

ADVANCE E-NEWS VOL. 1, NO. 8, 26 MARCH 2009

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Yes! It's really happening!



Homage to Mt. Redoubt and the Aleutian Trench:



A. Announcements

1. ADVANCE-Nebraska **Paths to Success Speaker Series**, Spring Semester 2009
Last Luncheon for 08-09 academic year: **April 29**: Dr. Heidi Schellman, Northwestern University and Fermi Labs (free).
"No Daughter of Mine is Going to Cal Tech!" Dr. Schellman's mother was a post-doc at Cal Tech 30 years before it went co-ed.
REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Please register by April 27. Email advance2@unl.edu.
2. ADVANCE-Nebraska's first Writing Retreat, week of August 10.
Dust off that pile of data and get it out the door! Writing coach available on Tuesday.
3. Many thanks to Kim Espy for her funny and informative presentation, "Walking the Career-Family Tightrope"! Great Q&A afterwards, too!
4. Panel Discussion on Negotiation in Academia April 13.
5. Nominate speakers for next year's Paths to Success Luncheon series – it's easy! Really!
6. Eileen Schell: Labor Issues in the Academy, Feminist Research Methodologies, April 9

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

1. Two new papers on the benefits of maternity leave for mother and baby
2. Caryl Rivers reviews data on women and math ability

C. Miscellaneous

1. Teaching Resources for T.A.s (and faculty) at UNL
2. Career Basics from AAAS: Advice and Resources for Scientists from Science Careers
3. President Obama creates women's panel
4. Smithsonian posts great photos of women scientists for Women's History Month
5. Interview with Jane Lubchenco: new Head of NOAA Discusses Priorities in *Nature* (the journal)
6. Dads in Academia: Editors seeking Contributors
7. A Workshop for Future Faculty at Northeastern U



A. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. ADVANCE-NEBRASKA **PATHS TO SUCCESS SPEAKER SERIES**, SPRING SEMESTER 2009

Last Luncheon for 08-09 academic year: **April 29:** Dr. Heidi Schellman, Northwestern University and Fermi Labs (free). 11:30-1pm (come for any or all; speaker begins ~noon); City Union.

“No Daughter of Mine is Going to Cal Tech!” Dr. Schellman’s mother was a post-doc at Cal Tech 30 years before it went co-ed! Come and hear the story of two generations of women scientists.

REGISTRATION REQUIRED. Deadline for registration: April 27. Email advance2@unl.edu.

2. ADVANCE-NEBRASKA WRITING RETREAT

Plans are in the works now for ADVANCE-Nebraska to host its first writing retreat, the week of August 10, 2009. We will convene in the Love Library, write for a day, then meet 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! Or re-write and re-submit! For more information, contact advance2@unl.edu.

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

3. MANY THANKS TO KIM ESPY FOR HER FUNNY AND INFORMATIVE PRESENTATION, “Walking the Career-Family Tightrope”! Great Q&A afterwards, too!

And thanks to Jill Hochstein for all the arrangements, including ordering us up a great lunch!

Kim shared the wonderful story of her zig-zagging career, neatly interwoven with the evolution of her family and her fascinating research into the so-called “quiet zone” of the brain: the right temporal lobe, now known (thanks in part to Kim’s research) to be a seat for impulse control. Imagine designing tasks to test the impulse control of toddlers!

The Q&A session that followed brought up some interesting topics: finding quality daycare, dealing with guilt for not being at home for the kids, high-stress situations at work, and negotiations. See “New Papers” below that further address topics of maternity leave and mom/baby outcomes.

Negotiations again! See the next announcement: the CCSW is holding a panel discussion on negotiations April 13. A great book on negotiations: **Hardball for Women** by Pat Heim with Susan K. Golant, revised ed., 2005. Plume Publishing, New York, 336 pp.

4. PANEL DISCUSSION ON NEGOTIATION IN ACADEMIA APRIL 13.

A panel discussion: *Figuring out what you want and how to ask for it: Negotiating in academia*, sponsored by the Chancellor’s Commission on the Status of Women (CCSW). Panel members include Dr. Barbara Couture, Senior Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs; Dr. Alan Kamil, Director of the School of Biological Science; and Dr. Marjorie Kostelnik, Dean of the College of Education and Human Sciences.

When: Monday, April 13, 2009 from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm. **Where:** City Campus Union. Brown bag it for lunch.

5. NOMINATE SPEAKERS FOR NEXT YEAR’S PATHS TO SUCCESS LUNCHEON SERIES – IT’S EASY! REALLY!

Let ADVANCE-Nebraska pay for the visit of a high-profile woman scientist in your field. She might be a collaborator, a potential reviewer for your promotion bid, or someone whose work you admire.

Just send an email to advance2@unl.edu with her name and a sentence or two about her, and we will take care of the rest!

6. EILEEN SCHELL: LABOR ISSUES IN THE ACADEMY, FEMINIST RESEARCH METHODOLOGIES, APRIL 9

Women's & Gender Studies to host rhetorician Eileen Schell to speak about her extensive work on labor issues in the academy and her recently completed manuscript on feminist research methodologies. **When:** Thursday, April 9th, 9:30-10:30 a.m. **Where:** Dudley Bailey Library, 229 Andrews Hall.

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

1. TWO NEW PAPERS ON THE BENEFITS OF MATERNITY LEAVE FOR MOTHER AND BABY

Thanks to AWIS' Washington Wire: In the Jan/Feb issue of *Women's Health Issues*, Sylvia Guendelman of U-CA Berkeley and colleagues report the health effects of not taking 12 weeks of maternity leave on risk of cesarean delivery and establishment of breastfeeding. Women who took their ninth month off for maternity leave were 73% less likely to have Caesarean section than those who worked up to delivery (study of 62 women who took leave and 385 who did not), yet between 2001 and 2003, only 28% of pregnant women took any maternity leave (results of a census report).

Only five states offer paid maternity leave (California, New Jersey, New York, Hawaii and Rhode Island), but the funding does not fully cover lost wages. Wages and pressure to stay on the job influence women's choice to take a leave. The Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA) requires that employers provide twelve weeks of unpaid leave. The FMLA was revised last fall by Congress; it's new implications are still being reviewed by legal teams.

In a [second study](#) published in *Pediatrics* of 770 full-time working mothers, women who returned to work less than 12 weeks after delivery were 4.5 times more likely to fail to establish breastfeeding. The results were more pronounced for mothers who did not have management positions, had inflexible jobs, and high levels of psychosocial stress.

Both studies are part of the Juggling Work and Life During Pregnancy Study funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau of the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration and led by Guendelman.

Read the whole story and find links to the original research:
<http://www.medpagetoday.com/OBGYN/Pregnancy/12336>

2. CARYL RIVERS REVIEWS DATA ON WOMEN AND MATH ABILITY

Did Larry Summers lose the presidency of Harvard because of the comments he made on women's math ability? Rivers argues no: after all, Dr. Summers apologized, acknowledged that he had the science of this assertion wrong, and pledged \$25 million to promote hiring of women and minorities at Harvard.

In addition, Rivers reviews data on women's math abilities. She cites "The Nation's Report Card on Math and Science Abilities," released in February of 2007, which found that girls are on a par with boys in a range of math abilities, including algebra, geometry, measurement properties, data analysis and other areas.

There's no evidence that girls are innately inferior to boys at math, reports Elizabeth Spelke, co-director of the Mind, Brain and Behavior Inter-Faculty Initiative at Harvard. There is, she notes, a biological foundation to mathematical and scientific reasoning that emerges in children before any formal instruction. These systems develop equally in males and females. "There's not a hint of an advantage for boys over girls," she says, in any of these systems.

In recent years, studies of mathematically talented boys and girls found that equal numbers of both genders major in math and got equal grades. The SAT-M not only under-predicts the performance of college women in general, it also under-predicted the college performance of women in the talented sample.

Jesse and Rothstein (2004) agree that the SAT's are poor predictors of college performance:

J.M.Jesse M. Rothstein, College performance predictions and the SAT, Journal of Econometrics, Volume 121, Issues 1-2, Higher education (Annals issue), July-August 2004, Pages 297-317

<http://www.womensenews.org/article.cfm/dyn/aid/3941>

C. MISCELLANEOUS

1. TEACHING RESOURCES FOR T.A.S (AND FACULTY) AT UNL

Your graduate students (and maybe we instructors) can pick up some useful tips for teaching on the UNL Grad Studies website:

<http://www.unl.edu/gradstudies/current/dev/teachingtools/>

2. CAREER BASICS FROM AAAS: ADVICE AND RESOURCES FOR SCIENTISTS FROM SCIENCE CAREERS

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) updates this booklet every year for everyone aspiring to a successful academic career. Download individual chapters or the whole booklet:

http://sciencecareers.sciencemag.org/tools_tips/outreach/career_basics_2009

3. PRESIDENT OBAMA CREATES WOMEN'S PANEL: [WHITE HOUSE COUNCIL ON WOMEN AND GIRLS](#)

President Barack Obama created a White House council that includes cabinet members to advise him on issues facing women and girls, to ensure that American women and girls are treated fairly in all matters of public policy so that our daughters and granddaughters have every opportunity to succeed. His inspiration for the council included watching his single mother raise his family and his grandmother denied promotions at her job. Valerie Jarrett will head the group; Tina Tchen will run its day-to-day operations.

From the White House.gov website:

During its first year, the Council will focus on the following areas:

- Improving women's economic security by ensuring that each of the agencies is working to directly improve the economic status of women.
- Working with each agency to ensure that the administration evaluates and develops policies that establish a balance between work and family.

- Working hand-in-hand with the Vice President, the Justice Department's Office of Violence Against Women and other government officials to find new ways to prevent violence against women, at home and abroad.
- Finally, the critical work of the Council will be to help build healthy families and improve women's health care.

4. SMITHSONIAN POSTS GREAT PHOTOS OF WOMEN SCIENTISTS FOR WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

See all of them:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/smithsonian/sets/72157614810586267/>

Maria Goeppert-Mayer (1906-1972), walking in to the Nobel ceremony with King Gustaf Adolf

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/smithsonian/3321963421/in/set-72157614810586267/>

Lise Meitner (1878-1968), standing at meeting with Arthur H. Compton and Katherine Cornell

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/smithsonian/3322794666/in/set-72157614810586267/>

Cornelia Maria Clapp (1849-1934), sitting at desk

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/smithsonian/3321954275/in/set-72157614810586267/>

5. INTERVIEW WITH JANE LUBCHENCO: NEW HEAD OF NOAA DISCUSSES PRIORITIES IN *NATURE*

Jane Lubchenco, Valley Professor of Marine Biology and Distinguished Professor of Zoology at Oregon State University in Corvallis, specializes in the marine tidal realm (to put it mildly). She was president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the Ecological Society of America. She is married to frequent collaborator Bruce Menge; their son is now a post-doc in ecology at Santa Barbara.

She and Menge shared a split tenure-track position at Oregon State:

[Lubchenco and Menge](#), 1993. Split positions can provide a sane career track - a personal account.

BioScience April, Vol. 43, pp. 243-248.

She is an active supporter of women in science and of transmitting science to the public and policy makers. "She founded the Aldo Leopold Leadership Program that teaches academic environmental scientists, over the course of two weeks, to be effective leaders and communicators of scientific information to the public, policy makers, the media and the private sector" (from her website).

In the *Nature* interview, Lubchenco states that science is her top priority at NOAA: using data to inform policy on climate change, fishing policy, and restoration of ocean ecosystems. Another high priority for her is putting the satellite program back on track. In late February, an important satellite with a probe designed to collect CO₂ data (the [Orbiting Carbon Observatory](#)) crashed before reaching orbit. The probe was supposed to join five other climate data-collecting satellites and was eight years in development.

Lubchenco is an outspoken opponent of policies that have allowed over-fishing. She opposes large-scale iron fertilization experiments in the oceans because the small scale and short time of the experiments to date are not good predictors of long-term effects on multiple species. It is believed that iron is a limiting nutrient for pelagic (open ocean) algae, and hypothesized that [feeding the algae can draw down atmospheric CO₂ levels](#).

<http://www.nature.com/news/2009/090324/full/news.2009.182.html>

Transcript of her interview after being inducted into the National Academy of Science in 1996 (recorded in 2004):

http://www.nasonline.org/site/PageServer?pagename=INTERVIEWS_Jane_Lubchenco

Jane's website at OSU:

<http://lucile.science.oregonstate.edu/?q=node>

6. DADS IN ACADEMIA: EDITORS SEEKING CONTRIBUTORS

The editors of *Dads in Academia: Male Voices In and Out of the Ivory Tower* invite contributions for an interdisciplinary collection of creative nonfiction essays on the rewards and challenges of being both a father and an academic.

We encourage contributors to consider the changing cultural perceptions, representations, and expectations associated with fatherhood, and to explore the impact of such changes on their identities as teachers and scholars. Increasingly, fathers are taking on a more intense role with regard to child-rearing than ever before. How do today's male academics view their participation in the parenting process? How is this changing the nature of the job? Has the evolving role of the father in contemporary society changed the job itself?

We also welcome essays that focus on how the evolution of fatherhood is changing the face of academia. Have we seen any concrete changes on college campuses to encourage the "professor as interactive father" schemata? What is the climate like for male professors who "want it all"? Are they able to balance fatherhood and the road to tenure? What gives?

EDITORS

Mary Ruth Marotte, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of English and the Director of Graduate Studies in English at the University of Central Arkansas, where she specializes in women's studies and critical theory. Her book, *Captive Bodies: American Women Writers Redefine Pregnancy and Childbirth*, was released by Demeter Press in October 2008. She lives in Conway, AR with her husband and three children.

Paige Martin Reynolds, Ph.D. is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Central Arkansas. Her areas of interest include Shakespeare, British Renaissance Drama, Performance Studies, Gender Studies, and Elizabeth I. She has authored articles published or forthcoming in *SEL: Studies in English Literature, 1500-1900*, *ANQ: American Notes and Queries*, and *1650-1850: Ideas, Aesthetics, and Inquiries in the Early Modern Era*. She lives in Little Rock, AR with her husband and daughter.

Questions can be addressed to: Paige Reynolds: preynolds@uca.edu or Mary Ruth Marotte: MRMarotte@uca.edu

Deadline: May 1, 2009

Length: 1,500 to 4,000 words

Format: Essays must be typed, double-spaced, and paginated. Please include your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, and a short bio on the last page.

Submissions: Send one copy to Dr. Mary Ruth Marotte, Department of English, Irby Hall, 201 Donaghey Ave., University of Central Arkansas, Conway, AR, 72035

7. A WORKSHOP FOR FUTURE FACULTY AT NORTHEASTERN U

Interdisciplinary Networking Workshop in Nanoscale Science and Engineering for Prospective Faculty at Northeastern University, June 17-19, 2009. **Application deadline: April 10.**

The Northeastern University ADVANCE site and its team for advancing women in interdisciplinary and international networks is pleased to announce "Interdisciplinary Networking in Nanoscale Science

and Engineering,” a workshop for graduating PhDs and Post-docs interested in faculty positions in interdisciplinary nanoscale science and engineering research.

In this NSF ADVANCE sponsored workshop, participants will spend their first day learning tips for “acing” an interview, techniques and negotiation skills necessary for landing a faculty position, and insights on the tenure process. The second and third days will be spent attending seminars, networking, and presenting poster abstracts to colleagues at the 7th New England International Nanomanufacturing Workshop. **Funds from the Northeastern ADVANCE grant will be used to support selected applicants who will be provided with airfare, hotel accommodations, and meals for the entirety of the workshop.**

We invite all interested post-docs and PhD students to apply and we encourage faculty to forward this email to any parties who may be interested. For additional information please see the attached flyer or view our webpage: www.northeastern.edu/advance.

Apply by clicking the following link: <http://tinyurl.com/NUadvance>

In honor of the ducks (plenty of redheads) now having their way with our lake:

