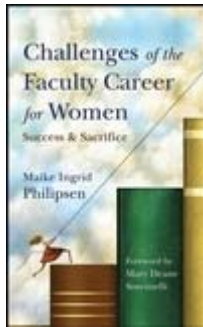


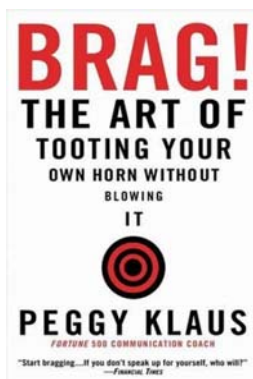


WHAT WE'RE READING - BOOKS



Challenges of the Faculty Career for Women : Success and Sacrifice
Maïke Ingrid Philipsen, Mary Deane Sorcinelli (Foreword)
April 2008, Jossey-Bass

From the publisher: "Based on interviews with female faculty members at various stages in their careers, this compelling resource examines how women faculty members juggle the extraordinary demands of their personal lives with the pressures of their academic careers. Challenges of the Faculty Career for Women explores and offers recommendations about such commonplace issues as choosing between and balancing work and family, defining identity and priorities, facing elder-care issues, and working in a historically male-dominated environment." Many of us are reading this book after hearing the author present her findings in a July 2008 Inside Higher Ed audio conference. Female faculty at every career stage can identify with many of the challenges discussed in the text. Because of limited time, the author chose not to focus on the "enablers and coping strategies" cited by the women faculty in this volume as essential catalysts for advancing their careers. However, for many of us, these key messages are the most compelling aspects of the book.



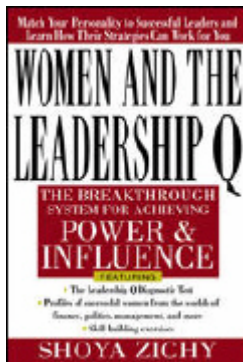
Brag! The Art of Tooting Your Own Horn Without Blowing It
Peggy Klaus
Time Warner Book Group, New York, 2003

A fantastic book!!!! Chapter 1 outlines several "Bragging Myths We Live and Die By". Two myths that we are particularly sensitive to are:

Myth #1 A Job Well Done Speaks for Itself
Myth #4 I Don't Have to Brag; People will Do It for Me

As the authors note: “It’s great if someone says something nice about you, but don’t hold your breath. Although letting others do the bragging for you is one tool in your goody bag ...it’s no substitute for *you*. No one is going to have your interests at heart the way you do. No one will ever tell your story and get people excited about you like you can. ”

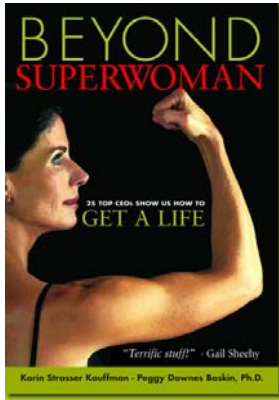
The book describes the necessity of preparing what are called “brag bites” (“snippets of impressive information about one’s best self, expressed in a brief, quotable manner”) and “bragologues” (“information about one’s self that is conveyed [in 30 second to 3-minute monologues] in a conversational, storylike fashion that’s memorable and elicits interest, excitement, and/or admiration”). The author gives great examples that are easy to replicate. This is a book that we’re likely to re-read for continual pointers on how to handle certain situations. We highly recommend reading this book.



Women and the Leadership Q: Revealing the Four Paths to Influence and Power
Shova Zichy
McGraw-Hill, New York, 2000

The author assesses one’s leadership style based on a questionnaire that involves similar elements to the Myers-Briggs test. One can then focus on specific personalized advice, and, for that reason, the book is a fascinating read. Three themes of particular interest throughout the text are:

- finding one’s voice – so important to do!!
- viewing one’s career in terms of building blocks– similar to the sequencing idea in *Beyond Superwoman* listed below
- “Life is too short to be constantly battling your environment.”



Beyond Superwoman
Karin Strasser Kauffman and Peggy Downes Baskin
Carmel Publishing Company, Carmel, CA, 2003

From the authors: “Our central hypothesis is that, in contrast to earlier women achievers, today’s successful women leaders have purposefully sequenced their lifetime choices. Rather than attempting to juggle the responsibilities of family, career, community and self, Silicon Valley female executives focus on one segment at a time. Moreover, these women stress that they have consciously structured their lives, prioritizing in a deliberative fashion that contrasts strongly with the “Superwoman Syndrome” of the previous generation.”

Sequencing - this is the most important take-home message of the book. You can do it all over the lifetime of one’s career, but you can’t do it all at once. Everyone needs to make choices at each career stage - the choices are not permanent decisions but a roadmap for a limited period of time.