

January 24, 2013  
Volume 5, Issue 3

# ADVANCE-Nebraska E-News

Advancing Women, Advancing STEM

## Special Interest Articles:

- Paternal Parental Leave

“Many STEM disciplines are still male-faculty dominated, and our participants described informal departmental cultures which operate on the outdated assumption that faculty have a stay-at-home partner to provide support,” Lundquist said.”

- Is the U.S. Falling Behind on Women in the Workplace?

- Ideas for Managing your Email

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## Paternal Parental Leave

By [Colleen Flaherty](#)  
From *INSIDE HIGHER ED*  
January 24, 2013

A new [study](#) from sociologists at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst and the University of Maryland at College Park challenges the idea that men in academe can abuse gender-neutral parental leave policies to focus on research rather than parenting -- or teaching.

In “Parental Leave Usage by Fathers and Mothers at an American University,” in this month’s issue of the journal *Fathering*, Jennifer Lundquist and Joya Misra of UMass, along with KerryAnn O’Meara of Maryland, found that relatively few male faculty members with children took paid parental leave (72 percent of reported leave-takers were women, while 82 percent of all

non-leave-takers were men). Those who did take it said they needed to because their spouses were not full-time homemakers. Some fathers whose partners were back at work full time [still did not take] leave, fearing negative professional repercussions, such as delayed promotions. The findings contradict assertions that male professors can exploit the paid leave system because they are more likely than their female colleagues to have spouses who stay at home all or most of the time to raise children.

[Read the full article.](#)

## Is the U.S. Falling Behind on Women in the Workplace?

From *the Atlantic*  
By Jordan Weissmann  
Jan 14 2013

...Countries such as Canada, the United Kingdom, Switzerland, and France have managed to outstrip our growth, even though a large fraction of their women were already working in 1990. The reasons for that, Blau and Kahn believe, largely boil down to the family-friendly policies that have been

adopted outside the United States. Other developed countries have legislated rules that make it easier for employees to work part-time and guarantee women generous paid maternity leave. They also spend more on government-sponsored childcare, though that appears to have less of an affect on whether women work.

If the U.S. were to adopt a similar set of laws making it easier for mothers to get out of the house and into the office, Blau and Kahn estimate that around 82 percent of American women would have been in the labor force in 2010, instead of the 75 percent who actually were.

[Read the full article.](#)

[U.S. Dept. of Ed. predicts 59% of all higher ed. students will be women by 2020.](#)

## Gender Gap in Enrollments in Higher Education Widens

From the WIA Report

Jan 23, 2013 | “New data from the U.S. Department of Education estimates that the enrollments of women in higher education will increase by 18 percent by the year 2021. From 1996 to 2010, the number of women enrolled in higher education increased by 49 percent. While the growth in women enrollments is expected to slow down, the gender gap in college enrollments is expected to expand. The Department of Education estimates that the enrollment of men in higher education will increase by only 10 percent by the year 2021. The new Department of Education [report](#) also projects an increase of 23 percent in the number of women who earn associate’s degrees and a 23 percent increase in women earning bachelor’s degrees by 2021. The number of women earning master’s degrees is estimated to increase by 38 percent by 2021 and doctoral degrees earned by women are expected to increase by 29 percent. At all degree levels, the increased estimates for women are significantly higher than those forecasted for men.”

## Episode 102: Academics Struggle With Managing E-Mail

January 10, 2013, 8:31 pm [Listen to the Podcast](#)

From *The Chronicle of Higher Education*

By [Jeffrey R. Young](#)



With so many messages coming in, many people on campuses are feeling a sense of overload. The Tech Therapy team talks with Brett Foster, an associate professor of English at Wheaton College, in Illinois, about his experiment in keeping his inbox to zero each day.

**Links discussed in this episode:** [Chronicle Review essay on “E-Mail Nirvana”](#)

Download this recording as [an MP3 file](#), or subscribe to Tech Therapy [on iTunes](#).

Each month The Chronicle's *Tech Therapy podcast* offers analysis of and advice on what the latest gadgets and buzzwords mean for professors, administrators, and students. Join the hosts—Jeff Young, The Chronicle's technology editor, and Warren Arbogast, a technology consultant who works with colleges—for a lively discussion as well as interviews with leading thinkers in technology.

Have an article or news item of interest about women in STEM Fields you'd like to share? We'd love to hear about it! Send your article to [advance2@unl.edu](mailto:advance2@unl.edu).

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From the *Chronicle of Higher Education*

By [Minerva Cheevy](#)

February 1, 2012, 2:53 pm

Manage your email inbox well. That's all there is to it.



Not that kind of inbox.

I understand that there are faculty members and administrators who receive many, many hundreds of emails a day and find it nearly impossible to keep up with the volume. I wish them good luck. However, if you are a graduate student or postdoc, you do not receive “too much email.” You might think that you do, but you are wrong. I'm sorry, but it's true. You are simply managing it poorly. If you miss important announcements, if you regularly fail to respond emails from collaborators asking for input, if you can't get things done in time because you “didn't know” about them (because you didn't see the email), you will be perceived as incompetent and a drain on more productive people. However, if you are able to quickly respond to queries and solve problems in a timely manner because you have good control over your email inbox, people will think you are amazing. [Read the full article.](#)