As summer heat gives way to a touch of fall in the air, we are immersed in a new academic year. With each such beginning comes anticipation of new opportunities, as well as new colleagues. On behalf of the university: Welcome to the 53 new faculty members who have joined the KU community.

I am excited to continue several initiatives started over the past two years. Difficult Discussions, via the Interactive Theatre Troupe, continues to offer performances and will develop additional scripts. The final report from our comprehensive review last semester of the Americans with Disabilities Act — comprising findings of the six sub-groups and recommendations to the Provost — not only will be shared with the campus community soon, but provides the framework for our continued strengthening of the campus community to be fully inclusive. We are updating the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Haskell Indian Nations University and KU and also embarking upon the “Hiring for Excellence” process to expand the potential pool of applicants for faculty searches.

We also are pleased to announce the hiring of Megan Kinney as Sr. Recruitment & Outreach Coordinator in Garden City. Megan will be coordinating efforts between the offices of Admissions, Recruitment, Alumni Association, Continuing Education, and the Office of Diversity & Equity to increase Latino/a enrollment and retention. Megan is a native of Garden City, graduate of KU, and pleased to return home to be representing and working for KU.

I will continue to meet monthly with the Diversity Councils (see page 2 for 2011-12). I encourage all faculty and staff to be a part of any of the Councils as a great way to meet other colleagues and to be a part of the planning and programmatic offerings planned.

I wish each of you in the KU community a successful semester and, as always, if you have upcoming events, programs, or initiatives that you would like to share—please send the information my way.

**BEYOND THE HILL**
Films from Mexico, Bolivia, Argentina, and Spain, along with a post-movie discussion, are presented for the 20th Latin American Cinema Festival of Kansas City on Saturdays through Oct. 1. The festival is a program of Sociedad Hidalgo with collaboration and support from several organizations, including KU. The films begin at 11 a.m. in Overland Park’s Rio Theatre; tickets are $6.
DIVERSITY COUNCILS

BLACK FACULTY AND STAFF COUNCIL
President: Precious Porras, Multicultural Affairs
Contact: pporras@ku.edu
http://www2.ku.edu/~kubfsc/

LAMBDA COUNCIL
President: John Younger, Classics/Gender Studies
Contact: jyounger@ku.edu
http://groups.ku.edu/~lambda

LATINO FACULTY AND STAFF COUNCIL
President: Norma Salcedo, Housing
Contact: nsalcedo@ku.edu
http://www.ku.edu/students/orgs/Latino_10587.html

NATIVE FACULTY AND STAFF COUNCIL
President: Dawn Tallchief, Graduate Studies
Contact: dtallchief@ku.edu
http://groups.ku.edu/~nfsc/

THE SCHOLARSHIP OF DIVERSITY: A SYNOPSIS

Culture predicts Mexican Americans’ college self-efficacy and performance

Researchers have identified factors related to the future college academic success of Mexican Americans. Previously the research literature failed to bridge the gap between the interactive role of acculturation, enculturation, and generation status in predicting college self-efficacy and college performance (grade-point average, or GPA). To fill this void, this study investigated the relation between demographic variables (e.g., age, gender, socioeconomic status) and cultural variables (e.g., acculturation, enculturation, generation status) on academic outcomes of 408 Mexican-American college students. Results indicated socioeconomic status, generation status, enculturation, and acculturation had significant positive effects on college self-efficacy; socioeconomic status and the interaction of higher enculturation and first-generation status were positively and significantly related to GPA. Post-hoc analyses indicated college self-efficacy predicted college performance for students who were second generation and beyond.


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.

SEPTEMBER
14 “Creativity & Dissidence” Nawal El Saadawi 2011 Marwa Africana Lecture
7 p.m., Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union

17 “Hip Hop American” interactive solo performance by Nicole Hodges Persley
7:30 p.m., Inge Theatre, Murphy Hall

20 “Talking with Nazis” by Laurence Rees
Hall Center Humanities Lecture
7:30 Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union

OCTOBER
24 “Ballers at the New School: Race & Sports in America” Thabiti Lewis
7 p.m., Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium

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

At the Spencer Museum of Art through 1/15/12
Passages: Persistent Visions of a Native Place

A COLLEAGUE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

One of KU’s 2011-12 Women of Distinction, Yolanda Jackson is an associate professor of psychology, applied behavioral science, and with the Clinical Psychology Program. Her research is on how children adapt to stress and trauma, the development of resilience in youth, and how cultural differences impact the psychological development of minority and bi-racial children. She is the editor of the Encyclopedia of Multicultural Psychology (2006).

A PROGRAM IN THE SPOTLIGHT

KU has had a McNair Scholars Program since October 1992. One of 185 such programs nationwide funded by the U.S. Dept. of Education, it is designed to help ensure that the next generation of American faculty members represents the diversity of our society at large by preparing students from groups traditionally underrepresented in graduate education for doctoral study.

www2.ku.edu/~mcnair