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GRADUATES OF TEXAS GUIDE is an advertising supplement to The Daily Texan produced by Texas Student Media's special editions office. Reach us at info@graduatesoftexas.com.

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CONTACT TSM: We are located in the Hearst Student Media building (HSM).

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UT's Graduate School Fair Showcases Advanced Degree Options at Global Universities

The UT Graduate School Fair returns to campus on Tuesday, October 11 from 10 AM-2 PM on Gregory Plaza. The event is free for students to attend and explore post-graduation options from universities around the world.

The 2022 Graduate School Fair will welcome back recruiters in-person to meet with University of Texas at Austin students. More than 90 programs will be participating, featuring graduate school recruiters, as well as test prep resources. Texas programs will be well represented, along with schools from coast to coast and around the world.

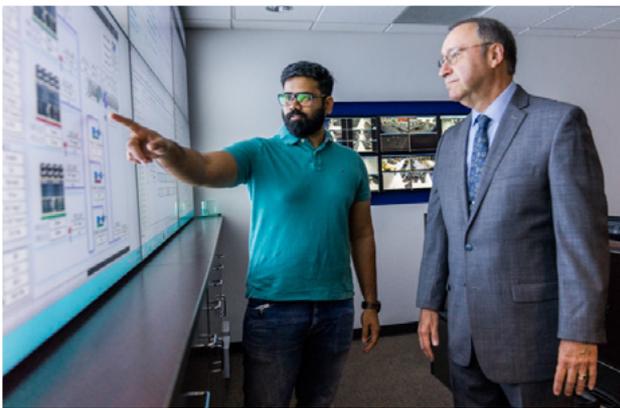
Students do not need to register in advance to attend the fair. All majors are welcome, and it doesn't matter how many undergraduate hours have been completed. Simply walk down Speedway to the big tent in front of Gregory Gym, where representatives

from the participating institutions will be available to answer questions, provide informational materials about their program offerings, explain application requirements, and more. Cactus Yearbook representatives will also be on hand with information about signing up for free yearbook portraits, open to all fall 2022, spring and summer 2023 graduates, including graduate-level degrees.

The UT Graduate School Fair is hosted by the Graduate Coordinators Network and Texas Student Media. The health and safety of students, staff and exhibitors is always the highest priority. UT has aligned its masking guidance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. People may choose to mask at any time and hand sanitizer stations will be available at the event.

More information about featured graduate schools can be found year-round at www.graduatesoftexas.com.

Why Biomedical Informatics?



The health care industry has been turned upside down by the strain of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, technological advancement did not stop during the pandemic – a large part of it received a boost because of the pandemic. Over the past two years, Artificial Intelligence applications have

been developed and utilized at a much higher speed and at a much larger scale to help improve and transform how medical care is provided.

At the UTHealth School of Biomedical Informatics (SBMI), we educate students on how to collect, process, and convert data—ranging from

molecules to populations—into actionable information, knowledge, and intelligence. We take pride in being the only stand-alone informatics program in the nation dedicated to educating current and future leaders, innovators, and problem solvers across Texas, the nation, and the world.

SBMI faculty and students represent a wide array of health professions (e.g., medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health, etc.), as well as the fields of computer science and engineering, mathematics and statistics, clinical informatics and bioinformatics, biomedical engineering, the biomedical sciences, healthcare management, cognitive science, and the law. The diverse background of our

faculty and students, coupled with the transdisciplinary nature of the school's education and research programs, creates a uniquely rich and rewarding collaborative environment that lays the groundwork for innovation and seminal discoveries.

Join the health care revolution at SBMI and earn one of six graduate certificates, a Master of Science degree, a PhD in Biomedical Informatics, or be one of the first to earn a Doctorate in Health Informatics from the only school in the nation to offer the advanced, practice degree. We also offer dual degree MD/MS programs with McGovern Medical School at UTHealth and with UTRGV Medical School and a MS/MPH with UT School of Public Health.

With both online and in-person options, our programs are flexible, providing you exciting career opportunities at an extraordinary value.

Students can select one of three concentrations for their studies. The Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Concentration focuses on AI and data-driven solutions for improving patient care, disease prevention, and biomedical discovery. The Clinical and Health Informatics Concentration focuses on the optimal use of information through technology to improve health care, individual and population health, and biomedical and clinical research. The Bioinformatics and Systems Medicine Concentration focuses on the integration of biology,

statistics, mathematics, and computational modeling to help researchers and clinicians understand biological data and link them to imaging and clinical data to benefit patients.

Scan this QR Code to learn more about this fascinating field, explore informatics employment opportunities, or register for an upcoming SBMI informational webinar.




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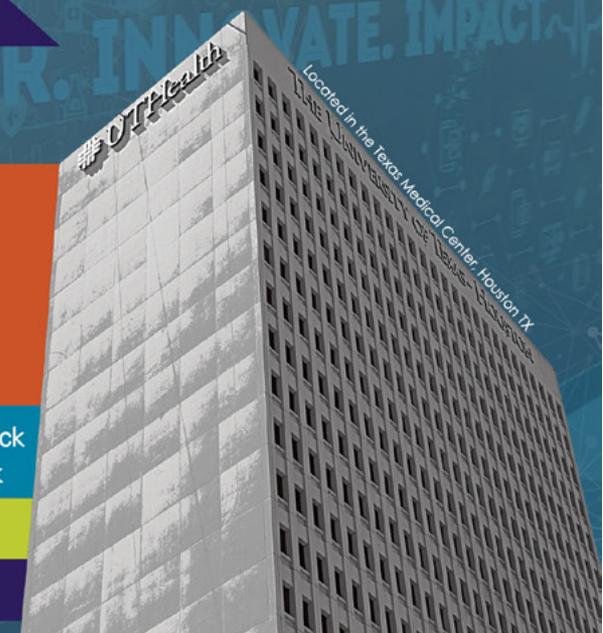
Biomedical Informatics Research Track
Biomedical Informatics Applied Track

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Biomedical Informatics

Doctorate

Health Informatics



sbmi.uth.edu

Rice University Master of Global Affairs



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mga.rice.edu



The Rice University Master of Global Affairs (MGA) is a two-year professional master's degree co-sponsored by the world-renowned James A. Baker

III Institute for Public Policy and the School of Social Sciences. MGA students pursue a rigorous curriculum that culminates in a professional degree aimed at putting graduates at the cross-section of public policy and actionable decision making requisite in today's global workplace. The MGA is designed to be small, with no more than 25 matriculants admitted annually, so students can actively engage with program faculty and their fellow peers to leverage the global Rice network that truly knows no boundaries.

In the first year of the program, students take an eight-course sequence that examines global affairs from multiple perspectives including global security, global systems, microeconomics, and international conflict and cooperation. Students learn from some of the finest researchers in public policy and the social sciences that require the highest stan-

dard of critical analysis and quantitative application and provide a firm grounding in theoretical and methodological methods. Core curriculum courses are offered in the

“At the Baker Institute, our goal is to bridge the gap between the theory and practice of public policy. Students in the program will benefit from our fellows' expertise on key issues facing governments, the private sector and society today and the institute's national and worldwide connections.”

evenings to accommodate working professionals and content is delivered in the form of simulations, group projects and presentations, guest lectures, and individual research projects.

In the second year, students pursue an area of study in international security, international political development, or international political

economy. The area of study allows each student to pursue in-depth studies on a subject critical to their professional interests and culminates in an applied capstone project that analyzes a contemporary policy problem critical to an organization.

Rice University's location in the heart of Houston, Texas makes the MGA an ideal setting for studying the formulation and execution of global policy and decision making on a world stage with some of the largest international corporate and non-profit entities. Houston's reputation as the 'Energy Capital of the World', the vast network of the third largest consular corps in the United States, and the city's standing as the busiest international sea port in the United States, allow students to network into a variety of internship and career placements.

Current students have interned at such organizations as Ernst & Young, National Oilwell Varco, and the British Consulate.

The MGA is seeking applications for its next cohort to start in fall 2023. Visit <http://mga.rice.edu> for information.



Rice's Master of Social Policy Evaluation



With demand for evidence-based social policy growing rapidly, Rice University is proud to offer a full-time Master of Social Policy Evaluation (MSPE).

Housed in the School of Social Sciences in collabo-

ration with the Texas Policy Lab and the Kinder Institute for Urban Research, the 13-month, 30-credit-hour program is an interdisciplinary program that draws its course content from the fields of political science, economics and sociology.

Students learn to conduct independent policy evaluations using various statistical methods. The curriculum gives students the chance to develop and refine their analytical skills by studying different methodological and empirical approaches. Students learn the skills they need to design and conduct policy evaluations personalized for specific situations and institutions with varying degrees of available data.

"The MSPE is designed to engage students in unparalleled classroom experiences offered by leading experts and to provide the opportunity to put learned skills into practice," said

Margaret Beier, Faculty Director for the program. "We are confident that our graduates will have the skills needed to positively affect how government, non-profits, and corporate entities work through effective policy evaluation."

The program also provides students a unique hands-on experience by drawing upon real-world policy evaluations conducted at the Texas Policy Lab and research centers at Rice, including the Houston Education Research Consortium. Policy study areas include criminal justice, public health, early childhood development and education, and labor

markets, among others.

Graduates of the program are sought by government organizations, corporations, non-profits and foundations for their data analytic, data visualization and knowledge of applied theory to design, analyze and evaluate existing policies and make

recommendations for future considerations.

Applicants for the program are encouraged to apply Early Decision by February 1st or Regular Decision by April 30th.

For more information, visit socialpolicy.rice.edu.



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MCAT Student-Jessica

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Thorough content matched to each exam, combined with proprietary strategies for how to take the tests, give you The Princeton Review edge.

Cutting-Edge Technology

Our investment in cutting-edge technology means that we are constantly innovating to deliver the most effective tools available across multiple platforms. Our real-time, adaptive practice tests and drills focus your prep, so you spend your time efficiently and maximize your score potential.

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There is no “one size fits all” when it comes to our services. Whether you choose to work one-on-one with a tutor matched to your needs or work through our adaptive online products on your own, everything we do is geared toward personalizing your prep and meeting your unique needs.

Dedicated Employees

We care. A lot. We are a team of mission-driven people who love to help students unlock their potential and reach their goals. We live, sleep, eat, and breathe the work we do. We are smart, passionate, and motivated by our students’ achievements. After all, their success is our success.

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MID

MSKin

MPA

MLA

MSMan

MSE

MSMkt

MSN

MSSW

What will your next degree be?

Learn more about graduate degree programs and connect with recruiters at schools around the country at **GraduatesofTexas.com** – the site built for UT students to explore post-grad opportunities in Texas and beyond.

Join us at the Graduate School Fair!
October 11, 2022 | 10 AM-2 PM
 In front of Gregory Gym on Speedway

www.GraduatesofTexas.com



The University of Texas at Austin
 Texas Student Media
 Moody College of Communication



The University of Texas at Austin
Texas Student Media
Moody College of Communication



2022 Graduate School Fair

Tuesday, October 11, 2022 • 10 AM – 2 PM • Speedway Plaza

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2022 Graduate School Fair

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Gregory Gymnasium

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CACTUS YEARBOOK

“People can do a little more good, a little more often”: Recent study finds that random acts of kindness significantly impact well-being

By Katy Nelson

Published in the Daily Texan on August 30, 2022

Researchers found that random acts of kindness can affect people’s well-being significantly more than expected, according to a study published Aug. 19.

Based on experiments ranging from giving someone a cup of hot chocolate to delivering cupcakes in the park, the recently published study found that random acts of kindness affected both the giver and receiver significantly more than expected. The researchers conducted a total of eight experiments involving students, in order to gauge the effects of the acts. The study’s co-author Amit Kumar said that although researchers know kindness significantly improves a person’s well-being, people underestimate the effect it will have on the receiver.

“One of the interesting questions becomes why people often don’t act in ways that are likely to make them feel better,” said Kumar, assistant marketing and psychology professor. “What we were interested in studying here was this notion that these seemingly small prosocial acts ... can actually make a significant difference in people’s lives.”

Kumar said because people underestimate the positive effects of these acts, more often than not, people don’t perform them. One of



BREYONA MITCHELL / THE DAILY TEXAN

the experiments included students at the University engaging in an exercise in which they performed different acts of kindness for others, such as baking cookies or offering a peer a ride home, and then filled out a questionnaire afterward, Kumar said. At the same time, the recipients were contacted and asked how they felt.

The researchers found that in all of the experiments, both the recipients and performers ended up in better moods than normal after the act, Kumar said, and the recipients felt significantly better than the performers anticipated.

“One reason for why people undervalue the impact of their prosociality is because they don’t seem to fully appreciate the role,” Kumar said. “Performers, in an act of kindness, can miss out on the fact

Continued on page 15

Science For a Greater Good at American University



At Washington, DC's American University, we believe that science can save the world.

In 2020, AU opened the doors to its Hall of Sciences, a 125,000-square-foot, cutting-edge facility, dedicated to biology, environmental science, chemistry, and neurosci

ence. It has transformed the sciences at AU. Students work in technologically advanced laboratories, learning from experts who are shaping their fields and taking on some of the toughest challenges facing our world—addiction, cancer research, health disparities, climate change, and much more.

AU and the Environment

AU is the first university in the United States to have a carbon neutral campus. It launched the American University Center for Environmental Policy, taking an interdisciplinary approach to issues like climate change.

Environmental science faculty are doing other important work, including tracking the global flow of seafood species, monitoring microplastics (funded by NOAA), field-testing a water quality monitoring robot, and using time lapse cameras to monitor tree phenology and the impact of urbanization and climate change.

The Brain, Obesity, and Addiction

Distinguished Professor of Neuroscience Terry Davidson, chair of AU's new Department of Neuroscience and director

of AU's Center for Neuroscience and Behavior, is leading groundbreaking research poised to transform our understanding of addiction and other cognitive disorders. His team's cross-disciplinary research on the influence of diet and susceptibility to addiction addresses a root cause of drug abuse by linking both drug abuse and overeating to cognitive, rather than motivational, control impairments.

Biology

Our biology faculty are making important connections between obesity and cancer progression, researching how fat cells in tumors affect cancer cell growth, progression, and drug responses.

Other faculty are studying endocrine disrupting compounds in water systems, using researching colony col-

lapse disorder in honeybees, and conducting an NSF-funded study of DNA to help us understand regulation that occurs in cells, which can contribute to anything from improving traits in crop plants to better understanding a wide range of human diseases.

Chemistry

The Department of Chemistry is a hub of groundbreaking research. Faculty are using carbon electrodes to measure phenolic impurities in petroleum processing that could potentially lead to safer and cleaner fuel sources, examining the effects of HIV on drug use and abuse, developing computational tools that can help fight the spread of chemical weapons, and examining the procedural and human side to data collection and analysis in the forensics field.

A City Filled with Opportunity

AU's students come from around the world to study in Washington, DC, a city filled with research, internship, and career opportunities for STEM majors. Forbes magazine ranked DC second in the nation for STEM jobs—at pre-eminent science institutions, federal and international agencies, nonprofits, and in the thriving private sector, which includes the technology and defense corridors of Virginia and Maryland.

AU's science programs prepare students to become scientists and innovators who have the power to make an extraordinary impact.

For more information on American University's program, visit us at: www.american.edu/cas/admissions.

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Public Health Saves Lives

Apply to UT Health School of Public Health Today!

THE ONSET OF the COVID-19 pandemic has raised many questions about the role of public health in our communities. Various organizations and communities across the nation have responded differently, and while recently there has been lots of good news about vaccines rolling out, that does not mean the impact of COVID-19 dissipates overnight. We are all still figuring out this path forward together, and one thing has become incredibly clear over the course of the last year:

We need more people, of all backgrounds, involved in public health issues.

Public health is more than just COVID-19. Things like worker safety regulations, vaccination campaigns, promoting good hygiene in school or having open, honest conversations with people about the risks of unprotected sex are all examples of public health efforts that have saved lives and prevented the spread of disease. Opportunities to affect positive public health changes occur at

all levels of society, too. Whether you studied policy, marketing and advertising, business, or biological sciences, there's a place in public health where your passion and expertise is needed.

UTHealth School of Public Health is the largest and first school of public health in Texas, and has six campuses spread across the state: Austin, Brownsville, Dallas, El Paso, Houston and San Antonio. We offer both masters and doctoral degrees that cover a wide range of subjects including, but not limited to:

- Biostatistics
- Epidemiology
- Environmental Sciences
- Health Promotion and Education
- Behavioral Science
- Management and Policy
- Community Health

As a member institution of the largest medical center in the world, the Texas Medical

Center, our university offers students the chance to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it in the field. As part of their degree, students have:

- Conducted literature reviews on the difference in 5-year survival rates in US born Black women and African-born Black women diagnosed with breast cancer to demonstrate the ethnic differences due to immigration
- Assessed mental health services offered by employee assistance programs of top Texas Fortune 500 firms
- Researched the effect of unconventional gas and oil drilling emissions on asthma respiratory disease in Barnett Shale region in Texas

These opportunities that wouldn't be possible without the vast connections and support of UTHealth

School of Public Health.

The health challenges we face are multifaceted and constantly changing. The matter of the next pandemic is not if, but when. If you want to help shape the way our healthcare systems, our research institutions, our local governments, and our communities interact to solve future public health crises, there's a place for you here.

A healthier future is within our reach. Help make it a reality. Join us. ■



Pre-COVID-19 Workshop on PPE

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For over 50 years, UTHealth School of Public Health has changed the culture of health through excellence in graduate education, research and engagement through collaboration, leadership, transformation and diversification. We believe that a world in which there are no caveats or conditions on who can have good health is within our reach.

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Neeley School of Business

neeley.tcu.edu/MSBA



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What You Will Gain

The MS in Business Analytics prepares you for a dynamic and exciting career, unleashing the power of modern data science to solve business challenges. You'll identify why things are the way they are, anticipate trends and predict outcomes. You'll delve into analytics, models, visualization, predictive analytics, people analytics and more.

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"As a person with a background that is quite different than business, the MSBA gave me the chance to broaden my professional horizons in this growing field."
– Cameron Estrada MSBA '21, TCU social work undergraduate alumna

In the TCU MSBA program, you'll gain:

- A STEM-designated degree that signals to companies you've mastered the in-demand analytical skills that make you more agile, strategic and valuable
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- Access to the global TCU network of influential alumni and business executives

Consult on Company Projects, Get Hired

You'll gain hands-on, real-world experience through a capstone data project. Companies across industry will pitch projects to your class in the fall. You choose the project and team, work on it through spring, and then present your recommendations to the client.

"You get a chance to incorporate the hard and soft skills you've learned into a project that has real-world elements." – Natascha Hartvich MSBA '21, MBA '20, Vanguard University undergraduate alumna



Companies are so impressed with our students' work, they hire them. In fact, 91 percent of our MSBA graduates accept job offers within six months after obtaining their degrees and earn an average base salary of \$70,485.

American Airlines, Amazon, AT&T, Charles Schwab, Deloitte, GM Financial and PMG are just a few big league companies that hire our graduates.

Change Your Future in One Year

That's all it takes to grow your worth and add value — today and for years to come. The possibilities are endless. Just ask our graduates.

"I've developed strong analytical skills and gained a better understanding of how data can have a positive impact on any business in the current job market."

– Vinay Ragala MSBA '21, UT engineering undergraduate alumna

"My degree supports my career at PMG Digital Agency. Consider a TCU MSBA to expand your skill set to fit our analytics-focused world."
– Emily Pook MSBA '21, TCU economics undergraduate alumna

Ready to take the next step?

Learn more by visiting neeley.tcu.edu/MSBA or email us directly at AnalyticsAdmissions@tcu.edu.

Graduate program in Diagnostic Genetics and Genomics now accepting applications

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center's School of Health Professions is accepting applications for the Master of Science degree program in Diagnostic Genetics and Genomics.

Our programs prepare graduates for productive careers in diagnostic genetics, biomedical research and academia. Upon successful completion of the program, graduates are eligible to seek board certification in molecular biology and/or cytogenetics from the American Society for Clinical Pathology.

At MD Anderson's School of Health Professions, we prepare students to be the diagnostic molecular science leaders of tomorrow.

About the program

This graduate program is tailored to students interested in careers in the leading-edge field of genetics/genomics who want to make an important contribution to improving health care through applied research.

First-year students will learn from world-renowned faculty in didactic classroom courses as well as structured practical experience in a diagnostic genetics laboratory. Second-year students complete a clinically approved research project through advanced practice courses.

This rigorous project-based curriculum provides students the opportunity to lead a research project under the supervision of MD Anderson's expert faculty. With a variety of

participating principal investigators who share a wide range of research interests, these goals are attainable through collaborative, interdisciplinary and outcome-based clinical research and clinical applications.

Students will thrive in state-of-the-art teaching laboratories and training facilities, learning next-generation sequencing, cytogenomics, microarrays and bioinformatics, at MD Anderson and through collaborations with other Texas Medical Center institutions.

The Master of Science in Diagnostic Genetics and Genomics degree program offers two study tracks:

- Cytogenetics and cytogenomics
- Molecular genetics and genomics

Areas of study:

- Pre- and post-natal genetics and genomics
- Cancer genetics and genomics
- Infectious disease genetics and genomics
- Bioinformatics in diagnostic genetics

Key features of our graduate program include:

- \$2,500 estimated tuition/fees for 12 semester credit hours

- Near 100% employment rate in a related field upon graduation
- More than 90% pass clinical certification exams on the first attempt
- Outstanding faculty and research core facilities
- State-of-the-art laboratories
- Hands-on, project-based learning and curriculum
- Numerous opportunities for professional development, mentoring and networking

Average starting salary for graduates in 2022: \$67,011

Requirements

Applicants to this program should have a strong foundation in genetics, cell and molecular biology, prior research experience and a passion for biomedical research. A bachelor's degree in Biology, Biomedical Sciences or related fields is required. International students must demonstrate United States bachelor's degree equivalence along with TOEFL scores. The GRE is not required.

More information

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713-563-3095

[MDAnderson.org/SHP/DG](https://www.mdanderson.org/SHP/DG)



Apply now

Discover your pathway to a rewarding career in Diagnostic Genetics and Genomics

The School of Health Professions at MD Anderson Cancer Center is accepting applications for admission into the Master of Science in Diagnostic Genetics and Genomics degree program.

This 24-month, full-time clinical thesis-based master's program is tailored to students who have a passion for biomedical research and aim to make an important contribution in health care.

With a rigorous project-based curriculum and state-of-the-art laboratories, this program offers students exciting opportunities to lead a research project and work collaboratively with the faculty at the nation's No. 1 cancer hospital.

Apply today to join the class of 2023–2025 and prepare for a challenging and rewarding career in diagnostic genetics and genomics.

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EMMA GEORGE / THE DAILY TEXAN

UT research finds women in executive suite improve customer orientation, financial performance

By Isabella Zeff

Published in the Daily Texan on October 4, 2022

A new UT study found that though the presence of women on executive management teams tends to improve a company's customer orientation, leading to long-term financial gains, women continue to be underrepresented on companies' top management teams.

The Aug. 3 study looked at 389 companies on the Fortune 500 list from 2007 to 2015 to determine what benefits women in top management teams brought to companies in terms of marketing and financial performance. Study co-author Saim Kashmiri said that on average in Fortune 500 companies, only 13% of top management teams include women, although women make up roughly

half of all graduates who receive their masters in business administration programs.

Kashmiri, an associate marketing professor at the University of Mississippi, said he worked with UT marketing professor Vijay Mahajan and St. Edward's University marketing lecturer Chandra Srivastava to identify benefits women bring to companies. Kashmiri said they measured female influence in top management teams, not just female representation.

"(Female influence is) a construct that not only looks at the number of women, but also the power that they have," Kashmiri said.

The researchers measured how female influence impacted customer orientation, which Kashmiri said refers to how much importance a company places on customer relationship building and satisfaction.

"On average, we found that high female influence in the top management team led to or was associated with a higher customer orientation for companies," Kashmiri said. "We also found that companies where female influence with the (top management team) was high perform better financially."

Kashmiri said these two outcomes are linked because companies with greater customer orientation generally achieve higher brand loyalty and customer satisfaction, which can lead to higher performance and cash flow.

Srivastava said the study shows the importance of diversity in gender balance in top

management teams. While the researchers found women bring benefits like greater customer orientation to companies, she said a theoretical all-female top management team would result in similar groupthink issues as an all-male team.

Srivastava also said the study challenges the narrative of previous research that claims women increase risk-aversion. She said their research shows that in some situations, women aren't more risk-averse, especially when it comes to satisfying customers.

"If you look at the research, women actually take risks," Srivastava said. "But they tend to take more calculated risks."

Continued from page 10

People can good a little more good, a little more often...

that simply engaging in a warm prosocial act can be meaningful for recipients. Beyond whatever it is that they're giving them, (performers) think they're doing something (that's) relatively inconsequential."

Co-author Nicholas Epley said the research is part of a broader research program of people avoiding human connection and reaching out to others despite its positive impact.

"People do act in line with their expectations, but those expectations can be off," Kumar said. "If you're underestimating the positive impact that you're having on other people, that can prevent you from being kinder more often in daily life."

Kumar said he hopes this research helps people become more aware of their impact on others and be kind when they have the opportunity.

"The data suggests that our expectations are off a bit in ways that might leave us being less kind naturally than we might otherwise want to be," said Epley, a behavioral science professor at the University of Chicago. "It's not because we don't necessarily want to do this thing, but because we fail to appreciate just how positive the other person feels. ... I think our data suggests that people can do a little more good, a little more often than they might think, so my hope is they get nudged in that direction."



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Librarianship master's student driven to serve

By Jessi Loerch

For Maina Gachugu, his path to the University of Washington Information School was winding, but it began with his unshakable belief in the importance of an education.

Inspired by his father's devotion to learning, Gachugu always knew he would go to college, but figuring out what to study was harder. He attended community college while working full time and considering his next steps.

Many of his family members were teachers, but he'd been resistant to the idea for himself. After trying a few different areas of study, none of which were quite right, Gachugu realized that teaching would allow him to nurture his love of learning, while also working closely with people.

After earning his teaching certificate, Gachugu moved to Kent, Washington, for a job at an elementary school. He fell in love with the multicultural community of his school, where many of his students are refugees and more than 30 languages are spoken.

Gachugu found that outreach to families was a large part of his job. He helped families sign up for email, directed them to free resources for their kids, and pointed them toward information about citizenship. He realized that his passion was truly in community.

"My job is to help my community tap into their infinite potential," he said.

He wanted to pursue a master's degree and, after a lot of research and thinking, realized that school librarian would be an ideal position. He was thrilled to discover the iSchool's online Master of Library and Information Science, which would allow him to keep his job but was nearby



"My job is to help my community tap into their infinite potential."

so he could use the campus resources.

Gachugu has found his coursework enlightening and challenging. He's worked with a team, led by Senior Principal Research Scientist Chris Coward and Associate Professor Jin Ha Lee, on efforts to combat misinformation by creating an escape room, and he contributed to a read-in for Black History Month. He struggled with imposter syndrome at first, but these projects and his studies helped him gain confidence.

Over time, especially with the pandemic, Gachugu started to worry more about finances. He took extra jobs and considered pausing his studies. Then, however, he was awarded the Genevieve C. Cobb Scholarship for Library and Information Science. His partner, who he says is his rock and he could never have gotten through this without, threw him a celebratory dinner, and they both cried in joy.

"I was so touched and so humbled by the scholarship," he said. "Working side jobs was exhausting. ... The scholarship allowed me to take a huge deep breath. It gave me the gift of

time, which is so precious."

Gachugu said his time at the iSchool has expanded his view of librarianship while also giving him a wider view of the world.

"It really opened my eyes to a lot of things — especially social justice, even with my educational training and growing up as a Black male," he said. "It was relieving to be part of a program that put that as a priority."

He's already bringing what he's learned into his classroom. And he's excited to do that even more after he graduates. While Gachugu still thinks K-12 school librarian would be the ideal position for him, he's seen other options that fit his interests. He's particularly intrigued by the idea of working as a community college librarian or doing outreach for a public library.

"Doing outreach, you can harness and leverage the power of the community while also giving them the resources they are seeking," he said. "As an educator, I direct so many parents to the library. I would love to be on the other side of that recommendation."