

## ADVANCE E-NEWS VOL. 1, #3, 19 NOVEMBER 2008



Please feel free to forward, opt out, or provide feedback via email to: [advance2@unl.edu](mailto:advance2@unl.edu).

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

### A. Announcements

1. Kickoff Advance-NE Luncheon Series Dec. 2 w/Dr. Anne Vidaver, Professor of Plant Pathology, UNL
2. First Advance-NE Professional Development Workshop March 13 w/COACH

### B. New Papers on Work-Life Balance, Gender Equity, The Pipeline

### C. Classic Papers Worth Another Look

### D. Funding Opportunities

### E. Miscellaneous



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## A. ANNOUNCEMENTS

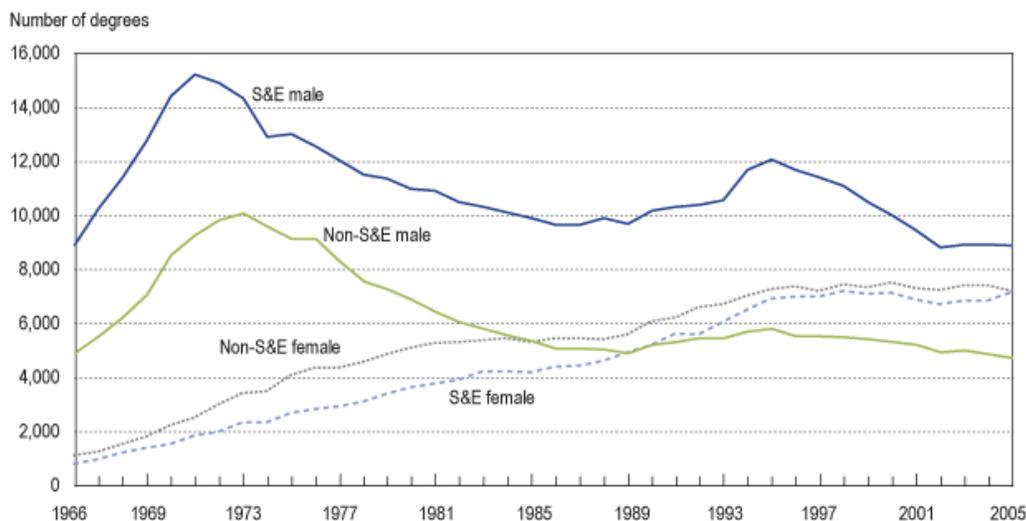
### 1. Dr. Anne Vidaver, Professor of Plant Pathology at UNL, presents: "An Iconic Perspective on Women in Science, or, I didn't I know I was a Pioneer".

"Iconic": of, pertaining to, or characteristic of an icon;

"Icon": a person or thing regarded as a symbol of a belief or cultural movement.

Make your reservations now (faculty and graduate students at [advance2@unl.edu](mailto:advance2@unl.edu)) to hear [Dr Anne Vidaver](#) on Dec. 2 in the City Union. Dr. Vidaver was one of two women to receive a Ph.D. in the U.S. in plant pathology in 1965 and the second woman to become president of the American Phytopathological Society. She was chair of plant pathology here at UNL for nearly 20 years. Born in Vienna, Austria, her family escaped Hitler atrocities to come to the U.S. via Shanghai when she was a girl.

Come hear her journey from a tiny minority in science to eyewitness to the ever-increasing numbers of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. There were 785 PhDs awarded to women in all STEM fields in 1966 and over 7,000 awarded in 2005: 44% of all PhDs awarded in STEM fields. 224 PhDs were earned by women in the agricultural sciences out of 557 (40%) in 2005.



Source: NSF, <http://www.nsf.gov/statistics/wmpd/graddeg.htm>

We have come a long way! And Dr. Vidaver has seen a lot of it!

Dr. Vidaver is Advance-Nebraska's kickoff speaker at **our first lunch, Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 11:30am, City Union** (many thanks to Dr. Vidaver for coming across town to speak for us!).

Our informal lunch series will feature women in STEM who have navigated academic careers and will share their success strategies with **faculty and students**.

Please register for free lunch for you and your students by sending an email to [advance2@unl.edu](mailto:advance2@unl.edu).

## 2. Mark Your Calendars: Friday 13 March:

### First Advance-NE Professional Development Workshop - presented by COACH

**COACH** (<http://coach.uoregon.edu/index.html>) was formed in 1998 by a group of senior women faculty in the chemical sciences with a common concern about the gender-based obstacles women scientists face in trying to attain their career goals.

The workshops will be: The Art of Strategic Performance (a.m.) and Strategies for Leading Change (p.m.) by 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.

These workshops are worth your finding a substitute for your classes that day!! More info is available on our website, <http://advance.unl.edu>.

## B. NEW PAPERS ON WORK-LIFE BALANCE, GENDER EQUITY, THE PIPELINE

### 1. Childcare Not Enough to Make a Science Career Family-Friendly

Roper, T.J., and Conratt, L., 2008. *Nature*, vol. 455 (Oct 08, 2008), pg. 1029.

These authors respond to an article by Amanda Goh ('The coming challenge' *Nature* 455, 704; 2008) who wrote about her concerns that having a baby will detrimentally affect her career or her marriage. They concur and state that "The career structure for young scientists must be made more

family-friendly. This means, for example, making part-time work a real possibility, emphasizing quality rather than quantity of output, and taking career breaks properly into account when judging candidates for appointments and promotions.” They further point out that such changes will benefit male aspiring scientists as well.

## **2. From AWIS' Washington Wire: Gender Gap in Video Game Industry**

The video game business is a \$50 billion industry with a workforce of nearly 40,000 people but women have been largely shut out of play. Women comprise fewer than 1 in 5 workers and their average annual earnings lagged behind those of their male colleagues by \$10,000. And according to a 2007 survey by Game Developer Magazine, women represent just 3% of game programmers.

[Getting Into the Game](#)

## **3. Injuries in IT-Related Business Higher Among Women**

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, women are more likely to get injured than men in an information technology workplace. The number of IT-related injuries in 2006 was relatively small -- 840 -- but 57% of them were suffered by women.

[Department of Labor Statistics](#)

## **4. New Books on the History of Women in Science: Timekeepers and Stargazers**

*Ruth Belville, The Greenwich Time Lady*, by David Rooney, National Maritime Museum, 2008, 192pp.

Ruth Belville manually set clocks all over London as the city transitioned from laissez-faire timekeeping to running the rails on time. Patricia Fara, in *Nature* (Oct 2008) calls this a successful “infusion of dramatic suspense into the everyday mundanity of horological history”.

*The Georgian Star: How William and Caroline Herschel Revolutionized our Understanding of the Cosmos*, by Michael D. Lemonick, W.W. Norton, 2008, 178 pp.

Caroline Herschel was William's sister, he of astronomic fame for the discovery of Uranus. Caroline discovered a comet and assisted her brother throughout his career.

## **C. CLASSIC PAPERS WORTH ANOTHER LOOK**

***Martell, R. F., Lane, D. M., and C. Emrich, 1996. Male-Female Differences: a computer simulation. American Psychologist, vol , pp. 157-158.***

These authors used a computer simulation of an eight-tiered organization to determine what constitutes a significant gender effect on promotion in the organization. Beginning with a 50:50 mix at the lowest (entry) level, a 5% difference in how annual evaluations are judged leads to an organization in which women constitute only 29% of the highest level; a 1% difference leads to only 35% representation at the highest level.

Takeaway message: If we evaluate people applying for positions or promotion only slightly differently based on gender or race, the impact at the Full Professor and administrator positions will be profound.

## **D. FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

AAAS Minority Science Writers Internship

<http://www.aaas.org/careercenter/internships/scienceminority.shtml>

## **E. MISCELLANEOUS**

**1. NIH announce a formal regulation on October 31 to review first-time grant applicants separately from returning awardees in an effort to reverse the aging of the average awardee.** This means that at least 1,650 new investigators will receive awards in 2009. Source: Nature, 13 Nov. 2008. pg. 153.

**2. Women in STEM on the Air!** WAMC Northeast Public Radio offers educational and inspirational stories about fascinating women in STEM.

<http://www.womeninscience.org>