Research explores scientific gender gap

By Michael Davis • mdavis6@gsu.edu

A recent article, "The Entrepreneurial Puzzle: Explaining the Gender Gap," demonstrates that women are less likely to engage in successful self-promotion needed to attract the attention of investors. "Not only is it helpful to sell, it is helpful to be able to engage in successful self-promotion," the authors write. "One reason that women may engage in less entrepreneurial activity than men is that they may be less predisposed to 'sell' the science that they are doing." It's not clear whether women are less likely to work in areas that lend themselves easily to commercial pursuits, but some anecdotal evidence suggests women have gravitated toward "small," "safe," less risky research areas.

Stephan's current research, in collaboration with researchers at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and funded by a Mellon Foundation grant, examines how emerging information technologies have been adopted by research institutions and whether women have benefitted from those technologies more than men.

Technology Operations Center goes green

By Liz Babiarz • lbabiarz@gsu.edu

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Paws (Panther Access to Web Services) is a Web portal you log into and it knows who you are and what your role is at Georgia State, whether you’re a student, faculty or staff member. Then it brings back information that applies to you. If you’re a faculty member you might get information about research or teaching. A student might get information about enrollment services or student affairs. We will still have our Web site, but the portal will provide more communication among staff, faculty and students.

How will this be different from GSOLAR, the current online record access service?
Paws will offer all the same services as GSOLAR, such as registering for classes and paying fees online, but it will provide a lot more information about the university. We want to create a dynamic environment where you can go to the portal and see the very latest that is happening and what events are coming up soon, like workshops, presentations and other activities.

What other features will it have?
It will also provide access to other applications like e-mail, the library system, Galileo, and EasyView for electronic pay stubs. Paws will be a home base that not only gives you a good entry into all the different things going on at the university, but also entry into the different applications you might need to use.

When will Paws launch?
It should be up by late spring. Look for announcements over the next two to four months, or visit www.gsu.edu/paws.

Any other future possibilities with Paws?
We will eventually have it set up so potential applicants to Georgia State can create an account in the portal, log in and receive information specific to the programs or majors they may be interested in. We also want to create a feature called "Groups," a discussion board that would connect faculty, staff and students with like interests.

How will you get people excited about Paws?
We don’t want to create a Web site where the information becomes static and doesn’t really change that much. Paws is going to be user-friendly and provide lots of different information.
Don’t blame the holidays

By Chris Rosenbloom • dietitian@ajc.com

True or false? The average person gains 7 pounds during the holiday season.

The answer is false, at least based on one study in a small sample of about 200 adults that found the average weight gain between Thanksgiving and New Year’s Day was slightly less than 1 pound. However, overweight adults were more likely to gain more than 5 pounds and, perhaps more importantly, the weight gain seemed to be permanent.

Maybe we are focusing too much on holiday weight gain and not paying attention to a real cause of weight creep: weekend eating. Dawn Jackson Blaner, registered dietician and spokeswoman for the American Dietetic Association, believes that we ought to be more aware of what we eat Friday through Sunday.

A study published in Obesity Research in 2003 has not gotten much media attention, but Blaner thinks it can help us in our battle of the bulge. Researchers found that in the 19- to 50-year-old age group, the average calorie increase was 115 calories each day for a total of an extra 550 calories Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

While the researchers couldn’t point to particular foods that caused the weight gain, they did find that the calorie increase was coming from two sources: alcohol and fat. “Dietitians know that people eat differently on the weekends than during the week,” Blaner said, “but this study validates that by focusing on small changes in our weekend eating and drinking habits, we can curb weight gain.”

Blaner offers the following plan of action to shave off weekend calories:

• Friday night happy hour: Drink light beer (100 calories) instead of beer (150 calories). If you drink vodka tonic (180 calories) switch to vodka and club soda (100 calories).

• Friday night pizza party: Try two slices of cheese pizza with mushrooms instead of two slices of pepperoni pizza, for a 100-calorie savings.

• Saturday shopping at the mall: Drink a 16-ounce cappuccino with low-fat milk (120 calories) in place of a 16-ounce late with low-fat milk (190 calories). Skip the cheese on a fast-food burger (250 calories vs. 300 calories) for a 50-calorie savings.

• Saturday night out: Choose a baked potato (128 calories) instead of mashed potatoes (237 calories).

• Sunday breakfast: Skip the two pats butter on your pancakes. Use syrup but no butter and save 12 calories.

So this year, make a resolution to cut a few calories from each weekend to halt weight gain.

Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
Reception held honoring Bahl tenure

Roy Bahl, the founding dean of the Andrew Young School of Policy Studies, was recognized last month with a reception honoring his tenure as dean and a surprise portrait unveiling.

Before coming to Georgia State in 1988, Bahl taught at Syracuse University. When the policy school was founded in 1974, he was appointed dean and, within a few short years, steered the school toward national recognition.

His portrait, which hangs in the lobby of the AYSPS building across from a portrait of former Ambassador Andrew Young, was painted by the Bulgarian artist Rossin.

“When I am very honored and humbled by the whole thing,” said Bahl.

Bahl continues to serve as an economics professor, specializing in state and local finances, urban and regional economics, and public finances of developing countries.

College of Arts and Sciences
February concerts to showcase recital hall renovations

The School of Music will kick off its Friday concerts, a graduate recital and a guest artist performance in the days leading up to the completion of the Florence Kopleff Recital Hall renovation project known as “Encore.”

The musical celebration for culmination of the project will be held Feb. 17.

The five award categories are Outstanding Community Impact, Outstanding Campus Impact, Outstanding Faculty or Staff Member, Outstanding University Program and Outstanding Community Partner.

The winners are as follows:

• Undergraduate student: Cynthia Padilla
• Graduate student: Kimberly Cooper
• Alumni Shena Ashley (Ph.D. ’06), assistant professor of public administration and urban studies, Andrew Young School of Policy Studies
• Staff: Lowell Lemons, director of the Office of Civic Engagement
• Faculty: Clifford Kuhn, associate professor of history and director of the Georgia Government Documentation Project, College of Arts and Sciences

This year’s Special Honorary Torch of Peace Award will be given posthumously to Asa Grant Hilliard, Georgia State’s esteemed external university professor who died suddenly last August.
Nominations for Staff Council Elections

The College of Education is one of five colleges in the University System of Georgia piloting online graduate teacher education programs as part of “Georgia ONmyLINE,” a Web site launched in October by the Board of Regions. Visit www.georgiaonmyline.org and click on “Online Graduate Education Programs” for more information.

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

New panel series unites researchers

The Partnership for Urban Health Research, which is part of the School of Public Health, has started a new series of interdisciplinary research panels to bring together various faculty members working on the same issue. The first panel, held Dec. 10, brought together researchers examining HIV/AIDS. Industry experts in public health, psychology, economics and law joined biology, nursing, nutrition and other faculty to speak about their research and how it could relate to the research of others.

The goal of the panels is to foster partnerships between faculty members from different departments who conduct research into similar subjects. Organizers said future panels could address research into substance abuse, violence or obesity.

COLLEGE OF LAW

Sharing views about stem cell research

A team of four J. Mack Robinson College of Business graduate accounting students was named regional winner and national finalist in Deloitte’s 2007 Tax Case Study Competition in November. Rick Hearn, Donald Skola, Tatiana Kondrateva and Olga Vitebskiy each were awarded $250 and brought home $2,500 for the school during the competition, sponsored by the Deloitte Foundation.

Participants in the competition were given five hours to determine and present a solution to a complex tax problem representative of what professionals face on a day-to-day basis, according to Chet Wood, chairman and CEO of Deloitte Tax LLP.

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Yvette Hilaire, an administrative coordinator in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, and her family were part of the Georgia State contingent that took over the Georgia Aquarium for “A Georgia State Night at the Aquarium” in November. The event was sponsored by the Student/University Center and the Spotlight Programs Board.
More than seven years ago at the University of Alabama in Birmingham, Barbara Woodring was part of a team studying HIV with research partners in Uganda. But her work has a snag when her team found inconsistencies in the test results sent to them from Africa.

Woodring, who is now director of the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing, soon found that her Ugandan partners who listed themselves as nurses actually had almost no nursing education or experience and had little idea how to retrieve data for a study, much less treat the many patients in the country’s hospitals.

Following decades of bloody civil war, Uganda’s medical infrastructure had crumbled. While some doctors remained, nurses were few and had only high school educations.

“None of them knew anything about the research process,” Woodring said.

Undeterred, Woodring applied for and received grants to work with Makerere University in Kampala to create the first baccalaureate program for nursing in Uganda. Since coming to Georgia State, Woodring has continued that involvement, making five trips to Uganda in all, the most recent in September.

“They made me feel very, very comfortable,” she said of the people there.

While the nursing program in Uganda has been slow to develop, there are signs of success. Students are receiving degrees, their school now has a computer lab, and a Ugandan student who came to the United States and earned a Ph.D. this year is headed back to Kampala.

“That is setting them up for the future,” Woodring said.

College of Education Dean Randy Kamphaus received a $22,000 contract from the American Psychological Association to serve as editor of the journal, School Psychology Quarterly, for the current academic year. Kamphaus also recently published articles in three journals about his research regarding teacher screeners for child behavioral and emotional problems at school.

Mark Keil, professor of computer information systems, received the Outstanding Decision Sciences Associate Editor Award at the Decision Sciences Institute’s annual meeting in Phoenix.

Melissa E. Lamoureux, assistant manager for IS&T’s Technology Operations Center, was recently named a recipient of the Sandra Bergeron Women in Technology Scholarship, awarded by the J. Mark Robinson College of Business.

Laura McNeal, assistant professor of educational policy studies, was named a faculty fellow for the National Institute on Leadership, Disability and Students Placed at Risk. Her curriculum model for students with disabilities is on the institute’s Web site for distribution to school leaders throughout the country.

Associate professor of economics Paul Ferraro was awarded the first Naftyn Fuller Science for Nature Fund Visiting Scientist Award and, he was confirmed as the senior science adviser for biodiversity and cross-cutting issues for the Global Environment Facility. Ferraro also was appointed to a panel to help the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency evaluate the effectiveness of its partnership programs with communities and businesses.

Associate professor of English Michael Galchinsky’s new book, Jews and Human Rights: Dancing at Three Weddings, was published in October by Rowman and Littlefield Publishers.

Mary Gebhardt, an assistant professor at the Byrdine F. Lewis School of Nursing, received the Adviser of the Year Award from the Georgia Association of Nursing Students, which also honored the nursing students at Georgia State with its Organization of the Year Award.

Kristine Jolivette, assistant professor for educational psychology and special education, was elected for a three-year term to the Board of Trustees for the Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders Foundation.

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George P. Moschis, the Alfred Bernhardt Research Professor and director of the Center for Mature Consumer Studies in the marketing department, was the keynote speaker at the ceremony establishing the Center for Mature Consumer Studies at the University of Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur.

At the International Conference on Bioinformatics and Bioengineering in Boston, computer science chair Yi Pan received an outstanding achievement award, and associate professor Yangqing Zhang received an outstanding academic service award.

Kinesiology and health professor Brenda Pitts traveled to Guangzhou, China, to be the guest speaker at the third annual International Forum of Sports for All. She also recently published a research paper in the Sport Management Education Journal, and the third edition of her book, Fundamentals of Sports Marketing.

English department chair Matthew Roudané’s new book, Drama Essentials: An Anthology of Plays, was published by Houghton Mifflin in November. Associate professor of English Pearl McNaney contributed an introductory essay titled “Writing about Drama” to the collection.