

ACADEMIC NEXUS

MARCH 2008

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INFORMATION FOR FISK FACULTY

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PROVOST

Dear Fisk Family,



As we reach mid semester and then the end of another academic year we want to express our appreciation to all faculty for their hard work with our students over the course of the year. While it is true that students are the most important people on the campus, their success would be severely limited were it not for what you do; thank you!

The work of S.T.A.R.S is progressing. Our campus wide committee is busy as I write summarizing the self studies that we each prepared during the month of February. We look forward to receiving their report within the next few weeks.

Our searches continue for new faculty in Spanish, biology, chemistry, mathematics and psychology. We are hopeful to be able to fill all of those positions for Fall 2008.

As a result of recent budget cuts, there will be changes in athletics, the Race Relations Institute and the Chapel. We have a campus-wide team headed by Vice President Ken West, which is busy preparing recommendations for (1) athletics at Fisk, (2) our staff and student initiatives currently associated with the Race Relations Institute and (3) the Chapel. We expect to receive their recommendations prior to the end of the school year. Any ideas that you may have in any of these three areas should be referred to VP West.

There are still spaces available for our trip to Ghana this summer. Inquiries should be directed to the Office of the Provost.

Sincerely,

Kofi Lomotey

John Hope Franklin Residential Fellowships



The John Hope Franklin Humanities Institute (FHI) with support from the A.W. Mellon Foundation, is calling for proposals from Humanities faculty at HBCUs. The deadline is *March 31, 2008*.

The FHI will host a new residential fellowship program that will provide support for a year of scholarly research in a collegial environment, with access to many opportunities for substantive interaction.

The FHI supports scholarship on issues of social equity, especially research on race and ethnicity in their most profound historical and inter-

national dimensions.

The FHI is the administrative home of the Consortium of Humanities Centers and Institutes (CHCI), an international organization that links over 120 humanities organizations. They also linked to other local and state universities, institutes, centers and museums for intellectual information.

Full-year and one semester fellows will receive a stipend, health and dental insurance, a fully equipped office, library privileges, and a small pool of research and/or travel funds.

For application please

include:

1. A one-page cover letter
2. A proposal of 1500 words
3. A current vitae
4. Two letters of recommendation

If you have questions about this program, the Franklin Humanities Institute, or Duke, please visit <http://www.jhfc.duke.edu/fhi/>.



NEXUS RECOGNITION

- ◆ Tenure and Promotion
Dr. Diane Stofko
Dr. Jill Clark
- ◆ Tenure
Dr. Adenike Davidson was also chosen for the UNCF Mellon Faculty research trip to South Africa for summer 2008.
- ◆ **Dr. Shirley Rainey**, Recently published "*Global Environmental Movement*" in the [Encyclopedia of Race and Racism](#), Vol. 2, 2008
- ◆ UNCF/Mellon Undergraduate Fellow Mentors:
Professor Linda Wynn
Dr. Philip Autry
- ◆ Physicist **Dr. Arnold Burger** has been named the 2008 Room-Temperature Semiconductor Scientist Award (RTSD) winner.
- ◆ **Provost Kofi Lomotey** has been elected to the Board of Trustees of Oberlin College.



S.T.A.R.S.

- S:** Strategic Realignment
- T:** Transformation of Academic and Administrative Programs and Services
- A:** Accountability for Acquisition and use of resources
- R:** Renewal
- S:** Sustainability



dations for the President and the Provost by March 31st.

They have received 22 of 34 academic surveys and 15 of the required 35 administrative surveys.

Outstanding departments will be announced at a later date.

If you have questions or concerns please contact Dr. Reavis Mitchell or Ms. Tabitha Beasley, program chairs.

The S.T.A.R.S. Advisory Team will meet three days per week in March to complete the preliminary analysis process. All members have signed confidentiality forms and are currently working with the consultant as scheduled.

They will work to read, analyze and discuss the program surveys as they are completed in an effort to prepare recommen-

The Black College Review

(BRC)
A New Peer-reviewed
Annual Journal

Purpose:

To enhance our understanding of the roles and functions of historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and to advance the use of research on HBCUs.

Manuscripts:

Seeking empirically driven, discipline-based approaches that include social, political, economic, cultural, historical, environmental or global analyses. Exploring structural forces that create and perpetuate the need for HBCUs, as well as generate challenges for these institutions.

Do not exceed 20 pages.
Send to bcrc@sus.edu.

Inaugural Issue Deadline:

April 15, 2008

“We have a powerful potential in our youth, and we must have the courage to change old ideas and practices so that we may direct their power toward good ends.”- *Mary McLeod Bethune*

Fisk History Department

In celebration of Martin Luther King’s Birthday, Dr. Reavis L. Mitchell addressed the membership of the Antioch Baptist Church, where Marcel Keller is the pastor. Rev. Keller initiated the “Christmas for Fisk Campaign” as fundraiser with Nashville churches.

On February 13, 2008 Nashville celebrated its 27th Annual Local Conference on African American History to Culture. There was an excerpted dramatic performance by the Fisk University’s Stage Crafters, under the direction of Professor Persephone Felder-Fentress. Written profiles were presented



by Dr. Reavis L. Mitchell and Professor Linda T. Wynn, who served as co-chairs for the conference.

On February 25, 2008 Professor Linda Wynn participated in the Tennessee General Assembly’s salute to Historically Black Colleges and Universities by providing an overview of

Black Higher Education in Tennessee.

During the month of February, Dr. Reavis L. Mitchell was interviewed on two occasions by News Channel 5 regarding the historic presidential primary and the presidential elections.

On February 28, 2008 the History Department presented its 12th Annual Pierson Lecture Series. This year the Pierson Lecture was presented by Professor Paul Kwami, and his title was “*Reflections on a Productive Life*”. Dr. James Quirin presented the historical biography of Dr. William D. Pierson.



HBCU Conferences for Faculty, Administrators, and Students

The Faculty Organization of **Lemoyne-Owen College** and the **Tennessee Conference of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP)** invite faculty, administrators, and trustees to attend a *Forum of Shared Governance* on *March 29, 2008*. This event includes ***The Road to Justice***, a reception at the National Civil Rights Museum; a panel discussion and Presidents' Luncheon on the campus of Lemoyne-Owen College. Please contact Dr. Delphia Harris at (901) 435-1380 or delphia_harris@loc.edu for more information.

The Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Office of Graduate Student Recruiting will host **The Emerging Leaders Workshop and Conference** on *July 31-August 3, 2008*. This workshop is to honor students from HBCUs. One faculty member and two sophomore or junior students will

meet college graduates who have excelled in their academic fields of mathematics or science and are pursuing an advanced degree. Students must have a 3.0 grade point average or greater.

To register online please visit www.grads.vt.edu/emergingleaders. For more information please contact Jane Rorrer, Graduate Student Recruiting Coordinator at Virginia Tech at jrorrer@vt.edu.

Johnson C. Smith University is planning a **Curriculum Planning Retreat for Learning Communities** on *June 1-3, 2008* in Charlotte, North Carolina.

At the core of the learning community work is an emphasis on inviting students to integrate their learning across courses, in the form of linked courses, formally integrated courses or collaboratively-planned assignments. To register please contact Delma Wilson at (704) 378-1286.

National Historically Black Colleges and Universities Research Network for Health Services and Health Disparities will give faculty the opportunity pursue research on health services and health disparities among African Americans.

Two grants of \$1,200 each will be awarded to HBCU faculty. Proposals must include the method, purpose, significance of the project, goals, objectives, expected outcomes, and policy implications. For a complete application please visit <http://www.hbcuresearchnetwork.org>.

The 15th **National HBCU Faculty Development Symposium** is on *"Closing the Loop: Research, Assessment & Curriculum Development* on *October 23-25, 2008* in Washington, D.C. To register please visit <http://hbcufdn.org>.

OUR VALUES

Diversity
Excellence
Teamwork
Accountability
Integrity
Leadership
Service

June 2008 Academic Opportunities

The 2008 **South African Educational Leadership Expedition** is on *June 21-July 2*. This expedition is recognized as a forerunner in the movements of peace, social justice, and education reform according to HOPE Foundation president, Alan Blankenstein.

The HOPE Foundation's mission is to support educational leaders **over time** in creating school cultures where failure is not an option for *any* student.

Naomi Tutu, daughter of Nobel Laureate, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, has joined the expedition and will be a participant as well as a cultural liaison. The tour will address the challenges of post-apartheid cultural diversity and meet with South Africa's educational leaders,

researchers, and practitioners. Members will also experience South Africa's culture, wildlife, and heritage including a visit to



historic Robben Island Museum. The expedition is limited to 25 members. Please contact Skip Daley at (812) 355-6000 ext. 222 for more information. Registration forms can be found on the HOPE Foundation website at <http://www.hopefoundation.org/events/SAfrica08/080311E.pdf>.

Thomas Edison College and the Council for Adult and Experiential Learning will sponsor the **National Institute on the Assessment of Experiential Learning and a Forum**. The topic is *"Assessing Adult Learning at a Distance-Lesson Learned"* to be held on *June 18-20, 2008* in Princeton, N.J. Please register online before April 18, 2008 at <http://www.tesc.edu/nationalinstitute>.

The Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR) is having their national conference on *"Frontiers & Challenges in Undergraduate Research"* on *June 21-24, 2008*, at the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota. For more information please visit the website: <http://www.cur.org/conferences/CSB/>



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Fisk News

The Race Relations Institute, in partnership with the Robert Penn Warren Center for the Humanities of Vanderbilt University presents a keynote address by **Reverend James Lawson** at Fisk Memorial Chapel, Friday, April 4, 2008, 7:30 p.m., “*Allowing a Living Past to Compel a Pregnant Now*” in connection with a conference commemorating the 40th anniversary of the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr.

The **Summer School 2008 Information Day** is April 11, 2008 at Spence Hall Student Lounge from 10 a.m. -1 p.m. Representatives will be available to answer questions regarding applications, classes, fees and financial aid, and student life. Summer School is June 2-July 22.



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

