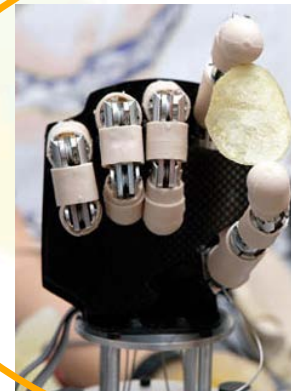
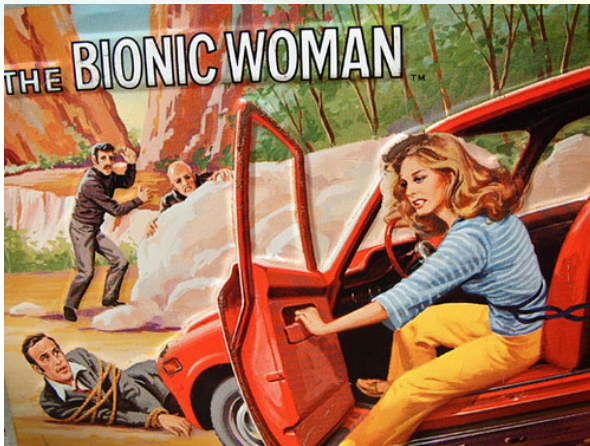


# Finding Your Way

*Ayanna Howard*  
*Georgia Institute of Technology*

*Daniela Marghitu*  
*Auburn University*

# How it Began...



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Computing Research  
Association

Lesson: Understand your goal - adapt the steps to achieve them

# Undergrad ... the Years of Struggle



Lesson: If you haven't been well prepared ... you just have to run harder

# Fame at NASA... TIME



**Technology**  
PUBLISHED BY MIT **Review**

TR100/2003

Technology Review presents our third class of 100 innovators 35 or younger whose technologies are poised to make a dramatic impact on our world. We report on the changes afoot in four major disciplines.

**Ayanna Howard, 31**

*NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory*

Writes programs that more intelligently guide actions of robots

**PASADENA STAR-NEWS**  
pasadenastarnews.com



**AYANNA HOWARD**, senior robotics researcher at JPL, displays two store-bought mechanical dogs she has reprogrammed in her research. She used the dogs as models for future robots she hopes will one day assist astronauts.



**National Science Resources Center**  
THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES Smithsonian Institution



## 20 Scientists Who Have Helped Shape Our World

### 12. Ayanna Howard, Engineer—Robotics Pioneer

Some people watching the Bionic Woman television show in the 1970s daydreamed about *being* the next Bionic Woman. As a child, Dr. Ayanna Howard knew that she wanted to *build* the next Bionic Woman. As a result, Dr. Howard earned a B.S. in Computer Engineering from Brown University and an M.S. and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Southern California.

Dr. Howard's specialty is in robotics, artificial intelligence, and machine vision. Her work at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory has helped to put robots on Mars to explore the planetary surface.

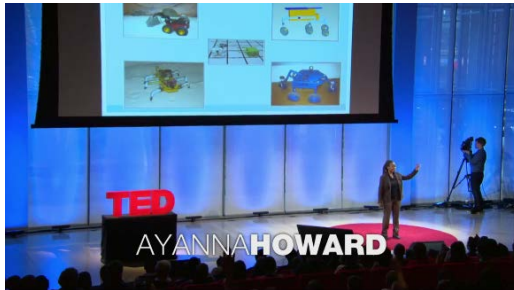


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**Lesson: Be passionate about what you do ... the world will respond in-kind**



# Me Now...



**CNN.com /technology**

**Robots could soon rove  
Antarctica**



UPDATED: 02:09 AM EDT May 29, 2008

**TIME**



**“Disabilities are not sexist or racist – and  
they do not discriminate“**







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**AASD-STEM**

 **SEAPD-STEM**  
An NSF INCLUDES Pilot Project

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national center for  
**women &**  
INFORMATION  
TECHNOLOGY







**Chieko Asakawa**

Scientist IBM Research



**Jeanine Cook**

Professor,  
New Mexico  
State University



**Shiri Azenkot**

Professor,  
Cornell Tech in  
New York City



**Annie Antón**

Professor.  
Georgia Tech

# **M**entorship **I**nclusion **N**o-Pity **D**ignity (For All Women with Disabilities)

**M I N D**

**For children: “I can be like that person.”**  
**For parents: “My child can have a future.”**  
**For teachers: “My student can be more  
than I imagined.”**

# You can do this!!

- It's a Daily Exercise
  - You will continue to get better at it with time.
- Be Honest. Learn from your Experiences.
  - Don't ignore your past experiences and passions. Learn from them!



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# Open Questions