

The non-stop sex scandals and student rape crisis at Stanford University

'Knife. Penis. Public Square': Stanford sex scandal detailed by Vanity Fair

Vlae Kershner, SFGate

Sexting, secret rendezvous, and restraining orders. Is this business as usual at the prestigious [@StanfordBiz](https://t.co/oOAmD2Lc5r)? <https://t.co/oOAmD2Lc5r>

— VANITY FAIR (@VanityFair) [October 21, 2015](#)

Vanity Fair's December issue includes a [detailed article](#) on the Stanford sex scandal that has [forced the resignation](#) of the dean of one of the nation's highest-ranked business schools.

The tale of "sexting, secret rendezvous, and restraining orders" centers on Dean Garth Saloner, who has resigned but is staying around until next June. He was having an affair with star organizational behavior Professor Deborah Gruenfeld, the estranged wife of Professor James A. Phillips. That means both of the angry spouses were working for Saloner.

In a lawsuit against Stanford, Phillips claims Saloner created a hostile working environment and that the university wrongfully terminated Phillips in 2014. Stanford denies that, saying Phillips had taken extended leave to work at Apple University ([where he makes \\$1.7 million](#)) and wasn't going to return anyway.



Photo: Toni Gauthier, Stanford University

Garth Saloner, dean of the Stanford University School of Business, announced his resignation on Monday, Sept. 15, 2015, amid a scandal that he was romantically involved with the estranged wife of a professor who is suing the university for wrongful termination.

Reporter David Margolik spoke extensively to Phills, who knew more than he should have about his wife's affair because she had let him manage the technical side of her electronic communications, which included texts with her lover.

"At various points in their chats, Saloner—a Jew who fled apartheid South Africa rather than serve in its military—and Gruenfeld spoke of putting Phills in a cage and castrating him in public. Saloner relished seeing him in an orange jumpsuit in prison, and compared him to an elephant seal and a tarantula. To punish him and gain custody of their two mixed-race children, Phills charges, Gruenfeld reduced him—a man with three Harvard degrees, including a Ph.D. in organizational behavior—to the quintessential "angry black man." He calls the experience his "O.J.-ification."

For Stanford, the most serious implication of the [article](#) is that Provost John Etchemendy, in charge of enforcing the university's extensive sexual harassment policies, was "blasé" about Saloner's affair with a subordinate and didn't take Phills' claims of harassment seriously.

"Yet with the heat from the case now likely to shift to Etchemendy, the question is whether the provost, too, might turn on Saloner. Some of the dean's colleagues believe his insistence on staying at the school, and Stanford's willingness to let him, is but the latest in a long list of maladroit moves and miscalculations. One G.S.B. professor predicted that, among students, Saloner will become an object of ridicule, and that the castration he spoke of in one chat—"Knife. Penis. Public Square," he'd texted Gruenfeld, apparently referencing the erotic Japanese art film *In the Realm of the Senses*—will surely be reprised as a campus catchphrase."

Who ever said business school was boring?

[Inside Stanford Business School's Spiraling Sex Scandal ...](#)

Inside Stanford Business School's Spiraling Sex ... Leland Stanford Jr. University and Garth ... intermittent scandals, such as the Stanford business student ...

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[http://www.vanityfair.com/news/2015/10\[...\]](http://www.vanityfair.com/news/2015/10/...]0/stanford-business-school-sex-scandal)

[Sex scandal rocks Stanford School of Business - ...](#)

Oct 21, 2015 ... A complicated love triangle at Stanford University's Graduate School of Business has resulted in the dean of the school stepping down, after he ...

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[http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldn\[...\]](http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldn[...]rocks-Stanford-School-of-Business.html)

[Stanford Business School dean steps down amid sex ...](#)

Sep 14, 2015 · After months in the shadows, a high-stakes drama of sex and betrayal among the loftiest echelons of Stanford University burst into the open Monday, as ...

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[http://www.mercurynews.com/business/ci\[...\]](http://www.mercurynews.com/business/ci[...]fords-business-school-is-stepping-down)

['Knife. Penis. Public Square': Stanford sex scandal detailed by ...](#)

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[Stanford Yacht Scandal | What Happened to Stanford's ...](#)

What Happened to Stanford's Expense Scandal? ... cited the luxury items as part of a research funding scandal at Stanford University that ultimately caused the ...

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[http://articles.baltimoresun.com/1994-\[...\]_stanford-incidental-expenses-auditors](http://articles.baltimoresun.com/1994-[...]_stanford-incidental-expenses-auditors)

['Spiraling sex scandal' engulfs Stanford's ... - Business Insider](#)

Oct 21, 2015 ... Two weeks after his wife died of cancer, Garth Saloner, dean of Stanford University's Graduate School of Business, reached out to Deborah ...

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[A Sex Scandal Rocks Stanford's Business School - Bloomberg](#)

A Sex Scandal Rocks Stanford's Business ... broke the news of a 17-month-old discrimination lawsuit against Saloner and the university. ... Stanford hired outside ...

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[http://www.bloomberg.com/news/features\[...\]andal-rocks-stanford-s-business-school](http://www.bloomberg.com/news/features[...]andal-rocks-stanford-s-business-school)

[Stanford sexual assault case - College sex assault ...](#)

In January 2015, Stanford University swim team member Brock Allen Turner was charged with sexually assaulting an unconscious, intoxicated woman outside a fraternity.

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<http://www.cbsnews.com/pictures/college-rape-scandals/2/>

[Sex scandals in American politics - Stanford University](#)

Sex scandals in American politics : a multidisciplinary approach to the construction and aftermath of contemporary political sex scandals

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<https://searchworks.stanford.edu/view/9502978>

[Sex-scandal dean replaced at Stanford's elite business school](#)

May 23, 2016 ... Stanford University's elite business school will have a clean new dean. The Graduate School of Business, ranked second-best in America by ...

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[After sex scandal, Stanford appoints new business school dean ...](#)

May 24, 2016 ... Jonathan Levin, a Stanford economist, will replace Garth Saloner as dean of the university's Graduate School of Business. Last fall, amid a sex ...

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Stanford Sex Scandal - Datalounge

Oct 23, 2015 ... When in November 2013, Stanford University held one of its seminars on sexual ...
Inside Stanford Business School's Spiraling Sex Scandal.

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<https://www.datalounge.com/thread/15971512-stanford-sex-scandal>

A Scandal at Stanford University - Bits Blog

Oct 20, 2015 · Stanford University has long been a bedrock part of Silicon Valley, feeding talent and ideas to the tech industry. But its business school has recently ...

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Academic Scandal Shocker at Stanford: An "Easy Class ...

Academic Scandal Shocker at Stanford: An "Easy Class List" For Athletes Existed! By Jason McIntyre
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Stanford Business School Dean Resigns Amid Lawsuit Linked To ...

Sep 15, 2015 ... The dean of Stanford University's Graduate School of Business Garth Saloner is stepping down in light of a lawsuit and related sex scandal.

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[http://www.forbes.com/sites/kathleench\[...\]loner-resigns-amid-lawsuit-sex-scandal/](http://www.forbes.com/sites/kathleench[...]loner-resigns-amid-lawsuit-sex-scandal/)

University of Minnesota basketball scandal - Wikipedia ...

University of Minnesota basketball scandal Williams Arena is the home of Minnesota Golden Gophers men's ... and reserves Antoine Broxsie and Jason Stanford, ...

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https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Minnesota_basketball_scandal

Stanford's Sex Scandal: How To Have An Affair (And Not Get Caught ...

Oct 22, 2015 ... Tales of sex, lies and scandal at Stanford have rocked the business school ... Back in 2006, a Duke University study found that MBA students ...

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[http://www.businessbecause.com/news/fu\[...\]-mba/3546/stanford-sex-scandal-a-guide](http://www.businessbecause.com/news/fu[...]-mba/3546/stanford-sex-scandal-a-guide)