Empowerment of People with Disabilities

Raja Kushalnagar
Gallaudet University

Richard Ladner
University of Washington

Susan Rodger
Duke University

Ather Sharif
University of Washington
(moderator)

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Computing Research Association
Widening Participation

Ather Sharif (he/him)

Ph.D. Student, University of Washington

- B.S., Software Engineering, GIK
- M.S., Computer Science, SJU
- Software Engineer, Comcast
- Founder, EvoXLabs

athersharif.me

Fun things I do: I eat. (& Quad Rugby)

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Raja Kushalnagar

BS, Physics

MS, CS

JD, Law

LLM, IP

PhD, CS

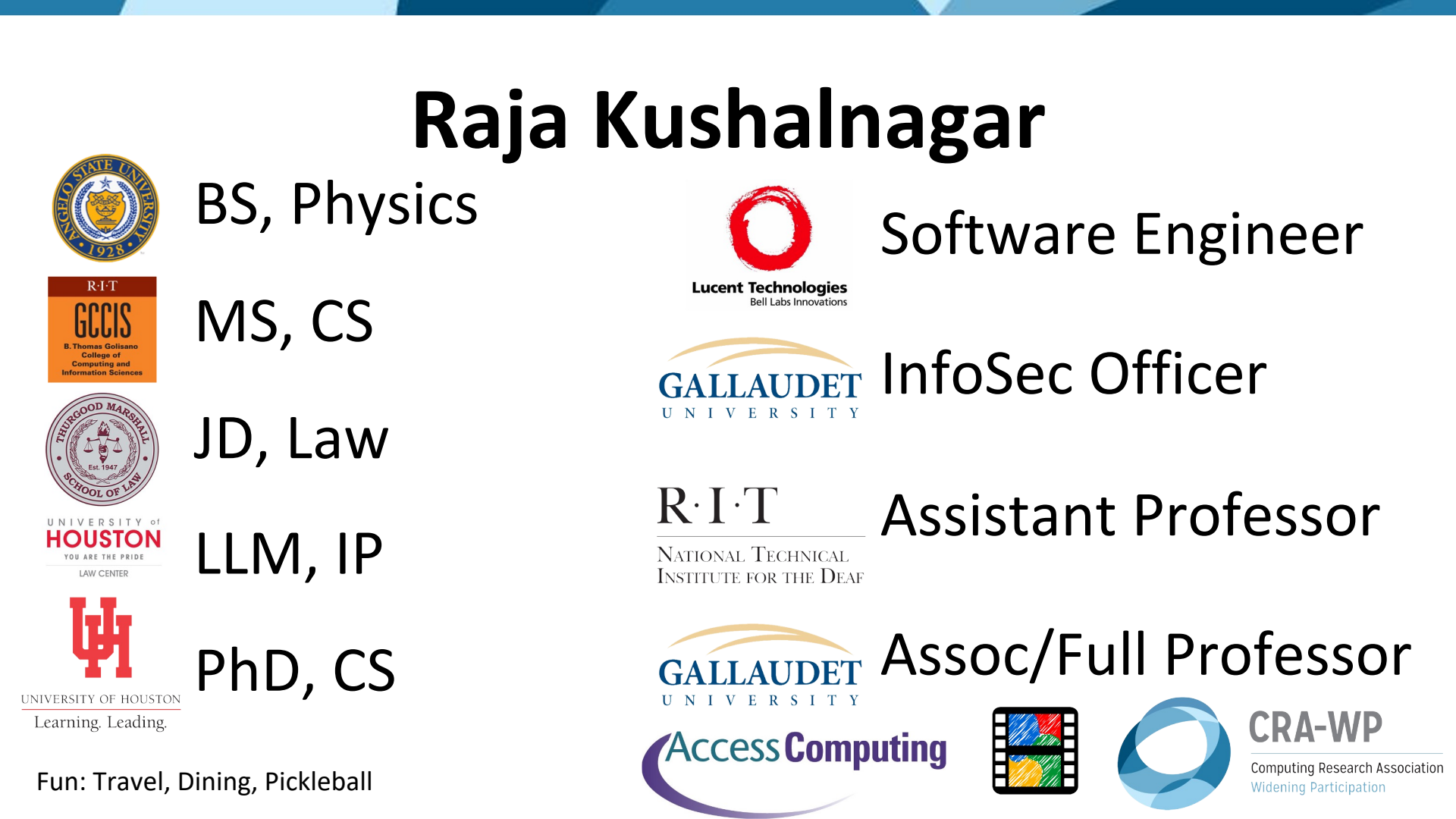
Fun: Travel, Dining, Pickleball

Software Engineer

InfoSec Officer

Assistant Professor

Assoc/Full Professor



Richard Ladner

- B.S., St. Mary's College, 1965
- Ph.D., UC Berkeley, 1971
- University of Washington, 1971 – present
  - Theoretical Computer Science (35 years)
  - Accessibility/HCI (15 years)
  - Outreach (25 years)
  - AccessComputing, AccessCSforAll
- Fun

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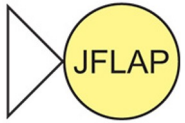
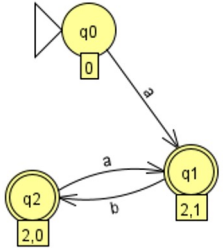
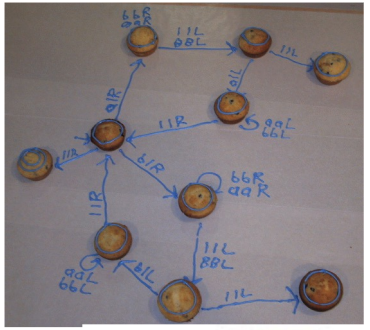
Susan Rodger







- BS Math/CS NCSU
- MS, PhD Purdue
- Rensselaer Poly. Inst. – Assistant Professor
- Duke University – Professor of the Practice (Pop)
- Research – CS Education, Visualization, Tools learning CS, integrating computing into K12
- Autism, Verbal-based learning disability
- Fun - hiking, baking, write Wikipedia pages

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Why is empowerment in higher education important for people with disabilities?

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Our personal journey towards empowerment

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How can people with disabilities feel empowered, especially in an academic setting?

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How can allies support and contribute towards empowerment of people with disabilities?

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What are some of the assistive and accessible technologies that students with disabilities can use in an academic setting?

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Questions?

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Final Thoughts

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Thanks for coming!

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