

Mathematics at Hood College and in the United States, 1986-2012

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Hood College

Mathematics at Hood College

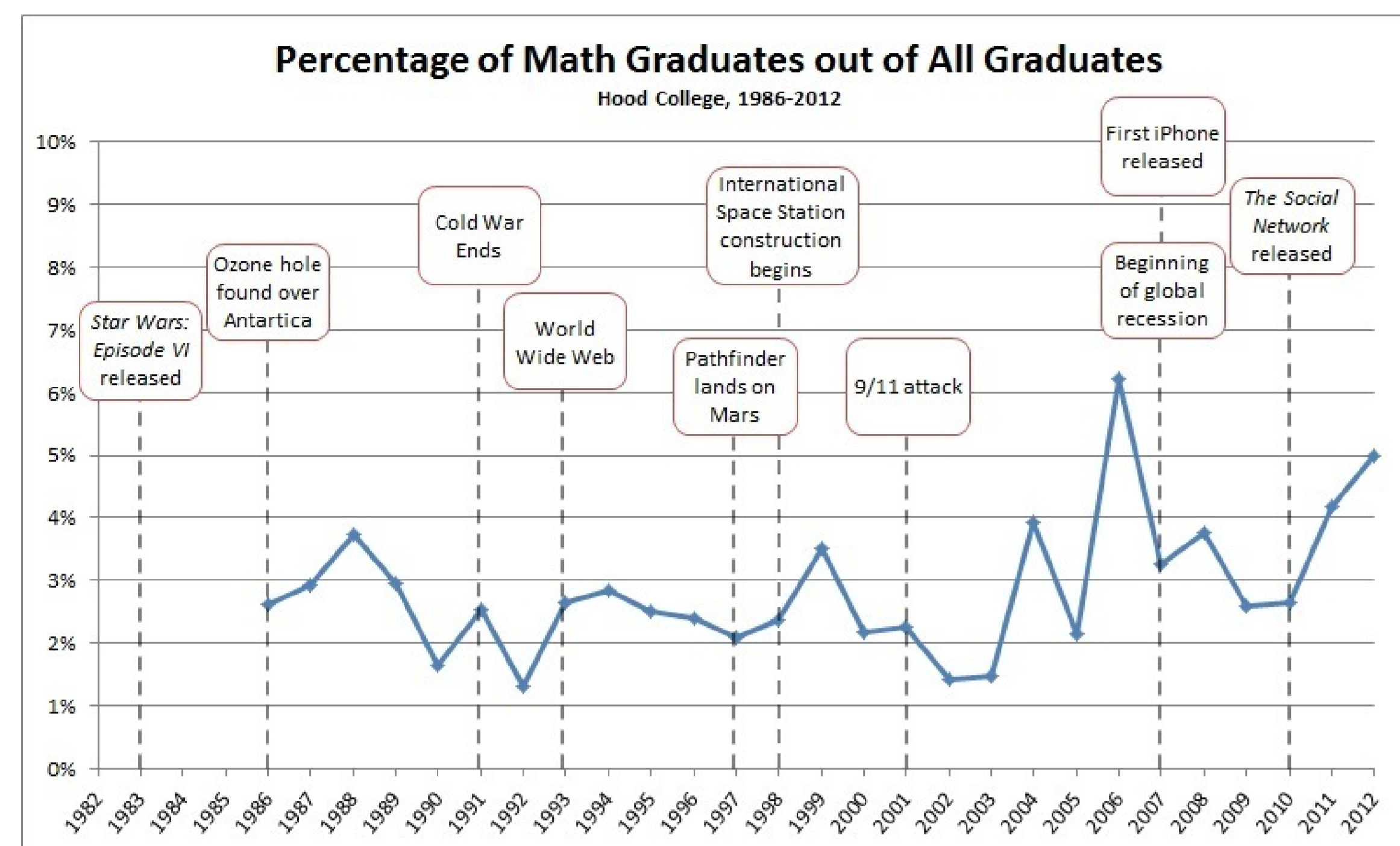


Figure : 1

Although the percentage of women earning degrees in mathematics at Hood College is declining, the percentage of mathematics degrees earned at Hood College is on an overall rise. Although no definite causation can be proven, there are some relations between significant social and scientific events and spikes in mathematics degrees earned. For example, two years after the ozone hole over Antarctica is discovered, the percentage of degrees in mathematics jumps from 2.63% to 3.73%. Since the 9/11 attack, there has been an overall upwards trend in mathematics degrees earned.

Mathematics at Hood College vs. the United States

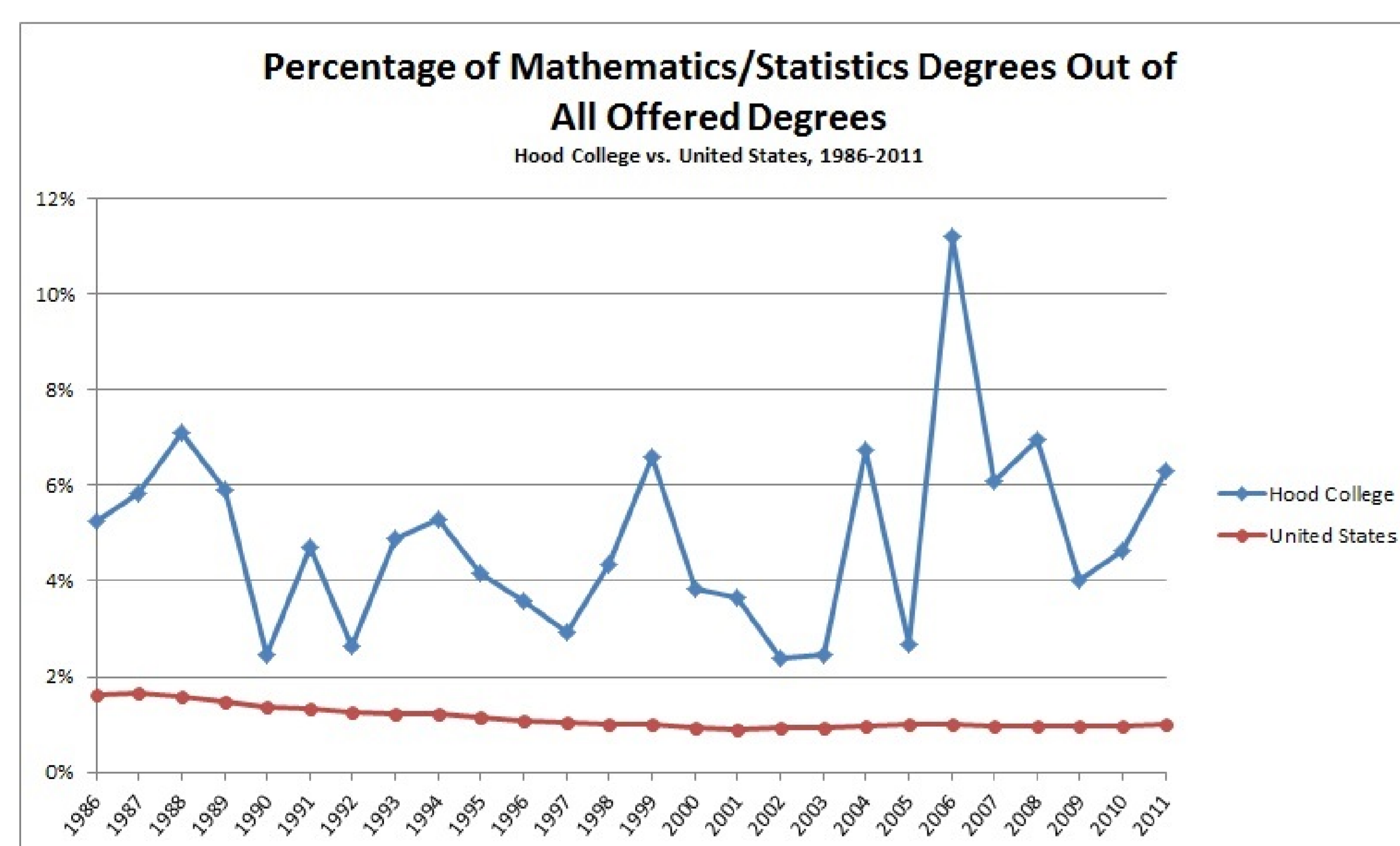


Figure : 2

Figure 2 shows a slow decline in the number of degrees in mathematics awarded in the United States. However, not only is Hood College awarding a higher percentage of mathematics degrees than that of the United States, this percentage is increasing.

Women in Mathematics at Hood College

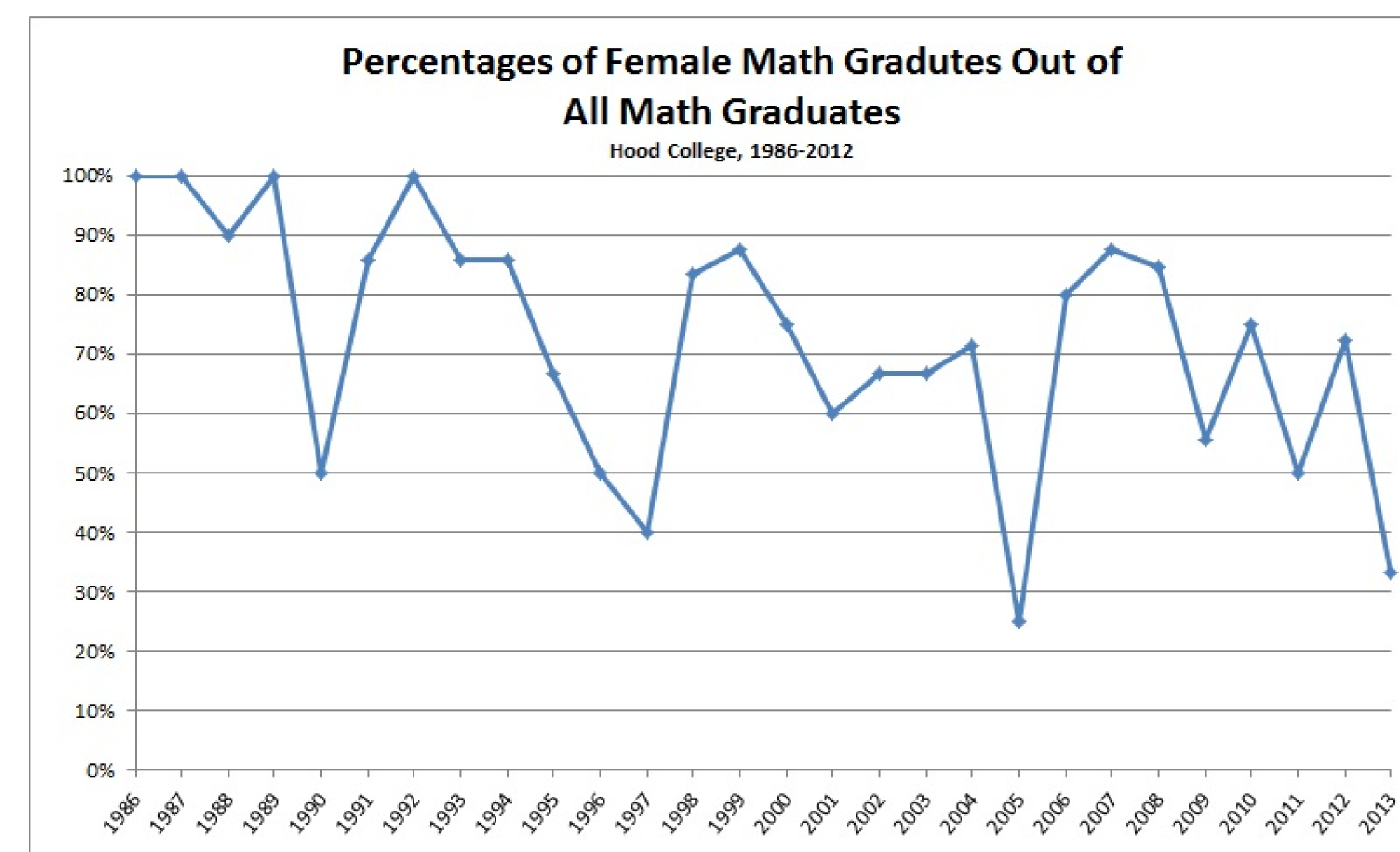


Figure : 3

Figure 3 shows the shocking decline of women receiving degrees in mathematics at Hood College out of the total number of mathematics degrees earned. However, with only a few exceptions, there are still more women earning mathematics degrees at Hood College than men.

Women in Mathematics at Hood College vs. the United States

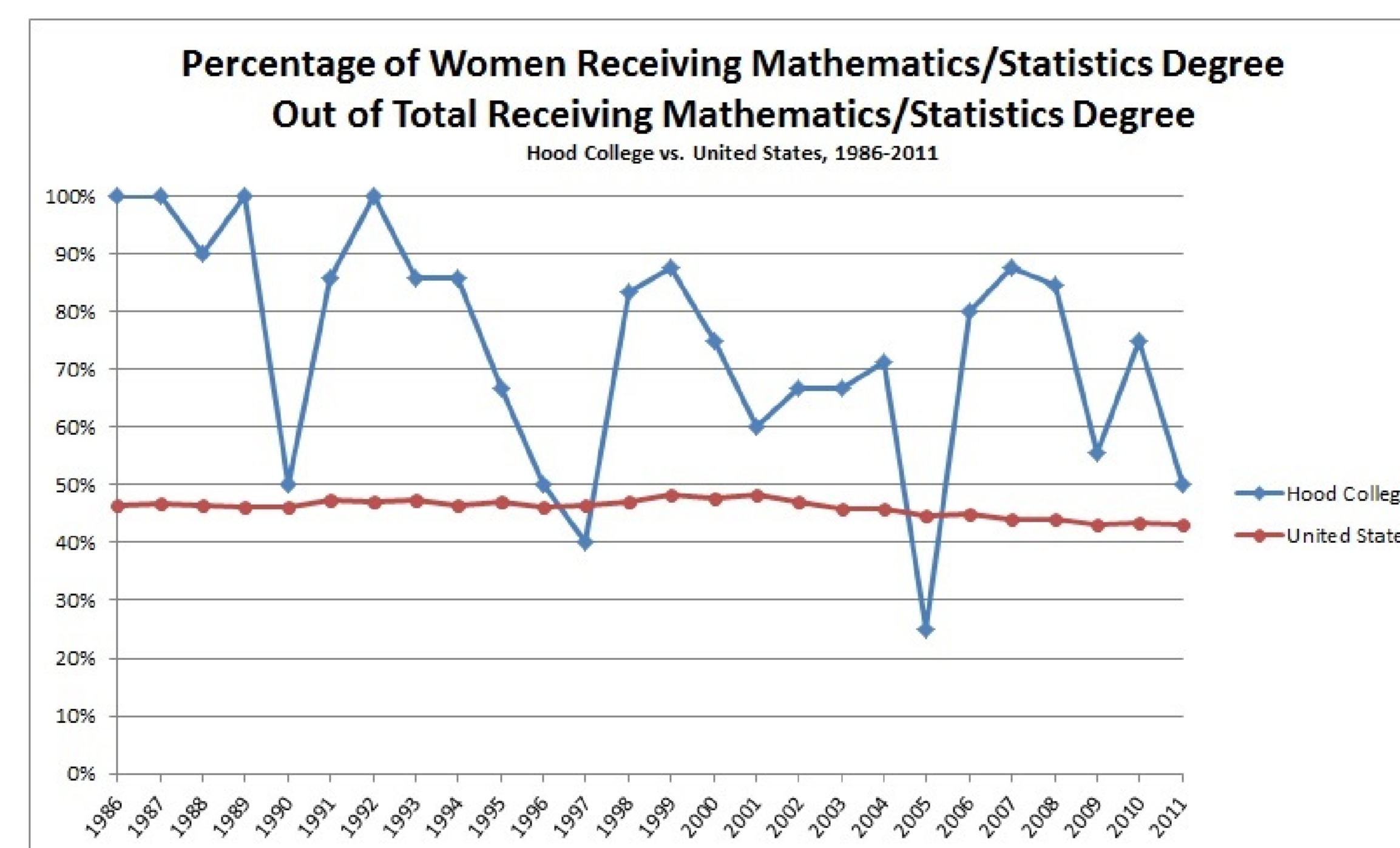


Figure : 4

Surprisingly enough, although the percentage of women earning degrees in mathematics is declining at Hood College, the percentages are still higher than those earned in the United States in every single year. This is due to there being a significantly higher percentage of women earning degrees at Hood College than across the United States. In the years 2001-2011, of all bachelor degrees earned, an average of 57% of these degrees have been awarded to women. In fact, across the entire timeline, from 1986-2011, women have earned a minimum of 51% of the degrees awarded throughout the United States each year. However, 66% of the population at Hood College is female, leading to more women earning degrees than men.

Mathematics Internships at Hood College

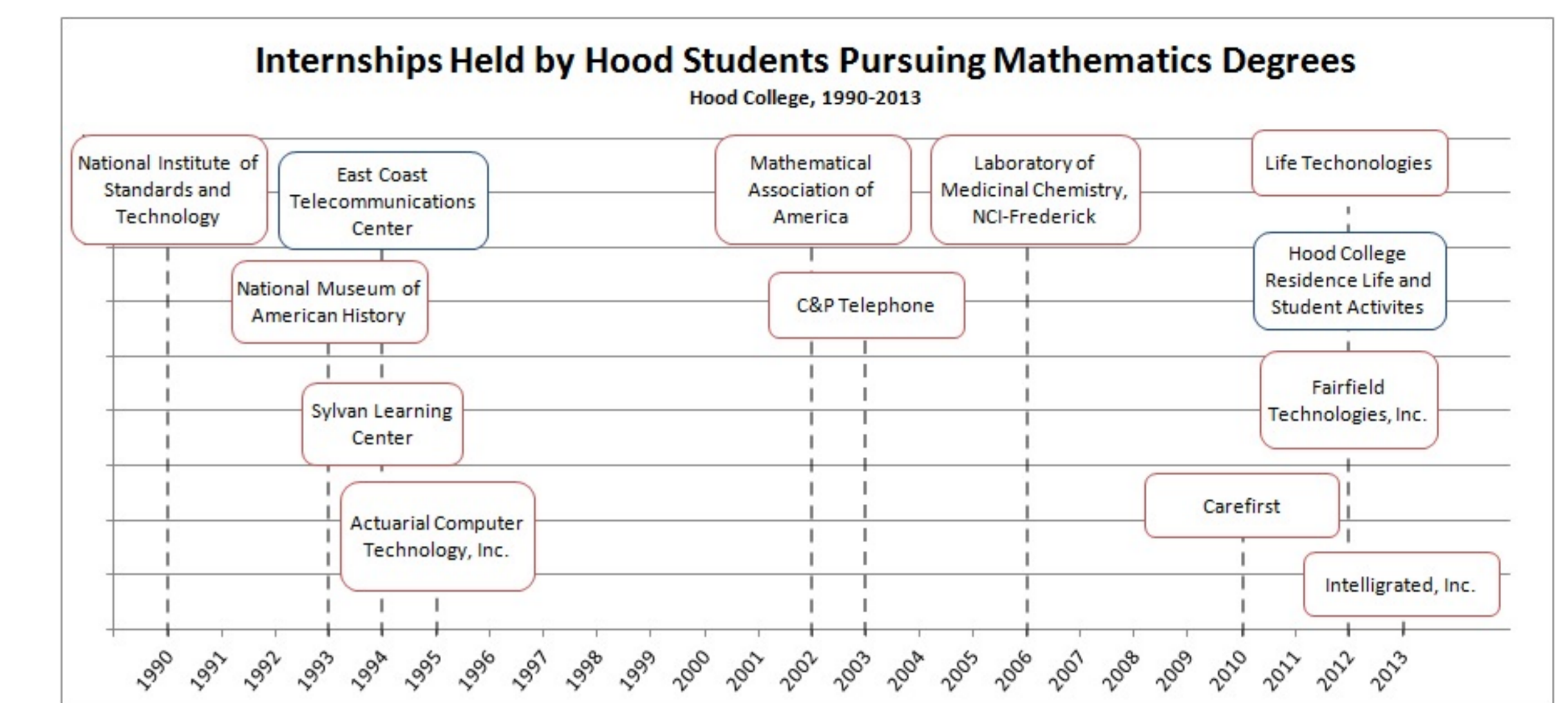


Figure : 5

The internships that Hood students pursuing degrees in mathematics have taken part in for credit. Of the 13 internships held over the past 23 years, only two were held by men. The other 85% of the internships were held by women, which is higher than the average 72% concentration of women in the mathematics major at Hood. The internships themselves have been held at a variety of sites, but have the same theme; they all require the problem solving skills and out-of-the-box thinking that are characteristic of mathematicians.

References

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Acknowledgements

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