Studies show gender wage gap begins at graduation

By Maria Carter
Assistant Focus Editor

Just one year after college graduation, women who work full time earn 80 percent less than their male counterparts, according to a recent study from the American Association of University Women Education-Foundation (AAUW). Previous work experience, type of degree and taking time off to raise children are all factors that can influence salary.

Surprisingly, a study published in the Journal of Applied Psychology showed that an employee’s attitude concerning gender role may also have a significant impact on earnings: researchers at the University of Florida found that men who held “traditional” (women at home, men working) gender-role biases tend to earn more than their egalitarian-minded peers.

The study revealed that men with traditional views annually earned on average $11,930 more for doing the same job as men with more egalitarian views. The opposite was true for women, although the discrepancy was less noteworthy. Women workers with egalitarian mind-sets earned $1,052 more each year than traditional gender role holders.

The greatest gap was between men and women who held traditional attitudes, with men making $14,404 per year more. The effect held even when controlling for education, intelligence, occupation, family size and region of residence in the U.S.

Pay discrimination on the basis of race, gender or religion was outlawed in 1964 after passage of the Civil Rights Act. Yet studies released as recently as last year indicate that sex discrimination in the American workplace may still exist. Kelli Hunter, a 3rd-year Biology major and Women’s Resource Center employee, says it is perplexing to still see a pay gap between the genders 44 years later. Hunter believes it is due in part to discrepancies in the way average wages are calculated for men and women in the same field. Researchers at the AAUW looked at more than 10,000 people who received bachelor’s degrees in 1999-2000 and found that just one year after graduation, women employed full time earn just 80 percent what their male counterparts do.

Even after controlling for factors such as occupation and parental status, college-educated women still earned about five percent less than college-educated men one year after graduation. Ten years after graduation, this gap widens to 12 percent. Women in traditionally male-dominated fields, like engineering, are not exempt from the wage gap. Women engineers earn 95 percent of what male engineers do, just one year after graduation, and female math majors earn 76 percent of what their male peers earn.

The study’s findings suggests that negotiation skills are especially important for women. When Morgan interviewed for his first job, the salary he was offered did not meet his expectations. “I felt the offer didn’t reflect market value for someone with my soon-to-be-acquired degree. I used this info in the counter offer, and while I didn’t get all of what I asked for, I got $5000 more than the original offer,” Morgan said.

To be competitive in the job market, women need to have been competitive in school...involved and taking leadership roles...on campus.

Kelli Hunter, Women’s Resource Center Employee

Candidates discuss the environment

By Chris Russell
Contributing Writer

With all that Tech does for the environment—such as the Icarus solar house project, eco-friendly napkins and paper towels and, of course, the dozens of recycling bins scattered across campus—it isn’t hard to see that protecting the environment is important to several Tech students. Therefore, the environment is one issue almost guaranteed to make an appearance in the voting choices of the coming presidential election.

Interestingly, though, the matter of picking a pro-environmental reform candidate is almost moot point. Both Obama and McCain have spoken in favor of lessening the U.S.’s impact on the environment and adding more countries to the green movement. In fact, the two candidates’ plans really only differ in the details.

Both candidates’ plans for environmental reform center around a cap-and-trade program. In short, these programs add a tax to buying and selling the right to emit a certain amount of pollution per year. McCain’s campaign website says, “A cap-and-trade system harnesses human ingenuity in the pursuit of alternatives to carbon-based fuels. Market participants are allotted total permits equal to the cap on greenhouse gas emissions. If they can invent, improve, or acquire a way to reduce their emissions, they can sell their extra permits for ‘cash.’” His site forecasts that this plan will reduce emissions to 66 percent below 1990 levels by the year 2020.

Obama’s plan involves a similar program with the major exception that emission permits are auctioned off, rather than distributed to companies. Obama’s site says, “A 109 percent auction ensures that all industries pay for every ton of emissions they release, rather than giving these valuable emission rights away to companies on the basis of their past pollution.” His site also says, “Small portion of the receipts generated by auctioning allowances ($15 billion per year) will be used to support the development of clean energy, invest in energy efficiency improvements and help develop the next generation of biofuels and clean energy vehicles—measures that will help the economy and help meet the emissions reduction targets. Mc-\n
— Maria Carter
Assistant Focus Editor

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by the numbers

$14,404
Percentage of men’s salaries that women make in the same jobs one year after graduation (American Association of University Women Educational Foundation)

80%
Percentage of men’s salaries that women make in the same jobs one year after graduation (Journal of Applied Psychology)

75%
Percentage of men’s salaries that women make in the same jobs in Georgia (by comparison, in Louisiana, which has the biggest wage disparity, women earn 64% of their male counterparts)

5%
Wage disparity between men and women engineers one year after graduation (AAUW)
A North Avenue Apartments construction worker

By Aaron Parkman
Contributing Writer

For the past eight weeks, teams of construction workers have been giving a face-lift to the North Avenue apartments. Taking a walk inside the North Avenue East building, one will find a temporary office for Gilbane Building Company, a large Atlanta-based construction firm and face of the project. Jim Brown is one of the many Gilbane employees who has committed to providing quality workmanship on the building.

Gilbane was founded in 1873 as a family business and has since grown into a $3.5 billion corporation now specializing in the oversight of large-scale construction projects. Gilbane was hired primarily to manage the North Avenue project and has brought in labor from several other companies, including Western Construction Company and Masonry Construction Group.

Brown, who has been employed by Masonry for the past year, describes it as "a good job" and says he feels like Gilbane is running an "A+" operation. As many students already know, Gilbane was hired to correct the masonry mistakes of the original builder, who Brown says was guilty of "poor workmanship."

According to Brown, Gilbane's leadership is strong, saying that "the teamwork up there is all together."

When asked how he feels about the $6.5 million budget, Brown said, "I feel like Gilbane is running an 'A+' operation. As many students already know, Gilbane was hired to correct the masonry mistakes of the original builder, who Brown says was guilty of "poor workmanship."

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College Democrats and Republicans hold mock debate

By Chris Russell
Contributing Writer

On Thursday, October 16th, the day after the third and final presidential debate, the Student Center hosted a pseudo-debate between representatives from the College Republicans and College Democrats. Kevin Wiley—a third-year CHBE major and chair of the Student Center Programs Council—moderated the debate. "We had originally planned to have a more experienced moderator, someone who had moderated presidential-style debates before, but they had to cancel at the last minute," Wiley said. The representatives, David Smith for the College Republicans and Griffi   n Wasdin for the College Democrats, described and defended their candidate's positions.

Unlike each of the presidential debates, this debate didn't focus on any one issue, but instead covered all aspects of the candidates' policies. Aside from this, however, the format of the debate was incredibly similar to the actual presidential debates. Before the debate began, the debaters had a chance to give a two minute opening statement. One debater was then given two minutes to answer each question, and his opponent was allowed a one minute rebuttal. At the end, both debaters were given the chance to make a two-minute closing statement.

A grand total of nine questions were asked in the debate, and a variety of the questions' content reflected the all-encompassing nature of the debate. The debate kicked off with a question about the candidates' energy policies, where Smith advocated McCain's pro-domestic drilling stance and Wasdin advocated moving on to new technologies. "We can't solve the problems of the future with the technologies of the past," Wasdin said in response to Smith's claim that, "we cannot get off oil in ten years."

Next on the agenda was what the debaters thought were the key differences between Republican and Democratic values. Wasdin advocated more spending in America as opposed to spending more on wars abroad and attacked the idea of trickle-down economics. "We need to strengthen the middle class, not just hope some-one higher up will help them," he said. Smith responded by saying that Democrats spent too much and by pointing out that all the money they spend comes from the American taxpayer.

The next topic was one of particular importance to Tech students: what the candidates' plans were to combat the rising costs of tuition. Smith advocated making the application process more efficient in order to cut down on costs, while Wasdin advocated Obama's $4,000 tax credit for students who did over 100 hours of community service. The next topic, healthcare, sported few surprises, with Wasdin advocating Obama's universal healthcare plan, while Smith claimed that McCain's plan—a $5000 tax credit—was, in reality, the more radical of the two plans.

On foreign policy, the war in Iraq took center stage, with Smith stating that its recent absence in the media is due to the fact that the United States are winning. Wasdin disagreed, and supported Obama's plan to remove 1-2 brigades per month from Iraq. He also stressed the importance of "re-engaging countries that Bush has ignored."

The current economic crisis and the candidates' tax plans were next on the list. Wasdin was up first and described Obama's plan to jump-start the economy with $50 billion, invest $150 billion in energy and environmental research to create new jobs, eliminate capital gains taxes for small businesses, and bring back the Bush tax cuts. Smith, however, advocated McCain's plan of $500 billion in tax cuts, $500 billion in defense spending, and $500 billion in Medicare. The debate wrapped up with a question on technology. Smith advocated the idea that "we need to strengthen the middle class, not just hope someone higher up will help them."

According to Brown, Gilbane's leadership is strong, saying that "the teamwork up there is all together."

When asked how he feels about the $6.5 million budget, Brown said, "I feel like Gilbane is running an 'A+' operation."
Students speak about economy on TV

By James Norman Contributing Writer

While the bailout may have saved the country from another Great Depression, senior management students just saw their industry and immediate career prospects collapse through no fault of their own, with graduation is just around the corner.

As part of an ongoing “Financial Turmoil” segment, Fox 5 News Atlanta covered a story on students preparing for careers in the finance industry. Three Tech students and a Tech professor were interviewed by reporter Tony Thomas on October 8th; the piece appeared on the October 15th nightly news.

For those unaware of the market crisis that has played out in recent months and caused a job shortage in the financial sector, Gary Jones, professor of the practice at the College of Management, gave a recap. “I call it a perfect storm of factors,” said Jones, who was interviewed by Fox 5.

“Banks would loan you $120,000 [for a] $100,000 house,” Jones said. “I remember they were really lending aggressively, which is not healthy for an economy. But now, they’re lending very little.”

“Anybody that could get a mortgage in the past now can’t get one. That’s made a big difference,” said Jones.

“Two days after the Fox 5 interview, I interviewed… with a company in New York, and I found out this morning that they might have to close, because they’re getting hammered like everyone else,” said David Chambers, a fourth-year MGT major who was interviewed. Trivendi plans to look for a consulting job, rather than investment banking.

Michael Warwick, a fourth-year MGT major and Fox interviee, agreed. “They were very impressed by the technology side of our education and our global perspective,” Warwick said. Warwick plans to attend law school after Tech.

Some students were not so fortunate with job opportunities. “Two days after the Fox 5 interview, I interviewed… with a company in New York, and I found out this morning that they might have to close, because they’re getting hammered like everyone else,” said David Chambers, a fourth-year MGT major and the last student interviewed.

“With what’s going on with the financial sector there are a lot of publications looking to cover this area,” Jones said. Fox 5 Atlanta has interviewed members of the College of Management before, and contacted the college’s communications department to cover how students are handling the shrinking job market.

Jones, who teaches a course on the financial sector, was invited to speak and was tasked with pitching students. “The interview was not as interesting as you might think,” Chambers said. “We got an e-mail at about noon, and at 5:00 in the afternoon, they had us meeting up on the trading floor on the third floor.”

Chambers and the other students noted that although the interview lasted for 40 minutes, the clip on Fox 5 lasted less than two minutes. Nevertheless, Chambers said he had the link emailed to him about 800 times.

Outside of the job market, Jones and the students agreed that this is a historically good time to invest. For those interested in finance, there are jobs available. However, students must be even more competitive.

Warwick recommended getting a strong background in math. Trivendi suggested gaining experience even at the cost of losing one’s good grades. Jones hammered this point home in an amusing way: “I can go home and drink beer, and water ski, and look at the hot chicks in bikinis. Or, I can try to get a job with Accenture, or Price Waterhouse, or the Federal Reserve Bank.”
BarCamp “unconference” draws students, alumni

By Arcadiy Kantor
Outreach Editor

Atlanta's technology elite, along with a number of interested Tech students, came together in Tech Square last weekend for the second annual BarCamp Atlanta "unconference."

Despite the name, BarCamp has no connection with alcohol or going out to lots of bars. Rather, it is a technology-focused, participant-driven event that allows all interested parties to attend, to create their own sessions and to share all of the information they gather.

The name is, instead, a tongue-in-cheek reference to the invite-only FosCamp conference organized annually by O'Reilly Media, a major publisher of technology books. It is based on the "hacker" term "foo bar," a common placeholder variable name in programming examples that is often split into its two parts foo and bar. Thus, if the first conference were called FosCamp (in which the "foo" actually stood for Friends of O'Reilly), a second would be called BarCamp.

The conference is distinguished by its open format and informal rules. Unlike most conferences, a BarCamp does not have a predefined agenda. Rather, as attende'es arrive at the conference they sign up to run sessions on a variety of topics.

While some conferences that follow this format are themed and the presentations are more specific, for entrepreneurs around Atlanta and provided the opportunity for students to meet and interact with this community. "BarCamp was... truly a random mixture of some of the bright minds in Atlanta," said Colin Ake, fifth-year Management major.

The event was hosted at the Advanced Technology Development Center (ATDC) in the Centergy One building in Tech Square. ATDC is an "incubator," helping new, technology-related companies to grow more effectively. It works with entrepreneurs around Georgia, helping them build and launch companies that will be successful over the long term.

A distinguishing feature of the Atlanta event is its interaction with the population of Tech students and alumni. A majority of the more than 100 attendees were Tech alumni, and the impromptu showcasing of the Tech football game against Clemson was one of the more popular "sessions." In addition, a number of current Tech students both attended and presented at the event.

Beyond the sessions and presentations, BarCamp brought together a wide swath of the leaders of Atlanta's technology and startup scene. Many of the participants were running or involved in working for a startup company in the Atlanta area, most of these related to the internet.

BarCamp thus served as one of a number of networking events that are putting into the building is worth it." Accord-

Randall Bollig pours liquid nitrogen over a container of cheetos and marshmallows in one of the more highly-attended sessions at last weekend's BarCamp Atlanta, located in Tech Square.

ADAIC is affiliated with Tech as a part of the Enterprise Innovation Institute, but many of the companies that are members of the incubator have no relationship to the Institute's technology or people. However, ATDC's convenient location and large quantities of meeting space made it an optimal place to host BarCamp Atlanta for the second straight year. "The location for BarCamp is pretty much perfect. The layout of that floor is absolutely ideal for what Barcamp is, and it truly is great for ATDC to loan out that space for a weekend," wrote Joe Uhl, CS '04, on his blog.

The event was mainly organized by Michael Mealling, chief financial officer and vice president of Business Development for Masten Space Systems, a company based in Mojave, Calif. Lance Weatherby, venture catalyst at ATDC, provided ATDC's space for BarCamp.

The first BarCamp took place in 2005 in Palo Alto, Calif., drawing approximately 200 attendees after only a week of organization. Since then, the "unconference" has spread all over the world, with recent BarCamps happening everywhere from Senegal to Cambodia to Tajikistan. The conference first made its appearance in Atlanta Oct. 12-13, 2007.

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As a result, the topics at BarCamp cannot be pegged to any specific area. There is some emphasis on technology and programming, but participants can, and often do, speak about whatever interests them.

Last weekend's event was no different. Sessions ranged from introductions to the Erlang programming language, overviews of programming for the iPhone and algorithms in JavaScript, to how to set up a startup company in the Atlanta area, most of these related to the internet.

BarCamp thus served as one of a number of networking events that are putting into the building is worth it. Brown, along with the rest of the crew, knows that he has an important responsibility. According to him, Gilbane takes quality seriously. "They come behind you with a tape measure," he said.

Brown says he has hopes of starting an outreach program called "The Jim Brown Self Discipline Youth Organization," which would give youth from disadvantaged areas an opportunity to live in a structured community and learn how to be successful entrepreneurs. Now awaiting reply from the state of Georgia, Brown has submitted a request for a $5 million grant to purchase the necessary 279 acres off of Highway 278.

A long-term member of the National Guard, Brown joined at age 17 and is still active. He says two of his stepchildren, ages 18 and 19, are currently working construction with him and are considering the military as an option.

As far as the project goes, Brown says he's satisfied with most aspects, but he wishes the workers had designated parking.

"After getting several tickets, they finally gave us somewhere to park," Brown said.

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Bears are a proud people, except their not people per say they're animals.
No matter how many sea lions are killed by sharks in one year, it never seems enough.
i thought they weren't going to work on sunday hows about i printer on east campus and 1 on west, so we don't all have to go the library.

Yep, the only way to have a g at school is this is either to have a really awesome roomate or get an apartment. The former is in very short supply.

I'm pretty sure I'm attracted to all of my professors. Ok my.

To the indian girl who smiled at me on Skiles on Sunday night..... go back at you.

Hey girl who sits sideways Friday morning in the Love building, you have big boobs and I want to see them.

I have the overwhelming urge to write-in Optimus Prime for president.

I'll never see that purple shirt guy again, and i couldn't even give my day.

i thought they weren't going to work on sunday hows about i printer on east campus and 1 on west, so we don't all have to go the library.

Thanks maintenance guy on the golf cart who cut me off while i was walking, i totally wanted to breath in exhaust to start off my day.

i never see that purple shirt guy again, and i couldn't even give him my number.

NAE construction step 253: hit pipes and beams with a hammer all day long starting at 8am on a sunday, just bang the crap out of them.
businesses and reform minimum wage. Smith defended the recent buyout and pointed to McCain’s suspension of his campaign in order to work on the bill as proof of his dedication to economic reform.

He also mirrored McCain’s tactic in the last debate by mentioning the now famous Joe the Plumber in his attack on Obama’s tax plan, claiming that small businesses would experience tax increases under Obama’s plan. Wasdin also mirrored his candidate in his rebuttal, stating that over 95% of small businesses make under $250,000 a year and thus would actually receive tax cuts. Wasdin then explained his views of the next topic, the candidates’ stances on civil rights, and how he described Obama supports legislation that supports equal opportunity employment and how Obama supports same-sex civil unions. Smith, instead, chose to focus on the topic of education reform and advocated McCain’s plan to establish a school-voucher system.

The debate wrapped up where it began: where the candidates stood on energy and environmental reform, and what they planned to do about global warming. Smith pointed again to McCain’s plans for domestic drilling and pointed out that it would allow stricter limitations to be placed on drilling, thus making the entire process more eco-friendly. Wasdin advocated more plug-in hybrids and described Obama’s $7000 tax credit for purchasers of more advanced vehicles.

Both debaters took the opportunity to make a closing statement. “Obama’s the kind of person that looks for real results and asks Americans to take part in the process,” Wasdin said. “Look at what McCain does... John McCain has a long history of putting country first. For his entire career, John McCain has always put his country before himself,” Smith said.

silver

www.nique.net

I love the 6 hour transition from late summer to mid fall
ATTN: Tech paintball players that were at Hot Shots, I was talking pictures. Post up on the National media kit
Damn it! There’s too many gorgeous girls at Tech! I came here for the awkward, nerdy, guys. “Were they real boy scouts, I thought that was just a code word for little kids.”
Guys in green polos are so hot! the bus system is terrible hell yeah...18th in the BCS
GT’s Satellite going down during Heroes = FAIL
Rehab at the tabernacle was awesome
I can’t wait for the Freshman Cake Race
where can I turn when my fairweather friends have gone?
in fact it makes you even less cool than you already are “its alot of dedication, but mostly masurbation.”
Jesus Forever!!!!

Solomon marry me!!!
Sara
I want a red brick house Solomon with a white picket fence, and twin boys, a daughter, a dog, and a cat! Sara
What trash company picks up trash at 6:50 on a Monday morning?
Roses are red, Violets are blue, I hate the buses, and I’m sure you do too.
The sandwich maker at Woody’s is my best friend. Keep the oreo toppings stocked please!
Why can’t we use the pizza plate in the french toast line?
3 Red Buses in 15 minutes and no Blue Buses in 30...anything wrong with that?
im dyslexic so I thought theses were adds for silver
im no longer a silver virgin
my flimsy knife cant scoop out the peanut butter from your jar
(yes it can be a euphemism)
im such a huge nerd.....getting a cs problem right gives me a boner

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Green

from page 11

energy future,” "develop[ing] and deploy[ing] clean coal technology" and “[ensuring that] 10 percent of our electricity comes from renewable sources by 2012, and 25 percent by 2025.” One item of particular interest is his plan to establish a new $7,000 tax credit for Americans who purchase more fuel-efficient, environmentally-friendly vehicles.

McCain takes a similar stance. His site says, “John McCain will engage the international community in a coordinated effort by... permitting America to lead. In innovation, capture the market on low-carbon energy production, and export to developing countries – including government incentives and partnerships for sales of clean tech to developing countries.” In particular, McCain is focusing on involving and negotiating environmental treaties with large countries such as India and China.

So what does this all mean for environmentally-minded Tech-students? In short: no. While the two candidate’s goals are the same and their methods are relatively similar, their plans do differ enough to allow voters to choose which plan they think will work more effectively.

A sign reading “sustaining life with light” is displayed in front of the solar decathlon house, located on the Architecture lawn.
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