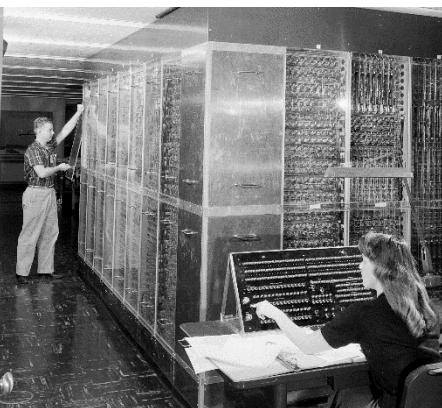
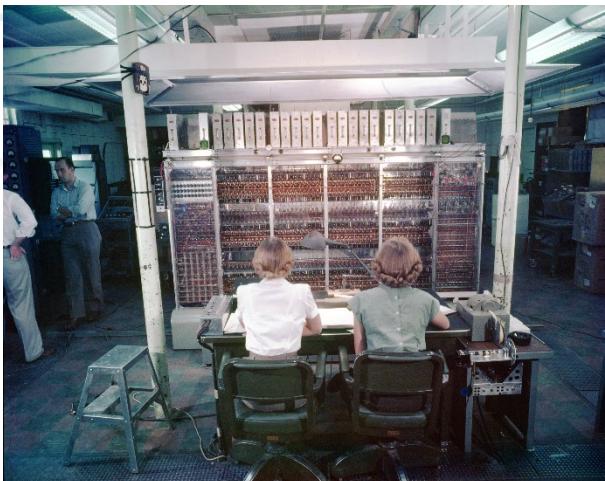


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By Clive Thompson

# Secret History of Women in Coding

*"Young women deserve to see that computational physics is not merely a field where women can succeed, but a field that was in fact founded by women like Mary Tsingou Menzel and Arianna Wright Rosenbluth."*

**Adam Iaizzi**

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STANFORD UNIVERSITY  
STANFORD, CALIFORNIA

REF ID: A1234567890  
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March 26, 1950

Mr. W. W. Drake, Jr.,  
Employment Supervisor  
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory  
Box 1663  
Los Alamos, New Mexico

Dear Mr. Drake:

In answer to your letter of March 13, I am glad to write to you on behalf of Miss Arianna Wright.

Miss Wright came to Stanford last year to work with me on a postdoctoral AEC fellowship. Since that time I have had fairly regular contacts with her. On my suggestion she has worked out, without much help, the diamagnetic corrections to be expected in nuclear induction experiments on hydrogen gas and helium. Her result for helium differed from that published by Anderson, who admitted, upon correspondence, that he had made an error; she showed definitely good judgment and reliability in carrying out this piece of work.

Miss Wright has great natural intelligence; she thinks clearly and is so well capable of formulating her thoughts that she was entrusted this quarter with the teaching of a rather advanced course in analytical dynamics.

Considering her youth, she has acquired a considerable amount, both in her knowledge of theoretical physics and in mastering the mathematical technique. While rather independent and not demanding supervision, she is certainly willing to accept it. Judging from her personality, I should think that she is able to supervise, although I have no direct evidence to support this statement.

Miss Wright is a very fine young person, tactful and honest, and I am sure that she would make a valuable addition to the theoretical group at Los Alamos.

FB:alb

Yours very sincerely,  
**F. Bloch**  
F. Bloch  
Professor of Physics



**inside LANLINSIDE**

## Radiation Generating Device Team wins Jane Hall inaugural safety award

July 13, 2018



Pictured from left are Dennis Mims, Michelle Lee, Gilberto Estrada and Associate Director of Environment Safety and Health Bill Mairion.

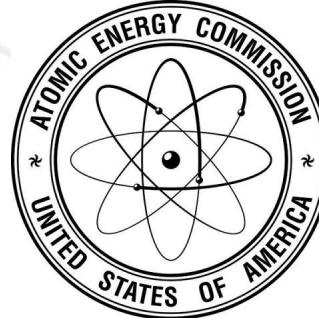
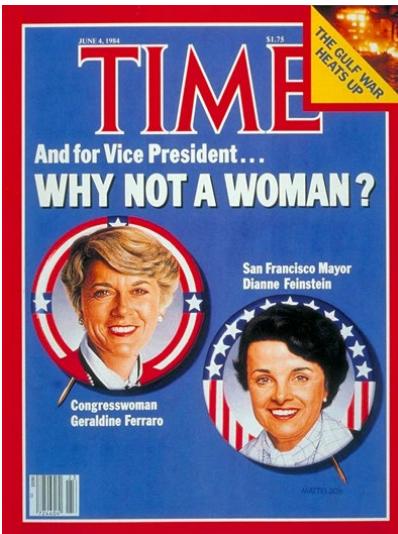
The Radiation Generating Device Team — comprising the Radiation Generating Device (RGD) and Source Control Office (SCO) — was recognized with the inaugural Jane Hall Award for Safety Improvement this year. Team members are program lead **Michelle Lee**, **Matthew Carradine**, **Gilberto Estrada** and **Dennis Mims**.

The RGD Team is an important and diverse group of four staff members and one student within the Radiation Protection Division (RP-D) of our Environment, Safety and Health Directorate (ADESH), and they collaborate with organizations that own and use RGDs and radiation sources lab wide to ensure adherence to governing federal regulations.



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# The Late Cold War



Atomic Energy  
Commission  
1946

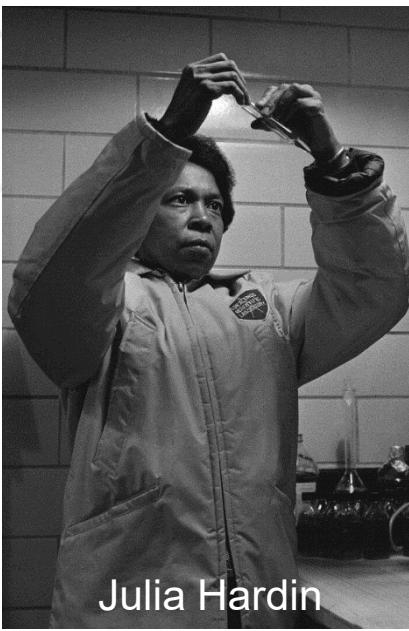


Energy  
Research and  
Development  
Administration  
1974



Department of  
Energy  
1977

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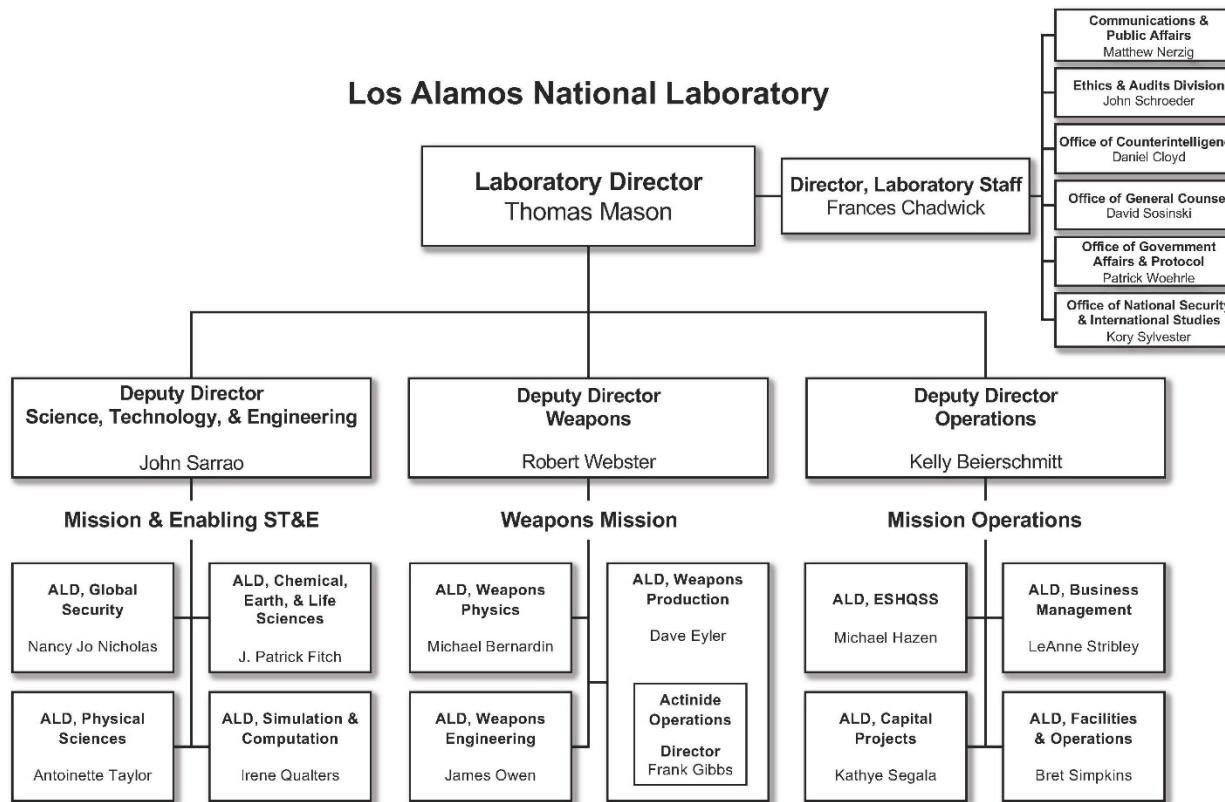
*“At least initially, I think you have to prove yourself. You have to work harder and longer. You have to try to dispel the old stereotype that says women can’t be depended upon.”*

**Darleane Hoffman**



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# The Modern Laboratory



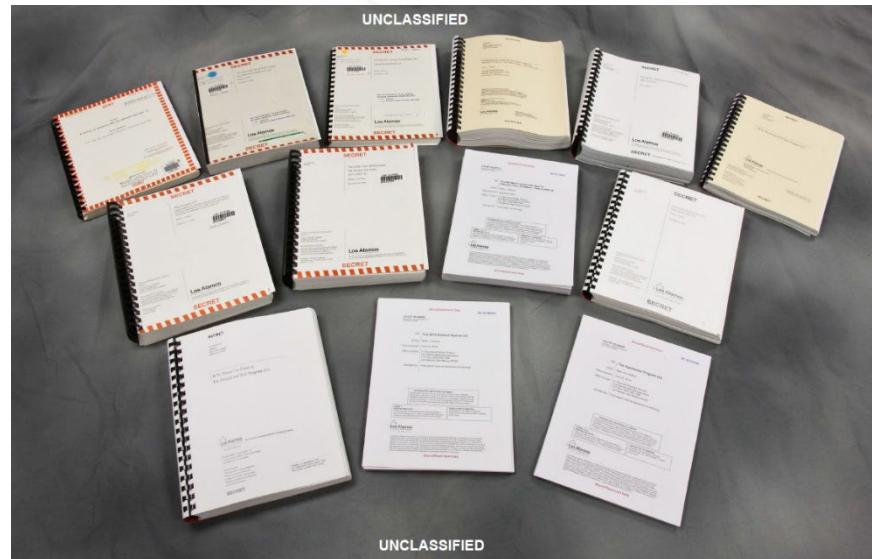
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Betty Perkins



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# Q & A

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# Special thanks to ...

Marie Harper, Matthew Hopkins, Adam Iaizzi,  
Whitney Spivey, Daniel Alcazar, John Moore, and  
the History Committee.

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