In past column I have addressed many of the issues that women face in academia. One, according to a study published last year in the journal “Science,” is the general perception that women are “less smart” than their male counterparts. The other is that despite the fact that 10 percent of postdoctoral students — the main pipeline for college professors — are women, only 46 percent of assistant professors, the entry-level job in academia, are women. To make matters worse, women are overrepresented among the top 25 percent of full professors in many other disciplines.

That seems to be the case among economists. I suspect that the reason is that women are given less credit when collaborating with men. Indeed, the company that James Hart Stark started in 1816 is still here today. Today, he is still going strong and continues to produce apples and other fruits. Indeed, the company bought the rights to the apple brand in 1893, was brought to the attention of the Stark brothers by Joseph M. Biss, the man who wrote the first published description of the apple. Since that time, the Stark brothers have been involved in the development of many other apple varieties, including the Golden Delicious apple, which was one of the first to be sold in supermarkets. The company has been the subject of many studies and articles, including a recent one in the Journal of Agricultural and Applied Economics, which examined the impact of the Stark brothers on the apple industry.

In the future, it is likely that more women will join the field of economics. This is because of increased awareness of the gender gap in STEM fields and the growing number of programs and initiatives aimed at encouraging women to pursue careers in economics. As more women enter the field, it is likely that the number of women at the top of the academic hierarchy will increase as well. However, much more remains to be done to address the gender gap in economics and to ensure that women have equal opportunities to succeed in this field.