

Special Interest Articles:

- Why is medicine better than science at retaining women?
- Innovation Needs a Diversity of Ideas
- Tenure Track as Alt-Ac

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Why is medicine better than science at retaining women?

From AAAS Member Central Qualia
February 11, 2013
Summer Allen, Graduate and Postdoc, Brown University

Over the last ten years, women earned roughly half the doctorates awarded in biological sciences, yet they make up only 35% of assistant professors in both Canada and the United

States. About half of medical students are also female, but similar numbers of men and women are still in medicine seven years after training. In a recent article published in BioScience, Professor Shelley Adamo examines the reasons why medicine—as a field—is more successful at retaining women than are the academic life sciences. It's not the long

hours, children, or money. It's often suggested that women leave academic science because they find it difficult (or fear they will find it difficult) to balance the long hours of a science career with raising a family. But as Adamo points out, female physicians work longer hours than female professors and retention of female medical students is about 99% seven years after training.

[Read the full article.](#)

Innovation Needs a Diversity of Ideas

From AAAS Member Central Article
AAAS CEO Alan I. Leshner and Director of Education and Human Resources at AAAS
Shirley Malcom
January 24, 2013

America's future innovation depends in large part on our ability to fully tap a richly diverse

talent pool, and a Supreme Court case involving the University of Texas at Austin could undermine that goal. Coming up with the next Google search engine, life-saving diagnostic tools, or medical treatments will depend on novel ideas from diverse sources. Discovery works best when everyone brings fresh insights to the

process. Scientist Joseph DeSimone, the holder of more than 130 patents for his inventions, explains it this way: "When you surround yourself with people that know exactly what you know, you're at a disadvantage in the innovation process."

[Read the full article](#)

Tenure Track as Alt-Ac

From Inside Higher Ed
By Scott Jaschik
February 19, 2013

When the [Survey of Earned Doctorates was released in December](#), much of the analysis focused on the worsening job market for those with new doctorates in humanities fields. But research presented this weekend at the annual meeting of the American

Association for the Advancement of Science -- based on that survey and other federally sponsored data -- suggested that the job market for those in many scientific fields is also taking a beating. And this is so much the case that tenure-track jobs should now be considered "alt-ac" positions

(or alternative academic careers) because they are not the norm anymore for new Ph.D.s, in the words of Paula Stephan, a professor of economics at Georgia State University who specializes in the intersection of economics and science.

[Read the full article.](#)

From the College of Arts & Sciences

Diverse Paths, Shared Excellence

Sarma receives NSF CAREER award

02.07.2013



Congratulations to Anita Sarma who received a prestigious NSF CAREER Award. Her project, entitled "CAREER: Conflict Minimization in Distributed Software Development," has a budget amount of \$500,000 and will run from May 2013 to April 2018. This is Anita's third NSF research grant as a Principle Investigator. Software development is a complex socio-technical activity typically occurring concurrently, in distributed teams, and within the larger organizational goals and context. Current development tools are overwhelmed by the scale of software-intensive systems, and often end up contributing to, rather than minimizing, information overload, and coordination breakdowns, which ultimately lead to software conflicts and project delays. This research seeks to establish an understanding of how past development data and team practices can be used to proactively identify dependencies and constraints across tasks, and schedule tasks so as to minimize conflicting changes in parallel, distributed development.

[Read the full story of the UNL College of Arts & Sciences website.](#)

[Anita Sarma](#) is an Assistant Professor in the [Department of Computer Science & Engineering](#) in the [College of Arts & Sciences](#) at UNL.

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From the WIA Report

Only Five Women Among the 69 New Members of the National Academy of Engineering

Feb 20, 2013



“...Recently, the National Academy of Engineering announced its 2013 class of new fellows. According to *WIAReport*’s analysis, only five of the 69 new members are women.” [Read the full story.](#)

WomenTech Educators ONLINE Recruitment and Retention Training



New: Online Training

Learn proven recruitment and retention strategies so you can increase the number of female students in your STEM classes.

Online training starts February 25. Hurry, limited spots available!

Developing Future Engineers

UNL’s Society of Women Engineers Lead Scouts’ STEM Session (From the CoE website)



From the WIA Report

Study Finds That Women Are More Likely Than Men to “Stop the Tenure Clock”

Posted on Feb 20, 2013



“A study conducted by researchers at the University of Minnesota found that women faculty members take longer to achieve tenure at the university. Men are more likely than women to achieve tenure in the standard six-year cycle. The data showed that 64 percent of male hires in the 2002-to-2004 period achieved tenure in six years compared to 53 percent of women faculty hired in the same period.”

[Read the full story.](#)