The summer heat is upon us and in a seemingly short time the relatively subdued campus atmosphere will energize with the beginning of the 2011-12 academic year. In some respects the summer months provide the opportunity to reflect and to plan for the coming months with respite from the normally frequent interruptions and outside commitments.

As I look forward to the academic year, I anticipate developing and enhancing several initiatives. We will continue to offer performances by the Interactive Theatre Troupe, complete the faculty/staff recruitment video, meet regularly with Diversity Councils officers, coordinate the Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship, and offer the 2nd Annual Spring Symposium on the Scholarship of Diversity.

We also will undertake several new initiatives. I will form a Diversity & Equity Advisory Council that will meet monthly to help facilitate a campus-wide diversity plan that aligns with the strategic initiatives of KU, but equally importantly with a diversity plan for their respective academic unit. As an institution we will be creating a systematic approach for adhering to the Americans with Disability Act (ADA) and fostering our quest toward an inclusive campus community. This will be facilitated by a final report of the comprehensive campus ADA review conducted last spring and submitted to the Provost in July.

Professor Tammy Kernodle, a musicologist at Miami University, is to be the next Langston Hughes Visiting Professor; she will be in the American Studies department. Dr. Kernodle will make a brief fall visit to campus and her host department and return for her residency in the spring semester.

You have my best wishes for an enjoyable remainder of the summer, and I look forward to our continued work together during the coming academic year.

KU’s International Programs encompasses the Applied English Center, Office of Study Abroad, the Global Partners program, International House, seven centers, and much more. In Spring 2011, the 2,093 international students (1,197 undergraduate and 896 graduate) were nearly 8% of the KU student body.

DID YOU KNOW?

The University of Kansas sends congratulations and welcome to Chris Redman, who was named the new president of Haskell Indian Nations University last month. Explore the KU/Haskell Mentor Program here.
SPENCER MUSEUM OF ART ENHANCES DIVERSITY

The university art museum has recently initiated a new gallery focusing on the arts of Asia to be soon followed by a gallery featuring global indigenous arts, and is eagerly anticipating two fall exhibitions of contemporary and historical Native American art.

Grants from the Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian and the Kansas Humanities Council provide the core funding for the contemporary exhibition Heartland Reverberations (10/15/11-1/15/12) and the historical Passages: Persistent Visions of a Native Place (9/10/11-1/15/12). The exhibitions coincide with the sesquicentennial commemoration of Kansas’ statehood and are curated by Nancy Mahaney, SMA Curator of Arts & Cultures of the Americas, Africa & Oceania.

Project Redefine is the major reinstallation underway at the SMA; the most recent feature of which is highlighting the arts of Asia in the North Balcony Gallery. The works displayed illuminate ideas of nature and the natural world. Roots & Journeys will be the focus in the new Gallery of Global Indigenous Arts, where the first rotation, Markets and Migrations in American Indian Arts, will highlight historic and contemporary works from across North America.

THE SCHOLARSHIP OF DIVERSITY: A SYNOPSIS

88% of Colleges Report Enrolling Students with Disabilities

A new report issued June 23, 2011, from the National Center for Education Statistics, the U.S. Department of Education’s statistical arm, says 88 percent of two- and four-year colleges reported enrolling students with disabilities in the 2008-09 academic year, for a total of more than 707,000 students. About one-third of the students had a specific learning disability. A large majority of the institutions, 93%, offered some students with disabilities additional time to take exams and 71% offered the students an alternative exam format. At 77% of the colleges, students with disabilities were provided with note-takers; 72% provided written course notes or help with learning strategies; and 70% offered “adaptive equipment and technology.”


TILFORD CONFERENCE

“Pathways to a Diverse and Inclusive Campus Climate”

October 24/25

Host: Kansas State University

The University of Kansas will send a team of administrators, faculty and staff to this annual event. If you would like to attend this year’s conference on the K-State campus, please contact Fred Rodriguez at fredrod@

KU STATEMENT ON DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

As a premier international research university, the University of Kansas is committed to an open, diverse and inclusive learning and working environment that nurtures the growth and development of all. KU holds steadfast in the belief that an array of values, interests, experiences, and intellectual and cultural viewpoints enrich learning and our workplace. The promotion of and support for a diverse and inclusive community of mutual respect require the engagement of the entire university.

JULY

28 Living History Lecture by civil rights attorney Jack Greenberg
Green Hall, Rm 107 4 p.m.

AUGUST

24 KU Women of Distinction reception
Big XII room, KS Union 4-5:30 p.m.

26 Welcome Reception, Black Faculty & Staff Council
Click here for details 4:30-6 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

10 Passages: Persistent Visions of a Native Place Exhibition opens at Spencer Museum of Art

20 “Talking with Nazis” by Laurence Rees
Hall Center Humanities Lecture
Woodruff Aud, KS Union 7:30 p.m.

OCTOBER

24-25 Tilford Conference on Diversity & Multiculturalism K-State campus

COLLEAGUE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Christina Bejarano’s research and teaching interests are in American politics, particularly gender, race/ethnicity, and political behavior. The assistant professor in the Political Science department is from Texas, earned her psychology B.A. at the University of North Texas, and her Ph.D. and M.A. in political science from the University of Iowa. She is particularly interested in examining conditions under which racial/ethnic minorities and women successfully compete for U.S. electoral office and how they shape or influence the current electoral environment.

PROGRAM IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies is one of 17 Dept. of Education Title VI Comprehensive National Resource Centers for the Russian and East Central European area. Click for more on CREES as a resource for educators, business, media, government, and military.