-27.9% Men and 26.2% of Women in America over 25 have Attained a Bachelor's Degree-

For my last paper, I found that 27.2% of Americans over the age of 25 have attained a Bachelor’s Degree by 2005. Going back to the census website, I decided that it was appropriate to break down this number into other sub-categories and to see whether there was a significant difference when compared to this number. But, first of all, I had to decide what factor I wanted to take into consideration. After looking at some of the previous census data, I decided that I would focus on the sexes and their differences in educational attainment; race was another contender, but since sex includes all races, I thought it would more applicable to our class discussion.

Even though women have been able to attend college for the greater part of the last century, many women did not pursue this due to marriage, childrearing, employment opportunities that did not require a college degree, or negative social stigma around women attending universities. So, even though 27.2% of Americans over the age of 25 had attained a Bachelor’s Degree in 2005, I knew that there was a percentage difference between men and women. However, the numbers that I found threw into sharp relief the obstacles and perseverance that women have had over the past fifty years to have an almost equal percentage of college degrees as men do. In 2006, 27.9% of men in the United States ages 25 and over had attained a Bachelor’s Degree, compared to 26.2% of women. Even though there is still a one percent difference, the degree of separation has lessened significantly over the past 25 years. In 1980, only 12.8% of women over the age of 25 held a Bachelor's Degree or high, while 20% of


Christopher McCarty
Dr. Beau Weston
Sociology 120
September 28, 2007
Structure Number 2
men did\textsuperscript{3}. Over the past 25 years, the percentage of women that have gone on to graduate from college (and even attain higher educational degrees) has doubled!

This is very important because it marks a dramatic turning point for women, and their role in relationships, in the United States. It was not long ago that women could and wanted to attend universities, and now there is a projection that in 10 years, there will be 3 million more women going to college than men\textsuperscript{4}. Consequently, this results in more potential jobs being open to women, women holding more upper echelon positions, and thus making equal, if not more money than men. Seeing as how women like to marry up to ensure security, this can present a dilemma since there are not enough men to fill their relationships, both in college and potentially in the workforce. Thus, I predict that this will lead more women to be single for longer periods of time, giving men time to catch up with their salary and credentials through years in the business world. Only time will tell how this will eventually play out, but it is definitely something that deserves out attention.
