Both the spring semester and several initiatives are in full swing. Institutional Opportunity and Access (IOA) continues to evolve, both with additional personnel and in our coordination with the KU Medical Center campus. We hired Jennifer Brooks to be investigator/trainer for the Lawrence campus, and we are in the process of securing a full-time investigator/trainer for the KUMC campus. Depending on one’s perspective, business has been good in IOA! The number of complaints, investigations, and claims remains high, some of which can be attributed positively to heightened awareness of rights and responsibilities by everyone on campus. There also have been additional employee accommodations that have required increased time and resources. All of which is what the IOA is organized and positioned to provide.

The next Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship lecture is Feb. 26th, 3:30 in the Kansas Room of the Union; a reception follows. This annual lecture is open to the public, and I know the KU community will again demonstrate their support by attending in strong numbers as in the past. See the box to the right for the extended deadline of March 4 for nominations of the next LHVP or more on pg. 3.

I truly hope that everyone at KU understands the tremendous opportunity this professorship presents for the campus community, as well as that it is available to EVERY academic unit, including the professional schools. If you have any questions about the process, please contact me in advance of March 4, at fredrod@ku.edu.

Looking ahead, the 3rd Annual Spring Symposium on the Scholarship of Diversity is March 28th. This half-day symposium features national presenters whose talks are complemented by KU faculty and staff offering current research in breakout sessions. I am pleased to announce that this year Chancellor Nancy Cantor of Syracuse University is our luncheon speaker, while our morning will begin with a keynote by James Johnson, distinguished professor at University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The free symposium is open to all administrators, faculty, staff and graduate students; please pre-register here.

We continue to build and strengthen our partnerships with the Kauffman Foundation and KU Kauffman Scholars, with Haskell Indian Nations University, and most recently Knowledge is Power Program (KIPP). These partnerships strengthen KU’s ability to serve and work with those who support underrepresented students from diverse backgrounds; increased numbers of them will be encouraged to attend KU.

BEYOND THE HILL

Relive the summer of 1963, when more than 200,000 descended on D.C. to participate in the the March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Highlighted by ML King’s “I have a dream” speech, the event precipitated the federal civil rights bill. Historian Leon Litwack, UC Berkeley, will present “The 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington” at the Plaza branch of Kansas City Public Library, Feb. 28, 6:30 p.m.
3RD ANNUAL SPRING SYMPOSIUM ON THE SCHOLARSHIP OF DIVERSITY, MARCH 28

Keynote speakers

JAMES JOHNSON
WRKj Distinguished Professor of Management, UNC Chapel Hill
“Six Disruptive Demographic Trends: Implications for the U.S. and Higher Education”

NANCY CANTOR
Chancellor, Syracuse University
“Higher Education’s Public Mission: Diversity and Innovation Together”

FIND OUT MORE AND REGISTER ONLINE BY CLICKING HERE

“The Scholarship of Diversity: A Synopsis

Last week marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Rosa Parks. Born Rosa Louise McCauley on Feb. 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Alabama, she is not simply a civil rights icon. Jeanne Theoharis, author of The Rebellious Life of Mrs. Rosa Parks, shares 10 interesting, but perhaps little-known facts:

1. Parks was thrown off the bus a decade earlier by the same bus driver — for refusing to pay in the front and go around to the back to board.

2. Parks was a lifelong believer in self-defense. As a child she held a brick up to a white bully, daring him to follow through on his threat to hit her; he didn’t.

3. Her husband was her political partner. Many of Parks’ ancestors were American Indians.

4. Many of Parks’ ancestors were American Indians.

5. Parks’ arrest had grave consequences for her family’s health and economic well-being. Parks and her husband lost their jobs after her stand and didn’t find full employment for nearly ten years.

6. Parks spent more than half of her life in the North. The Parks family had to leave Montgomery eight months after the boycott ended. She lived in Detroit and spent nearly five decades organizing and protesting racial inequality in “the promised land that wasn’t.”

7. In 1965 Parks got her first paid political position, after over two decades of political work.

8. Parks was far more radical than has been understood.

9. Parks was an internationalist. An early opponent of the Vietnam War and a member of The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, after 9/11, she joined other activists in a letter calling on the United States to work with the international community.

10. Parks was a lifelong activist and a hero to many, including Nelson Mandela. He told her, “You sustained me while I was in prison all those years.”

Read the full text of the ten facts and more at http://www.huffingtonpost.com/jeanne-theoharis/rosa-parks-100th-birthday_b_2614678.html

THE NEWSLETTER OF CAMPUS DIVERSITY
FEBRUARY 2013

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

The University of Kansas prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, national origin, age, ancestry, disability, status as a veteran, sexual orientation, marital status, parental status, gender identity, gender expression, and genetic information in the University’s programs and activities. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Director of Office of Institutional Opportunity & Access, IOA@ku.edu, 1246 W. Campus Road, Room 153A, Lawrence, KS, 66045, (785)864-6414, 711 TTY.
NOMINATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

The Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship

A Call for Nominations

The Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship was established at the University of Kansas in 1977 in honor of the African American poet, playwright and fiction writer who lived in Lawrence from 1903 to 1916. The visiting professorship—open to scholars in all fields—has attracted prominent or emerging ethnic minority scholars to the university campus, involving a broad range of disciplines and academic departments/schools. Nominations are welcome for the humanities, social sciences, all professional schools and STEM disciplines. This appointment provides the recipient with a stipend appropriate to the candidate’s rank, a small travel allowance, and a modestly furnished apartment near the KU campus. Depending on their field of expertise, the Langston Hughes Professor will teach and conduct research during the semester of their appointment (this arrangement will be coordinated with the academic unit) and deliver a campus-wide lecture on a topic or issue related to their discipline.

Nomination & Timeline

This call for nominations will be for an appointment in the fall 2013 semester. Nominations may come from either an individual faculty member, department chair, or a dean. However, it is strongly recommended that coordination within an academic unit be administered and followed at the chair/dean level. More than one candidate may be nominated by an academic unit. There is no cost to the academic unit as the position is fully funded by the Provost Office. Nominations should be sent to Fred Rodriguez, Vice Provost for Diversity & Equity – 250 Strong Hall by MARCH 4, 2013. (For a review of past recipients, please visit the Diversity & Equity website at: www.diversity.ku.edu.)

Documentation & Selection

The nomination must include a cover letter of interest from the candidate, a current resume and a letter of support from the department chair and dean of the academic unit at KU. (Not required but suggested that a letter of support from the candidate’s home institution be included as part of the file.)

Nominations will be reviewed by the Langston Hughes Committee. This committee simultaneously works with the specific department(s) to which the potential candidate(s) may be appointed. Once the committee decision is made, their recommendation is forwarded to the Provost for final approval.

The KU Impact

Eight past recipients are now tenured faculty members at KU – a direct result of their appointment to the Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship. The Professorship has not only been a valuable program for bringing scholars to the University but has also created an opportunity to engage the campus community in an annual lecture on a variety of topics and issues that otherwise would not have been provided.

An artist must be free to choose what he does, certainly, but he must also never be afraid to do what he might choose.