



Diversity & Inclusion Moment

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Chien-Shiung Wu

The First Lady of Physics

- Wu was born in 1912 in a small town near Shanghai, China, where she attended a school that was started by her father, who believed in education for girls.
- In 1929, she attended National Central University (now called Nanjing University) to earn her undergraduate education in Physics.
- In 1936, she left for the United States to work on beta decay and the nuclear fission of uranium under Prof. Ernest Lawrence at the University of California, Berkley. She completed her Ph.D. in 1940.
- After graduating, she was unable to secure a university research position, so she became a physics instructor at Smith College and Princeton University.



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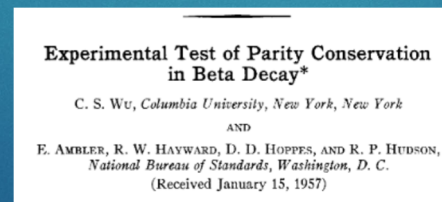
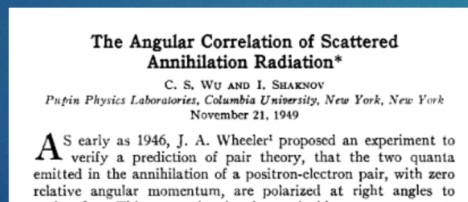
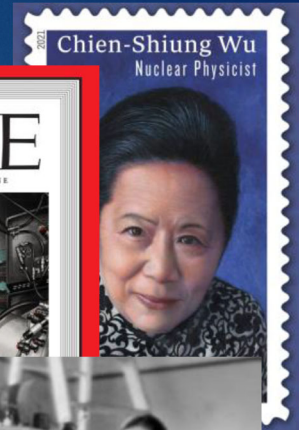
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Chien-Shiung Wu

The First Lady of Physics

- In 1944, she was recruited into the Manhattan Project to work on the uranium enrichment.
- In 1945, she was appointed as a Professor of Physics at Columbia, where she remained for the rest of her career.
- She created experiments using cobalt to contest the law of conservation of parity during beta decay.
- Her 1965 book, *Beta Decay*, is still considered a standard reference for nuclear physicist.
- In 1978, she won the Wolf Prize in Physics.



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