

Winter 2025

New Questions

A History of Women in Science



AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE



CHICAGO

Written by Kathryn Zamiela

"We've tended to forget
that no computer will
ever ask a new
question."

- Grace Hopper, Computer Scientist
and United States Navy Rear Admiral

This zine is dedicated to every woman
who has ever asked a question
and been told that the answer didn't matter.

"The women did what
they were told to do.
They didn't ask
questions or take the
task any further. I
asked questions; I
wanted to know why."

- Katherine Johnson,
NASA Mathematician

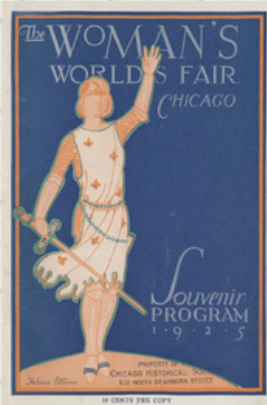
Chi Che Wang (王季茝): Fast Facts

Era: 1894 - 1979

Nationality: Chinese

Science: Chemistry and nutrition

Known For: Considered the first Chinese woman faculty member in United States higher education



Performed laboratory demonstrations at the 1925 Woman's World's Fair in Chicago

Assistant professor of physiology at Northwestern University, also worked for the Mayo Clinic and the Hines Veterans Administration Hospital



Wang (Chi Che) Park at 1719 W Wolfram Street in Chicago is named after her

Chi Che Wang: Career Journey

1907

Arrives in the United States, sponsored by a scholarship

Chinese Exclusion Act still in effect, so there are very few Chinese women in the United States

1914-
1918

Graduates from Wellesley College, earns a Master's and PhD from the University of Chicago in chemistry and nutrition

Thesis title: "Chemistry of Chinese Preserved Eggs and Chinese Edible Birds' Nests"

1915

Cofounds the Chicago Chinese Women's Club with Margaret H. D. Lin, the first woman medical doctor to graduate from the medical school of the University of Illinois

1922

Elected as a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science

1925

Provides clinical laboratory demonstrations at the Woman's World's Fair in Chicago

1931

Researches children's metabolism in Cincinnati, eventually returns to Chicago to work for the Northwestern Yeast Company

1943

Becomes assistant professor of physiology at Northwestern University Medical School

Chi Che Wang: Newspaper clippings



Visitors at the dedication ceremonies of the Children's Hospital Foundation, donated by William Cooper Proctor, were permitted to inspect the new building. In the top picture three investigators are shown working at respiratory apparatus. Air that has been exhaled is weighed and examined by means of the device pictured. Dr. Chi Che Wang, pediatricist and worker in the foundation, is seen at a machine which measures metabolism. Conditions under which food in the body is digested are approximated in the apparatus, so that metabolism under varying conditions may be studied.

CHINESE GIRL JOINS WELLESLEY SORORITY.

WELLESLEY, MASS., Oct. 18.—Miss Chi Che Wang, of Soochow, China, has been elected to the Tau Zeta Epsilon Society at Wellesley College, being the first Chinese girl ever to enter an American secret society.

She is accorded the privilege of wearing the pin and attains the liberty of the exclusive clubhouse of the society.

Tiny Chi Che Wang was seen hurrying into the business meeting Thursday morning. She came to the United States and entered Wellesley college on a fellowship granted by the Chinese government; received both master's and doctor's degrees at the University of Chicago, and is now a fellow in the Children's Hospital Pediatric Research Foundation, Cincinnati, Ohio. Unassuming Dr. Wang has recently been appointed assistant professor in biochemistry of the graduate school of the University of Cincinnati.

Further Reading

Northwestern University. (n.d.). Chi Che Wang. Hidden No More: Faculty Profiles. Retrieved from <https://www.northwestern.edu/hidden-no-more/faculty-profiles/chi-che-wang.html>

Obiakor, F., & Hui-Michael, Y. (Eds.). (2019). Voices of Asian Americans in higher education: Unheard stories. Information Age Publishing, Inc. Retrieved from https://books.google.com/books?id=vBR_DwAAQBAJ&pg=PAI22

Wellesley College. (n.d.). Chi Che Wang, I9I4. Retrieved from <https://www1.wellesley.edu/ealc/alum-corner/chinese-alumnae-corner/chi-che-wang-I9I4->

Read her research: <https://jamanetwork.com/searchresults?author=CHI+CHE+WANG&q=CHI+CHE+WANG>