



June 13, 2011
Issue 2: 22

Women in Science and Engineering

www.usc.edu/programs/wise

Congratulations!

Professor **Ellis Meng** has won the TATRC/Qualcomm Wireless Health Innovation Challenge Award. For more information, click [here](#).

WISEPROG@USC.EDU

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THEME: "WHAT IF...?"
Portland, Oregon
NOVEMBER 9-12, 2011

The Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing is a series of conferences designed to bring the research and career interests of women in computing to the forefront. Presenters are leaders in their respective fields, representing industrial, academic and government communities. Leading researchers present their current work, while special sessions focus on the role of women in today's technology fields, including computer science, information technology, research and engineering.



Past Grace Hopper Celebrations have resulted in collaborative proposals, networking, mentoring, and increased visibility for the contributions of women in computing.

For more information, click [here](#).

To see all the USC WiSE Grant Programs, including ongoing grants without specific deadlines, please [click here](#).

WISE PROGRAM UPCOMING DEADLINES

WISE FACULTY NETWORKING MEETING

Meetings held the last Thursday of the month at 12pm in HNB 107; Thursday, June 30, 2011; Bring your own lunch. Cookies, coffee, tea provided.

Fall Undergraduate
Research Awards

Dornsife: August 28

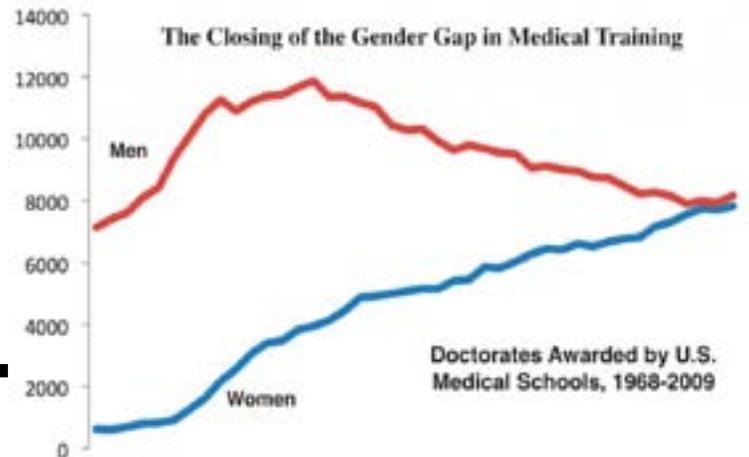


IN THE NEWS

WOMEN HAVE MADE HUGE STRIDES IN MEDICAL TRAINING

WIA Report
May 30, 2011

In the middle of the twentieth century, women were about 10 percent of all graduates of U.S. medical schools. Progress toward gender equality was slow. By 1990, men still made up two thirds of all medical school graduates. But over the past 20 years women have made tremendous strides. Today, the gender gap has almost been eliminated. In 2009, 7,823 women earned medical degrees compared to 8,164 men.

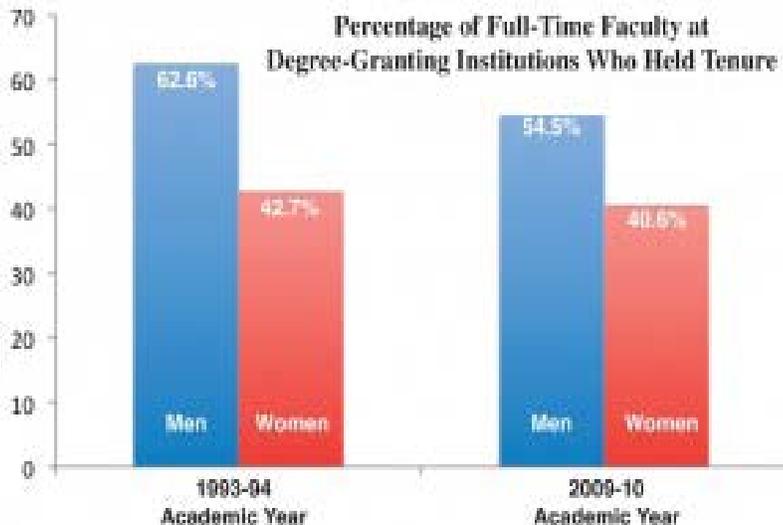


THE GENDER GAP IN TENURE RATES HAS NARROWED BUT REMAINS WIDE

WIA Report
June 04, 2011

According to data from the U.S. Department of Education, in the 1993-94 academic year, 56.2 percent of all full-time faculty at degree-granting educational institutions held tenure. By the 2009-10 academic year, this figure had dropped to 48.7 percent.

The gender gap in tenure rates has narrowed but still remains large. In 1993-94, 42.7 percent of women full-time faculty held tenure compared to 62.6 percent of men. By 2009-10, 40.6 percent of women held tenure, whereas tenure was held by 54.5 percent of men.



At the rank of full professor in 1993-94, 92.8 percent of men held tenure compared to 87.7 percent of women. Now the gap has nearly closed. In 2009-10, 90.7 percent of men and 89.3 percent of women held tenure.

THE GENDER GAP IN EARNINGS FOR COLLEGE GRADUATES VARIES ACROSS MAJOR DISCIPLINES

WIA Report
May 27, 2011

A new report from the Center on Education and the Workforce at Georgetown University finds that on average a person with a bachelor's degree will earn 84 percent more over the course of his or her lifetime than a peer who only graduated from high school. So going to college continues to provide a major economic benefit.

But the earnings benefit of a college degree is not uniform across the major disciplines. And the gender gap in earnings can be quite different depending on the degree earned. For example, for year-round, full-time workers with a bachelor's degree and no graduate degree, the gender gap in earnings for engineering is \$17,000. But for graduates in the humanities, the gender earnings gap is only \$7,000. See the chart below.

The Georgetown study further broke down the earnings data into specific majors. The results showed that for women the highest earning major was pharmaceutical sciences and administration. Information sciences and chemical engineering ranked second and third. The lowest earning major was theology.

Readers who are interested in downloading the complete 182-page report, can do so [here](#).

Measuring the Gender Gap in Earnings for College Graduates by Major Discipline

Academic Discipline	Women's Earnings	Men's Earnings	Difference
Humanities	\$43,000	\$50,000	\$7,000
Arts	40,000	48,000	8,000
Education	40,000	48,000	8,000
Health	60,000	70,000	10,000
Communications	44,000	55,000	11,000
Biology	45,000	57,000	12,000
Psychology	40,000	52,000	12,000
Mathematics/IT	60,000	73,000	13,000
Agriculture	40,000	55,000	15,000
Industrial Arts	40,000	55,000	15,000
Law/Public Policy	42,000	58,000	16,000
Business	50,000	66,000	16,000
Engineering	62,000	79,000	17,000
Physical Sciences	48,000	65,000	17,000
Social Sciences	46,000	64,000	18,000

Note: Data is for year-round, full-time workers with a bachelor's degree and no graduate degree.

Source: Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce.

COMPUTER STUDIES MADE COOL, ON FILM AND NOW ON CAMPUS

New York Times
Claire Cain Miller
June 10, 2011

NEW HAVEN — When Keila Fong arrived at Yale, she had never given much thought to computer science. But then last year everyone on campus started talking about the film “The Social Network,” and she began to imagine herself building something and starting a business that maybe, just maybe, could become the next Facebook.

“It’s become very glamorous to become the next Mark Zuckerberg, and everyone likes to think they have some great idea,” said Ms. Fong, a junior, who has since decided to major in Yale’s newly energized computer science program.

Never mind that Mr. Zuckerberg, like other tech titans, did not major in computer science — or even finish college. Enrollment in computer science programs, and degrees from them, are rising after a decade of decreases, despite much handwringing about the decline of American competitiveness in technology and innovation from President Obama on down. And educators and technologists say the inspiration is partly Hollywood’s portrayal of the tech world, as well as celebrity entrepreneurs like Steven P. Jobs of Apple and Mr. Zuckerberg who make products that students use every day.

“It’s a national call, a Sputnik moment,” said Mehran Sahami, associate chairman for computer science education at Stanford, referring to the Soviet satellite launching in 1957 that pushed the United States into the space race. “Students are users of Facebook or Google, and they think about how the people who created it are not that much different than themselves. The realization that I can do this too is a powerful motivator.”

For the full article, click [here](#).



WHERE FEMALE SCIENTISTS FALL BEHIND

GenomeWeb

June 10, 2011

In a paper appearing in the current issue of *Academic Medicine*, a slew of science policy experts discuss “sex differences in application, success, and funding rates for NIH extramural programs,” which they detected in 2010 when collating data for grants the agency had funded. Overall, the team says that “success and funding rates for men and women were not significantly different in most award programs,” though for renewal grants “both application and funding rates were generally higher for men than for women.” While women received larger R01 awards on average, “men had more R01 awards than women at all points in their careers,” the authors write. According to *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, “the NIH says it is concerned about such findings and is looking forward to more study of the matter.”

SEX DIFFERENCES IN APPLICATION, SUCCESS, AND FUNDING RATES FOR NIH EXTRAMURAL PROGRAMS

Academic Medicine:

June 2011 - Volume 86 - Issue 6 - pp 759-767

Pohlhaus, Jennifer Reineke PhD; Jiang, Hong PhD; Wagner, Robin M. PhD, MS; Schaffer, Walter T. PhD; Pinn, Vivian W. MD

The career progression of women and men in academic science and engineering has been catalogued for decades^{1,2}; more recently, the 2007 report from the National Academies, *Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic Science and Engineering*,³ elevated the issue of women’s participation in research on a national scale. One of its recommendations to federal agencies was to “collect, store, and publish composite information on demographics, field, award type and budget request, review score, and funding outcome” for applications. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has disseminated this kind of information since the early 1990s^{4–6} and has provided more reports and analyses in recent years.^{7–10}

Despite these publicly available resources, a detailed analysis of the participation of women and men along a typical “career ladder” of NIH extramural funding has not been performed. We therefore undertook the current study to provide a refined analysis and obtain a clearer picture of the participation of women and men in NIH extramural programs. We also included longitudinal data analyses on early career NIH investigators, studying their success in obtaining subsequent NIH awards to identify any sex differences in sustained NIH funding.

For the full article, click [here](#).