

ACADEMIC NEXUS

JANUARY 2007

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION FOR FISK FACULTY

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Dear Fisk Family,



Welcome back to another great semester at Fisk University! In this, the second issue of the *Nexus*, we include several items reflecting recent successes of members of our faculty. In addition, we provide news about more professional development opportunities for faculty including conferences/workshops as well as grantsmanship information. I sincerely trust that each of you will find something of personal value in your individual role as a member of this outstanding faculty.

Our Spring University Institute is being planned for Thursday, 22 March from 3 pm until 8 pm at an off campus location to be announced shortly. Please plan to attend, as we will be following up on critical items from the Fall Institute and looking forward to our SACS reaffirmation of accreditation. Dinner will be served.

Our 2007 Summer Session will run from 4 June to 27 July. Students will be able to register for the Summer Session beginning on 12 March--at the same time that they are registering for Fall 2007.

Please remember that the SACS campus committee will need the support of the entire University community. Please (1) provide them with information which they request—in a timely fashion, (2) assist them in any way that you can and (3) support the work of the committee.

Kofi Lomotey

Executive Vice President & Provost

Fisk Faculty Professional Development in 2006

Dr. Adenike Davidson was chosen to participate in the 2006 NEH Summer Seminar: Modernist Paris. She went to Paris, France for six weeks and received a \$3600 stipend. The major part of the seminar was devoted to the revolutionary works of modernism in its ascendant phase: literature by Stein, Hemingway, Breton and Henry Miller; paintings by Picasso and Braque; surrealist writings and film.

Dr. Davidson's research included examining the call and response patterns evident between New Negro Artists and the budding Negritude writers in Europe and North America. Out of this experience, she is collaborating with another participant to pub-

lish a collection of essays: *Blackness in the City of Light: Race and Modernist Paris*.

Patricia McCarroll, lecturer in the Department of Biology, was granted a leave for Fall 2006 to begin doctoral studies in the area of Plant and Soil Science at Alabama A. and M. University. She completed three graduate courses, Plant Physiology, Molecular Genetics (Biology) and Molecular Genetics laboratory class.

As a result of her laboratory experiences in Molecular Genetics and her interest in medicinal botany, she will focus her dissertation studies on the physiological, biochemical and molecular effects of medicinal plants on the

growth of a selected cell line.

The information gained in these courses will enhance her instruction in General Biology this semester.

The Exceptional Scholars Program was initiated this past Fall semester under the direction of Dr. Adenike Davidson. This program was designed to excite academically strong new students about the Fisk curriculum, retain them through graduation, and assist them in achieving future academic success beyond Fisk University. The program has been successful! The average fall GPA was 3.56, with 5 of the 21 scholars earning a perfect 4.0 GPA.

NEXUS RECOGNITION

3RD YEAR REAPPOINTMENTS:

- ◆ Rev. Dr. Jason Curry
- ◆ Dr. Adenike Davidson
- ◆ Dr. Gwendolyn Hale
- ◆ Dr. Jonathan Stadler

BOARD OF TRUSTEE FACULTY

APPOINTEES:

- ◆ Dr. Princilla Evans Morris
- ◆ Dr. Gary Nash

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- ◆ Congratulations to Dr. Stafford Cargill for Tenure and Promotion in Fall 2006.
- ◆ Welcome back Dr. Elizabeth Papousek from sick leave.
- ◆ Welcome back to Professor Patricia McCarroll from leave.



Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS)

We have started our engines to begin the journey to reaffirmation of our accreditation which we expect in December 2009. Thanks to Dr. Priscilla Evans Morris, from Natural Sciences & Mathematics, and Dr. Adenike Davidson, from Humanities & Fine Arts, for taking on the responsibility of co-chairing our SACS campus committee of:

- ◆ Joan Bahner, Advancement
- ◆ Stafford Cargill, Business Administration
- ◆ Eugene Collins, Natural Sciences & Mathematics
- ◆ Phyllis Freeman-Junior, Natural Sciences & Mathematics
- ◆ Damien Jackson, Financial Aid
- ◆ Marie Lang, Administrative Services

- ◆ Kofi Lomotey, Office of the Provost, *ex-officio*
- ◆ Spence Maners, Finance
- ◆ Barbara Murrell, Student Life
- ◆ Philip Neely, ITS
- ◆ Hazel R. O'Leary, Office of the President, *ex-officio*
- ◆ Sheila Peters, Office of the Provost
- ◆ Dani Smith, Social Sciences
- ◆ Jessie Smith, Library
- ◆ John Springer, Institutional Assessment

The process will include:

1. Submission of our Compliance Certificate -Sept. 2008

The compliance certification is our written verification/evidence that we comply with all of the expectations set forth by SACS.

2. Off-site Review Committee Assessment -Nov. 2008

The off-site committee reviews our compliance certification.

3. Submission of Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) -6 weeks prior to on-site visit

The QEP is a written plan for an effort that will impact the success of students at Fisk. It will have to be developed collectively and must be approved by SACS before we begin it.

4. On-site Review Conducted -Between Jan. 2009 and Apr. 2009

The on-site review will address questions raised by the off-site team and the QEP plan.

5. Review by the Commission on Colleges of SACS -Dec. 2009

This is the last phase for reaccreditation.

OUR VALUES

Diversity
Excellence
Teamwork
Accountability
Integrity
Leadership
Service

HBCU Health and Wellness Initiative

Dr. Patrick Martin, Assistant Professor in the Department of Biology, is serving as the project director of the HBCU Health and Wellness Initiative effort at Fisk University.

Fisk University in partnership with Meharry Medical College, Nashville, Tennessee; Knoxville College, Knoxville, Tennessee; Lane College, Jackson, Tennessee; and LeMoyné-Owen College, Memphis, Tennessee has formed an HBCU Health and Wellness Initiative. The major objective of this initiative is to develop health awareness campaigns on each campus to address health dis-

parities that affect the underserved populations in the state of Tennessee. Fisk University in collaboration with Meharry Medical College will provide



training for senior leadership and 25 students from Fisk University to develop and conduct health awareness fairs, health-based competitions, screenings and prevention programs on their

respective campuses and in their communities.

This project will also expose participating students from Fisk University to careers in health professions while also affording the students an opportunity to contribute to reducing health disparities in the state of Tennessee.



DIVERSITY
We believe that our individual differences are a collective strength. We will support and encourage diversity of opinion, of culture and experience. Diversity aids us in building a collective wisdom that results in more powerful and relevant solutions to our challenges.

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Conferences

National Conference on Best Practices in Black Student Achievement, Clemson University, Clemson, SC is January 21-23, 2007. The keynote speaker is Dr. Michael Lomax, President and Chief Executive Officer of the United Negro College Fund. Call Kay James at (864) 656-2200 to register or go online to www.clemson.edu/bestpractices.

The Africana Studies Conference: Education, Research & Community Engagement will be held at Tennessee State University, February 1-3, 2007. One special event will be the Town Hall Meeting: "Jefferson Street Rebirth: For the Needy and Not the Greedy."

Contact Dr. Al-Hadid at (615) 963-5583 for more information.

Academic Chairpersons Conference, Academic Leadership: Building Responsive and Responsible Communities, is February 7-9, 2007, at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center, Orlando, FL. To register call (785) 532-5569 or go online at www.dce.ksu.edu/academicchairpersons.

The American Council on Education, Access Imperative Annual meeting, is for senior leaders on February 10-13, 2007 at the Omni Sheraton Hotel, in Washington, DC.

Applications can be obtained by calling Nakia Bell at bell@aacu.org or (202)387-3760

before March 16, 2007.

Uncovering Connections Conference: Cultural Endurance between Africa, the Americas and the Caribbean will be presented by the Center for Diopian Inquiry and Research on Education as Culture Transmission (Direct Center) at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York., March 8-10, 2007. At this conference, presenters will discuss the retention of culture and traditions, and contemporary phenomena.

For more information contact Dr. Patricia Canson at the DIRECT Center at Canson-Grif@optonline.net.

"As a part of the Fisk family, we work to benefit our students and to achieve measurable strategic goals with a focus on personal development and academic achievement."
—Hazel R. O'Leary, Fisk University President

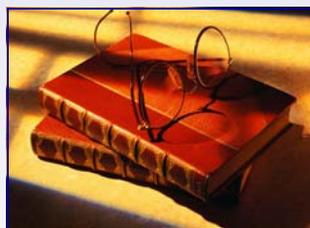
Proposals, Institutes, and Fellowships

Proposals are needed for **Crossing Boundaries: Making Knowledge about Teaching and Learning Visible: Teaching in Higher Education Forum**, at Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge, LA, April 15-17, 2007. They are looking for a team of four faculty to represent each university. See the Office of the Provost for a complete brochure and information.

The Association of American Colleges and Universities presents a working institute for leadership teams in Burlington, VT. **The Greater Expectations Initiative: Campus Leadership for Student Engagement, Inclusion, and Achievement** is designed to articulate the aims of twenty-first century liberal arts education and identify comprehensive models that improve learning for all undergraduate students.

It will be held on June 20-

24, 2007, and each university team will be assigned a nationally recognized scholar to help examine their goals and their capacity to broaden, deepen, and sustain educational change efforts.



Martha's Vineyard Summer Institute on Experiential Education is July 6-10, 2007, and will be hosted by Northeastern University at Martha's Vineyard, MA. They promise working team sessions with real results that promote learning outside and inside the traditional classroom, such as service learning, undergraduate research, study abroad, and student leadership development. For applica-

tions please contact the Office of the Provost before March 15, 2007.

As a **2008 Jefferson Science Fellow** tenured scientists and engineers are eligible to spend one year at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D.C. in a regional or functional bureau. They receive a \$50,000 stipend award and their regular salary. The scientists must be articulate and interested in policy issues. For more information go to www.national-academies.org/jsf.





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Nexus News

Spring 2007

We anticipate finalizing plans for **collaborative programs** with Watkins School of Art for interior design, filmmaking, and graphic design, and Belmont University for Music Business.

Summer 2007

We will provide **4 Summer Research Grants** for selected faculty, funded by the U.S. Office of Education Title III program. The grants will be for up to \$5,000. These grants are designed to encourage faculty to seek external funding for their research. More information will be forthcoming soon.

Drawing on the success of Summer 2006 session, we will be offering courses for the **Summer 2007** session. Registration will be concurrent with Fall 2007 registration.



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

