(Formally) Supporting Women and people with diverse identities in SEAS: DCWiT

Samsara Counts

Who I am

❖ Junior, BS in Computer Science
   BS in Math

❖ Artificial Intelligence researcher

❖ SEASSPAN Mentor

❖ Learning Assistant in the Computer Science Dept.

❖ Person with a Disability

❖ Academic Affairs Chair of GW ACM

❖ Poet

❖ Woman

GW | CS

GW ACM

SEAS New Student Getaway 2017

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SEAS New Student Getaway 2017

Diversity at GW SEAS

It's true: beyond my work ethic and passion for learning, my identities have definitely shaped my **SEAS** experience.

However, one thing has impacted me more than anything else: the people here.

But more on this in a moment.

A brief overview of projects, orgs, + research I'm involved in at SEAS
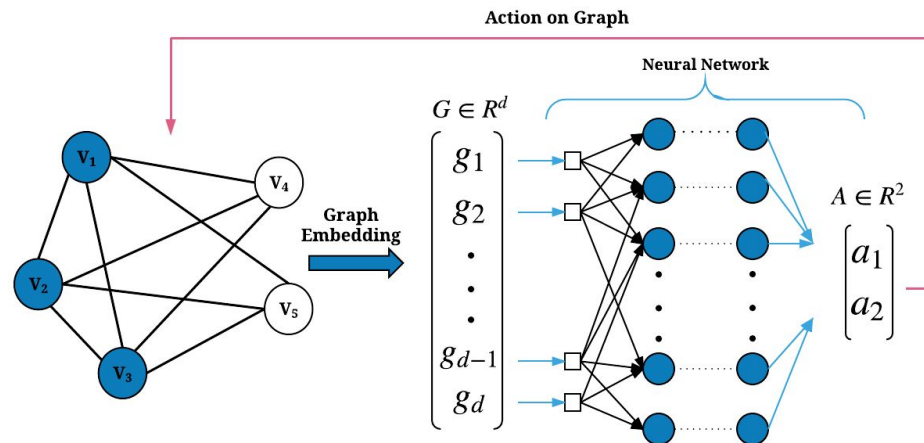
My projects: research

❖ Formally promoting *diversity in the hiring process* and graduate admissions with AI

COMPUTER SCIENCE
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❖ with **Dr. Robert Pless**, studying *online harassment* and creating tools to counteract it with ML and Computer Vision

❖ Using graph theory and Deep Learning to facilitate *kidney donor-pair exchange*
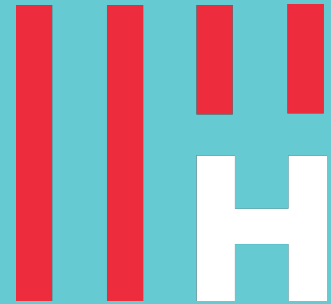
My involvement: SEAS community

GW ACM - a professional CS org with workshops, professor talks, professional development, community events, <u>Hackital</u>

The Dean's Council of Women in Technology - A SEAS Dean's organization to support GW women in STEM, lead by women in STEM, to facilitate community and communication among female students, student orgs, and mentors

DCWiT: origins, SEAS facts, + my observations

DCWiT Origins: SEAS facts

❖ Twice the national average of women undergraduates

❖ 50% more female faculty than the national average

My observations about SEAS + GW:

❖ A LOT of amazing students from underrepresented backgrounds in every discipline, especially women

❖ …who undersell themselves because they haven't had encouragement to pursue STEM or exposure to success

❖ I had to search and struggle on my own a lot to find resources

DCWiT Origins, cont: my observations

❖ There's an <u>algorithm</u>* to thriving in college and in STEM, (beyond simply the academic realm)

❖ You just need to **explain it** to women, **support them** through their time here, and **they will succeed**.

❖ A handful of tangible, impactful events can **transform** a woman's life for the better.

* - if you're interested, ask me later. My next paper maybe ;-) ?

DCWiT Origins, cont: my observations - **problems**

❖ SEAS has a lot of incredible female-led student organizations….that don't talk to each other

❖ There's no mechanism to help orgs and other student leaders communicate and organize

❖ Ask any woman: there a <u>lot</u> of jerks in engineering. Male peers are <u>less likely to be supportive</u>. There are even scattered instances of faculty demonstrating bias.

DCWiT Vision and Initiatives

The Dean's Council of Women in Technology (DCWiT) - **Vision**

❖ a network of women in STEM to support GW women in STEM organizing events

❖ a channel of communication for female student leaders and leaders of student orgs in SEAS, CCAS, MPH, etc

❖ Education and outreach for the community (students, faculty) to combat bias

The Dean's Council of Women in Technology (DCWiT) - **Our goals:**

❖ Teach key technical and professional skills

❖ Build community

❖ Connect women to mentors and professional opportunities

❖ Enable women to thrive in college and lead

❖ **Support women and people of diverse identities in STEM**

DCWiT - Women in Tech Leadership Lunch

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DCWiT Projects

1. **Mentorship Network for Women in Tech** - a mentorship network of GW alumni, faculty and staff to support current students in STEM

2. **Women in Tech Speaker Series** - Speaker series with women in Tech

3. **Professional Development** - Database of paid Internship opportunities + networking

4. **Women in Tech Workshops** - series of workshops/bootcamps teaching technical and professional skills

5. **Women in Tech Bonding Events -** community-building events for general membership and leaders

And, now, the most important slide so far…

DCWiT: How can you get involved?

1. **Connect us** to mentors, speakers, intern opportunities, and networking events

2. Know a technical skill women in STEM <u>need to know</u>?

   Fund, lead, or organize a workshop to teach them!

3. **Sponsor women** to attend life-changing conferences like the <u>Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing</u> and participate in research opportunities like <u>SUPER</u>

4. **Pick a project** and help us organize!

5. **Keep in touch** through our website (coming soon!)

DCWiT: How can you get involved?

❖ **S**hare your ideas!

❖ Talk to Annamaria, (annamaria@gwu.edu)

❖ talk to me (countss@gwu.edu)

Thank you!