
Woman to Woman Newsletter - Jan. 2019



Woman to Woman Newsletter

The Women at Tandon initiative at the NYU Tandon School of Engineering consists of administrators and faculty members committed to the advancement of women in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). The goal of Women at Tandon is to increase the recruitment, retention, and success of women through a wide range of programs, services, and activities geared towards building a supportive environment of and for women – as well as to cultivate and showcase women as leaders in the transformation of STEM locally and globally. To date, Women at Tandon has spearheaded many new initiatives, including the Women at Tandon Explorations Community, the WoMentorship Program, Focus Groups, Male Ally Events, the Tandon Student Chat and Chew Series, and the [Woman to Woman Newsletter](#). To find out more about Tandon's efforts to attract a new generation of bright, curious women to the vital, life-changing STEM fields and the school's commitment to ending the gender gap in STEM studies, visit the [NYU Tandon School of Engineering Women at Tandon website](#).

Jelena Kovacevic Named Dean of Tandon School of Engineering



[Jelena Kovacevic](#) became Dean of NYU's Tandon School of Engineering in August 2018. Kovacevic is the first woman to head the school since its founding in 1854 as the Brooklyn Collegiate and Polytechnic Institute.

"It is an honor to be named dean of the NYU Tandon School of Engineering. I am excited to be joining Tandon on a journey to create a vision for its future, one steeped in the history that has created the foundation of this great school and beacon of opportunity and innovation in Brooklyn. I want the school to become a top-tier research institution that has a "students first" philosophy and educates them to be global citizens of the world, a school that makes an impact on society through our entrepreneurial culture and innovative programs in an inclusive environment, where everyone's voice is heard and we are governed by respect for each other and the joy of doing."

— Dean Jelena Kovacevic

New Women Faculty

[Amy Hurst](#)



Amy Hurst, a new associate professor in the Department of Technology, Culture and Society, has long been focused on accessibility and assistive technology. “My work seeks to empower people with motor, cognitive, or sensory impairments,” she explains. “You hear a lot about do-it-yourself, or DIY, projects, and assistive technology can be DIY too.” ... [Click here to read more.](#)

Rachel Greenstadt



As a female computer scientist, Rachel Greenstadt is accustomed to repeatedly being asked how she got her start in the field. If pressed, she might relate the tale of an eighth-grade research project focused on World War II-era cryptography that inspired her to master some BASIC programs for encrypting and decrypting data on her Apple IIe [computer from 1983]. ... [Click here to read more.](#)

NYU Tandon's Entrepreneurial Powerhouse Wins Big at the University Startup World Cup



Moving towards sustainable manufacturing processes is a major step in reducing our carbon footprint and saving the environment. Doctoral student Daniela Blanco and recent alum Myriam Sbeiti have worked with Assistant Professor Miguel Modestino of the Department of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering towards that important goal. Their recently incorporated company, Sunthetics, has become one of the brightest stars in NYU's entrepreneurial firmament. Soon after its launch in 2017, Sunthetics began racking up accolades and prizes. One of the latest took place on a global stage, when Blanco and Sbeiti triumphed at the University Startup World Cup in Denmark. The impressive achievements of these women in STEM began right here in Brooklyn, at NYU Tandon School of Engineering.

Source- <https://engineering.nyu.edu/news/another-day-another-triumph-sunthetics-team>

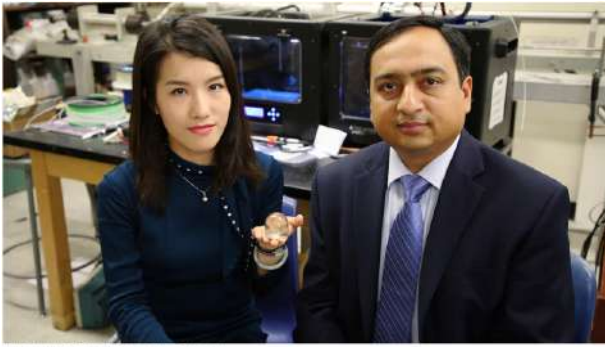
Meet Kyra-Lee Harry: Forbes named Harry one of their 2018 Forbes under 30 Scholars, an honor bestowed upon exceptional students from across the country.



Kyra-Lee's achievements since high school stand as an example of how women can do whatever is needed to make this world a better place. NYU Tandon is proud to provide an avenue for bright, engaged young women like her to spread their wings and fly higher. Her tireless efforts to give back to society at such a young age led to her selection as a Forbes under 30 Scholar – proof that she is already making a mark within the NYU community and beyond.

Source- https://engineering.nyu.edu/student/kyra-lee-harry?utm_content=buffere672b&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Breaking Down Walls: Doctoral Candidate Working at Frontier of Cybersecurity and 3D Printing



Doctoral candidate Fei Chen and her advisor, professor Nikhil Gupta

Fei Chen is no stranger to breaking down walls. Since she joined Associate Professor **Nikhil Gupta's Composite Materials and Mechanics Laboratory (CMML)** four years ago as a research student, the NYU Tandon doctoral candidate has been developing pioneering research into 3D printing and cybersecurity. In 2019, Chen will become the first female Ph.D. student to graduate from CMML and as Gupta's advisee.

Source- https://engineering.nyu.edu/news/breaking-down-walls-doctoral-candidate-working-frontier-cybersecurity-and-3d-printing?utm_content=buffer524fd&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Professor Debra Laefer Discovers a New Way to Analyze Building Strengths and Weaknesses



A photograph of a brick wall on the left appears fairly uniform in composition. However, the hyperspectral image on the right reveals there is a section of very different bricks, possibly due to a change in a different source of bricks in the brick's composition.

Research has no limit! Hyperspectral imaging can help researchers studying the built environment to distinguish between materials like stone and concrete that is merely colored and finished to look like stone. Now, Professor of Civil and Urban Engineering **Debra Laefer**, who is also affiliated with NYU's Center for Urban Science and Progress (CUSP), has collaborated with colleagues in Ireland to prove that the same technology can identify different samples within a single type of material, such as concrete with a higher-than-recommended water content. The discovery could eliminate the need for building inspectors to be directly on-site and could greatly eliminate the need for unsightly scaffolding.

Source- https://engineering.nyu.edu/news/professor-debra-laefer-discovers-new-way-analyze-building-strengths-and-weaknesses?utm_content=buffer14bc1&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Professor Jin Montclare Has Long Championed Women in STEM



While only about 20 percent of the student body at the average engineering school in the U.S. is female, NYU Tandon is making enormous strides on that front. The numbers are striking: women make up 40 percent of the Tandon Class of 2021, and for the Class of 2022 that figure jumps to 43 percent. Much of that progress is due to rigorous efforts over the last several years to recruit and retain aspiring young female engineers, and few figures at Tandon have been as instrumental in those efforts as Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering Jin Kim Montclare. Her achievements are remarkable and Tandon is proud to have had her on its team for more than a dozen years.

Source - <https://engineering.nyu.edu/news/professor-jin-montclare-has-long-championed-women-stem>

The Future - and its Faculty – are Female

NYU Tandon Student Wins Prestigious Schlumberger Faculty for the Future Fellowship



Haripriya Kannan grew up in Neyveli – a small town in the Indian state of Tamil Nadu best known for its reserves of a form of coal known as lignite — where she gained a visceral understanding of how people’s health was affected by pollution and became determined to study engineering and find new sources of clean energy. After graduating from Tandon, she will have the opportunity to return to her native country to encourage other young women to pursue STEM thanks to winning a prestigious Schlumberger Faculty for the Future Fellowship.

Source- https://engineering.nyu.edu/news/future-and-its-faculty-are-female?utm_content=bufferbc040&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Initiatives and Events for Women at Tandon

Women in STEM Symposium Illuminates the Path Forward for a New Generation



A staggering gender gap still exists at the nation's engineering schools. The NYU Tandon School of Engineering is making strides to correct that imbalance. One major successful initiative was the recent Women in STEM Symposium, which attracted hundreds of students and faculty members. The event, which took as its theme "Engineering the Path Forward," was co-sponsored by a group of iconic firms that included AT&T, 3M, IBM, Con Ed, MasterCard, and JPMorgan Chase.

Source- https://engineering.nyu.edu/news/women-stem-symposium-illuminates-path-forward-new-generation?utm_content=bufferc9598&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer

Empower Hour

Women lit up the MakerSpace during the first Empower Hour of the year, when they learned to solder with Victoria Bill, the founding director of the facility, who showed them how to solder flip lights into mason jars. Our second Empower Hour featured Rabeya Kamal, Assistant Director at the Wasserman Center for Career Development, who discussed networking fundamentals as a women in STEM.



Tandon Student Affairs and Tandon Office of Alumni Relations Breakfast/Lunch Club with Tanzee Silver ('13)

This fall, Tandon Student Affairs and the Tandon Office of Alumni Relations teamed up to launch the Breakfast/Lunch Club, an alumni-hosted gathering held in Brooklyn on the first Friday of each month. Membership is open to alumni willing to generously host breakfast or lunch for four to six current Tandon students for the purpose of sharing personal stories, career aspirations, and, when needed, current struggles, over a relaxing meal. This fall Tanzee Silver ('13) met with five female students at Junior's, an old neighborhood favorite. At this special women-only event, Silver shared strategies for success and touched upon some of the issues facing female professionals in STEM.



Vertically Integrated Project (VIP) – Vertical Farm

The Vertical Farming project, which is comprised mainly of female students, has had an impactful and expansive semester thus far. Led by Alexandra Seidenstein and Omar Gowayed, the team recently set up operation at Tandon's new MakerGarage on Gold Street. On December 11th, as part of the [Urban Food Lab Series](#), they hosted Chef Allen Dabagh of Boutros in Brooklyn for a cooking demo using food grown in their energy-efficient, minimally wasteful, system.



Women at Tandon Committee

Tandon Student Chat and Chew Series

The Women at Tandon Committee has established an opportunity for ALL students to engage and interact outside of the classroom on various topics relevant to their everyday lives. These casual conversations, “Chat and Chew,” are held on a monthly basis. The Chat and Chew sessions are open to all students, and a light lunch is provided. September’s theme was a collaboration with the Student Affairs **LAUNCH** initiative and the Women at Tandon committee. Participants who attended had the opportunity to find out about Women Student Clubs, hear about the Women at Tandon initiatives, and engage in open discussion.

September Tandon Student Chat and Chew – Women at Tandon/Open Discussion



Male Allies

In October, the Male Allies and Chat and Chew subcommittees co-sponsored a Male Allyship Chat and Chew at which 34 students (most of them men) discussed the role men can play in promoting gender diversity, equity, and inclusion. The meeting started with a lunch buffet, and each lunch table was assigned a faculty member or an administrator to facilitate. The first activity was a Human Barometer: after listening to a comment, students were asked to stand near a wall and walk towards areas designated as "Agree," "Strongly Agree," "Disagree," or "Strongly Disagree." Students voiced their opinions freely, and there was quite a lot of discussion among participants. Next, a scenario was enacted in which a female student leads her EG 1003 project team and a male teammate audibly makes a crude joke about her leadership. A lively discussion ensued about the situation. The event culminated with students signing the "We for She" checklist, a list of behaviors they can engage in to be better allies to women. Participants agreed that the event was time well spent.



WoMentorship Program

The WoMentorship Program matches sophomores and juniors with seniors and graduate students to foster better understanding and help develop a strong women's community at Tandon. Over the past three years, more than 200 women have participated in this successful mentoring program, with 75 taking part during the fall 2018 semester alone.

This semester, for the first time, WoMentorship teamed up with the Lore-El Women's Center at the Stevens Institute of Technology to go on an NYC outing. Women from Tandon and Stevens met to explore the Museum of the Moving Image. Students continued to build community over brunch and discussed issues important to young women in STEM.



Women at Tandon Exploration Community – Othmer Hall

The Women at Tandon Explorations Community is a women-themed floor in the Othmer Residence Hall that offers opportunities for women students to network, participate in social functions, get involved in community service, and organize and attend events and activities relevant to them.

At the beginning of this semester, residents had the opportunity to meet Dean Kovacevic during Welcome Week.



This semester students enjoyed a bonding dinner with faculty member Alexandra Seidenstein and resident adviser Jenny Ijoma.





The students also had a private tour and dinner with the curator for the Rubin Museum, Beth Citron, who showed them current exhibits by Matti Braun and Chitra Ganesh, among others.

SAVE THE DATES

Summer Undergraduate Research Program Information Session and Panel Discussion for Women

January 31, 2019, 12:30-2:00pm

Alumnae Advisory Council Information Session

January 31, 2019, 6:00-8:00pm

Women's Summit

March, 7, 2019

Women at Tandon Celebration

March 8, 2019, 10:00-11:30 - EventSpace

If you are *not* a member of the NYU Tandon community and wish to be removed from this mailing list, please email engineering.webteam@nyu.edu.