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NYU

TANDON SCHOOL  
OF ENGINEERING

## Woman To Woman Newsletter

### December 2015 Edition

*Greetings NYU Tandon School of Engineering Community,*

*As the semester comes to a close, we all find ourselves busy with finals, travel, and holiday plans. With the arrival of winter & holiday comes many exciting events and news to the community of women that make up the students, faculty, and staff at NYU Tandon School of Engineering. Please take a moment to scroll through the December Edition of the Woman To Woman newsletter to learn more about what's happening on campus!*

*Happy Holidays,*

*Women in Engineering, Science, Technology & Math Committee*

## Upcoming Events: Current Students



### Woman To Woman Newsletter Logo Design Contest

Interested in design? The Woman To Woman Newsletter is now accepting submissions for the Newsletter Logo Design Contest! Between now and January 29, 2016, submissions are being accepted for the new newsletter logo. If you have an innovative idea, we would love to see it! The top candidates will be entered for voting in February 2016.

- Deadline for submission is January 29, 2016
- Logo must be submitted as a JPEG
- Email submissions to [Cindy.Lewis@nyu.edu](mailto:Cindy.Lewis@nyu.edu)

Questions? Please email [Cindy.Lewis@nyu.edu](mailto:Cindy.Lewis@nyu.edu) or call 646-997-3108

### CMEP Winter Social

Tuesday, December 8th

4:30PM-6:30PM

Kimmel, Room 806

Join the Center for Multicultural and Education and Programs for our annual Winter party to celebrate the end of a successful Fall semester! Questions?

Contact [cmep@nyu.edu](mailto:cmep@nyu.edu).

### AICHe- Final Review Session

Thursday, December 10th

5:00PM-8:00PM

JAB 773

Hosted by the American Institute for Chemical Engineers

Come study with your peers for your final exams. Help each other out and be helped in return!

### **Brooklyn Athletic Facility Latest Recreation Sessions are Going Bac 2 Bac!**

Dec 10<sup>th</sup> and Dec 11<sup>th</sup>. These 60-minute sessions will relax your mind and work your body.

Bac 2 Bac 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM on Hip Hop Thursday, December 10th and Hatha Yoga Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

Are you ready to dance and stretch? **To register, simply click on the class link below:**

[Hip Hop Dance | Thursday, December 10 | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM](#)

[Hatha Yoga | Friday, December 11 | 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM](#)

### **Creation Hour**

Monday, December 14th

3:00PM-4:00PMPM

LC015- 5 MetroTech Center

Creation Hour is a gathering for students to work on side projects, where they can apply the theoretical concepts learned in class on practical projects, making their learning experience more effective. Come join us and work on the next big thing.

For more info, visit, <https://medium.com/@nyuentrepreneur/create-17d24dcefb5d>. Join the Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/createatnyu/>) and submit your email to this link (<http://startupatnyu.herokuapp.com/>) which will add you to the Slack channel.

## **Faculty & Staff**



*NYU Tandon School of Engineering Holiday Party 1994*

### **Membership in the NYU Fitness Network**

The NYU Athletics Department and the Coles Advisory Committee have tried their best to accommodate the many users of NYU's athletic facilities during the interim between the closing of Coles and the opening of a new mixed-use facility that will include a high-quality gym, classrooms, performance arts spaces, faculty housing, and student housing. The Athletics Department is now selling spring memberships to the NYU Fitness Network, which allows faculty, students, administrators, staff, and alumni to access 404 Lafayette Street, Palladium Athletic Facility (14th and 3rd), and the Brooklyn Athletic Facility (6 MetroTech Center). [To learn more, please click here.](#)

### **Earn Certificates With NYU Tech Savvy**

The [NYU Tech Savvy Foundational Series](#) (accessible via NYUiLearn) introduces administrators to NYU's teaching and learning resources through short e-learning modules on NYU Google Apps, Stream, Web Publishing, and more. Upon completion of the series, administrators receive an NYU Tech Savvy Foundation Certificate.

## **Faculty Spotlight**

***Tell us a little about yourself.***



Alesha Castillo is an Assistant Professor in the NYU Department of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering and holds a joint appointment in the NYU Department of Orthopaedic Surgery. She earned her PhD in Biomedical Engineering from University of California, Davis and completed Postdoctoral training in musculoskeletal mechanobiology and regeneration. Her work is funded by the Department of Veterans Affairs, the AO Foundation, the NYU Center for Skeletal and Craniofacial Biology, and the NYU Clinical and Translational Science Institute. She currently serves as an Associate Editor for Clinical Reviews in Bone and Mineral Metabolism and is a member-elect of the Orthopaedic Research Society Nominating Committee. Dr. Castillo has been involved in peer-review activities for the VA Office of Research and Development and the NIH CSR Skeletal Biology Structure and Regeneration Study Section.

### ***What are your areas of research?***

Dr. Castillo's research in mechanobiology and regenerative medicine focuses on interactions between mechanical cues and musculoskeletal homeostasis, regeneration, and aging, with consideration given at the molecular, cellular and tissue levels. Specific areas of interest include intracellular and paracrine signaling mechanisms underlying mechanical regulation of stem cell quiescence, recruitment, and lineage commitment. Interdisciplinary work in her lab is grounded in engineering fundamentals and tools, state-of-the-art cell and molecular biology techniques, and translational experimentation with the goal of developing novel treatment strategies for age- and disease-related tissue loss, trauma-related volumetric

tissue deficits, and fracture repair.

***What do you enjoy most about teaching at NYU Tandon SoE?***

I developed a new special topics graduate course in Mechanobiology and taught it for the first time in Fall 2015. Many of the students in this first class had very little background in biology, and I enjoyed sharing with them the amazing ability of our cells and tissues to detect and respond to physical stimuli. It has been great to see their genuine interest in how their mechanical engineering backgrounds might be used to provide solutions and treatments for some of the most challenging medical conditions today.

***What advice can you offer the women students?***

First and foremost, focus on your studies and build a strong intellectual foundation and skill set from which everything else will emanate. Figure out what you are passionate about and immerse yourself in that field by seeking out mentors, getting involved in student groups, and pursuing opportunities to gain more experience (e.g., internships, research experiences, etc.). Your enthusiasm and engagement will drive your success in and outside of the classroom. Finally, formulate opinions and speak your mind even when it feels uncomfortable. Your perspective is valuable and will bring something important and unique to the discussion.

## **Community Updates**





## Integrated Digital Media News

Integrated Digital Media (IDM) grad student, **Lauren Towles**, has been featured in 2 publications regarding the hackathon for her MS Thesis project, Hack The Flow: BuzzFeed, <http://www.buzzfeed.com/katienotopoulos/a-hackathon-about-periods#.caMOD5Qr7W>, and Mic, <http://mic.com/articles/128352/meet-the-women-who-want-to-lead-a-menstrual-revolution#.dlwhBAlix>

On Sun, Nov 8th, IDM grad student, **Sriya Sarkar**, hosted a live comedic and political performance, lolvote, to get people to register and vote. The performance was hosted by Rae Sanni (It's About Us podcast, Loudmouth) and Alex English (Loudmouth), and featured Ted Alexandro (David Letterman, Conan O'Brien, Jimmy Kimmel, Votes4Nudes, "Internet Action Force's Political Fashion Chat" with Sharron Paul & Walter Replegle, and Julianna Forlano at littlefield in Brooklyn for her MS Thesis project, lolvote. <http://www.littlefieldnyc.com/event/987975-lolvote-brooklyn/>

"Dot," the work of IDM grad student **Sarah Groff-Palermo** was featured in MediaLounge, a pop-up exhibition space that highlights the work of digital artists who are pushing the limits of technology, \_\_\_\_\_, at the Westbeth Gallery, <http://www.medialoungenyc.com>.

All students are welcome to the following IDM performances:

- Final performance's for IDM's DM-GY 6103 Live Performance Studio on Mon 12/7 from 6:30-9:30pm in MAGNET, 2 MetroTech, 8th Floor, Black Box
- Final motion capture performances for DM-GY 9103X Bodies in Motion on Fri 12/18 from 7:30-9:30pm in MAGNET, 2 MetroTech, 8th Floor

## Outstanding Student Accomplishments

**Diana Lee Gizman**, a sophomore studying Computer Science, has been recognized as a 2015 FIRST Honoree. Further information on her award can be found [here](#).

**Marilu Duque**, a first year student studying Computer Science, has been recognized as a Gate Scholar Recipient and 2015 STEM guest speaker at the White House. More information about Marilu's accomplishments can be found [here](#).

A big congratulations to Diana and Marilu!

### **Scientista Symposium 2015**

On Saturday, October 16th a group of women from NYU Tandon School of Engineering attended the annual Scientista Symposium at the Microsoft Offices in Times Square. This year's theme was "the Importance of Tech Across STEM Fields." The students had an opportunity to hear from female leaders in the Digital Health, Big Data, Biotechnology, Entrepreneurship and Coding fields.



## **NYU Tandon School of Engineering History**

### **Our First Female Graduate**

In 1907, Anna Erdmann became the first woman to earn a degree from the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn<sup>[1]</sup>.

Erdmann, a native of East Prussia, received a teacher's diploma from Teachers College in Berlin before immigrating to New York. Prior to enrolling in Polytechnic, Erdmann was a German teacher at the Packer Collegiate Institute in Brooklyn Heights. Due to this previous employment, it is not surprising that Erdmann completed a thesis titled "Three Contemporary German Dramatists" as part of her Bachelor of Arts degree from Polytechnic. What may be surprising is that Polytechnic offered such a degree. At the time, Poly offered



a Course in Arts track, which focused on a liberal arts education “for professional or industrial and business activity.” While Polytechnic was founded as the male counterpart to Packer’s female institution, in 1904 the College of Arts and Engineering, “a comprehensive system of afternoon and evening extension courses, was opened to men and women desiring instruction in Arts, Chemistry, and Engineering.” Erdmann was not the only woman to take advantage of these course offerings, but she was the only woman to complete a degree.

As Polytechnic’s first female graduate, Erdmann retained a level of local celebrity years after achieving her diploma. In 1930, The Brooklyn Daily Eagle caught up with Erdmann (now Willerth) in the article “Poly’s Only Alumna Proud of A.B. Degree.” Although she retired from teaching shortly after her marriage to foundry worker A.E. Willerth, she described her distinction as Polytechnic’s first, and at the time only, woman graduate as a “glorious honor.”

[1] New York University Tandon School of Engineering was founded, in Brooklyn, as the Brooklyn Collegiate and Polytechnic Institute in 1854. In 1900, following the split of the boys’ Poly Prep from the college-level courses, the school was re-named the Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn.

## *Poly’s Only Alumna Proud of A.B. Degree*

**Mrs. Anna E. Willerth Enjoys Flower Cultivation at Her Springfield Gardens Home, Having Retired as Packer Teacher When She Married**

Polytechnic Institute has numbered thousands of alumni during its 75 years history; 2,200 of them are living. But there is just one alumna, a daughter as loyal to the Blue and Gray as any son, as proud of her A.B. degree as Polytechnic is to have her name grace its sacred list.

She is Mrs. Anna Erdmann Willerth, who in the quiet of her little farmlike home at 145-19 Aberdeen St., Springfield Gardens, is enjoying the peaceful rest of a retired Packer Collegiate Institute teacher.

### A “Glorious Honor”

It’s a “glorious honor,” says Mrs. Willerth of being the only woman graduate of a famous school of men. And she says it modestly, as she lives life, modestly and reservedly.

Back at the turning point of the century Polytechnic offered academic courses; it is wholly technical now. Then it was that a Miss Anna Erdmann, teacher of German at Packer, entered Poly’s cloistered halls. In 1907 Poly conferred upon her an A.B. degree, the only woman she ever so honored.

### Marries and Retires

A few months later she was married to A. E. Willerth, a foundry worker. With that she retired from teaching life, from college halls.

“I didn’t want any outside activity in my married life,” explained Mr. Willerth today. Mrs. Willerth laughed a bit, too, and added: “Whatever you wanted, it has been a wonderful life, hasn’t it?” Mr. Willerth beamed that it had.

### WINS B. A. DEGREE



Mrs. Anna Erdmann Willerth, the only alumna of Polytechnic Institute, as she looked shortly after receiving her B.A. degree.

## Around the web

Science and sexism: In the eye of the Twitterstorm

The Lost History: Help Us Find the  
Declaration of Sentiments

A Real Life National Treasure Hunt

The Untold History of Women in  
Science and Technology

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