

THE WIT GAZETTE

Official Newsletter of Women in Tech@NTU
"a community of women on all things tech"



**Don't let people define you,
 Create your own definition of
 yourself.**

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 Be the change you want to see.

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WELCOME!



By Claire Hsieh, Editor-in-Chief

Welcome to the very first issue of Women in Tech@NTU newsletter: The WIT Gazette! This name encompasses the whole spirit of our student club- a community where women from all walks of life support one another with all things tech.

The WIT Gazette came to fruition with one goal- for Women in Tech@NTU to connect with its members via a more formal medium. We really appreciate your support in joining our numerous online workshops, SheShares sessions and mentorship programmes. To further decrease the digital distance between you and the team behind WIT@NTU- Surabhi, Rakshitha, Srishti, Gwen, Claire and Shermaine- we hope that this newsletter keeps you updated on WIT@NTU initiatives and the latest news in the tech industry. Welcome to Issue 1. Enjoy!

SHESHINES



By Claire Hsieh

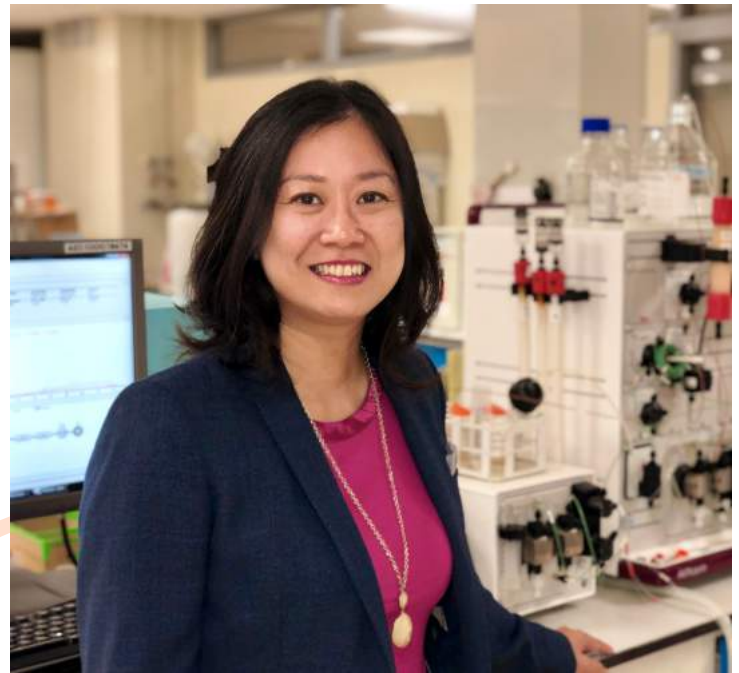
Why Women in Tech?

In our interview with Professor Sierin Lim who is co-Chair of Women@NTU, a NTU initiative to advance and promote the roles of women, she delved into the need for more women in the STEM industries. “I became aware of the gender gap when I received an award for women in science which pushed me to look at the statistics. That was when I found out that the percentage of women in the STEM industry is much lower than men,” said Professor Sierin. This is true. Across the world, the percentage of women in STEM industries is shocking, where the intake of women in STEM degrees in Singapore account for only 25-35% of the total intake for engineering and computing degrees. Of course, the numbers vary in different fields of STEM, with some fields having fared better than others. Regardless, the gender gap in STEM industries is a pertinent problem that needs to be addressed now. This is why there is a push for more women in STEM industries, with more companies in STEM recognizing the need for gender equality by introducing diversity programmes such as Microsoft’s Leap Apprenticeship Programme and Schneider’s Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) policies. With the surge in companies to narrow the gender gap, this is exactly where Women in Tech@NTU comes in- by being the bridge to match available mentorship, internship and job opportunities of these companies to female undergraduates in NTU.



Ms Delphine Lee,
Co-founder of Women in Tech@NTU

SheShines features women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) who inspire the Women in Tech @ NTU community. In our very first SheShines feature, we invited Professor Sierin Lim, Professor of Bioengineering at Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and co-Chair of Women@NTU, and Ms Delphine Lee, co-founder of Women in Tech@NTU, to share their experiences.



Professor Sierin Lim,
Professor of Bioengineering,
Nanyang Technological University (NTU)

Why Women in Tech @ NTU?

During our interview with Ms Delphine Lee, co-founder of Women in Tech@NTU, she explained the need for a student club focused on women in tech initiatives in NTU. “I started Women in Tech @ NTU with the intention for it to be a platform that curates D&I resources of companies for female undergraduates in NTU,” said Ms Delphine. Lamenting the lack of exposure and opportunities for NTU female undergraduates in the STEM fields, Ms Delphine decided to take matters into her own hands by finding like-minded peers (Ms Surabhi Malani, Chair of Women in Tech @ NTU, AY2020-2021) to create a one-stop platform to rectify the mismatch in D&I opportunities and NTU female undergraduates’ awareness of them.

For Ms Delphine, this was a problem she knew she could solve. With the support of the Women in Tech @ NTU team and companies in the tech industry, she did. Today, Women in Tech @ NTU has a reach of almost 1000 NTU undergraduates and professionals on its social media platforms. The student club has worked with companies such as Schneider Electric, Facebook and Microsoft; organized 2 mentorship sessions, 6 SheShares workshops; and is ready to launch its LinkedIn Alumni Network. Women in Tech @ NTU will continue to empower more female undergraduates at NTU.

Why Women?

Towards the end of their interviews, Professor Sierin and Ms Delphine parted with concluding remarks too inspiring not to share. For Professor Sierin, being a woman in STEM means a lot to her. STEM gives her countless opportunities to solve real-life problems with what she has learnt. For Ms Delphine, starting Women in Tech @ NTU was never easy. She had her fair share of rejections and actively networked to get the first company on board with a collaboration opportunity. The words of both ladies mark their tenacity and grit. For Professor Sierin, it is the persistence to follow through with what she wants and to continue to excel in her field. For Ms Delphine, it is the determination to bring the mere conception of Women in Tech@ NTU into an actual student club with real-life impacts on the world. To quote Professor Sierin, "For those of us women already in STEM, we should continue to apply what we have learnt, share its joy, and encourage the next generation!"

Stay Connected



<https://sg.linkedin.com/company/ntu-women-in-tech>



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"For those of us women already in STEM, we should continue to apply what we have learnt, share its joy, and encourage the next generation!"

SHEUPDATES

An update on all the latest and upcoming Women in Tech@NTU initiatives.

By Srishti Arora and Shermaine Toh



T-Shirt Collection

Who doesn't like free T-shirts? WiT@NTU gave away Amazon Web Services shirts to around 30 members. This was our first offline event and we were so excited to finally meet some of our members in person. It was a bliss to see our members walk away with smiles on their faces.

SHEUPDATES



By Srishti Arora
and Shermaine Toh

SheShares Sessions

WIT@NTU spent a major portion of this academic year inviting female professionals from diverse walks of tech to share their domain expertise with our members. Through sharing their career experiences, these biweekly two hour sessions were an amazing way to network with professionals, learn from their journey, clarify doubts and get a good idea about what one's interests are. Envisioned as a fireside chat, the SheShares sessions ended up being online sessions with its own perks. Attendees could now ask questions anonymously and thus this eliminates shyness or fear of being judged. We hope that attending these sessions had sparked the slightest curiosity in our members to dig deeper into any tech field.



Latest SheShares session on Functional Programming in collaboration with PayPal

SHEREADS

By Gwen Lea Sim and Rakshitha Arun

2020 has been a very redefining year. It has changed the way we socialise, work, learn, play and travel. It has also paved the way for a few industries to take dominance (Entertainment, Food Delivery, Video Conferencing) and a few to take the backseat (Tourism, Hospitality). The World as we know it changed overnight. A year and counting since then, what are the implications of the pandemic on the Tech industry? SheReads aims to dive into how the Tech industry has been reshaped and explore the latest trends that we think are here to stay. (While the discussion is by no means exhaustive, it is intended to illustrate some of the most noteworthy changes in the way that the industry functions post-pandemic.)

What to look out for this month?



WIT@NTU LinkedIn Alumni Community

In the coming months, WIT@NTU will be officially launching our LinkedIn Community! This project has been under wraps for so long and we are so excited to bring it to life! This community not only aims to provide mentorship and job opportunities for NTU female students and alumni, but also to foster a spirit of collaboration within our close knitted WIT group. The team behind WIT@NTU hopes for WIT@NTU to grow into a more focused, personalized, and engaged group of young empowered women, who pay it forward to empower other young women in tech.

SHEREADS



By Gwen Lea Sim
and Rakshitha Arun

Up, up and beyond-Cloud services: Software Engineering

The pandemic was undoubtedly one of the biggest inflexion points for many businesses. With software being an indispensable part of how businesses work and function in the 21st century, the implications of the pandemic have surely trickled down to software engineering practices as well. The biggest highlight would be the accelerated digital transformation of companies. With a higher focus on IT priorities and technological roadmaps, the trends that take precedence are cloud services, contactless technologies and DevOps activities. In order to facilitate the shift to remote working, companies had to incorporate and implement infrastructure that was capable of handling such a load.

Consequently, the demand for cloud services and tools grew. This is evident in the significant revenue growth of cloud service providers such as Microsoft, Amazon Web Services (AWS), Alicloud and Google Cloud Platform. Cloud platforms accelerate the deployment of digital customer experiences and support data and analytics services at economical rates.

The biggest selling point of cloud solutions in this context is the flexibility and productivity that they come with. For companies to ably adapt to the pandemic they must quickly put digital business models into action. Cloud platforms are by far the most agile, scalable and innovative solution to aid this transition.

Cloud platforms are by far the most agile, scalable and innovative solution to aid this business transitions due to the Covid pandemic.



Touring the World with Virtual Reality: New Media

The pandemic has put a stop on flying and tourism, leaving people itching to travel again. While countries all over the world are rushing to vaccinate their citizens, normal travel may not resume anytime soon. Here comes Virtual Reality as a solution to satisfy our wanderlust. 2021 may be the year for VR to become mainstream as social media and video hosting platforms churn out more 360 content to take viewers on a trip in their own homes. Facebook, for example, is currently testing Facebook Horizon - a virtual world where users can meet and interact with people - on Oculus platforms.

SHECOLLABORATES- MCKINSEY

This section features write-ups with companies WIT@NTU has collaborated with. The following article, from McKinsey's Careers Blog, is chosen due to its relevance to undergraduates and the writer's down-to-earth article content.

OPPORTUNITIES ARE YOURS FOR THE TAKING

Discovering McKinsey

February 5, 2021- As an undergraduate student, I knew very little about McKinsey. After my first interview, I spoke about the role with my cousins who said, "McKinsey is a global, widely-known firm. If they make you an offer, seriously consider it." My plan was to stay for a year then continue with my studies. And here I am six years later. I joined the firm when I was 20, and I grew up here. It's taught me so much, not just professionally, but also how to conduct myself as a human.



From business presentation specialist to team leader

I joined as a business presentation specialist, and was in the role for about two and a half years when the team leader position opened. Moving from specialist to team leader without first holding other positions was not the typical path, but my responsibilities had grown and my managers were supportive and encouraged me to apply. I got the job and was one of the first people to move directly to a team leader. It's proof you can make your own McKinsey. Now, I lead a team of 21 colleagues in the Visual Graphics & Media function, which provides presentation design support to McKinsey consultants and colleagues worldwide.

Transitioning into a leadership role

To prepare, I had six months of extensive onboarding which was a transformational journey. We started with the basics, such as McKinsey's mission and values and progressed to how you translate that to your work.

I needed to learn leadership skills, such as how to run a meeting, problem solve, manage conflict, and have conversations with people who are older and more tenured than me. McKinsey thoroughly prepared me through training and on-the-job experience.

Just a few years after interviewing through a campus recruitment event, Deepa progressed into a leadership role overseeing the work of a large team in the Visual Graphics & Media function.



SHECOLLABORATES- MCKINSEY

Women in Tech@NTU X McKinsey



Identifying growth opportunities

Opportunities are everywhere, but it's up to you to identify what you want to do. Here, if you feel like you're good at something, but don't immediately see an opportunity, you can ask. My personal mantra has been "Ask and it shall be given."

What makes McKinsey special

The people at McKinsey live the values. One, in particular, "Be non-hierarchical and inclusive," has shaped my career. Taking a leadership role at a young age, I was in a place where suddenly people who were my leaders yesterday were now my peers. It was a major transition, but they were welcoming and included me. No matter what the topic, they gave me the opportunity to share my opinions. I have often been the youngest person in the room, which was terrifying for me initially, but the entire journey has been easier because people supported me so much.

More about Deepa

When Deepa isn't supporting her team or serving as a Diversity & Inclusion Champion, she's dancing, listening to music or telling stories via vlogs. And she says, "I also make it point to watch sunsets every day."

CHAIRPERSON OF WIT@NTU'S MESSAGE



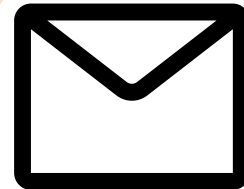
Thank you for supporting the Women in Tech@NTU journey. We are humbled and grateful to receive your continuous support over the short stint of our journey. We hope our projects have inspired, or even empowered you in some way. What started off as a passion project to unite aspiring students led to a growing community led by strong leaders. We envision Women in Tech@NTU to grow beyond the tech industry by creating a supportive community of women from all walks of life. We are excited to have you on board and look forward to seeing you shine.

And with that, thank you for reading till the end of this newsletter. We hope you have enjoyed what you have read. See you in the next issue!

Warmly,
Surabhi Malani
Chairperson and Co-Founder of WIT@NTU
AY2020- 21

ANNOUNCEMENTS

WIT@NTU SOCIALS | HUMANS OF WIT | RECRUITMENT



Recently, Women in Tech have started a brand new series on our Instagram page (@ntu_witech) and our LinkedIn: 'Humans of WIT!' We began with introducing the team leading Women in Tech, and am now moving on to featuring you! Without your constant support and attending our events, we will not be where we are today. As such, we want to hear your story and feature some of you on our Humans of WIT series! If you are keen to be the group of pioneers in building a friendly and inclusive community in this amazing online space, [CLICK HERE!](#)



We are Recruiting!

Do you have a genuine passion in working for the women community? Thrive in working in a small team? Want to gain leadership experiences and opportunities to work with companies, professionals, organizations and school faculties?

If yes,
WE WANT YOU!

[CLICK HERE
FOR MORE INFO](#)