A WORD FROM THE VICE PROVOST

It is amazing to realize that the holiday season will soon be upon us. This fall semester has been and continues to be an exciting time for the D&E office. First, I am pleased to announce that Terri Morris has agreed to serve as the administrative assistant for this office. Terri was formerly with the Office of Student Success. She can be reached at tlmorris@ku.edu.

I would like to encourage all units on campus to nominate candidates for the spring 2013 Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship. Any academic unit is eligible to participate in this university-wide program that has been a beneficial arrangement in both bringing prominent scholars to KU and serving as a wonderful opportunity to recruit (7 of the past 12 LHVP are now on the KU faculty).

Diversity Talks is a new initiative generated by the officers of the various KU diversity councils, who meet as a group monthly. November 17th, 3:30-5 in the Kansas Room of the KS Union, is the first DT, an opportunity for the campus community to come together to discuss various matters regarding diversity, equity and inclusion. See details elsewhere in this newsletter.

The D&E Advisory Council (Deans, Associate/Assistant Deans/or designee) has been meeting and is moving forward with integrating a diversity planning document with the strategic planning process. They also will be sharing what diversity planning documents exist at KU in hopes of streamlining the framework across campus.

As a result of the spring 2011 campus ADA review, we will launch a national search for a Director of Accessibility and ADA Education for KU. In addition, a permanent Executive Committee for ADA has been established and will meet monthly.

The 2nd Annual Spring Symposium on the Scholarship of Diversity is to be March 29th. We are excited about the potential keynote speakers now being invited, as well as with how we can integrate this symposium with the third Strategic Initiatives theme: Building Communities, Expanding Opportunities, which is to be explored at a university-wide summit on January 20, 2012, in The Commons.

As always, I appreciate your continued support; if you have any questions or concerns, please contact fredrod@ku.edu.

CALL FOR 2013 LHVP NOMINATIONS

All academic units are invited to nominate scholars for selection as the Langston Hughes Visiting Professor for Spring 2013. Faculty may nominate, but coordination at the chair/dean level is strongly recommended; a unit may nominate more than one candidate. The Langston Hughes Professor is on campus for a semester to teach two courses and give a public lecture in their discipline. The award includes a stipend, travel allowance, and furnished apartment near campus. Since 1977 the professorship has brought scholars in a range of disciplines to campus in honor of Langston Hughes, the African American writer who lived in Lawrence ages 1 to 12 (1903-1916).

BEYOND THE HILL

XXXL: Visual Commentary on the Legacy of Fort Marion

This exhibition by artist Marvin Begaye is at the Lawrence Arts Center through Nov. 23; open 9 to 9 daily. Begaye’s work has developed from objective images of dancers and portraits to abstract work referencing his Navajo community and its ceremonial ways of life. In particular, the reality of the effects of diabetes, alcoholism, and poverty have invaded his life, he says, “in the way smoke fills a room . . . catapult[ing] me out of my cocoon to campaign visually for attention to the impact these diseases are having on our whole community.” Begaye is on the faculty of the University of Oklahoma.

COLLEAGUE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Associate Professor of Voice & Opera Genaro Méndez took a short break from Murphy Hall to make his Carnegie Hall debut on Friday, November 4. The lyric tenor performed in an evening of opera shorts with the Remarkable Theater Brigade.

Méndez has a versatile and wide-ranging performance career in addition to being a dedicated teacher. His students place well in competitions and have earned main stage roles with U.S. opera companies. The Nevada native studied at Universities of Nevada Reno and Illinois and has a Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Oregon.
THE SCHOLARSHIP OF DIVERSITY: A SYNOPSIS
Returning to Learning: Adults’ Success in College is Key to America’s Future

That is the title of a Lumina Foundation for Education report that summarizes the findings from the Emerging Pathways project, identifies the diverse needs of adult learners, and provides recommendations on how to improve access and subsequently ensure success for these nontraditional students. Research shows that though, traditionally, higher education institutions focus primarily on younger, full-time students, these institutions are becoming sensitive to the challenges faced by adult learners. There are 54 million working adults in the U.S. who have not completed a four-year degree; over 60% of those have no college experience. Recommendations are provided to institutions and state and local policymakers on how to improve the access of adult learners to higher education and to foster their success.

Access or read the complete report by clicking here.

ART MUSEUM EXHIBIT PRESENTS DIVERSE VISIONS
As part of the Kansas Sesquicentennial, the KU Spencer Museum of Art features historical Native American art from the collection with the exhibition of contemporary NA art “Heartland Reverberations,” together in Passages: Persistent Visions of a Native Place. The cultural materials and accompanying educational materials tell the story of the native tribes relocated into and out of the state of Kansas.

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH
The Office of Multicultural Affairs organized a full slate of activities for NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH 2011, with assistance from the First Nations Student Association and many KU units. See the events calendar to the right, for more go to www.oma.ku.edu.

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. read entire text online

Diversity Talks
is an opportunity for administrators, faculty and staff to meet, share and learn together on matters that make a difference at KU.

This informal gathering will provide the opportunity to learn from Councils that are working toward a more diverse, equitable and inclusive KU campus and to be updated on matters at the university level. Diversity Talks is a great forum to raise your questions or concerns, to participate in the dialogue at KU, and to be a part of the future direction of the campus community.

Join the talk! food & refreshments served
November 17 | 3:30-5 | Kansas Room, Kansas Union