Single women still face social stigma: Study

Women who have decided to stay away from the aisle still face the social stigma associated with being single, says a new study.

University of Missouri researchers found that although there has been an increase in the number of single women, the familial and societal messages given to women who are not married by their mid-30’s remained.

Larry Ganong, co-chair of Human Development and Family Studies in the College of Human Environmental Sciences, said: “We found that never-married women’s social environments are characterized by pressure to conform to the conventional life pathway.

“This pressure was manifested in women feeling highly visible and invisible. Heightened visibility came from feelings of exposure and invisibility came from assumptions made by others.”

Ganong and Elizabeth Sharp, associate professor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Texas Tech University, noticed women between the age bracket of 25-35 felt the most stigma, which may be attributed to the fact that being single is more acceptable before age 25.

Beyond that age, they feel more scrutinized by friends, family members and others, according to the study “I’m a Loser, I’m Not Married, Let’s Just All Look at Me”.

Ganong said: “Mainstream media also enforce these ideas. For example, shows like ‘Sex and the City,’ which portray female protagonists who are hyper-focused on finding men, and end with the majority of those characters getting married, are popular.”

Ganong has a joint appointment in the MU Sinclair School of Nursing. The study was due to be published in the Journal of Family Issues.
Though more and more women are staying single or waiting to marry these days, the stigma against "spinsters" hasn't lessened, a new survey found.

About 40 percent of adults were single in 2009, according to the U.S. Census Bureau. Researchers interviewed 32 of these middle-class, never-married women over age 30. They found that these women perceive themselves as caught in a double bind: Their single status made them both highly visible and invisible.

"We found that never-married women's social environments are characterized by pressure to conform to the conventional life pathway," said Larry Ganong, co-chair of Human Development and Family at the University of Missouri. "Heightened visibility came from feelings of exposure, and invisibility came from assumptions made by others."

For example, the study subjects said they felt more visible in situations such as bouquet tosses at weddings, which prompted unwanted, intrusive questions about their marriage status. Yet the respondents also felt invisible in society, with others assuming they were married and had children, and ignoring the reality of single women. The subjects often felt people expected them to justify or explain their singlehood.

The women also reported other difficulties tied to their social status:

- Awareness of shifting realities as they become older, such as the shrinking pool of eligible men;
- Reminders that they are on different life paths than most women when others inquire about their single status;
- Feelings of insecurity and displacement in their families when parents and siblings remark about their singlehood and make jokes or rude comments.

While one might think these annoyances become worse with age, the researchers actually found that dealing with single stigma is the worst for women in their mid-20's through mid-30's, while women older than age 35 tend to be more content with being single and don't express as much dissatisfaction as do younger women.

Before age 25, being single is considered more acceptable for women, the study indicates, but after reaching that age, women felt scrutinized by friends, family members and others for their singlehood.
“Mainstream media also enforce these ideas,” Ganong said. "For example, shows like 'Sex and the City,' which portray female protagonists who are hyper-focused on finding men, and end with the majority of those characters getting married, are popular.”

Ganong and his co-researcher Elizabeth Sharp of Texas Tech University will detail their findings in an upcoming issue of the Journal of Family Issues.

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URL: http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/36007620/ns/health-behavior/
The Human Victory Cigar: Corporate Edition

Want to make more money for your shareholders.

Here is an approach: Lynn Swan.

Or Billie Jean King. Or Elizabeth Dole. Or what people in business call "celebrity directors"—politicians, Tour de France winners, etc.

But surely such "celebrity" directors are a wasted board seat, right? After all, what does a tennis player know about Sarbanes-Oxley? Or a politician about R&D? Certainly Stephen Ferris and his confreres expected come to that conclusion when they began looking at the question last year. Instead, after studying 700 celebrity appointments to corporate boards from 1985 through 2006, the business professors concluded that companies really ought to be reaching for the stars. In short, that boards that include celebrities enhanced shareholder value over one, two and three-year periods.

"The selection of such an individual to a board provides an opportunity for the firm to increase its visibility through the prominence and status associated with a celebrity director," the study says. "Further, such an individual can provide important networking connections or help to balance investors' perceptions and attitudes towards the firm in a more positive direction. This enhanced visibility can ultimately lead to increased share valuation."

Surely the global financial crisis changed all this, right? "I would argue that these same questions were asked in the run-up to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act and after the law's passage," says Ferris, the J.H. Rogers Chair of Money, Credit and Banking at the University of Missouri's Trulaske College of Business. "We asked these hard questions then. Still, it is interesting that the SEC started these hearings in 2009, and now there is increased disclosure regarding directors qualifications, and this issue is still bouncing around. We can not empirically say what happened to shares of companies that announced celebrity directors in 2008-2009. We are at working on updating the figures."

The SEC, for its part, is considering a series of rules that would call into question the relevant qualifications of certain celebrity directors that have found a place on public company boards.

Meantime, Geoff Hibner just can't seem to get a board position. According to this CFO.com article, the 60-year-old executive has vast corporate experience: finance chief of five companies (four of them publicly traded); industries ranging from consumer products to manufacturing; and a Harvard M.B.A. He has accomplished nearly all of his career goals, except one: getting on a corporate board.

This even as banks are working to bulk up their boards with more financially minded directors, according to this WSJ Heard on the Street column.
Ferris and his team are drilling deeper. "We are still looking at two broader questions: How effective/active are celebrities on a board or directors, and does the naming of a celebrity director change the board culture," he said, citing co-authors Kenneth A. Kim of the State University of New York at Buffalo's School of Management, Takeshi Nishikawa of University of Colorado at Denver's Business School and Emre Unlu, of the College of Business Administration at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. "Say you are on a midsize company's board that meets, say, three times a year. Then the company names Bill Clinton, or George W. Bush to the board, to use political names. Are other directors more reticent about speaking up at meetings? Or does their presence change the board dynamics in other ways? Those are the kinds of followup questions that we want to look at."

He expects to finish that study next year.
Daniel Clay named dean of MU College of Education

By Christiana Nielson
March 23, 2010 | 7:30 p.m. CDT

COLUMBIA – His strong roots at MU are what bring him back now to the university after being gone since graduate school.

Daniel Clay, associate dean for administration, research and innovative programs at Auburn University's College of Education, will begin his position as dean of MU's College of Education on June 1.

He was the first in his family to attend college and went on to receive master's and doctoral degrees from MU, Clay said.

"The college was instrumental in setting the course for my life, and I feel a personal commitment to making sure the College of Education is able to provide opportunities like that for others going forward," he said.

He earned his bachelor's degree in psychology from the College of Saint Scholastica in Minnesota and worked at Western Illinois University and the University of Iowa before moving to Auburn.

Clay is president of the American Psychological Association’s Division 54 and a fellow of the American Educational Research Association and American Psychological Association, among other positions, according to a release.

Clay's research focuses on children with chronic health conditions and the education system.

"Returning to school can be a challenge (for children) because of health related issues that interfere with their ability to learn in school," he said. "I work to effectively integrate them back into schools and communities."
After consulting many people, MU Provost Brian Foster said he chose Clay because of his very broad support, big vision, administrative experience, articulateness and impression he made on people.

"One of the main roles of a dean is to be an advocate for the college," Foster said. "I think Dan will be extremely good that way. He sees the big picture for where education's going."

Denise Adkins, associate professor in the School of Information Science and Learning Technologies and part of the dean search committee, added that Clay is the "21st century dean."

"He had what seemed to us clear direction for making the college of education visible on the campus and within the community," Adkins said.

Clay is replacing Carolyn Herrington, who left the post in August 2008. Clay will be paid $190,000 each year, according to MU public relations spokesman Christian Basi.

His wife, Kelly Clay, holds a doctorate in speech and hearing sciences from Auburn and is looking at opportunities to teach at Missouri. Clay has three sons: Landon, 8, Braydon, 6, and Holden, 4.

Clay said he's already talked to people here and is planning the transition.

Clay said one of the desirable things about MU was that the school has strong school partnerships that are essential for improving education.

"Those partnerships allow college faculty and staff to work directly with public schools to improve student learning," he said.

Some issues that Clay hopes to address as dean are:

- Improving both urban and rural public schools
- Dealing with national crises such as gaps in student achievement and the school dropout rate
- Addressing the shortage of science, math technology and special education teachers

The other four candidates who visited Mizzou were:
• Dennis Kivlighan, Jr., professor and chair, Department of Counseling and Personnel Services, College of Education, University of Maryland-College Park

• Vena M. Long, founding executive director, Tennessee Governor's Academy for Mathematics and Science; professor, Mathematics Education, College of Education, Health and Human Sciences, University of Tennessee-Knoxville

• Paul Theobald, interim associate provost and dean of the graduate school; Woods-Beals Chair of Urban and Rural Education, School of Education, Buffalo State College in New York

• Glenn Good, associate dean for Research, Graduate and International Studies; professor, Educational, School and Counseling Psychology, College of Education, MU
Education dean appointed at MU

Published March 23, 2010 at 11:28 a.m.
Updated March 23, 2010 at 1:04 p.m.

Daniel Clay, associate dean for administration, research and innovative programs at Auburn University's College of Education, has been named dean of the University of Missouri College of Education, effective June 1.

Clay received a bachelor's degree in psychology from the College of St. Scholastica in Minnesota and a master's degree and doctorate from MU. In 2008, he attended the Management Development Program at Harvard University. Before his appointment at Auburn, he was associate dean of academic affairs in the College of Education and Human Services at Western Illinois University and director of the University of Iowa counseling psychology doctoral program.

"MU also has a strong personal meaning to me," Clay said in a statement, adding that he was the first in his family to attend college. "As dean, I want to make sure that the faculty, staff and students have opportunities to reach their goals."

Clay replaces Carolyn Herrington, who left the post in 2008. Rose Porter, former dean of the MU Sinclair School of Nursing, has been serving as interim.
The Tribune's View

NCAA academic standards

Duncan and Alden, one on one

By Henry J. Waters III

Tuesday, March 23, 2010

Mike Alden and Arne Duncan are having a debate. The University of Missouri athletic director and the U.S. secretary of education differ in part over Duncan’s revolutionary proposal to deny participation in the NCAA basketball tournament to schools not graduating at least 40 percent of athletes within six years.

“I guarantee that would fix the problem in a hurry,” Duncan said.

Duncan, a former court star at Harvard, has basketball creds to match those he has earned in education. Alden agrees with tough standards but can’t buy Duncan’s particulars, which would have kept 12 teams, including Missouri, out of this year’s tournament.

Particularly at schools with top programs, players often leave before graduation to enter professional ranks or switch schools. Even if these transferees are eminently successful, they do not count as graduates of the school where they began their higher education careers. Alden cited some familiar names: Kareem Rush, Linas Kleiza and Thomas Gardner left MU for the NBA, threatening MU’s graduation rate. Current MU player Kim English says he and others come to college to “get a job,” clearly regarding an NBA career as a worthy goal.

Alden prefers a system giving credit for successful progress toward a degree, as suggested by former NCAA President Myles Brand.

One can understand both sides of this argument, which goes to the very heart of the “student-athlete” concept. If that is a worn-out theory and “athlete-student” is more appropriate for physically gifted denizens of court and field who matriculate mainly to do sports, the appropriate proof of “graduation” might be something other than the usual sheepskin.

Allowing for that sort of fuzziness turns the university for certain “students” into an athletic training ground rather than an academic institution, but who among us fails to see that trend already under way for the athlete-student? The trick, I suppose, is to retain as much of both goals as possible.

HJW III
Engineer developing cancer detection device

By Kelsey Jackson

MU News Bureau

A University of Missouri researcher is developing a tiny sensor that is smaller than a human hair and could test bodily fluids for a variety of diseases, including breast and prostate cancers.

"Many disease-related substances in liquids are not easily tracked," said Jae Kwon, assistant professor of electrical and computer engineering at MU. "In a liquid environment, most sensors experience a significant loss of signal quality, but by using highly sensitive, low-signal-loss acoustic resonant sensors in a liquid, these substances can be effectively and quickly detected." The new concept, he said, "will result in a noninvasive approach for breast-cancer detection."

Kwon's real-time acoustic resonant sensor uses micro/nano-electromechanical systems, which are tiny devices many times smaller than the diameter of a human hair, to directly detect diseases in body fluids.

The sensor doesn't require bulky data reading or analyzing equipment and can be integrated with equally small circuits; thus creates the potential for small stand-alone disease-screening systems. Kwon's sensor also produces rapid, almost immediate results that could reduce patient anxiety often felt after waiting for other detection methods such as biopsies, which can take several days or weeks before results are known.

Last January, Kwon was awarded a $400,000, five-year National Science Foundation CAREER Award to continue his effort on this sensor research. The CAREER award is the NSF's most prestigious award in support of junior faculty members who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent teaching and the integration of education and research. Kwon's sensor research has been published in the IEEE International Conference on Solid-state, Sensors, Actuators and Microsystems and the IEEE Conference on Sensors.
Missouri Training Institute recruits Covey to MU

MTI is part of the Trulaske College of Business at the University of Missouri and provides professional development, training and consulting services to businesses and government agencies.

Alan St. John joined MTI as its assistant director in 1987 and has served as director since 1992. He has more than 25 years of experience administering training and professional development programs; training consultation; conducting needs assessments; and designing, delivering and evaluating training programs.

The CBT interviewed St. John about MTI's big event for the spring, a presentation by author Stephen M.R. Covey at Cornell Hall's Bush Auditorium on March 26:

Why did you decide to recruit Covey as a speaker?

St. John: “We have been hearing a lot about trust from our customers. Over the past several years, we have been working with different groups to help them strengthen trust within their teams and organizations. Covey's book The Speed of Trust has been a national bestseller, and he works with groups all over the world. In fact, he presented at the World Economic Forum in Beijing, where leaders voted a ‘crisis of trust and confidence’ as the No. 1 challenge facing organizations. So that fact and our experience suggested to us that it’s a timely issue.”

Tell us a bit of the back story about getting such a big-name author to come to MU.

St. John: “The story on how we got him to come to MU is simple: We asked. He is known the world over, but he told us he especially likes working with the kind of diverse audience that we will have at our event: representatives of for-profit and not-for-profit businesses, government, education, students, faculty and staff. I think he would also tell you that he likes working with the leaders of tomorrow.”

MTI (mti.missouri.edu) is known in the local business community for its training seminars and business consulting services. How does this presentation fit into your mission?

St. John: “Our mission is to partner with clients to provide high-quality training and consulting services to improve an individual’s effectiveness and an organization’s performance. Our business is to help people do business more effectively, and trust is critical to an organization’s success. Cultivating trust has been called the leadership challenge of the new millennium. Steve Forbes, president of Forbes, was quoted as saying, ‘Covey brilliantly focuses on that overlooked bedrock of democratic capitalism — trust.’ Covey inspires. He offers insights and practical tools that will produce results.”

Excerpts from Covey's summary of The Speed of Trust

There is one thing that is common to every individual, relationship, team, family, organization, nation, economy and civilization throughout the world — one thing which, if removed, will destroy the most powerful government, the most successful business, the most thriving economy, the most influential leadership, the greatest friendship, the strongest character, the deepest love.

On the other hand, if developed and leveraged, that one thing has the potential to create unparalleled success and prosperity in every dimension of life.

That one thing is trust.

The Five Waves of Trust model serves as a metaphor for how trust operates in our lives.

Myth vs. Reality

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Myth</th>
<th>Reality</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trust is soft</td>
<td>Trust is hard, real and quantifiable. It measurably affects both speed and cost.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust is slow</td>
<td>Nothing is as fast as the speed of trust.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust is built solely on integrity</td>
<td>Trust is a function of both character and competence.</td>
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<tr>
<td>You either have trust or you don’t</td>
<td>Trust can be both created and destroyed.</td>
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