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## Woman to Woman, March 2018 Edition

1 message

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### March 2018 Edition

**#TechInService2Society**

The Women at Tandon initiative at School of Engineering consist of administrators and faculty members at NYU Tandon School of Engineering committed to the advancement of women in STEM. The goal of Women at Tandon is to: increase 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; and cultivate and showcase women to be leaders in the transformation of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math locally and globally.

To date, Women at Tandon has spearheaded many new initiatives including the Women in Engineering, Science, Technology, and Math Explorations Community, the WoMentorship Program and the Women to Women Newsletter. To find out more about SOE's efforts to attract a new generation of bright, curious women to the vital, life-changing field of science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) and end the gender gap in STEM studies, visit the NYU Tandon School of Engineering [Women in Engineering](#) site.

#### **Women at Tandon Community Updates**

NYU Tandon Exploration Floor Community Updates (written by Rosa Batres)



*Women at Tandon during a Boxing Program at Gleason's Gym*

Women at Tandon have begun the year with a great start from participating in fitness workshops to communal dinners within the hall. Last month the 8th floor residents from Othmer hall were able to train with professional and former Olympic boxers at Gleason's gym in DUMBO granting them the mental health and physical activity to de-stress prior to midterms. The exploration floor's faculty affiliate, Alexandra Seidenstein, had also organized an event for the Tandon community, Maya Angelou Reflections of a Blessed Soul, in honor of Black History Month giving residents the opportunity to explore diversity in social justice. Residents are looking forward to attend Girls Talk Tech hosted by Google Anita Borg Scholars Community where the Women at Tandon will participate in meaningful conversation with current women computer scientists and engineers. Our goal is to enhance the professional development for the Women at Tandon community through exposure to various networking opportunities and workshops in hopes of developing future leaders in STEM. The exploration floor is planning on having more communal activities such as chocolate factory tour and participating in the upcoming Women in STEM Summit.

### **NYU Tandon STEMist Club Updates**

The STEMist Club held on February 23, 2018 a "Cha Cha for Charity" event where they collected donations for Puerto Rico and had a dance workshop. They will hold a Feminine Hygiene Kits making event to donate to disconnected women who have been system impacted in NYC in March. If interested in participating, please follow the STEMist Facebook page for updates <https://www.facebook.com/STEMistClub/>



STEMinist Club President, Nazira Abdelkhalek ('18) won the Women at Tandon Award for her work as the president of the STEMinist club and for being a true social justice warrior in her commitment to service and leadership for women in STEM.



Melissa Maldonado-Salcedo (Adjunct, Technology, Culture, and Society) is working with the STEMinist Club to bring the Beautiful Me program to Tandon in April. If interested in learning more about this esteem workshop through the Hance Family Foundation ([www.hancefamilyfoundation.org](http://www.hancefamilyfoundation.org)) please reach out to [mm659@nyu.edu](mailto:mm659@nyu.edu).

### **NYU Robotics Design Team Mentor Local Girl Scouts** (written by Orion Dosche)

In September 2017, we, the women on the NYU Robotics Design Team, started mentoring a local Girl Scout troop. The experience for these Girl Scouts has had a great impact on their lives because it is rare for girls to have an opportunity to be introduced to STEM and have women role models. We are like big sisters to them, and the group is so close they treat each other like family. We celebrate Birthdays, Thanksgiving, Christmas, we talk with them about their problems, and offer support and guidance. These girls had decided that they wanted to get the STEM badges that had been created by the Girl Scouts, and were going to participate in their first ever FIRST Robotics Lego League challenge. The girls in the troop range from age five to age eleven, and the oldest girls are in fifth grade.

Every Friday night from 5:30-8:30 pm, the women on the NYU Robotics Design Team have been attending the Girl Scout's meetings. At these meetings we have been teaching them about coding, strategy, and teamwork. Throughout these meetings the girls have grown to understand the beginnings of what can be done with robotics, and the value of persistence. At our first meeting none of the girls had ever coded before. We started by making them write out their step by step processes of what they wanted their robot to do, playing "human robot" games where we would act out their commands, and showing them the Lego MINDSTORMS software. Each week they would have some exciting news for us as to what they had done, whether it was making the robot finally drive in a square, or they had completed a mission without any of our help. As they faced each challenge, they learned to work together and support each other. While writing the programs for the competition tasks, the robot would often not do what they expected, so they worked together to observe, troubleshoot, rewrite, and test until they achieved their goal. At first we had to teach them everything, but now they're writing code on their own, and have developed incredible problem solving skills in the process.

We aimed to inspire them to pursue their dreams, especially if they are in STEM, and be role models for them. We invited them to the MakerSpace for a day to work on their robot, and see where we work on ours. For the day we set up the whole course for them to practice on, and gave them computers and a spare robot so they could all get their hands dirty. We also showed them VR, and helped them laser cut drawings of theirs for them to take home. When they came to visit, they saw the girls on the team not only working in their own environment being women in STEM, but they were also able to meet the boys on the team. While we are a minority, for the girls to see that we are respected for our work and that we have supportive allies is quite important. In addition, having a woman as captain of the team shows them that women can be leaders. It was a fun day of learning that truly opened their eyes to the possibilities of their future. Between meetings and showing them where we work, the girls have all become very excited about robotics.

With all of the girls' hard work on their own robot, they went to the Marine Park FIRST Lego League (FLL) Qualifier on February 10th, 2018 and completed several tasks from the FLL Hydrodynamics course. At this event they were the youngest group competing, with the other teams consisting of 6-8th graders. They earned a total 130 competition points in the robotics category, putting them in first place for the robotics regional qualifier. From defining each team member's responsibilities to being extremely supportive of one another, the girls were well prepared for the competition. Some of the girls were very nervous, but they were quick to comfort and support each other, reminding themselves that they were a team. They were so excited to be there, and were shocked by how well they

did. They received a Golden Ticket to go to the FLL NYC Championship on March 11th. They overcame many challenges, learned to work together, and were able to perform exceptionally under pressure. Seeing where these girls come from, what they have achieved, and how bright their futures are, is so special for us. We are so proud of our girls, and are excited to see what else they can achieve on March 11th.

### NYU Tandon Administrators & Faculty Featured Panel Presentation at SXSW EDU 2018



*Krysta Battersby, Cindy Lewis, and Mark Skwarek at SXSW EDU 2018. The NYU Tandon Vision Team held a panel on their work in Taking Over Higher Ed with Virtual Reality.*

### Maya Angelou: Reflections of a Blessed Soul

Some extra love was spread this Valentine's Day when Rose Ampuero (Assistant Dean of Student Affairs) and Alexandra Seidenstein (CBE Faculty and Faculty Affiliate of the Women at Tandon Explorations Floor) Co-hosted a screening of the award winning documentary, "Maya Angelou: Reflections of a Blessed Soul" at NYU-Tandon. The movie, which features an exclusive interview with one of the most important icons of our time, was a tremendous opportunity for the NYU community. After the screening the writers and producers: Shelley Grodner Seidenstein and Hafiz Farid graciously discussed their experience working with Dr. Angelou, and took questions from the audience.



**Staff of Gandalf Project**



Women and STEM represented by Members of the BMS Program as they present their Staff of Gandalf project at the NYU Entrepreneurs Festival on February 24th. Pictured (from left) are students: Divya Deverakonda, Kelli Brush and Professor Alexandra Seidenstein

**Girls Talk Tech: Encouraging Women in STEM**



Wasserman Center for Career Development and Office of Undergraduate Enrollment Management Host 4th annual Girls Talk Tech event on February 27, 2018.

### Women's Summit



### TANDON CELEBRATES WOMEN IN STEM

[International Women's Day Celebrated At Indian Consulate in New York](#)

### February Chat and Chew

The Women at Tandon committee organized a Student Chat and Chew in February, around the theme of Sisterhood. Students shared experiences of sisterhood on campus as well as other issues around women in STEM found within the Tandon community. While sharing lunch, students gave opinions on what happens in the classroom as well as extra curricular events, including how to support sisterhood, how to be a male ally, and what steps can be taken across faculty and students to support those who identify as woman at Tandon.

The next Student Chat and Chew is scheduled for April 11th and will be on the theme of Male Allyship.

### [Deloitte Consulting Case Study Workshop at Tandon](#)

March 30th, 3:30PM-5:00PM, Wunsch Hall, 2nd floor

*Interested in a strategy consulting career? Deloitte Consulting professionals about the skills needed to succeed in a consulting interview and career. Professionals will be delivering a workshop that focuses on cracking the case interview. [To RSVP, click here.](#)*

Women @ Tandon Explorations Community will tour of the Rubin Museums new exhibit by Chitra Ganes, celebrating female artists and content by [Rubin Museum Curator Beth Cirtron](#)

March 23, 2018

### **Male Allies**

The Developing Male Allies sub-committee collaborated with Student Affairs to host a male allies breakfast as part of the Women in STEM Summit. During the event, panelists spoke about how they strive to create a more inclusive environment as male allies. Attendees then participated in a roundtable discussion to determine how they can also become better allies and advocate for women in STEM both in and outside of the classroom.



*Panelists included industry professionals from Google and TD Bank, faculty, and current student leaders.*





*Attendees listened to panelists to gain insight into how they can better support women at Tandon SOE. They then signed a pledge to confirm their continued commitment to this cause.*

**NYU Tandon Students & Faculty in the News**

[NYU Tandon Gains an Exciting Group of New Faculty Members](#)

[The Race is on for Entrepreneurial Student Teams](#)

[Check out New Yorkers' Innovations to Keep Food Out of Landfills](#)

[NYU Tandon Hyperloop Team](#)

[This Technology Could Transform Life in Cities](#)

[NYU Tandon Professor Heads IEEE Information Theory Society](#)

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](mailto:engineering.webteam@nyu.edu).