APPENDIX B:
Sample Probing Questions

The questions in this appendix can be used by an interviewer to prompt for additional information during the interview. The numbering system corresponds to the top-level numbering in the Outline of Topics in Appendix A.

1a. Parents' education:
- Did your parents have college degrees?
- Were either of your parents in computing-related fields such as mathematics, science, or engineering?

1b. Early education:
- Were you a good student?
- Did you take courses in mathematics and science that prepared you for college study of mathematics, science, or computing?

1c. Siblings:
- Did you have brothers and sisters who went on to college and a professional career?
- Were you given the same educational training and reinforced in the same career aspirations as your brothers and sisters?

1d. Other shaping influences:
- Was there a teacher or someone else in your early life who inspired you to pursue a career in mathematics, science, or computing?

2a. Undergraduate education:
- Why did you choose your undergraduate institution?
- Did you come to school knowing what you wanted for a major?

2b. MA or MS:
- Why did you decide to study for a master´s degree?
- Did you study something different in graduate school than your undergraduate major? If so, why and was it difficult to make the transition to a new field?

2c. Ph.D.:
- Did you enjoy your research experience or was it simply something you had to do?

3a. Interruptions:
- There is a gap in your resume. What did you do during that time?

3b. Career phase connections:
- Was there something about this work experience that influenced your later career?

4a. Career in computing education:
- I saw that you chose an X institution; what caused you to choose that (type of) institution? What was your course load? Were you expected to research as well as teach?

- Did someone on the faculty of that institution mentor you as a computing educator? Did someone outside of that institution mentor you? How has that affected your career?

4b. Teaching
- Could you share your teaching philosophy?
- How has your teaching style changed over the years?
- What course or courses have been your favorite to teach? Why were those favorites?
- Do you have a particular story to relate about any of your students or classes?

4c. Professional organizations:
- To what types of professional organizations have you belonged (e.g. specific to computing topics or research, related to computing education, general education groups)?
- How has your involvement in professional organizations affected you and your career?

4d. Professional service:
- What role has supervising undergraduate or graduate students played in your career?
- Have you spent time volunteering your professional services? If so, how has this affected your career?
- Have you found circumstances in which to serve as a mentor? If so, how, where, and what?

5. Challenges:
- Were there any particular challenges that you faced in your work environment, for example, juggling commitments at work and at home?

6. Compromises:
- What are some compromises that you have had to make in the course of your career?

7. Outside interests
- Do you have any strong outside interests that will enable us to understand you better?
- Are there outside interests that have had a shaping effect on your career?

Wrap-up:
- If you could give advice to a young woman starting out, what would it be?
- If you could change one decision that you made along your career path, what would it be?
- Is there one story that you want to tell so that it will be remembered?