

VOLUME IV // FEBRUARY 2021

THE 28 PERCENT

Women make up only 28% of the STEM workforce.
This newsletter aims to change that.



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Created by Jaidyn, 9th grade

10

sign up!

wednesday february 10 @ 10am - 12pm

Celebration of Women in Science

Join us online on February 10th 2020, from 19:00-21:00, to celebrate girls and women in science in Eindhoven, listen to amazing speakers and meet inspiring people. This year's theme: "Growing towards a female role model". This event explores the journey from a high school student towards a full professor.

11

sign up!

thursday february 11 @ 7pm - 8pm

Stemettes 2021 Showcase

An hour-long event celebrating the contributions of women to STEM on 2021 International Day of Women and Girls in Science and seeking action to build a better STEM industry for the future. Come along to catchup on recent Stemettes happenings, hear from inspirational STEM role models, and hear more about supporting the work of charity Stemettes Futures.

13

sign up!

saturday february 13 @ 10am - 11am

Intro to Cybersecurity Workshop for High School Girls

In this intro workshop, students will hear from Kierstin Matsuda- Program Manager at Microsoft Azure's Cybersecurity Department as she shares her story, how she got into cybersecurity as well as information about the field. The talk will wrap up with a time of Q&A for students to ask questions.

27

sign up!

saturday feb 27 @ 7:30am - sunday feb 28 @ 3:30pm

Codeista Fashion Week: Redefining the Runway

Codeista Fashion Week is a two-day virtual FREE conference! Meet changemakers in the fields of fashion, tech, and business and find your inner codeista. Our speakers come from all walks of fashion: pageantry, fashion design, and even TikTok! Visit @codeista on Instagram for more info!

GirlBoss: A Professional Network for Ambitious Women

Written by Emma, 9th grade

“We exist to redefine success for millennial women by providing the tools and connections they need to their own futures.” This is the mission of Girlboss- the media startup created by Sophia Amoruso, which has a podcast, blog, newsletter, and a newly added professional network that is designed to be a more millennial-friendly alternative to LinkedIn. Girlboss helps to create a strong and diverse reality where “women can make progress personally, professionally, and in service of others.”

The Girlboss radio podcast features interviews with strong, brave women, from jewelry designer Jennifer Meyer on how she built so much from so little, to “Little Women” producer Amy Pascal on standing up for yourself. It has over 23 million downloads and I highly recommend checking it out! The Girlboss Blog has tips, tricks, advice, and news relating to all different aspects of life and helps women achieve their dreams. Girlboss doesn’t just stop there- they even have a newsletter that has “Epic trends, A+ career advice, sick job postings, and so many emojis,” so be sure to check that out as well! And finally, Girlboss’ newest addition is their version of a professional network that is more ideal for millennial women looking for job opportunities, and Sophia Amoruso stated, “I hope women can share not just what they do, but who they are, and bring a sense of their personality and aspirations and things they’re really proud of to their profiles”. This new alternative to LinkedIn can help more women reach their goals and make the most of their careers.

Girlboss is a reality-changing platform that has the ability to “inform, entertain, and inspire action” and is rightfully “unapologetic in [their] beliefs and values of supporting girls and women who are chasing dreams both big and small.”

Change starts now.



Alicia Garcia: The Woman Behind the BLM Movement

Written by Charlotte Lees

#Blacklivesmatter. This hashtag has been tweeted over 48 million times, all thanks to Alicia Garza. It is on shirts, pins, hats, and face masks. It has been spray-painted throughout countless cities and painted in large letters on the streets of Washington, DC. It is on protesters' signs and painted on their faces. It was voted the *American Dialect Society's* word of the year in 2014. Right now, #Blacklivesmatter is more than just a hashtag; it is a symbol of allyship, a symbol of a movement, and a symbol of change.

In 2012, Trayvon Martin, a 17 year old unarmed black teen, was shot by George Zimmerman, a volunteer on the neighbourhood watch. Even after weeks of public protests, George Zimmerman was acquitted. In response to the acquittal, many comments on social media reacted in a defeated way, mentioning they knew he would not be convicted of murder, given the outcome of past situations similar to this one. History seemed to repeat itself yet again. However, Alicia Garza was dissatisfied with the treatment of the murder. For her, it did not seem right that unarmed black people could be killed without consequences or public outrage. Frustrated with the trial's outcome and the public's response, Alicia wrote those three simple words, "Black lives matter", in a Facebook post 7 years ago. Little did she know, she had created a rallying cry.

"I continue to be surprised at how little Black lives matter... Our lives matter." These words sparked the movement that we continue to see today.

Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi founded #BlackLivesMatter, a global organization whose mission is to end the violence and systemic racism towards black people, together. When asked about the significance of the project being founded by three women, Alicia said, "Women have always weaved community in places where it was missing because our survival depended on it. I think the same is true today."

Nowadays Alicia works as a project director for the National Domestic Workers Alliance. She has a podcast called "Lady Don't Take No" and continues her efforts in activism and fighting systemic injustice and racism rooted in today's society.

Read the rest of Charlotte's article on Alicia Garcia [here](#).

what if i'm not ready?

Written by Ms. Orret

Imposter syndrome is a term you hear a lot. A lot more when having the conversation about the gender gap in STEM. It's funny - I thought because I knew about this psychological phenomenon, it wouldn't affect me.

So when I walked into my first college course - Calculus for Engineering Students - I didn't really feel out of place. Yes, there were fewer women than men. Yes there were fewer minorities. But I was determined to prove my place, to prove I deserved to be there. I wasn't going to feel like an impostor.

And then a couple lectures went by. The material started to get harder and harder. Suddenly, I felt overwhelmed and it seemed like I was the only one. Every other student seemed like they knew exactly what was going on. My professor would ask a question and hands would shoot up to answer - I had no idea how to even begin to answer the question. Was I stupid? Was I not as capable as I thought? How did I even get into the class, into my major, into this school? *What if I'm not ready?*

Then a year later, I scored a 12% on a math midterm. You read that right. I got 88% of the answers wrong. And not because I didn't study. I studied for that test harder than I ever had for a test in my life. I just couldn't get it. I got the lowest score in the entire class. The question now consumed me - *what if I'm not ready? Will I ever be?*

But then somehow I passed the final (and miraculously the class). And then I failed another test, and passed the next. Pass, ace, pass, fail, fail, ace, pass. I improved, things got easier, and then harder again. I'd fail again, and maybe another time, and then I'd improve again. The cycle kept going. I just had to keep going too.

To me, imposter syndrome is about fear of failure. The fear of other people asking the same question you ask yourself - "Are you really ready for this?". But failure happens no matter how ready you are. I am sure I will fail at least in some part in pretty much everything I do. And when it happens, it hurts. It's embarrassing.

But that's all it is. It doesn't speak to whether or not I am "ready" enough. Because if I did all I could - failure is simply a checkpoint. Of what needs to be improved upon. And the more comfortable I get with failure, the less I question myself.

Sometimes I still ask the looming question. Sometimes I fail at being comfortable with failure. Progress isn't always linear. But I am getting better at not giving into the feeling, not letting it hold weight in what I can and cannot do.

Everyone fails. Maybe not in exactly the same ways or for the same reasons. But it happens. You are as ready as you are, just like everyone else. And, that's enough. At least enough to try and fail..

That's what I learned from getting the lowest score on a test. And, in my opinion, I learned a more important lesson that day than anything I ever learned in that math class. I mean... as far as I know - I did score a 12% after all :-)

***the girls that made this newsletter
possible:***

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Jaidyn, 9th Grade
Celeste, 9th Grade
Madeleine, 9th Grade
Morgan, 9th Grade
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& everyone else on the WIS newsletter team

Check out our website:

[https://msorret.wixsite.com/
onlineclassroom/women-in-stem-newsletter](https://msorret.wixsite.com/onlineclassroom/women-in-stem-newsletter)

***have a question? want to get involved?
want to be featured on next month's newsletter?***

Email Ms. Orret!

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