

Dr. Janet Renwick, Professor of Computer & Information Sciences at UAFS

Education and pathway:

When I first went to college, I realized I wanted to be a college professor. But the professors that seemed to have the biggest impact had spent time in industry. And I knew that a PhD was required. At the time, graduate school wasn't really a possibility anyway. So, I graduated with a degree in management, got a job, and then another job. Computers were just becoming commonplace, and I was asked if I was willing to learn how to program. I discovered I was good at it. Solving problems was fun! I worked as a consultant with an accounting firm doing custom programming and earned a master's degree at night. I sat down on my 30th birthday and realized if I was ever going to pursue a PhD, it was time. A year later I had earned a graduate fellowship to Indiana University. I spent 4 years on campus and earned my PhD in Management Information Systems. I accepted a position at the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville, taught there for 11 years, and then came to UAFS in 2006. I enjoy teaching topics at the intersection of "technology" and "life." We can develop great systems – but if people don't want to use them, our efforts are lost. We must also acknowledge that technology impacts people in good and bad ways. There are so many opportunities for women in technology and I'm excited to help in that endeavor.

Favorite classes in high school: All of them. I loved school. Orchestra and speech team were favorite activities.

Favorite classes in college: Economics

Dream job: If I wasn't a college professor, I'd like to be a civil engineer. Bridges fascinate me!

Advice:

Study hard and be tenacious. It will serve you well. Don't be afraid of hard work. There is much to be accomplished and you have capabilities far beyond what you realize.

