

ACADEMIC NEXUS

FEBRUARY 2007

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION FOR FISK FACULTY

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Dear Fisk Family,

Our Spring University Institute will be held on Thursday, 22 March from 3:00pm until 8:00pm at the Scarritt-Bennett Center located at 1008 19th Avenue South. I urge each of you to make plans to attend this important event. Our discussions will surround the upcoming SACS reaffirmation of our accreditation, follow up to our Fall Institute, and University projections for the near and distant future. All voices are needed to make this a successful Institute.

Please remember to alert us about faculty accomplishments, including publications, professional presentations, grants secured, et cetera, so that we can include them in the *Nexus*.

Let me remind all faculty seeking their third or subsequent year reappointments that the deadline for the submission of your dossiers is Friday, 2 March. Those dossiers should be submitted to the Office of the Provost.

Kofi Lomatey

Executive Vice President & Provost



Spring and Summer Conferences

The Center for the Study of Higher and Post-secondary Education (CHPE) presents "Understanding and Strengthening the Contributions of Higher Education to a Changing Society" National Conference. The conference will be March 22-24, 2007 at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. To register go to www.cshpe.org.

"Women Crossing: Bridges, Borders, and Barriers," is the theme for this year's Transforming Curriculum in the 21st Century: A Conference on Diversity Education and Social Justice for Institutions of Higher Learning. This conference will be held April 12, 2007, at Kennesaw State University in Kennesaw, GA.

This annual conference focuses on how colleges and

universities can examine where they are in terms of diversification in and of their curricula, to seek paths to overcome challenges, and take action.

They are currently seeking poster presentations that address best practices in curricular diversification directly related to women. For more information go to www.kennesaw.edu/diversity/conference2007.html.

The National Humanities Center presents the SIAS Summer Institutes to support the development of scholarly networks and collaborative projects among young scholars from the United States and Europe. Each institute will meet once in the United States and once in Europe for participants to

present their research and collaborate on new projects.

The first seminar is "The Vision Thing: Studying Divine Interventions". The first session is on June 25-July 6, 2007 at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in Stanford, CA. The second session is June 30-July 11, 2008 at Collegium Budapest in Budapest, Hungary.

The second seminar is "Citizenship and Migration" and the first session is at Wissenschaftskolleg zu in Berlin, Germany. The second session in the United States is yet to be announced.

Applications are available at www.nhc.rtp.nc.us/sias/index.htm and, once completed must be postmarked February 28, 2007.

CONGRATULATIONS

Dr. Philip Autry:

Awarded tenure effective Fall 2007 by the Fisk Board of Trustees.



Dr. Adenike Davidson:

Published article: "Marginal Spaces, Marginal Texts: Alice Dunbar-Nelson and the African American Prose Poem" in the Fall 2006 issue of *The Southern Quarterly: A Journal of Arts in the South*. To view this article go to www.usm.edu/soq.

WELCOME BACK

Lecturer LiFran Fort is back from sick leave.



Mellon Faculty Program Report

In July 2006, Dr. Sheila Peters, Associate Provost, participated in the Mellon Faculty Program in Accra, Ghana. Her experience was transformative as she and several colleagues from other HBCUs researched and dialogued the Aids world pandemic.

Peters has spent this academic year digesting the information and developing a curriculum module for implementation in Fisk courses across the discipline.

“The pandemic of Aids is touching the souls of the entire world. During the seminar, I visited NGOs, the Ministry of Women and Children and a local

school. I was most profoundly affected by my contact with children who are orphans as a result of their parents dying from the virus. I hold on to the silent but persistent cry for help that I see repeatedly in the eyes of children.”



At Fisk, several student organizations have demonstrated

leadership in Aids education. Dr. Peters believes that the curriculum module will inspire other Fisk students to use their intellectual, as well as spiritual talents to address a worldwide travesty.

Dr. Gary Nash is applying for the 2007 Mellon Faculty Seminar Program.



We are committed to ethical leadership and engagement in our local and global communities.

The Grant Institute Workshop Report

Nine faculty and staff members attended *The Grant Institute* at the Tennessee State University campus in November 2006, with other academic, faith-based, and law enforcement groups.

This workshop included grant proposal writing and development, identifying grant decision makers, researching funders, and the grant review process.

Various types of grants were dissected into each part and discussed for details and immediate feedback.

The following is **Dr. Ronald A. Stewart's 10 points to**

remember when writing your grant:

1. People fund people: Make your university and your students sound real with details.
2. Do your homework before approaching a potential donor: Who are they?
3. Write to your (specific) audience: Know what they are looking to fund.
4. Demonstrate your passion: Tell why you think your project is necessary and wonderful.
5. Connect your budget to your narrative.
6. Describe previous funding

support.

7. Ask for what you really need to do the work.
8. Review, review, review your proposal before you submit it: Don't wait until the last minute to ask for help!
9. Avoid “over-presentation” such as fancy or bulky covers.
10. After you receive a grant, keep your funders informed of your progress and/or challenges.

Contact the Office of the Provost for a grant research packet for federal, state, and foundation giving listings.



2007 Governor's Award in the Arts

Members of the Tennessee Arts Commission will join Governor Phil Bredsen and First Lady Andrea Conte to salute the Fisk Jubilee Singers'® contribution to the cultural life of Tennessee. This is Tennessee's highest honor in the arts.

The 2007 Governor's Award in the Folklife Heritage Award category will be presented to Director Paul Kwami and the Fisk Jubilee Singers® on March 13, 2007, in a ceremony at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in downtown Nashville.



Fisk Jubilee Singers, *Tennessean* photo by Mandy Lunn.

We work to benefit our students and to achieve measurable strategic goals with a focus on personal development and academic achievement.

UNCF Partnership and Scholarship Awards

NASA and the United Negro College Fund Special Programs (UNCFSP) have established the Curriculum Improvement Partnership Award (**CIPAIR**) Program to help Minority Institutions develop or augment curricula to enhance research, training, and educational outcomes in NASA-related fields.

To submit a proposal please contact Clarence T. Brown at Clarence.Brown@uncfsp.org. Proposals submissions should:

1. Clearly identify and link to a NASA research area.
2. Illustrate where and how integration is appropriate with the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM)

3. Demonstrate how the proposals use will improve the undergraduate educational experience.
4. Demonstrate how these experiences will result in more competitively trained students.
5. Demonstrate what new skills these students will possess.

CIPAIR offers grants for \$400K to \$600K to Minority Institutions that have received no more than \$500K in the last 5 years.

4-year institutions must partner with 2-year institutions.

The deadline for proposal

submissions in *June 1, 2007*. For more information about this and other special programs go to www.uncfsp.org/register.

UNCF 2007 Faculty Development Programs campaign will sponsor the **Henry C. McBay Faculty Research Fellowship**.

This program scholarship is designed to improve teaching effectiveness by providing fellowships to support research in a field of the recipient's choosing.

The application deadline is *March 31, 2007*. For requirements and applications go to www.uncf.org in the scholarship area.

EXCELLENCE

We believe that excellence is the result of a lifelong pursuit of the highest standards. At FISK, our collective quest is to earn merit through commitment to rigorous scholarship, cultural literacy, and high ethical standard.



The Office of the Provost
1000 Seventeenth Avenue, North
Cravath Hall, Room 110
Nashville, TN 37208
Phone: 615-340-3554
Fax: 615-329-8802
tblack@fisk.edu

Nexus News:

February 2nd- 25th, 2007 Fisk University and Lipscomb University present the play **“Ordinary Heroes— The Birth of a Movement—Untold stories of Nashville’s footsoldiers in the war for civil rights”** 7:30pm Thursday-Saturday, 6pm Sunday, at Fisk Memorial Chapel. Admission is \$15. Call 615-341-0300 for more information.

February 22-25th, 2007 Fisk University presents **“Fences”**, by August Wilson in the Fisk University Little Theater. 7:30pm Thursday-Saturday. 3:30pm Sunday. Admission is \$10. For more information call 615-329-8609.

February 26, 2007 The last day to submit **midterm grades** via Banner Web.

March 5, 2007 **Spring Break Begins!**

March 19, 2007 **Faculty Brown Bag** sponsored by the Council on Undergraduate Research (CCUR) and the Office of the Provost:

A Different Way to Teach, A Different Way to Learn with Dr. Mary Crowe - Director of Undergraduate Research, University of North Carolina, Greensboro, 12:00pm – 1:00 pm, in the Talley-Brady Lecture Hall. **Please RSVP for lunch by March 2** with Dr. Sessi Aboh at saboh@fisk.edu.

March 22, 2007 **University Institute** from **3:00pm to 8:00pm** at the SCARITT-BENNETT CENTER, 1008 19th Avenue South, Nashville, TN 37212. Dinner is provided. Car pooling is recommended.



*If you have information or announcements for
Academic Nexus,
please send them to the address above.*

