



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

After a Lawrence campus review in spring 2011, including input from six sub-groups, it became an identified need to have a full-time Director of Accessibility & ADA Education. We are pleased to announce that three finalists for the position are being invited for campus interviews. Each candidate will speak in a public forum. Administrators, faculty, staff, students, and the entire campus community are invited to attend; see the schedule in the righthand column.

The campus community is also invited to hear Tammy Kernodle lecture on February 22. The Langston Hughes Visiting Professor for spring 2012 is working from the American Studies Department. Professor Kernodle's 3:30 lecture in Alderson Auditorium will be followed by a reception. Details on Professor Kernodle and her lecture are also in this issue.

Planning for the 2nd Annual Spring Symposium on the Scholarship of Diversity on March 29th continues; a special issue of *Diversity Outlook* will provide details.

The Emily Taylor Women's Resource Center and the Office of Multicultural Affairs, who now report to the Office of Diversity & Equity, are busy working on updating mission statements, identifying core values that define and frame their role and responsibility, as well as initiating work on developing a planning document for the next 2-3 years. In addition, a national search for a permanent Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs will launch this month.

Recently, the HR/EO offices were divided; the Equal Opportunity side now reports to the D&E office under the new name Office of Institutional Opportunity and Access. We are currently conducting a national search for a Director and an investigator/trainer. In addition, it was recently agreed upon to combine the Lawrence campus and the KU Medical Center campus as one unit under this office. The Director of Accessibility & ADA Education will be part of this new office.

I cannot thank individually the many KU colleagues who have been instrumental in assisting with the changes that are occurring, but a special thanks is extended to the professional staff members in the Office of the Provost. In addition, the members of the campus community who have stepped forward and agreed to serve on search committees, as well as to continue to serve on advisory councils, diversity councils, or as officers of various groups are truly amazing. Thank you for all you do for KU!

As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact fredrod@ku.edu.



BEYOND THE HILL

Together We Can Learn Conference, Feb. 25, in Topeka

Families Together, Inc. invites parents, educators, administrators and others who care for and about individuals who have disabilities to a daylong conference at the Topeka Capital Plaza. Josh Hanagarne is featured speaker. [Early registration ends February 11.](#)

- See page 2**
- 2012 Langston Hughes Lecture
 - Scholarship of Diversity
 - Upcoming events & *campus spotlights*

CONNECT ON THROWBACK THURSDAYS

Mingle and unwind at Sabatini MRC

The Office of Multicultural Affairs implemented the new program Throwback Thursday last spring to provide KU faculty, staff, and students the opportunity to interact in a casual environment. From 4-5 p.m. each Thursday, at the Sabatini Multicultural Resource Center, the OMA plays music hits from the '50s to today to give everyone the opportunity to mingle in a casual setting. An important predictor of student persistence, according to research, is the frequency and quality of contact with faculty, staff, and fellow students. Additionally students are more likely to stay and graduate in settings that provide academic, social, and personal support. Come relax, have fun, enjoy retro music, and mingle with students. See you Thursday!

PUBLIC FORUMS: ADA FINALISTS

Meet and hear each of the three finalist candidates for the new Director of Accessibility & ADA Education. Names and CVs will be released later:

Feb. 10, 1:15, Sabatini MRC

Feb. 13, 1:00, Centennial Rm, KS Union

Feb. 16, 1:00, English Room, KS Union

[Read the KU ADA review here.](#)

YOU'LL WANT TO ATTEND

THE 2ND ANNUAL SPRING SYMPOSIUM ON SCHOLARSHIP OF DIVERSITY

March 29, 8-2, Kansas Union

[Two keynote speakers, insight, conversation, and camaraderie.](#)

THE SCHOLARSHIP OF DIVERSITY: A SYNOPSIS

Students with Disabilities at Postsecondary Institutions

Growing enrollments of students with disabilities in postsecondary education along with recent key legislation, including the 2008 Americans with Disability Act amendments, have generated considerable interest in research on accessibility of higher education for students with disabilities. This report, from the National Center for Educational Statistics and Postsecondary Quick Information System (Peqis), provides national data collected from degree-granting postsecondary institutions. For the study, a disability was defined as a physical or mental condition that causes functional limitations that substantially limit one or more major life activities, including mobility, communication (seeing, hearing, speaking), and learning. For the 2008-09 academic year, 88% of postsecondary schools reported enrolling students with disabilities; approximately 770,000 students with disabilities were enrolled, with half at two-year institutions; 93% of institutions provided additional exam time as an accommodation to students with disabilities. Among the barriers cited by institutions as hindering implementation of Universal Design to a moderate or major extent: limited staff resources to provide faculty and staff training on accessibility issues (52%); costs associated with purchasing appropriate technology (46%); and other institutional priorities (45%).

Reference: "Students with Disabilities at Degree-Granting Postsecondary Institutions – First Look" U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Educational Statistics – Institute of Education Sciences, June 2011.

DON'T MISS THE 2012 LANGSTON HUGHES LECTURE



The campus community is invited to hear Tammy Kernodle give the talk "On the Battlefield: Black Women Musicians and the 'Voicing' of the Civil Rights Movement" February 22 at 3:30 in Alderson Auditorium. A reception follows in the Malott Room.

Ms. Kernodle is the Spring 2012 Langston Hughes Professor and visiting in the American Studies Department, where she teaches two classes. 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).

Professor Kernodle is on the faculty at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, and earned her Ph.D. in music history from The Ohio State University. She is an editor for the current revision of the New Grove's *Dictionary of American Music* and has published widely since authoring the 1994 biography *Soul on Soul: The Life and Music of Mary Lou Williams*. She was one of three editors of the three volume *Encyclopedia of African American Music* published a year ago. Her research and scholarship focus on the effects that gender, race, sexuality, and regional identity have on the creation, performance, and reception of African American music, but cover a broad range of musical topics. She is also a trained pianist and organist.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

- 10 First public forum with ADA candidate** details on pg. I
 - 12 Chamber Ensemble, Shanghai Chinese Orchestra**
2-4 p.m., Spencer Museum of Art Central Court
 - 15 Ujamaa Brownbag Series** [details & schedule of talks](#)
 - 19 International Film & Food Festival** [sponsored by SUA](#)
 - 22 2012 Langston Hughes Lecture by Tammy Kernodle**
3:30 p.m., Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union
 - 23 Hispanic Alumni Chapter Exec. Committee Meeting**
1:00 p.m., KU Alumni Association building
- And SAVE THESE MARCH DATES!**
- 15 Spring Diversity Talks**
3:30 p.m., Jayhawk Room, Kansas Union
 - 29 Spring Symposium on the Scholarship of Diversity**
8-2, Kansas Union; continental breakfast, talks, lunch



COLLEAGUE IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Randal Jelks' new biography of Benjamin Mays is the first full-length book on the man Martin Luther King called his "spiritual and intellectual father." Mays was also an educator and theologian, hence the book's subtitle: 'Schoolmaster of the Movement.' It will be published in April by the University of North Carolina Press.

Jelks is an associate professor in American Studies with a joint appoint in African & African American Studies and courtesy appointments in history and religious studies. He is co-editor of the journal *American Studies*. His doctoral degree is from Michigan State University, but he also has a master's of divinity and is an ordained Presbyterian minister.

PROGRAM IN THE SPOTLIGHT

INSTITUTE FOR EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH & PUBLIC SERVICE

The Institute mission is to serve the State of Kansas as well as to assist School of Education faculty in obtaining external funding. Their many statewide programs include the Kansas Enrichment Network and the Kansas Statewide STEM System, which aims to enhance education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. [visit the IERPS website](#)

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](#)