



**WORLD CAPITAL
OF WOMEN AND
GIRLS IN SCIENCE**



**L-Università
ta' Malta**



**GOVERNMENT
OF MALTA**

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MINISTRY FOR EDUCATION, SPORT,
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The “She Can...” exhibition presents the experiences of 26 Maltese women who have made remarkable contributions to the health and well-being, sustainability, digital technologies, smart solutions, and marine and maritime sectors.

These women pursued their dreams and overcame various challenges in order to excel in their careers. They are role models who can inspire future generations.

In this exhibition, you will meet agents of change who are challenging gender stereotypes and traditional roles, paving the way for greater representation of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

Read through the stories and get to know these inspiring women.

“She Can...” is organised to commemorate Malta as the first World Capital for Women and Girls in Science as designated by the Royal Academy for Science International Trust (RASIT).



PROF. LOURDES FARRUGIA
Head of the Department of Physics,
Faculty of Science,
University of Malta



MS DANIELLE MARTINE FARRUGIA
Senior Executive of Science Engagement,
at the Marketing, Communications and
Alumni Office, University of Malta





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DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES



DR VANESSA CAMILLERI

Academic and Researcher Who Loves Running



Vanessa studied biology and chemistry at school and then furthered her studies in Information Communication Technology (ICT).



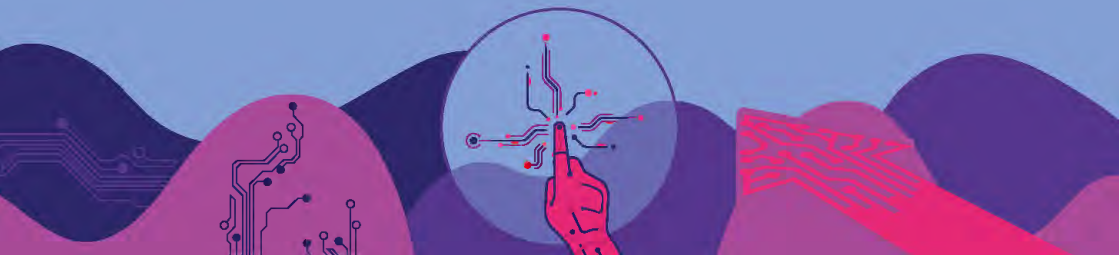
In her profession, she uses games, play and creative computing systems to facilitate people's understanding of the world around them.



She aims to instil curiosity and uses innovative ways to enrich her students' learning experiences through education.



Vanessa advises us, "Ask yourself, "What are you passionate about?" And then go change the world."





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DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES



Photography Credit: Noemi Caraban (CERN)



DR GABRIELLA AZZOPARDI

Software Engineer, Technical Consultant at CERN



Gabriella was always passionate about computing and problem-solving using mathematics.



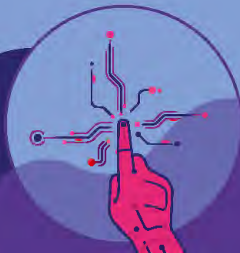
She studied ICT at the University of Malta and then continued her studies at CERN, where she worked on the world's largest and highest-energy particle collider.



She works at a Swiss software company aiding the transition to cloud-based systems, managing large-scale data and driving innovation forward.



Gabriella advises you "to embrace your passion and remain open to learn and evolve with new technologies constantly."





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DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES



DR CLAUDIA BORG

Academic, Researcher, Computational Linguist



Claudia started studying Information Technology (IT) at the age of 26.



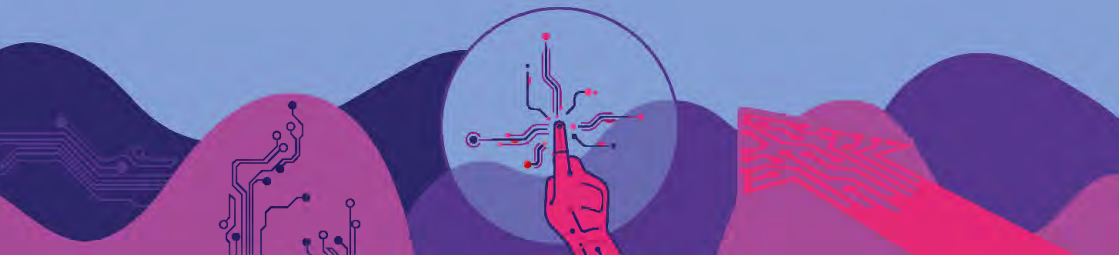
She was one of the pioneers who built the first Maltese automatic speech recognition system.



She is a lecturer at the University of Malta specialising in the application of artificial intelligence (AI) techniques to the computational processing of language.



Claudia encourages students “to stay curious, be open to other people’s ideas, but remember that your own ideas are worth exploring too.”





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DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES



MS STEPHANIE FARRUGIA

Business Intelligence Consultant



Stephanie studied mathematics and physics and applied this knowledge to work within various industries.



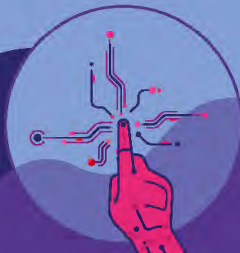
She has held leadership roles at international companies and led different teams as Head of Business Intelligence, Operations and Data Science.



She now leads her own company, helping organisations make intelligent decisions through data analysis.



Stephanie encourages students to study hard as “it is time well spent which you will find useful after you graduate.”





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DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES



DR DEANDRA CUTAJAR

Data Scientist Who Loves the Sea



Deandra's love for mathematics and physics eventually led her to study astrophysics.



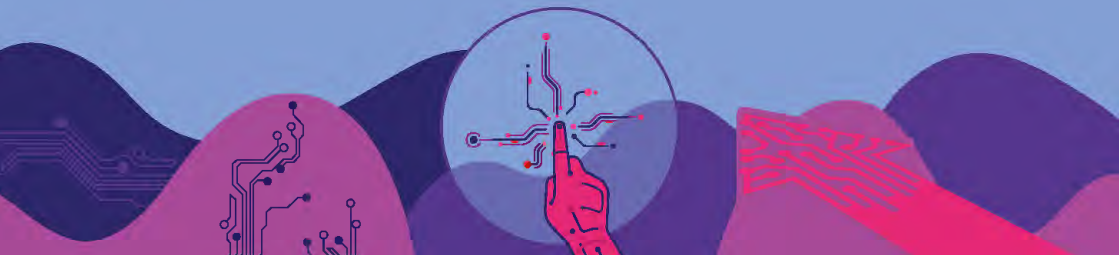
She then worked in different industries and guided companies through the transitional process towards a more data-driven culture. She also aided them in exploring how AI could potentially be used in their businesses.



She is an avid traveller, and her career has taken her from Malta to London and New Zealand.



Deandra states that her father's advice still resonates: "Instead of thinking you cannot do it, think - how can you do it?"





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HEALTH & WELL-BEING



DR JEANESSE SCERRI

Biomedical Scientist Who Loves Travelling and Experiencing the Arts



Jeanesse studied sciences and started her career as a medical laboratory scientist at Mater Dei Hospital.



She pursued further studies to become a team leader within the Molecular Pathology & Genetics Lab, co-ordinating the Maltese genetic testing service.



She remains committed to the growth and development of this laboratory and the continuous advancement of genetic profiling, both for personalised medicine as well as hereditary conditions.



Jeanesse advises us "to always be curious and never be afraid to ask questions."





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HEALTH & WELL-BEING



PROF. JANET MIFSUD

Academic, Researcher, Science Fiction Fan



Growing up, Janet was always fascinated by the stars.



She has held leadership roles on various international boards and is presently a Drug Rehabilitation Services board member at Caritas Malta.



She is passionate about improving the quality of life of persons with epilepsy and was awarded the title of International Ambassador for Epilepsy.



Janet states, "Life is something which happens while you are expecting something else."





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HEALTH & WELL-BEING



PROF. CHARMAINE GAUCI

Superintendent of Public Health, Advocate of Public Health, Associate Professor



Charmaine was always fascinated by science and studied biology, chemistry and physics with the aspiration of becoming a medical doctor.



She distinguished herself through her leadership of the public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



As the Superintendent of Public Health, she is responsible for safeguarding and enhancing the public's overall health and well-being.



Charmaine's advice is "not to give up, study hard, learn from your mistakes and most importantly to believe in yourself."





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HEALTH & WELL-BEING



PROF. GILLIAN MARTIN

Medical Sociologist



Gillian pursued a career in nursing before studying sociology as a mature student.



Her key interests are medical sociology and the social impact of genomic research and biobanking.



She is the head of the Department of Sociology within the Faculty of Arts, and an associate at the University of Malta's Centre for Molecular Medicine and Biobanking.



Gillian emphasises "the importance of recognising the impact of new knowledge and technology on social life."





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HEALTH & WELL-BEING



PROF. JEAN CALLEJA AGIUS

Obstetrician, Gynaecologist, Loves Art and Science



Jean enjoys most subjects, including languages, art and science.



Her interest in women's health stems from the time her mother underwent a major surgery, which made Jean aware of the severe lack of female gynaecologists.



She leads an international network of researchers to advance knowledge related to pregnancy, infertility, menopause and cancer.



Jean recommends "turning every stumbling block into a stepping stone, thinking out of the box and daring to go against the current."





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HEALTH & WELL-BEING



MRS RAINA RODRIGUES

Plastic Surgeon, National Health Service (NHS) England and Aesthetic Virtue (Malta & UK)



Raina studied medicine and became interested in the creation of artificial skin when she travelled to Nepal.



She is a UK-based plastic surgeon specialising in skin cancer and facial reconstruction.



She runs her own company, and though her doctoral studies have afforded her many titles, her favourite remains 'Mummy'.



Raina recommends that "performing excellently in a field you love and enjoy is far easier."





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MARINE & MARITIME



CAPTAIN LAURA FALZON

Captain, Lecturer, Seafarer



Capt. Laura always questioned a typical career path until she realised that a career at sea exists!



At 17, she sailed through both hemispheres of the Atlantic Ocean and in 2017, she became the first Maltese woman to become master mariner.



Through lecturing, she guides future seafarers in pursuing their nautical dreams.



Laura advises, "Don't let anyone discourage you from a STEM career. You'll discover yourself along the way."





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MARINE & MARITIME



MS PAULINE MICALLEF

Accountant, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of MaritimeMT, Sea-Lover



Pauline is an accountant by profession who has led multi-million dollar projects.



Through hard work, she became a manager at 22 and is currently the CEO of MaritimeMT.



She uses her expertise to manage the training centre that is shaping future maritime professionals.



According to Pauline, "It is not about position, but what motivates you to conquer the day."





MARINE & MARITIME



MS AUDREY ZAMMIT

Scientific Officer, Advocate for Ocean Literacy, Open Science Ambassador



Audrey always held pioneering scientists as the inspiration for her career.



She studied chemistry, and following a career break to focus on family, she earned a degree in ICT.



As a scientist within the Oceanography Malta Research Group, she safeguards our seas and promotes ocean literacy.



Audrey asserts, "Never underestimate the extent of your abilities. If in doubt, ask for guidance on how to achieve your goals."





SUSTAINABILITY



DR JEANETTE MIREILLE MUÑOZ ABELA

Architect and Structural Engineer Who Loves Salsa Dancing



Jeanette always loved art and mathematics, and she combined these two disciplines when she became an architect.



Jeanette is passionate about creating spaces that promote happiness and well-being. She believes that architecture's true beauty lies within its elegant engineering solutions.



As an academic and co-founder of her company, she focuses on the fusion of architecture and engineering to enhance users' experiences.



Jeanette advises, "to embrace challenges, don't give up! 'NO' means 'Next Opportunity.'"





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SUSTAINABILITY



Photography credit: Amanda Heu



MS SONYA SAMMUT

Ambassador, Visiting Lecturer, Agriculture Expert



Sonya is a mother and scientist who is always curious about how the universe works.



She is a competent leader, working as a policy scientist, a business consultant, and a teacher.



She is the Ambassador for Organic and Sustainable Food, leading the National Action Plan for Organic Food and the National Food Policy.



Sonya argues that "studying STEM gives you fundamentals for life, not just for a career."





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SUSTAINABILITY



Photography Credit: Cacti Studio



DR RACHAEL MARIE SCICLUNA

Urban Anthropologist, Strategic Leader, Social Justice Advocate



Rachael Marie always loved science and the arts. She discovered that anthropology marries the two, enabling us to understand human behaviour across cultures.



She develops research-based policies and recommendations pertaining to housing, homes, alternative families, and social planning within European urban neighbourhoods and diverse communities.



Using culturally sensitive policies and a feminist design, she offers a better quality of life and leaves no one behind.



Rachael Marie appeals to students "to follow their passion as dreams can be fulfilled. Never give up!"





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SUSTAINABILITY



MS NADINE MERCIECA

Team Manager, With a Passion for Jazz



Nadine's passion for science was fueled by her father, an engineer who inspired and sustained her enthusiasm to pursue a career in environmental science.



For the past 20 years, she has worked in the environmental monitoring and regulatory services of air quality monitoring.



She is a team manager at the Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) and is responsible for air quality policy and environmental noise.



Nadine highlights that science presents "a variety of options for job opportunities!"





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MS ANNA SPITERI

Company Owner, Environmental Activist, Tree Champion



Anna's fascination with rocks and maps led her to study geography and remote sensing.



She has tendered and won 20 European environmental research projects and has conducted research in several countries overseas.

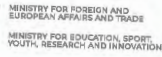


She champions conservation and deems the countryside, soil and trees to be sacred. She is currently a Ph.D. candidate in ecology and spirituality.



Anna tells us, "Trust the vision of yourself as successful and never give up."





SUSTAINABILITY



PROF. MARIE BRIGUGLIO

Economist, Academic, Activist



Marie was 16 when she became interested in finding scientific and economic solutions to world problems.



Prior to her transition to academia and her shift in focus to notions of economic behaviour, environmental cooperation and well-being economics, Marie also worked in planning.



She set up multiple collaborative research projects with policy-makers to create a real-world impact. She is also a multimedia writer.



Marie believes that "you can combine STEM with other pursuits, such as art and activism."





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SMART SOLUTIONS



PROF. REBECCA DALLI GONZI

Head of Department, Architect



Rebecca has always been interested in mathematics and physics. She has held positions in both the private and public sectors in Malta and Scotland.



She developed the DALI model, an instrument for assessing organisational risk that enables businesses to achieve their goals with minimal setbacks.



She conducts radio programmes on career women and sustainability.



Rebecca argues that "you must surround yourself with people who believe in your dream."





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SMART SOLUTIONS



DR ALEXANDRA BONNICI

Head of Department, Engineer, Piano Player



Alexandra has always been interested in science, art and music. She also read for an engineering degree at the University of Malta.



She actively promotes engineering to students and has set up the Engineering Technology Clubs at the Faculty.



Her research revolves around the application of computer vision and AI to music and art in order to provide assistive learning tools.



Alexandra's advice is "to stick to your guns and pursue your passion."





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SMART SOLUTIONS



Photography Credit: Rene Rossignaud



ING. HELGA PIZZUTO

Engineer, Chairperson at the Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCAA)



Helga studied mathematics and physics to eventually become an electrical engineer.



She was the first female to be elected president of the Chamber of Engineers and the Malta Federation of Professional Associations and has held various directorship positions.



She has worked on several nationwide projects and is considered an agent of change within the public sector.



Helga recommends “not to build self-made barriers that hinder you from following your ambition.”





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SMART SOLUTIONS



DR FIONA SAMMUT

Senior Lecturer, Deputy Dean, Head of Department



Fiona has always been passionate about mathematics and has read for degrees in mathematics and statistics at both the University of Malta and the University of Warwick.



Throughout her career in academia, she has collaborated with other researchers and continues to share her passion for science with students and peers.



Her research interests give her the opportunity to work in areas such as the health sciences, psychology and climate modelling.



Fiona encourages students “to inspire countless others to follow in their footsteps through their passion for STEM.”





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SMART SOLUTIONS



MS PAULA GRECH BONNICI

Director, Educator



Paula graduated in biology and chemistry.



She led the first laboratory in Malta to receive prestigious accreditation and has over 25 years of experience in laboratory management.



Through her expertise in the water sector, she has served on various boards and is now the director of the Institute of Applied Sciences within MCAST.



Paula's advice is "to persevere, seek assistance if need be, and listen to your heart."





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SMART SOLUTIONS



DR IMAN FARHAT

Researcher, Medical Applications Developer



Iman's love for mathematics and science led her to eventually graduate in these subjects.



During her doctoral studies, she specialised in the design of advanced instrumentation for the exploration of celestial phenomena through radio waves.



Her current work exemplifies her contribution to the betterment of society through the leveraging of scientific advancements in agriculture and medical applications.



Iman encourages students "to focus on mathematics and writing skills."





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