

EDITORIAL
E-Journal Spring 2012 Edition

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The year 2012 is too early to predict. However, it is the U.S. presidential election year, marked by partisan politics and uncertainty. Will Barack Obama be re-elected by the American people or not? As we publish this Spring 2012 edition, we do not know who would emerge as the conservative candidate to challenge the incumbency. Could Mitt Romney, Newt Gingrich, Ron Paul or Rick Santorum emerge as the conservative alternative? Time will tell.

What we do know, however, is that October 2012 will mark the 5th anniversary of the kekcc e-journal. In commemoration, therefore, the Provost Dr. Tamara Agha-Jaffar has approved the publication of thirty copies of the journal for the Archives, Board of Trustees, Library, Intercultural Center and few Authors. On March 26, the e-journal and the Intercultural Center hosted a panel discussion on journal essays and contemporary global issues. No doubt, it was a thriller! As the founding editor, and on behalf of the Editorial Board, I thank all the contributing authors since 2007 until now, friends of the journal, and in particular, the founding father, Dr. Ben Hayes. We recognize also the contributions made by: Dr. Morteza Ardebili, Dr. Tamara Aghar-Jaffar, Cindy Lahmann, Lisa Cline, Barbara Clark-Evans, my work study students, and the campus police. And now, let us reflect on the current edition.

In this edition, Ken Butcher and Curtis Smith discuss the critical theme of education at a time when the UMKC and Urban Leagues' research, "A Tale of Two Babies" concludes that education is not only the key to success, but, also the way out of poverty in the 21st century. With the case study of ECOWAS, Chieke Ihejirika's essay evaluates the concept and theory of regionalism as a functional approach to inter-state cooperation and regional integration. In a comparative study of the current waves of crime within the Kansas City, Missouri, Ernest Evans, an idealist scholar, warns local and state leaders to intervene, or else, face the consequences of their silence and neglect. Through the structuralist perspective, also, Mehdi Shariati identifies major neoliberal contradictions that caused the current economic dilemma in the United States. You will enjoy the essays in this edition, but, first take a glimpse into the minds of our peer-reviewers below:

Peer-reviewed

*"The article **Curriculum Justice** is a very important contribution to both scholarship and the effort to liberate minorities and oppressed majorities seeking to attain free societies everywhere. Even though the paper is on education, it is clearly a political paper. The authoritative allocation of values in society delineated succinctly in this piece exposes the true notion of curriculum decision-making as struggle for power. The hidden curriculum is the dominant Eurocentric culture that is entrenched in the American society, as politics, which is the power struggle. This can only be assuaged by social activism, which cannot be limited to voting. Social activism must involve other forms of political participation at the micro-levels of society, especially in the most crucial sphere of human formation, the school.*

This article is on a very topical issue. It is also very well researched and provides a significant body of references for further study. It is a preemptive and solution based piece of scholarship because it tries to address an important source of tension in society and how to overcome it. It is an article that clearly contributes to scholarship because it explores critical areas that must be thoroughly explored and adopted for peace and justice in all societies. It exposes the ills of domination which eventually lead to instability and ultimately violence. It is publishable."

Peer-reviewed

*"The **Impact of Part-Time Faculty on Student Retention: A Case of Community College Education** is publishable study. It is topical as well as solution based. This article exposes the economics of hiring full-time and part-time faculty not only at community colleges but also four year colleges and universities. It*

tries to answer a major conundrum that has to be addressed and reconciled with the basic goal of community college education, which is ensuring an effective teaching and learning enterprise. The article offers solution to either increased full-time faculty or consciously integrating existing part-time faculty into the institutional culture where they work. This would make part-timers have full-time utility without increasing cost considerably. It is a well-researched paper with substantial empirical data. It provides a result that can be tested in future replicable research. This should be published because it addresses a very vital aspect of community college mission of providing means of upward mobility to the most disadvantaged in society. Intimate academic interaction is a condition sine qua non for effective community college curriculum."