



Diversity Outlook

TOGETHER, WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE

THE NEWSLETTER OF CAMPUS DIVERSITY

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A WORD FROM THE VICE PROVOST



Fred Rodriguez,
Vice Provost for
Diversity & Equity

The spring semester is nearly upon us, and the campus will once again come alive with the arrival of our students. As we embark upon this new semester, I am pleased to highlight the wide range of opportunities offered the campus community to become engaged in advancing our diversity, equity and inclusion.

For too long KU has been remiss in having a role in the celebration and honoring of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. No longer. Monday, January 21, KU sponsors a celebration not only to honor MLK but also to remind us of what he worked so hard to accomplish for each of us. We will begin at 4:30 in the Rotunda of Strong Hall with a brief reading of excerpts from the "Letter from the Birmingham Jail," followed by a candlelight vigil walk from Strong Hall to the Kansas Union. At 5:30 in the Union's Big 12 room, food, refreshments and entertainment will be provided to the Lawrence and KU communities in a free event open to all. Senior Vice Provost Sara Rosen will provide the welcome, with Hannah Bolton, student body president, serving as master of ceremonies. Winners of an essay writing contest will be recognized with the reading of their brief essays and the keynote remark will be given by Blane Harding, KU's Director of Multicultural Affairs. In addition, the community-service element—a school supply drive—will be announced. Additional entertainment will round out the program, which concludes at 6:30 p.m.

Several other initiatives continue to progress. These include, but are not limited to: an exploration of a captioning policy for KU; securing a more accurate demographic trend/pattern of first-time freshman who may have a disability—academic or non-academic; the spring Symposium on the Scholarship of Diversity, March 28; Kauffman Scholar Advisory Council; Haskell/KU partnership; Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship; benchmarking for diversity; and diversity advisory council meetings.

As always, I welcome your comments or questions at fredrod@ku.edu.



BEYOND THE HILL

The annual Langston Hughes Creative Writing Awards will be presented in a public celebration, Feb. 1, 7 p.m., at the Lawrence Arts Center. Celebrate the poet's birthday with cake, readings, music and cash awards for poetry and prose writing to as-yet-unpublished local authors. This joint project of the LAC and the Raven Bookstore honors the writer, a leading figure of the Harlem Renaissance who spent his childhood in Lawrence.

- See** • Upcoming events
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for • Two nomination opportunities
• Colleague & unit spotlights



JOIN WITH YOUR KU FAMILY TO REFLECT

The 2013 recognition of Martin Luther King Jr. Day begins at 4:30 Mon., Jan. 21, in the Strong Hall rotunda. "It will be a time for reflection, but more importantly a time to celebrate King's legacy," said VP Fred Rodriguez.

All in the KU and Lawrence communities are invited. After a reading, a candlelight vigil will proceed on foot to the Kansas Union. Events there begin at 5:30 in the Big 12 Room and include refreshments and music by Blue Jazz. In addition to a welcome from Sr VP Sara Rosen and an address by Blane Harding, director of the KU Office of Multicultural Affairs, the middle- and high-school student winners of the Lawrence MLK essay contest will read their essays. KU's Inspirational Gospel Voices choir will perform to round out the event, which concludes at 6:30.

VIEW & USE RECRUITMENT TOOL

The newest tool to help bring the best people to work at KU is the recruitment video for faculty and staff. All units of the campus community are encouraged to use it to tell our story of what makes KU a special place. The video, a compelling portrait of KU, the people who work here, and the local community, is at employment.ku.edu/why-ku.

SCHOLARSHIP OF DIVERSITY

Report projects high school graduating classes will be smaller, more diverse
The eighth edition of *Knocking at the College Door: Projections of High School Graduates*, just released January 10 by the Western Interstate Commission on Higher Education (WICHE), indicates that the population of U.S. high school graduates is entering a period of modest decline after nearly two decades of sustained growth. In addition, the pool of future college students is rapidly growing more racially and ethnically diverse. This puts pressure on policymakers and practitioners to address educational attainment gaps among many traditionally underrepresented populations.

“These two trends will define the ‘new normal’ for our colleges and universities—and will require those of us working in higher education to change the way we do business,” says David Longanecker, president of WICHE, which publishes *Knocking at the College Door*.

Institutions can no longer rely on increased funding fueled by growth in the number of traditional-aged students. At the same time, the changing demo-graphics of high school graduating classes means greater demand for college from populations not traditionally served well by higher education. “Higher education must commit to finding innovative, cost-effective ways to prepare those students to succeed in our 21st-century global economy.”

The report, published with support from ACT and the College Board, and individual state profiles are posted at www.wiche.edu/knocking-8th.

Source: *Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education*, 1/13/2013.

A CALL FOR NOMINATIONS:

Langston Hughes Visiting Professorship - deadline Feb. 1, 2013

Open to scholars in all fields; nominations are welcome for those in the humanities, social sciences, professional schools, and all STEM disciplines. The position is fully funded by the Provost Office, so the host unit bears no costs. Nominations are sent to [VP Fred Rodriguez](mailto:VP.Fred.Rodriguez). For a review of past recipients, visit the D&E website: www.diversity.ku.edu.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY NATIVE BRAILLE LITERACY MONTH

- 21 **Martin Luther King Day Program**
4:30 Strong Hall rotunda; reading and candlelight vigil walk
5:30 Big 12 room, Kansas Union; talks, refreshments & music
- 22 **Classes begin for Spring 2013 semester**
- 22-25 **Emilio Chapela Perez** artist-in-residence
5:30 p.m., 1/23, artist talk at The Commons [DETAILS / HIS WEBSITE](#)
- 25 **Mexico & the U.S.: Identity, Stereotypes, and Social Media** panel discussion moderated by Dean Danny Anderson
11 a.m., Spooner Hall, The Commons
- 31 **Tea & Talk** Kirk Ercums “From Elegant Gatherings to Art Exhibitions: Public Display in China, 1880-1925”
4 p.m. Spencer Museum of Art Reception Room
- 31-Feb. 1 **Slavery & Human Trafficking** conference
Kansas Union [CLICK FOR DETAILS AND REGISTRATION](#)

FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- 13 **Global Pride: LGBT Issues from Around the World**
Panel discussion 7-9 p.m., Sabatini MRC [TAMI ALBIN, MODERATOR](#)
- 15 **CEAS Lunar New Year Party** 5-7 p.m., ECM Center
- 19 3rd Annual **Staff Leadership Summit: Connecting the Communities of You** [register online](#)
- 26 **24th Langston Hughes Visiting Professor Lecture**
David Holmes (Pepperdine) 3:30, KS Room, KS Union

SAVE THESE DATES!

- March 1 17th Annual Tribal Law & Government Conference
- March 28 2013 Spring Symposium, Scholarship of Diversity

RESOURCE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

The multi-disciplinary **Indigenous Studies Master's degree program** has been revised. This program provides students with in-depth knowledge of indigenous peoples' complex and diverse cultures and histories, as well as impacts on global society. The affiliate faculty members have varied expertise, from Native American history to indigenous literature, ethnobotany, indigenous peoples' cultural survival, political activism, tribal governments, indigenous geographies, religions and more. Each student develops an area of specialization of their choice. A



joint degree with the Law School is also offered. For more, contact program director [Mike Zogry](#).

COLLEAGUE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Elizabeth Kronk joined the KU law faculty last June. In addition to teaching in the areas of tribal and environmental law, she directs the [Tribal Law & Government Center](#). Kronk is co-editor of the book *Climate Change, Indigenous Peoples, and the Search for Legal Remedies* being published in March. She serves as an appellate judge for and is a member of the Sault St. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians in Michigan. She previously practiced environmental, Indian, and energy law with two D.C. law firms and has taught at Texas Tech and the University of Montana. Her J.D. degree is from the University of Michigan Law School.



STILL TIME TO NOMINATE

Annually since 1970, exemplary KU alumnae, faculty and staff women are inducted into the **University of Kansas Women's Hall of Fame**. Sponsored by the Emily Taylor Center for Women & Gender Equity and the Commission on the Status of Women, the program is featured in a display and kiosk on the 5th floor of the Kansas Union, as well as [online](#). Nominations for the newest honorees are open through January 25; supporting recommendations are required for each nomination. [Click here](#) for more information, to obtain a nomination form and instructions, or to donate in support of the program. The prior inductees are awe-inspiring role models for all.