**SPRING 2011 LANGSTON HUGHES VISITING PROF: CLARENCE LANG**

Professor Lang, from the University of Illinois, is concluding his visiting professorship in the African, African-American Studies department on the Lawrence campus. From his personal reflection on his KU experience: “more than I had imagined and I felt so very welcomed by the KU community. The KU experience is something that grabs you pretty fast upon your arrival. It is a special place.” Check out Lang’s lecture “At the Margins of Black Freedom Studies: Working-Class Representation and the Blues Idiom” on the D&E website: diversity.ku.edu.

**SAVE THE DATE & SUBMIT A PROPOSAL**

After KU’s hosting of the annual state-wide conference for two years, Kansas State University will be host to the next Michael Tilford Conference on Diversity and Multiculturalism: “Pathways to a Diverse and Inclusive Campus Climate,” Oct. 24-25, in the K-State Alumni Center and Student Union. The conference provides an opportunity for faculty, staff and administrators at Kansas Regents institutions to discuss diversity in higher education. Breakout session pro- (cont’d p. 2)
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MORE ON THE OCTOBER TILFORD CONFERENCE
(continued from page 1) Proposals are being accepted that address diversity and multiculturalism in relation to one of the following six topics: student life; administration; curriculum and pedagogy; recruitment and retention of students; recruitment and retention of faculty and staff; or community colleges. Proposal deadline is July 1, 2011. To submit a proposal, complete the online form at Tilford proposals.

REGISTRATION OPENS IN THE FALL. More information about the conference can be found by clicking Tilford or by contacting Kathryn Harth, program coordinator, at 785-532-2495, or kharth@k-state.edu, or Juanita McGowan, K-State Tilford chair, at 785-532-3299 or blessing@k-state.edu.

SCHOLARSHIP OF DIVERSITY SYNOPSIS
College Fails to Produce Engaged Citizens
A new report on civic literacy provides statistics to say that the goal and aspiration to cultivate informed citizens who are politically active and engaged are not achieved by U.S. colleges and universities. Intercollegiate Studies Institute (ISI), a nonprofit educational organization, released its fifth annual national Civic Literacy Report assessing how well America’s colleges and universities are preparing graduates for lives of informed and responsible civic duty. “Enlightened Citizenship: How Civic Knowledge Trumps a College Degree in Promoting Active Civic Engagement” sought to answer the question: is college capable of producing informed and engaged citizens?

“Our study clearly shows that college has absolutely zero positive influence in encouraging graduates to become actively engaged in more consequential aspects of the political process, like expressing your views to elected officials, donating your time to candidates you believe in, and attending various political events,” states Dr. Richard Brake, co-chair of ISI’s Board.

“Instead, becoming educated about American history and the fundamental principles that shape our Republic ensures citizens will do more to influence the electoral process than simply casting a vote.”

Some of the key findings of ISI’s study include: College fails to promote high levels of civic knowledge, with a bachelor’s degree exerting no influence on civic engagement; and, gaining greater civic knowledge trumps college in encouraging active civic engagement. The findings in the 2011 report are available at www.AmericanCivicLiteracy.org. Reference: Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education.

CONGRATULATIONS & HAPPY 40TH
The African, African-American Studies department celebrated their 40th year on the KU campus this academic year through a symposium on April 28 and more. They even printed t-shirts; go to room 9 Bailey Hall to get yours! Dr. Jacob Gordon established the African Studies Department in 1970 in response to student activism. Diasporic in nature from inception, the curriculum included courses on Africa, the African American experience, and the Caribbean, and to reflect that, the name changed to the Dept. of African and African-American Studies in 1984.

KEEP UP-TO-DATE AT WWW.DIVERSITY.KU.EDU