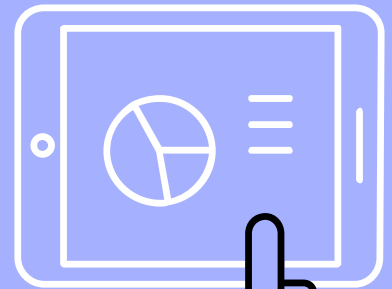
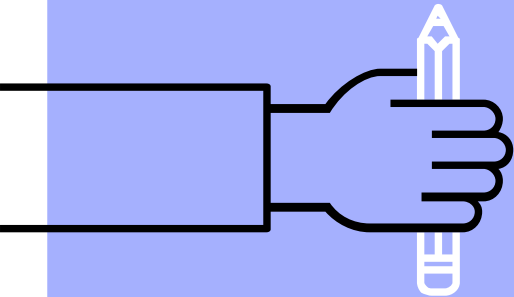
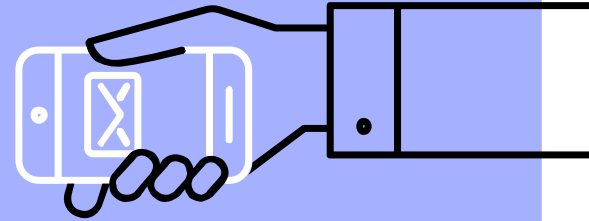
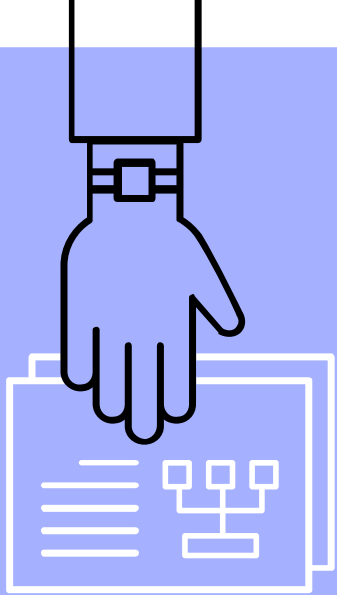


200G:

In A League of  
Our Own



“

*“I think for me, the most important part about Girl Powered is that it creates a space where I feel like I belong. A space where I think of others on my team as my friends before my teammates. A space where I look forward to--and enjoy--staying at school until 9pm on a Friday night. A space where I’m not afraid to try something new. Where I don’t need to be afraid to be myself. And I think that’s the most empowering thing about 200G.”*

- Yi Lian, Senior member of 200G



# My Beginning

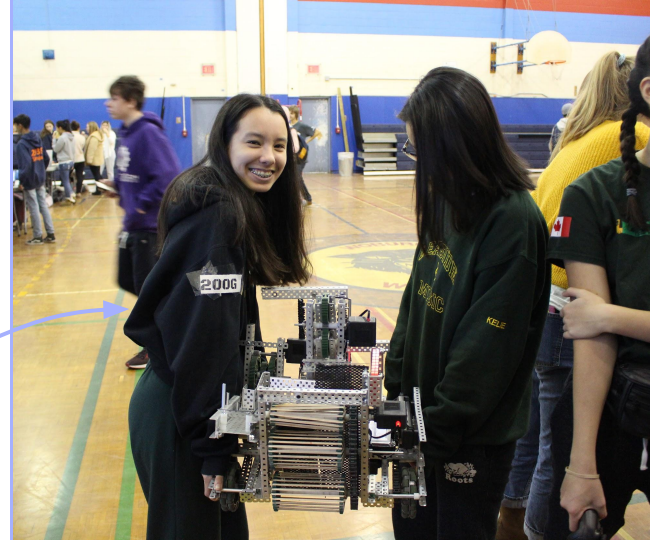
Hi there! My name is Jaya Roy, and this is my story in VEX.

My journey in robotics started in grade 10. I was still getting my bearings around Leaside High School. I wasn't on very many teams or clubs. I'd tried a few, but nothing stuck. One of my close friends, Laura, was on the robotics team, and she'd been on the STEM team in middle school as well. I'd considered joining the STEM team in grade 6 but I was a shy kid and didn't feel confident enough to apply. With the exception of Laura, I didn't know any girls who were applying or who were already on the team. I didn't feel comfortable being on a team with so few girls and so many older boys. I also didn't have any experience relating to STEM, apart from attaching a battery to a small wooden cart for a project in design and tech.

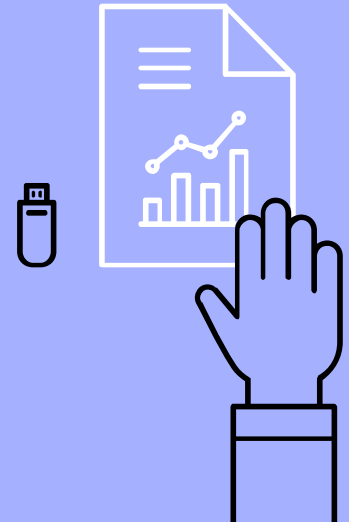
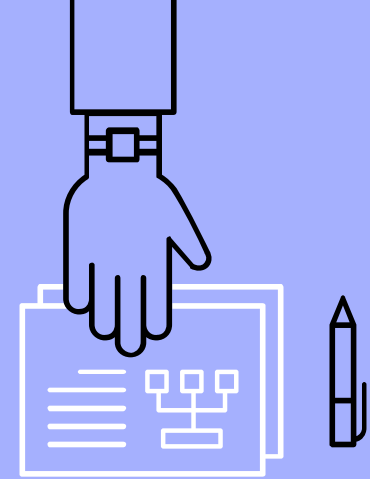
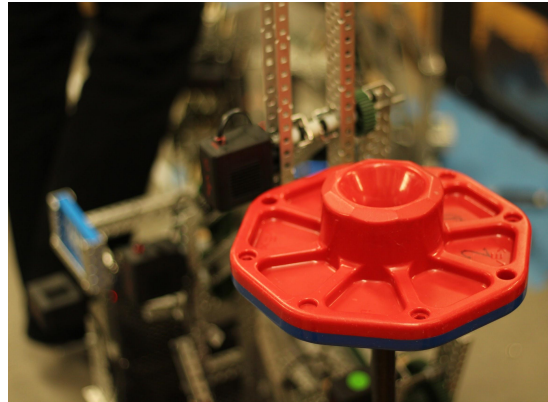
Me



Laura



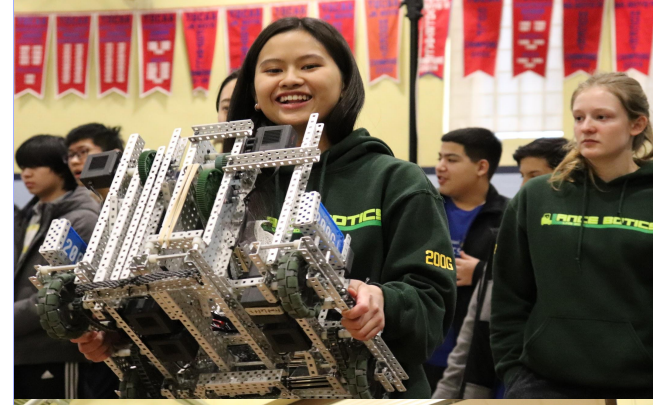
Upon entering high school, Laura joined the robotics team and spent much of her time in the field room or at competitions. She seemed to be enjoying herself and spoke highly of the benefits of being able to gain practical experience working on STEM projects. I figured it couldn't hurt to check it out, and attended the information meeting where they mentioned the start of an all girls team. This piqued my interest - based on previous experience, an all girls team sounded like the perfect fit for me.



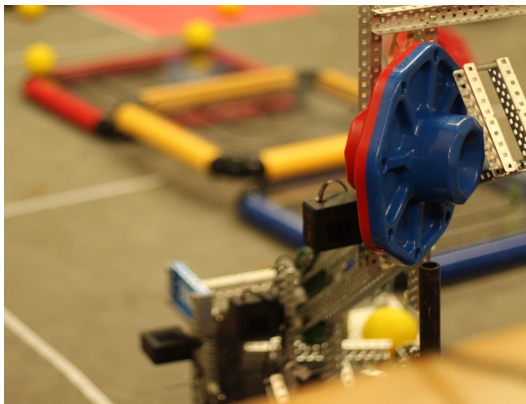
I sent in an application for the media team, and chose building on the new girls team as a backup, though I didn't think I would be accepted due to my lack of experience.

I figured my brief foray into STEM would be over before it even started, until one day at lunch Laura called me and asked, "Where are you? The 200G meeting is starting!". To this day, I'm still not entirely sure how I got on the team, but I wasn't about to look a gift horse in the mouth.

I started on media. As a new team, 200G didn't have an Instagram account which was necessary for recognition and networking. That was my first job. I created the 200G instagram account and have been running it ever since, along with updating the 200 LanceBotics twitter account at competitions.

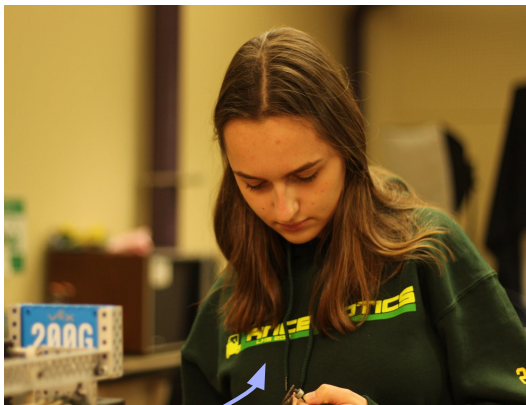


Crystal and Sylvia,  
co-founders of 200G

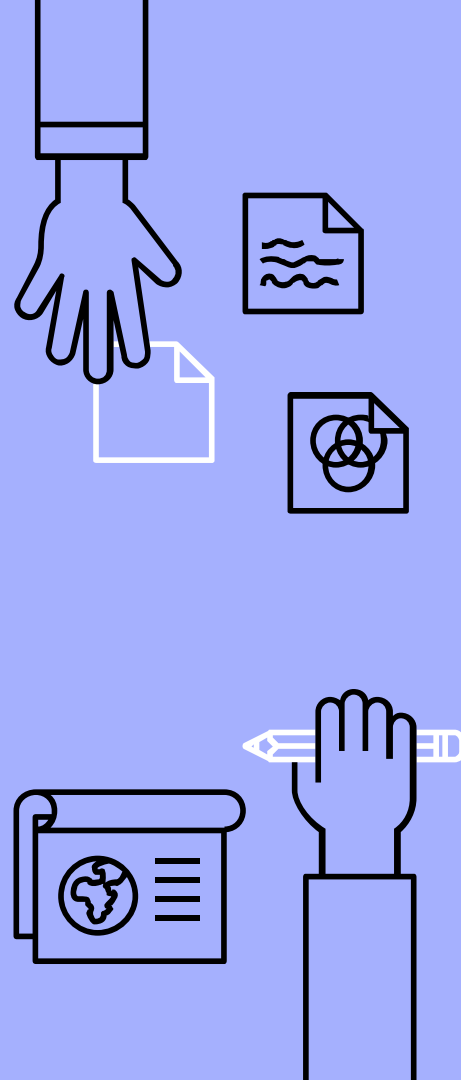


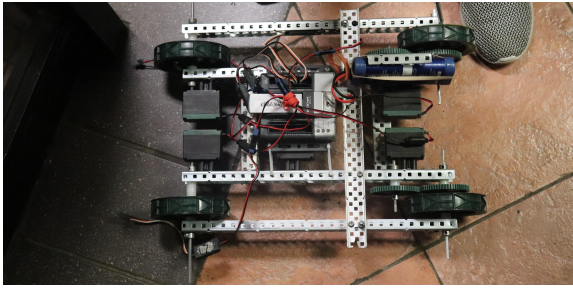
The majority of the summer of grade 10 was spent in my team captains' basements, learning and observing as our captains Crystal and Sylvia taught us what they knew. They were incredibly patient mentors. Pretty soon, I developed an interest in building and started to learn how to contribute to the construction of the robot. We spent countless hours screwing on nylocks, cutting C channels, and filing metal. The great thing about being with the other girls is that most of them knew as little as I did.

We learned at our own paces and helped each other grow. I never felt stupid or looked down on when I didn't understand something and my fear of asking for help gradually faded away.



Yasmine Kollar, 200G  
programmer alumni





Yi Lian, senior member of 200G



When the school year started, so did our competitions. I was incredibly excited for our first tournament, and spent the day queuing for matches.

At school, I spent much of my free time in room 122, - our build room - soaking up as much information as I could, and getting to know all members of LanceBotics. The rest of the season passed with its ups and downs.

We won quite a few awards during the season. The Build, Create, and Judges awards are proudly displayed in our field room with the names of the original G members written on the back. We proved ourselves as a force to be reckoned with, even in our first year. We partnered with our school's DECA team to create day-long robotics workshops designed to introduce young girls to STEM. It was a resounding success with 35 girls showing up!

Despite all our achievements, there were many roadblocks and stressful moments. We rebuilt the robot a number of times, changing from a puncher to a catapult and back again. Our programmers had to learn how to code in very little time, and had to be ready to change it on a whim. But the hard work paid off! We qualified for the provincial tournament through Robot Skills.

Provincials proved to be a stressful but rewarding experience. Spending the night in St. Catherines gave 200G a chance to bond and get to know each other beyond seeing each other in school.

Unfortunately we didn't qualify for Worlds but we were incredibly proud of what had been achieved. We even ended up ranking 16th in Ontario for Robot Skills! 200G became a family. I would desperately need that family in the coming months, but more on that later.





## Supporting 200X at the 2019 VEX World Championship



Mr. Lu, staff advisor

Although 200G did not qualify, nine of its members were given the opportunity to accompany 200X (who did qualify) in April of 2019, to Kentucky to help and gain more experience in VEX. I was fortunate enough to tag along.

I went as a media representative. I kept the social media accounts up to date and relayed information back to our friends and family in Canada on how we were doing. Worlds was eye-opening. From stressing about not being able to locate a team's pits, to venting to each other at 5 in the morning, to struggling to communicate with foreign teams, we learned so much! By the end of Worlds, 200X finished 62nd in their division and the new game was revealed! It was back to the drawing board - our season was over, and it was time we returned home to begin sketching out designs for next year's robot.

In June of 2019, my parents revealed to my family that they were getting a divorce. The next few months were extremely difficult - high school was hard enough and now I was dealing with the extreme stress of the separation.

It was pretty difficult to hide at school, and it became clear to my teammates quite quickly that something was wrong. When they found out, they were incredibly supportive. They wrapped me in a giant group hug, and told me they were there for me.

I wouldn't have been able to get through the rest of that year without them. Robotics became my safe haven. It gave me something to work towards. It was my escape. 200G had become my family, which made it that much easier to handle the divorce, because despite everything that was happening, I wasn't alone.

200G is family





By the end of the year, we had to say goodbye to the vast majority of the team. The grade 12's graduated, leaving 200G with only four members. This wouldn't be the end for our team, although it meant we all had to take on more roles. I became media co-captain and continued building, and the other co-author of this story - Yi Lian - took on more roles as a drive team coach, scout captain, and builder.

Almost all our G alumnae are currently pursuing careers in the STEM and business fields. Nadia Nguyen is at the University of Waterloo for Biomedical Engineering, Rachael Mohl is at the University of Guelph for Computer Science. They continue to pursue their passion in STEM which was developed by their experience on 200G.

This season, 200G is here to challenge the stigma around all-girls robotics teams. We are here to demonstrate - not only to the VEX community but to ourselves - that our awards are not the result of being an all girls team, but from our consistent dedication, determination, and genuine desire to learn.

So here's to another year of late-night build sessions, designs that don't work, probably a bit of crying - but a lot more laughter - in room 122.



# Credits Page:

- ❖ Crystal Jin and Sylvia Gehring - founders and co-captains of 200G
- ❖ Jaya Roy and Yi Lian - Co-authors
- ❖ Sahar Abdalla - alumnae editor
- ❖ Photography - Sabrina Wen, Martin Alexiev, Cole Kapitain, Shezan Bhaloo
- ❖ Mr. Vincent Lu - Staff advisor
- ❖ Leaside High School - Sponsor of 200 LanceBotics
- ❖ Sam Chowdhury - Senior Editor