

ADVANCE E-NEWS VOL. 1, NO. 11, 1 MAY 2009

ADVANCE-Nebraska: Advancing women, advancing STEM



Colleagues:

Greetings! Let me take this occasion to remind you that UNL is now an ADVANCE university. A \$3.8 million ADVANCE grant from the National Science Foundation will help us create an environment where all Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) faculty thrive. The grant supports best practices to increase recruitment and retention of women STEM faculty and to study what practices best support their academic success. Cultivating a world-class and broadly inclusive science and engineering workforce for the nation is one of the National Science Foundation's goals. Since its inception in 2001, ADVANCE program grants have been successful at 30 major universities in the United States. We are honored to participate in this prestigious and strategically important enterprise.

ADVANCE-Nebraska produces a monthly electronic newsletter and we are expanding the e-mailing list to all faculty in STEM disciplines. The newsletter contains announcements particularly relevant to STEM faculty such as upcoming ADVANCE-Nebraska events, and other items of interest to science, engineering and mathematics academics and aspiring academics. Please share this newsletter with undergraduate and graduate students, post-docs and others. Some of the events may be of interest to them and useful for their professional development. If you wish to be deleted from this listserv, please contact advance2@unl.edu.

Learn more about ADVANCE at our project website: <http://advance.unl.edu>.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about ADVANCE, and best wishes for your continued success at UNL.

Barbara Couture

Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs

PI for ADVANCE-Nebraska

Please feel free to forward, opt out, or provide feedback via email to: advance2@unl.edu.

Visit ADVANCE-Nebraska online: <http://advance.unl.edu>

Please forward any items (announcements, new or classic papers, funding and job opportunities) to advance2@unl.edu.

Thanks to all who contributed articles and announcements: Ellen Weissinger; Anne Vidaver, Kim Hachiya, Julia McQuillan.

A. Announcements – ADVANCE-Nebraska Events

1. ADVANCE-Nebraska's first Writing Retreat, week of August 10.
*Programs Beginning Next Fall Semester – **Mark Your Calendars!***
2. Improving Communication Skills Workshop: over free lunch, Friday August 28
3. COACH workshop: Powerful Presentations by Lee Warren and Nancy Houfek, Monday October 26.
4. Next Paths to Success Luncheon Speaker: Dr. Priscilla Grew, Wednesday September 16
5. Heidi Schellman's talk: No Daughter of Mine is Going to Cal Tech!"
6. The ADVANCE Portal website has a new address: <http://www.portal.advance.vt.edu/>

B. Additional Announcements – Around Campus

1. Congratulations to UNL STEM faculty who achieved tenure and promotion!
2. Congratulations to ADVANCE-Nebraska co-PI Dean David Manderscheid for election into Phi Beta Kappa!
3. UNL Grad Council Adopts Graduate Student Leave Policy
4. New "Well Baby" health care benefit for UNL Graduate Students

C. Funding Opportunity

- Fellowships provided by Graduate Women in Science: Deadlines January 15, 2010

D. Miscellaneous

1. NSF receives \$2 billion from Stim Bill to Fund Proposals Already in the Pipeline
2. *Careers Away From the Bench* guidebook by AAAS
3. National Clearinghouse on Academic Work-life website
4. NIH Website provides career development strategies: *Women in Biomedical Careers*



A. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. ADVANCE-NEBRASKA WRITING RETREAT: WEEK OF AUGUST 10



Register now for the ADVANCE-Nebraska writing retreat, the **week of August 10, 2009**.

This retreat is modeled after the successful NSF-funded GAIN writing retreat for women geoscientists in the northeast, U.S.A. At our first retreat, 17 participants (including 3 pairs of collaborators who could not otherwise get together) produced 8 published papers in the weeks following the writing retreat.

A chance to get away from the phone, from office and home distractions, to swap strategies on how to write technical papers well, on how to re-write after a review, on how to write proposals and work with your funding officers, all contributed to this successful retreat.

Evaluations were uniformly enthusiastic and positive, and most participants return for subsequent retreats, bringing new colleagues.

Based on the GAIN model, the ADVANCE-Nebraska writing retreat will convene in the Love Library, write for a day, then meet on Day 2 with writing coaches who can help you get through the bottlenecks to clear and effective writing. The rest of the week is devoted to writing. ADVANCE-Nebraska will supply the room, wireless, breakfast and lunch. This retreat will focus on paper-writing for publication, although grant-writing is ok, too!

Bring that data that's been sitting under that pile on your desk and get it out the door! Re-write and re-submit! For more information, contact advance2@unl.edu.

Collaborators from other institutions will be welcome. Some **travel funds will be available** for your collaborator(s).

COMING EVENTS - FALL SEMESTER, 2009: SAVE THE DATES!

All ADVANCE-Nebraska events are open to STEM faculty, post-docs, and graduate students. First come, first serve. Registration required for all events for food planning purposes. Register by email to advance2@unl.edu.

2. IMPROVING COMMUNICATION SKILLS WORKSHOP: OVER FREE LUNCH, **FRIDAY AUGUST 28**

Learn vital skills to communicate with students and at professional conferences. Feel comfortable "working the room" at your next conference – including with those letter-writers for tenure and promotion!

This is part of a webinar presented to the Society of Women Engineers last February.

Workshop Presenter: Bonnie Coffey, of Contacts Count and former president of the Mayor's Commission on the Status of Women.

3. COACH WORKSHOP: POWERFUL PRESENTATIONS BY LEE WARREN AND NANCY HOUEK, **MONDAY OCTOBER 26.**

Save the date! Nancy and Lee are coming back for a follow-up. *COACH* was formed in 1998 by a group of senior women faculty in the chemical sciences from across the U.S. with a common concern about the gender based obstacles women scientists face in trying to attain their career goals.

The presenters are Lee Warren, Associate Director of the Derek Bok Center for Teaching and Learning at Harvard University (<http://bokcenter.harvard.edu>), and Nancy Houfek, Head of Voice & Speech for the American Repertory Theatre (<http://www.amrep.org/iatt/houfek.html>) at Harvard University.

4. NEXT PATHS TO SUCCESS LUNCHEON SPEAKER: DR. PRISCILLA GREW, **WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 16**

Priscilla Grew, director of the State Natural History Museum (better known as "Elephant Hall") here at UNL, and former Vice Chancellor for Research, has a long list of "firsts": FIRST woman awarded the American Geological Institute's Ian Campbell Medal; FIRST woman to teach science at Boston College; FIRST to head the California Department of Conservation; FIRST woman on the California Mining and Geology Board; FIRST woman named state geologist in Minnesota. Priscilla was the second woman in the U.S. to head a state geological survey (California) and also the fourth (Minnesota).

Priscilla will lead off our 2009-10 Paths to Success Luncheon Series. Stay tuned for registration and location details.

5. HEIDI SCHELLMAN'S TALK: NO DAUGHTER OF MINE IS GOING TO CAL TECH!"

Those of you who attended got a treat hearing Heidi tell the story of her mother's journey as a scientist. Frances Charlotte Green was majoring in chemistry at a community college near San Francisco when World War II broke out. Linus Pauling, the Nobel laureate, lost all his lab and teaching assistants at Cal Tech to the draft and called the college to ask for their best chemistry student. When Charlotte showed up, Pauling was so impressed with her knowledge and abilities that he hired her to work in his lab.

However, Robert A. Millikan (he who first calculated the charge on an electron) was president of Cal Tech, and he refused to allow women to work there, so "Frances Charlotte" became "Francis Charles" and worked in Pauling's lab for several years.

Women did not get tenure-track jobs very readily in post-War U.S., and many institutions had nepotism laws that forbade the hiring of spouses of employees. Charlotte earned her PhD at Stanford and worked on protein structures, including the amino acid sequences of protein terminations ("Schellman sequences"). Heidi regrets not being invited to her mother's retirement party, which featured four Nobel laureates.

Heidi's own path was also fascinating: from "independent study math" during elementary and middle schools, to a physics major at Stanford and her PhD at Berkeley. She had an unpleasant stint at University of Chicago followed by a fun and interesting research career at Fermi and Northwestern.

Some messages from Heidi include: 1) if you want to hire women on the faculty, have women on the search committees (we do that here at UNL); 2) Graduate students with research or academic aspirations: think carefully about changing your name when marrying, as all the work done under a maiden name "disappears" from being associated with you when your name changes; 3) your partner needs to be supportive of your career (we heard this from Anne Vidaver and Kim Espy as well).

Heidi didn't mention that her dad is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, [John Schellman](#), who worked on the stability of the alpha helix in aqueous solution and on protein structures.

Heidi's website: <http://www.nuhep.northwestern.edu/~schellma/index.html>

See Heidi's Subatomic Particle Plush Toys: <http://www.particlezoo.net/news.html>

6. THE ADVANCE PORTAL WEBSITE HAS A NEW ADDRESS: <HTTP://WWW.PORTAL.ADVANCE.VT.EDU/>

Virginia Tech is a "second round" ADVANCE Institutional Transformation recipient and produces this comprehensive website on all things ADVANCE.

B. ADDITIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS – AROUND CAMPUS

1. CONGRATULATIONS TO UNL STEM FACULTY WHO ACHIEVED TENURE AND PROMOTION!

Promotion to Associate Professor and Tenure:

- Peter Angeletti, Biological Sciences
- Christian Binek, Physics & Astronomy
- Kenneth Bloom, Physics & Astronomy
- Song Ci, Computer & Electronics Engineering
- Aaron Dominguez, Physics & Astronomy
- Mikil Foss, Mathematics
- Erick Jones, Industrial & Management Systems Eng.
- Robert Powers, Chemistry
- Cornelis Uiterwaal, Physics & Astronomy

Promotion to Full Professor

- Zoya Avromova, Biological Sciences
- Bruce Dvorak, Civil Engineering
- Ann Mari May, Economics
- Guillermo Orti, Biological Sciences
- Jody Redepenning, Chemistry
- Clinton Rowe, Geosciences
- Ashok Samal, Computer Science & Engineering
- Shunpu Zhang, Statistics

Promotion to Full Professor of Practice

- Mary Anne Holmes, Geosciences

2. CONGRATULATIONS TO ADVANCE-NEBRASKA CO-PI DEAN DAVID MANDERSCHIED FOR ELECTION INTO PHI BETA KAPPA!



David Manderscheid was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa on April 29. The national honor society was founded in 1776 at the College of William and Mary to celebrate and advocate excellence in the liberal arts and sciences.

3. UNL GRAD COUNCIL ADOPTS GRADUATE STUDENT LEAVE POLICY

From Ellen Weissinger, Dean of Graduate Studies:
Statement from the UNL Graduate Council
April 16, 2009

The Graduate Council is working with relevant campus, college and departmental administrators to create a formal policy for GA parental leaves. We intend to have such a policy in place by May 2010. We will include all departments and programs and the UNL Graduate Student Association in this discussion.

In the meantime, the UNL Graduate Council endorses efforts to provide parental leaves for graduate assistants. We specifically endorse the creative methods that graduate programs have developed to allow new moms and dads to continue their studies and their assistantship funding. We encourage the campus to be generous in this support. While there are costs associated with these temporary solutions, in the long run our investments will pay significant dividends. Helping graduate assistants who choose to start their family is a reasonable and academically sound practice that is increasingly a necessity for recruiting and retaining our best students.

4. NEW "WELL BABY" HEALTH CARE BENEFIT FOR UNL GRADUATE STUDENTS

From Ellen Weissinger, Dean of Graduate Studies: "The Health Center has negotiated for a \$250 "well baby" benefit in the 2009 - 2010 student health insurance plan. This means that students will have \$250 of coverage for the first few routine baby visits, vaccinations, etc. This is a great addition for graduate students and GAs who start their families at UNL. Kudos to our campus Graduate Student Association for working so effectively on this issue. And special thanks to Jim Yankech, associate director of the Health Center, for his efforts to expand coverage while controlling premium costs (no small accomplishment).

"I hope you will encourage graduate students to consider UNL's student health insurance plan."

C. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

FELLOWSHIPS PROVIDED BY GRADUATE WOMEN IN SCIENCE: DEADLINES JANUARY 15, 2010

SDE (Sigma Delta Epsilon)-GWIS Fellowships, Eloise Gerry Fellowships, Nell I. Moody Fellowships, Vessa Notchev Fellowships: Apply for "National Fellowships" through GWIS and the selection committee will match you/your graduate student with the right fellowship.

To be eligible, the applicant must be enrolled as a graduate student, or engaged in post-doctoral or early-stage junior faculty academic research, and demonstrate financial need for continuation or completion of their research. The major component of the research can be either applied or basic.

Exact Fellowship amounts are determined by the SDE/GWIS Fellowships Committee and range from \$1000 to \$10,000. All awards will be available for the academic year and will be announced on or before July 1 of each year. For the 2007-2008 funding cycle, a total of \$72,095 was awarded. Membership in SDE/GWIS is not required for application for the GWIS Fellowships.

See www.gwis.org; contact Dr. Julie Gros-Louis, Fellowships Coordinator (julie-gros-louis@uiowa.edu).

D. MISCELLANEOUS

1. NSF RECEIVES \$2 BILLION FROM STIM BILL TO FUND PROPOSALS ALREADY IN THE PIPELINE

From *Science*: "A backlog of good ideas" will be funded by NSF's share of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds, in contrast to NIH which is establishing new types of competition (some for new researchers and those whose career has been interrupted) for its \$8.2 billion in stim funds. Congress told NSF Director Arden Bement to increase success rates for proposals from the current 25%. Robust

tracking requirements preclude the ability to provide supplements to existing grants – the funds cannot be mixed. The regular budget can still provide supplements.

The Math Division just allocated \$7 million to create an additional 30 postdoctoral fellow positions.

Read the whole story: <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/full/324/5925/319>

2. CAREERS AWAY FROM THE BENCH GUIDEBOOK BY AAAS

Download a free copy of this guide to careers in STEM outside of academia by the American Association for the Advancement of Science:

http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/tools_tips/outreach/away_from_the_bench_booklet

3. NATIONAL CLEARINGHOUSE ON ACADEMIC WORK-LIFE

Studies and policy proposals for better work-life balance for academics:

<http://www.academicworklife.org/>

4. NIH WEBSITE PROVIDES CAREER DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIES: *WOMEN IN BIOMEDICAL CAREERS*

This NIH website provides reports, workshop notices (on career mentoring and funding opportunities with NIH for women in biomed careers:

<http://womeninscience.nih.gov/index.asp>

And here's to the Baldy we saw on our way into work this morning!



Happy Birthday, DKW!