

Special Interest Articles:

- Salary, Gender and the Social Cost of Haggling
- Why women don't pursue Physics careers
- Despite gains, women still lagging behind men in careers

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Salary, Gender and the Social Cost of Haggling

Washington Post, By Shankar Vedantam

About 10 years ago, a group of graduate students lodged a complaint with Linda C. Babcock, a professor of economics at Carnegie Mellon University: All their male counterparts in the university's PhD program were teaching courses on their own, whereas the

women were working only as teaching assistants. That mattered, because doctoral students who teach their own classes get more experience and look better prepared when it comes time to go on the job market. When Babcock took the complaint to her boss, she learned there was a very

simple explanation: "The dean said each of the guys had come to him and said, 'I want to teach a course,' and none of the women had done that," she said. "The female students had expected someone to send around an e-mail saying, 'Who wants to teach?'" [Read full article.](#)

Why Women don't Pursue Physics Careers

Clara Moskowitz, LiveScience

Many of the strategies teachers have been using to encourage girls to pursue careers in physics aren't working, according to new research. A new study examined the effectiveness of five ways high-school science teachers have tried to

nudge [female students toward physics](#) careers, and found that four of them had no effect. Only one — an actual discussion in class about women's underrepresentation in physics — proved successful, researchers reported Monday (April 2) here at the April 2012 meeting of the American

Physics Society. Women receive only about 19 percent of the U.S. physics doctorate degrees awarded every year, and make up an even smaller proportion of all [physics faculty members](#). [Read the full article.](#)

Despite gains, women still lagging behind men in careers

Los Angeles Daily News, April 7, 2012 by Claudia S. Palma

Despite great improvements in higher education equity, women in California make 84cents for every dollar earned by men. And worse yet, Latinas earn 59 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts and black women earn 68

cents. While women are graduating from California colleges and universities at a higher rate than men, they start lagging behind their male counterparts in the fields of science and math as they move up in school. In turn, women are underrepresented in the STEM - science, technology, engineering and mathematics - fields.

These are some of the data that emerged from the "Status of Women and Girls in California" report released last month by the California Commission on Women and Girls in California and Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles. [Read the full article.](#)



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Issues for Women in STEM Brown Bag Lunches

Don't miss the last Women in STEM brown bag lunch this semester on the UNL campus. Bring your lunch and get to know other women in STEM on campus. All faculty are invited to attend.

Tuesday, May 8th, Noon-1:00pm, Beadle Center room N263. This event will be hosted by the Biochemistry Department and drinks and dessert will be provided.

Women, Math, and the addition of Stereotypes

By Kathy Seal

Do women often perform less well at higher math because of the stereotype that they have less ability than men, or is there another reason for the achievement gap?

Women and math have a checkered history in the popular imagination. Remember the Barbie doll that said "Math class is tough"? Mattel [removed that phrase](#) from the doll's repertoire in 1992 after an uproar from women's groups. Thirteen years later, Lawrence H. Summers, then president of Harvard University, suggested that women may be "innately less able to succeed in math and science careers" and later apologized for those remarks, although he eventually [resigned](#) his post. The debate gained new life in January when University of Leeds psychologist [Gijsbert Stoet](#) and University of Missouri psychologist [David C. Geary](#) published a meta-analysis of nine studies arguing that the stereotype of women being poor at math did not explain a gender gap in higher math achievement. Evidence of such a causal relationship "is weak at best," they concluded in the [Review of General Psychology](#). (Here's a [video of Stoet](#) explaining their thesis.) [Read full article.](#)

Opportunity for Postdocs in Chemical Engineering

This summer the graduate students at the University of Washington Chemical Engineering department will be organizing the 2nd "Distinguished Young Scholars Seminar Series."

Our graduate students will select 8 applicants from those received by the due date of May 11 to come to Seattle and deliver a Chemical Engineering seminar to our students and faculty. Last year the competition was vigorous and we are hoping for more applicants this year. The DYSSS is entirely organized by our students, including the NSF-style panel that they run in order to rank and determine the best candidates. The overarching goal is to serve the discipline of Chemical Engineering by providing a venue for "rising stars" to present their research and practice giving an hourlong research seminar.

There is no limit on the number of nominations that can come from any department and the application is quite short. More information can be found on our student's website at:

<http://depts.washington.edu/acesche/dysss>

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