

GRIOT

ANGELICA RILEY, EDITOR
JOSEPH GOINGS, REPORTER

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IN THE RECORDS OF WEST AFRICAN HISTORY, "GRIOT" (PRONOUNCED GREE-OH) WAS THE HONORED NAME BESTOWED ON WISE AND KNOWLEDGEABLE STORY TELLERS ENTRUSTED WITH THE TASK OF DOCUMENTING TRIBAL HISTORIES AND GENEALOGIES.

Ram Welcome!

JOSEPH GOINGS



JOSEPH GOINGS STANDS IN THE WEST LAWN, WHERE THE RAM-WELCOME CARNIVAL TOOK PLACE.

RAM Welcome is a festive four day event for first year students. This event helps facilitate the transition from high school into college by allowing students the opportunity to meet the faculty, other first year students, and become accustomed to campus. Although this event is designed for new students, returning students are welcome to join in the fun as well.

Day 1, Thursday Aug. 16: Move In

This was an exciting time for all freshmen, myself included, as this was the first time that many of them got to see their new living quarters. The move itself was very smooth. Returning students and staff assisted families by helping them bring in all of

the things that their new college student would need in their new college life. In addition to moving in, students met with their Resident Assistant (RA) and other students whom they would share a hall with for the next year. A carnival was also held that night so that students could relax and unwind after a long day. Students, faculty, and families delighted in games and free food.

Day 2, Friday Aug. 17: The First Day of a New Life

With the excitement of the carnival and move in day over, it was time for students to get acquainted with their particular majors. They were able to learn about majors, minors, and major requirements. Students were also given the opportunity to meet with various professors and learn a few things about them. After a free picnic lunch, many students explored the Street Fair. Represented at the fair were all eight of CSU's colleges, student advocacy offices, and student organizations. RAMapalooza also took place that evening. There was so much to do. Students enjoyed creating stuffed animals, body art, palm readings, magic, BINGO, the list goes on and on! There was lots of fun to be had that day.

Day 3, Saturday Aug. 18: More Festivities

Saturday was jam packed with things to do. First there was the CSU photo, where students arranged themselves as the CSU letters. Then the seven advocacy offices collaborated to hold the Festival of Unity. This was a multicultural event where students were able to participate in a variety of games, dances, and other cultural expressions. Food and refreshments were available for everyone's enjoyment as well. Later students who joined in RAMserve helped out around the community by painting houses, visiting with senior citizens, and more. Afterwards there was the traditional hike to the "A" where students got to see a piece of CSU's history. The last event to take place was RAM Night @ Target, which was a late night "shop-a-thon" allowing students to get any last minute items that they needed.

Day 4, Sunday Aug. 19: Preparation for Class

As RAM Welcome finally came to a close on Sunday, students made their final preparations for classes: gathering books, school supplies, and exploring campus as they began to embark on the new journey that is the college experience.

"RAM Welcome is a festive four day event for first year students."



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FROM THE COLORADOAN
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TREVORHUGHES@COLORADOAN.COM

Office Guides Minority Students

TREVOR HUGHES

When Jennifer Molock first arrived on the Colorado State University campus in 1980, she sometimes felt isolated and alone - one of only a small number of black students on campus and sometimes the only black student in an entire classroom.

That experience hasn't changed much over the past 27 years. Black students at CSU today say they sometimes go all day without seeing any fellow black students, not hard when there are only approximately 480 on a campus of almost 25,000.

"It's hard not to notice when you're in a huge lecture hall and you're the only person of color," said senior Haimanot Assefa, who is studying sociology and business.

Minority students represent about 12.6 percent of students at CSU, with minority enrollment last year representing slightly more than 3,000 students, up from 2,361 minority students in 2001, according to CSU records.

Assefa said some of her professors sometimes turned to her to offer a definitive perspective about black issues, when she feels only comfortable speaking about her own experiences. She said she's learned to preface her remarks by saying they're just her opinion.

Added Andrea Hart, a junior from Denver: "Professors tend to take the stereotypes and run with it - that we all grew up in the 'hood.'"

Both women said they've seen male black students asked if they're football players or other athletes on scholarships, just because of the color of their skin.

Assefa, who is originally from Ethiopia but went to high school in Fort Collins, said dropping out of CSU because of those

experiences was never going to happen.

Said Hart: "Education was a must."

But while the two say they sometimes felt they were alone on campus, they credit the CSU Office of Black Student Services with smoothing their paths and helping create a sense of community.



STUDENTS ANDREA HART, ENJANEK LEWIS, DOMINIQUE KELLEY, MARLON BLAKE, AND MARQUES BELLAIRE SIT IN THE OFFICE.

"It's like a home away from home," said Hart, who is studying accounting.

Molock, who now runs OBSS, said she can understand how minority students on campus can feel, given the demographics of both CSU and Colorado as a whole.

"It can be a lonely experience for black students," she said.

President Larry Penley, as part of a five-year "stretch goals" plan, has ordered that minority enrollment at CSU be boosted so that the university's demographics mirror, in part, those of the state it serves.

In the 1960s and early '70s, CSU began a strong push to recruit minority students, an effort at which it succeeded, Molock said. The problem, she said, was that the university lacked any sort of support system to retain those minority students, especially in light of the overwhelmingly white CSU campus, and Colorado in general.

Over time, CSU has added an array of programs intended to help minority students who enroll at the university graduate school.

Wednesday, Molock's office hosted its annual ice cream social, offering snacks and drinks to students and faculty interested in learning more about what the OBSS offers.

As boisterous students laughed, Molock said her job is to help them stick out their college years, whether they're from Denver or Colorado Springs or further away.

"We do this open house so that when students get to campus they know there is a support system in place," she said. "We're here to retain students."

Molock's predecessor, Blanche Hughes, is now CSU's Vice President for Student Affairs. Hughes said CSU is making improvements toward retaining minority students, which she called critical to ensuring a "more powerful learning experience" for all students.

"We certainly do a better job of it than we used to," Hughes said.

HERE ARE THE PERCENTAGES OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY STUDENTS BY MINORITIES AND THE PERCENTAGES OF MINORITIES IN COLORADO:

| Minority | CSU | Colorado |
|----------|-----------|-------------|
| Hispanic | 6 percent | 20 percent |
| Black | 2 percent | 4.1 percent |
| Asian | 3 percent | 2.6 percent |
| Native | 2 percent | 1.1 percent |

CSU / U.S. CENSUS ON THE INTERNET
[HTTP://OEOD.COLOSTATE.EDU](http://oeod.colostate.edu)

First Year Student Retreat

JOSEPH GOINGS



If there were ever an indelible moment in life for me and other first year students, it occurred on Saturday, September 15th.

After late night activities on Friday night, the day started at 7 a.m. when we were taken to Tamasag Retreat Center.

Several icebreaker activities helped everyone feel comfortable around each other and people began to converse with individuals that

they didn't know.

At one point the men and women separated in order to discuss topics such as racism, stereotypes, and relationships in regard to gender. We then came back together and discussed what was talked about as a group.

There were also guest speakers, Dr. Blanche Hughes and Angela Gwynn, who came to talk to us about retention and how to avoid being another statistic.

Not all of the retreat was fun and games however. Near the end of the day, the activities became more serious. In the trust walk, students had to communicate and rely on one another.

Finally we underwent the Rites of Passage, which reminded us about our ancestors' struggles. This was a very emotional moment. Words can't even begin to describe the feelings in the room.

At the end students had the op-

portunity to reflect on the retreat experience together. This day is sure to stand out in my mind and hopefully in the minds of others. It reminded me how truly lucky we are today and how we all need to stick together and assist one another. I think that this retreat will be embedded in the minds of all its attendees for years to come.



On Diversity Chat with Penley

ANGELICA RILEY

On Tuesday, September 11, I had the opportunity to participate in the 4th annual Diversity Chat with Larry Penley. Hosted by KCSU radio station (90.5 FM), a diverse group of about ten students assembled in the Administration building and asked our university president questions about diversity issues.

In addition to KCSU, students representing the Rocky Mountain Collegian (student newspaper) and CTV (student television station channel 11) came

prepared to document the event.

Students asked President Penley several questions, ranging from the Diversity Conference in September to his personal efforts with supporting diversity in the community.

President Penley was straightforward when it came to discussing some tough questions. I could hear the pitch of his voice rise and fall as he addressed Colorado's failure to make colleges more accessible for diverse students, and his own personal ex-

periences in promoting diversity. He also mentioned that CSU's advocacy offices, such as the Office of Black Student Services, share the responsibility of retaining diverse students.

You can listen to the Diversity Chat with Larry Penley on KCSU radio station (90.5 FM). For more information about the Diversity Chat, go to KCSUfm.com.



PRESIDENT LARRY PENLEY IS SEATED NEXT TO KCSU'S CHRISTINA DICKINSON.

Black Educational Support Team



Sara Anderson

Hello, all! My name is Sara Anderson and I'm a sophomore majoring in speech communication with a media concentration as well as pursuing a certificate in women's studies. I'm from Denver and I attended Thomas Jefferson High School (go Spartans!). I decided to work in the Office of Black Student Services because I wanted to be more involved with my black community. My goal is to graduate from college and go into advertising for a potential career. The people that influence me the most are my family, they keep me going on the right path. I love communicating with people, as well as dancing, watching movies, and eating food! My ultimate goal for this collegiate journey at CSU is to make a positive impact in someone's life.

Marlon Blake

My name is Marlon Blake. I'm from Hattiesburg, Mississippi where I attended Hattiesburg High School. I am a sophomore and I am a double major in health and exercise science and sociology and also receiving a certificate in women's studies. The biggest influence in my life is my mother. Raising the family as a single parent she taught me how to be a man and stand on my own two feet. With her guidance as a child she has made me the person I am today. My goal is to graduate from CSU and go into a career in personal training or strength and conditioning. After a few years of that I hope to work for or open a non-profit group that works with African American males. Last but not least when I get super old I would love to drive buses for Greyhound. One of the biggest accomplishments, besides getting into CSU, was winning a State Championship in baseball in my senior year of high school. This helped me to learn that hard work, dedication, playing as a team, doing the little things right, and having support for a team can take you a long way in life. I chose to come back on staff in the Office of Black Student Services to hopefully help first year students succeed and help keep them here at CSU. Also there is a great professional staff at Black Student Services and it is my pleasure to work with them. Just being around the staff and students make this job the best job in the world. For new students I would say be your self, study, use your time wisely, make smart decisions, ask question when you don't know something, and lastly have fun because college is a once in a life time chance that many people don't get so take advantage of it. I will try to help promote social change in the world for all people because we have come so far but we still have so far to go. My hobbies are playing chess, reading, changing the world, and being me.



Joseph Goings

My name is Joseph Goings Jr. and I was born and raised in Chicago, Illinois before moving to the south suburbs in the fall of 2003. I attended Gwendolyn Brooks College Prep where I worked as a writer for the student newspaper. I am now a freshman in college, majoring in journalism. Some of the influences in my life include my mother, Sheila Johnson, who has cared for me for 18 long years. She is truly a great woman and deserves nothing but the best. Another influence is my uncle Frank Johnson, who has continued to be a father figure in my life and has always been there to give me words of encouragement should I need them. A life's goal of mine is to work for a major newspaper, and possibly even become a news anchor. Becoming a staff member at Black Student Services was a no-brainer for me. My job is to write articles for the newsletter (GRIOT). Writing for the

GRIOT is giving me a chance to be a writer and allowing me to become more experienced in the field of journalism. Some advice for other and future new students would be to make friends with everyone, from lower to upperclassmen. Everyone can help you in some way shape or form, so it's best to know many people and discover what they can do. I'm a person who likes to have fun and who will try anything once, so if I could do anything in the world I would skydive. It would be an incredible adrenaline rush to be thousands of feet in the air, spinning and flipping and twisting and turning before you open your parachute and fall gently towards the Earth. My hobbies include playing basketball, football, watching TV, playing video games, and texting (which I have become particularly good at in the last few months). I love comedy movies, like The Simpson's Movie, because I am a big kid and the Simpson's has been a favorite show of mine for years and years. Well that's an abbreviated version of me. I hope to do very well during my time as a staff member and look forward to many great days and great editions of the GRIOT.

Aaron Green

My name is Aaron Green. I was born in Denver, CO and I live in Aurora. This year I am a junior economics major. One influence in my life would be my freshman mentor Juwan Melvin who is a senior this year. He inspires others to be great. I am also influenced by my close friends in United Men of Color (we meet every Sunday in the Lory Student Center at 4), my father Brother Jeff, and my fraternity brothers who continue to push me to be the best. My goals are to graduate with honors, mentor freshmen, and be a positive role model. Some accomplishments that I am most proud of consist of being a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., a First Generation Scholar, president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, vice president of United Men of Color, and secretary of Black Student Alliance. I chose to be a Black Student Services staff member to continue to serve as a resource. If I could be anything in the world, I would want to be the president of the United States! But if that doesn't pan out I want to travel the world. I like to play sports, lift weights, read and write. I am interested in leadership development and education. My advice is this: Dare to be different. Get involved, stay motivated, and be the best you can be. College is about growing and making a difference for yourself as well as your family.



Angelica Riley

Hello! My name is Angelica L'nae Riley and I am a junior majoring in technical journalism. I grew up in Lakewood, Colorado and I graduated from D'Evelyn High School. My father is a major influence in my life and I appreciate his unflinching support and sage advice. In fact, it was my father who pushed me to excel in ways that I never thought I could. Now that I am in college, I feel that my goals and dreams are beginning to materialize into something more concrete. When I was kid, I wanted to swim with the whales, which would require me to be a marine biologist. Then, for a while, I was convinced that I wanted to be a professional song writer. Well, it turns out that marine biology just isn't my niche, and I suppose I can write songs on the side of another career if I like. Now I am pursuing a career in journalism. Some of my favorite accomplishments are swimming competitively for ten years, being the president of Junior Classical league, being the secretary for Braiden Hall student council, receiving the student of the year award for the Key Plus community, maintaining a high GPA, and receiving several awards at the Black Student Services Awards Ceremony. I am also happy to be involved with student media, peer mentoring, and being an orientation leader for the summer of 2007. I enjoy working at the Office of Black Student services as editor of the GRIOT. It grants me the opportunity to give back to this community that has given so much to me. I've decided that if I could do anything, it would be to teleport. If I could teleport, I'd be able to go anywhere I wanted without spending time or gas to get there. Imagine blinking and opening your eyes to a seaside view in California! But since I have yet to develop the ability of teleportation, I spend my time reading the newspaper, writing, playing video games, and eating copious amounts of honey laden yogurt. My advice is to remember to take some time for yourself in the midst of all your hard work. I am very excited about this year, and I hope the best for you all.

Rashina Shambe

My name is Rashina Shambe. I am from Aurora, CO and I graduated from Colorado Academy. Currently I am a sophomore, psychology major with a concentration in pre-med. One day I plan on becoming a pediatrician or working with kids that have mental disabilities. There are many other things that I want to do with my life but I know one thing for sure, kids will always be involved. My mother would have to be the biggest influence in my life. Without her I don't know where I would be. She has helped me overcome so many obstacles. The advice that I would give to new students is to stay on top of your studies and get to know your professors. And in the process of getting your degree don't forget to have fun.





Sharmayne Syas

My name is Sharmayne Syas and I have just entered my sophomore year of college. I am a speech communications major from Greeley, Colorado. I graduated from Northridge High School in 2006. My parents have been the biggest influences in my life. They let me know that all things are possible with hard work and dedication. I know that whatever I choose to do, they're behind me with complete support. A goal I have for my college career is to maintain good academic standards while building lasting relationships and networks. I chose to be a part of the student staff because I love being in the office for the family atmosphere, but I also felt like it was a good chance to give back to the office. A piece of advice that I have for new students is not to burn yourself out. Definitely, know your limits and don't exceed that. The moment you do, something ends up failing. I enjoy dancing and hanging out with friends in my spare time.

Word from Students

My Name is Ogenna and this is Me

OGENNA AGBIM

I am a senior technical journalism & communication public relations major. My name is Ogenna Agbim and this is me.

A native of Aurora, Colorado I decided to come to CSU because I knew it was going to be different. Even though I wanted to receive my undergraduate degree out of state, I still felt that CSU could give me the same satisfaction as going away. I'm glad I made the choice to come here.

As an active member of the CSU community, I participated in a range of organizations on campus. I modeled for the Apparel & Merchandising senior fashion show for two years. I've been involved in Black Student Alliance, Voices of Unity, United Women of Color, and was one of the founders for Africans United my freshman year here. This year I look forward to my new position as a peer mentor, and seizing as many opportunities as possible. Since this is my last year at CSU, I hope to make it my best yet. I think there will be plenty of surprises for me this year and I am anxious for them to unfold.

Because I plan to enroll in law school next fall, my biggest challenge this year is going to be preparing to take the LSAT (Law School Aptitude Test). My first choice of school is definitely the University of Miami, in Florida.

Right now, I am working very hard on securing a plan for me to be where I want to be after graduating.

Outside of school, I am always giving back to my community. I love volunteering. Not only can it be fun, but volunteering puts you in an active network to meet others that have similar goals and interests. Diversity is also very important to me. My friends are all different types of people – colors, shapes, sizes, professions; we are all in multiple categories. For example, I myself am a model, a singer, a Nigerian, and a musician. My friends and I are all very different from each other, but we are still able to connect and relate to others in an inclusive way. This makes me well rounded.

So, what kind of person am I? I am happiest when at peace with myself. The only thing I hate is drama. I love singing, dancing, and writing music and poetry. Now I feel that I am ready for the next step forward, never looking backwards, and just looking into the future. I'm looking forward to going back to Nigeria this winter.

This year I am a senior, graduating in the Spring of 2008. I've been here for the last four years, and still I don't think I've had the opportunity to introduce myself to more

people, which is why I chose to write this for the GRIOT. I hope you've all gotten to know a little bit more about me. I'm not strict, not too formal, and I don't bite. My name is Ogenna, and this is me!



You Are What You Think

JUWON MELVIN



"I'm stupid," "Nobody wants me,"
"I can't do anything right!"

What do all of these statements have in common? They're all examples of the negative dialogue we tell ourselves daily. Over 90 percent of your speaking is said to yourself. If you're unhappy with your current circumstances, you may need to evaluate what you're telling yourself on a daily basis.

I guarantee that what I am about to share with you, if applied, will change your life. Studies show that over 75 percent of self-talk is negative. So if 90 percent of your talking is to yourself and 75 percent of that dialogue is negative, it's no wonder why so many people are miserable!

What you tell yourself comes true. Remez Sasson, an expert in success consciousness, says, "What the mind expects, it finds." Your current circumstances are a result of the thoughts and choices you made in the past. The things you tell yourself and actions you take today will determine your future.

Here's how it works: throughout the day you have conscious thoughts about your abilities and self-worth. Your subconscious mind picks up the messages you consciously tell yourself. Your subconscious mind is as

gullible as a 5 year-old and as strong as the Incredible Hulk. Your subconscious mind believes whatever your conscious mind tells it, and works around the clock to make it come true. This is why it is so important to be aware of your thoughts! Whatever you tell yourself about your abilities and self-worth, your subconscious mind will make it come true!

So how do you recognize negative self-talk? According to the Mayo Clinic, the following are common examples of negative self-talk:

Filtering - Magnifying the negative aspects of something and filtering out the positives. You may have been going about your day as usual, and everything was good until you ran into that person that you don't like. Then when you get home and someone asks, "How was your day?" you respond, "It was horrible." In this example you filtered out all of the good things that happened to you today, (i.e. waking up, getting to work on time, completing your assignments, etc.) and magnified the one bad occurrence of your day.

Personalizing - Taking the blame when something bad happens. This occurs a lot in sports. When a team loses an important game one of the players may place the blame on him or herself saying, "I'm the reason we lost" or "Because we lost, I'm a loser." Sure you may have contributed to the loss, but you must learn to separate yourself from the outcome. You may have lost that game or you failed that test, but it doesn't mean you're a loser or a failure; it only means that you didn't achieve your desired outcome.

Now that you can recognize negative self-talk, let's talk about how to change this behavior and change your life for the better!

Don't say anything to yourself that you wouldn't say to someone else. You wouldn't walk up to someone and call him or her undesirable or incompetent. So don't say those things to yourself!

Change self-limiting statements to questions. Instead of saying, "I will never

be able to afford that," ask yourself, "How can I afford that?" Remember, your sub-conscious mind works around the clock to create what ever you tell it.

By now you may be thinking, "Juwon, that's great. I can recognize my negative self-talk patterns. I know how to change those habits to achieve more of my life goals. But how do I keep the momentum? What's going to keep me positive when times get tough?" Have no fear, the answers are written here!

Hang around positive, driven, smart people. The motivational speaker Jonathan Sprinkles often says, "You are the statistical average of the five closest people to you." If you feel like life is dragging you down, take a close look at your friends and family. You may need to change who you spend your time with.

Watch, read and listen to positive media. It's a fact of life that what goes into your body is processed, and then it comes out of your body. The same is true with information. If you consume negative information, negative thoughts and words will come out your mouth. Watch positive shows on television. Read inspiring books. Listen to uplifting music. If you're going to have a song stuck in your head, it might as well be one that inspires you!

These tactics have made a tremendous positive impact on my life. I know that if applied, they will change your life too! Remember: change your thoughts, change your life. Control your thoughts, control your destiny!

Juwon A. Melvin is a Senior Business Administration and Entrepreneurship student at Colorado State University. He is the Chief Executive Officer of Dream-Reel Media LLC. A company designed to empower young people through media. To contact Juwon please visit: www.dreamreelmedia.com

REFLECTIONS

Meet Jason Green

ANGELICA RILEY



Jason Green was the Associated Students of Colorado State University student body president for the '06-'07 school year. As he was the first ever African American ASCSU president, Green made history. Over the summer, we had the opportunity to find out a little bit more about him.

What is your name, age, and hometown?

Jason G. Green, 22 from Aurora, Co

What did you want to be when you were a kid? What do you want to be now?

I wanted to be a doctor growing up, a pediatrician, now I want to get more involved in the political realm.

Who were your influences in life?

I would have to say my mom, and

extended family members. But several teachers and other staff members have become close mentors of mine over the years.

When did you come to CSU?

I came to CSU right out of high school, so Fall 2002. I didn't really choose to come here, but it ended up being a positive experience in the end. I definitely endured a lot of ups and downs.

When did you get involved with student government?

I was involved with student government in high school, but I didn't get involved at CSU until last year.

Why did you decide to run for ASCSU student body president?

I actually was encouraged and convinced to run for president. I never intended on it, or wanted to. But in the end, felt I could make a difference...give ASCSU a face. It was a tremendous learning experience and really prepared me for the work force.

Did you realize you would be the first African American student body president?

I did realize it because it was a main focus all year. It was a different experience but I guess normal to any black student on campus.

What were your biggest challenges this year?

Getting students to care.

What went really well?

I would say a lot more students are now aware of ASCSU. I really enjoyed meeting all of the people that I did and receiving so much support. I liked being able to give CSU a different perspective on student issues. I also enjoyed bringing Common to campus.

What do you hope for in the future?

I hope more students will use their voice to accomplish things. Students really have a lot of power on this campus, but I would say the power is not really exercised.

What do you have to say to future student body presidents?

To make sure they ask all of the right questions, but also to make sure to engage and included as many students as possible.

What advice do you have for students?

To ask questions, and demand answers and to not get pushed around because we make up this university and should have our voices heard (in a professional manner of course).

What are your dreams and aspirations for the future?

Not really too sure yet. There is a lot I want to do: start a non-profit, help the environment, help the African American community understand the need to continue their education, law school, being able to create policy to effect change, to give those who don't have a voice some representation, etc. I always want to give back to those who have supported me and helped me to be successful. Most of all I just want to become stronger as a person and continue to make positive changes in society.

ALUMLINE

“AN EXCLUSIVE BENEFIT FOR MEMBERS OF THE CSU ALUMNI ASSOCIATION.”

Reporter and storyteller: uncovering society and self through the written word

BETH ETTER, '03

In elementary school, Monique Lewis loved participating in poetry projects. In fact, she wanted to be a poet when she grew up. “My parents always applauded me and encouraged me,” she says. Although she’s not a professional poet, Lewis ('04, Technical Journalism) does write for a living as a local government and education reporter in Vestal, New York.

Growing up in Aurora, Colorado, Lewis’ introduction to CSU was through a four-day Black Issues Forum during her junior year of high school. Because of that interaction with faculty, staff, students, and campus, Lewis chose CSU for her undergraduate schooling. “[CSU] was close to home, but far enough away. I heard it had a good journalism school, and I liked the town and the environment,” she says.

Lewis excelled here at CSU. With a Journalism major and English minor, Lewis worked at the Rocky Mountain Collegian as a general reporter, for crime beat, and for Greek life. “The Collegian helped me get comfortable asking the right questions and getting organized as a journalist and reporter, but the criticism was new. I took it very personally in the beginning, but I learned how to handle that and respond in a professional way,” she says.

Lewis also worked as the assistant editor and then editor of the Griot, the newsletter published by Black Student Services (BSS). Lewis was in charge of the design, story ideas, and editing. “I loved doing that.

It was fun. I got to meet lots of speakers that came to BSS,” she says.

With plenty of experience and significant determination, Lewis joined the Daily Times, the local newspaper for Salisbury, Maryland. In June of 2006 she became the education reporter, and in October she wrote an article entitled “Be a leader, not a follower: Role models strive to save young black men from negative stereotypes,” which received acclaim from readers. “My manager and editor said they received more feedback on this article than on any other article in a long time,” says Lewis.

Lewis wrote the article on the basis of a school board task force working on how to control behavior in schools. The task force found that African-American males were referred to the office at higher rates than Caucasian males. In fact, 28,000 black males were suspended for disruptive behavior in the '05-'06 school year in Maryland compared to 16,000 of their white male counterparts.

Through her research and speaking with boys at a detention center and a private school, Lewis found that there is a lot of peer pressure on young black children, especially boys, to maintain a tough exterior, and that doing well in school is uncool.

Peer pressure is no stranger to Lewis. “Because I talked proper and wanted to do well in school, kids called me oreo (black on the outside, white on the inside), but my parents

supported me and encouraged me so I didn’t fall victim to it [peer pressure],” says Lewis.

Because of the depth and success of Lewis’ article, she was invited to speak on a panel called The State of the State of Young Black Men in Baltimore and Washington, D.C. Held at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, a historically black college, on the morning of February 22, 2007, Lewis joined Elijah E. Cummings, a congressman from Maryland and experts from the New York and Maryland area to discuss the state of young black men. “They asked me why I wrote the article and what I found in my research. I shared my experience of feeling like an outcast because I was a good student,” Lewis says.

The colloquium was a success: it was well-attended by students and community members, and the local television station (WMDT) covered the event, as did Lewis’ paper, the Daily Times.

With two years of newspaper experience and a desire for a new challenge, Lewis moved to Vestal, New York in January 2007 for a position with the Press & Sun-Bulletin. The challenges have come quickly. She was sent recently to a murder site to speak with police and report on the crime scene. “I’ve never done that before and I’m glad I had the experience. I didn’t back down in asking the captain questions about allegations against the officers,” she says.

With a constant eye on the future, Lewis’ ultimate goal is to become a foreign correspon-



dent in a German-speaking country. She began learning German in middle school, studied in Austria for a semester in college, and has worked with a German teacher in Maryland. “I want to keep up my German and combine my language skills with my career as a journalist,” she says. If the dedication Lewis has shown to her previous writing projects is any indication, we’re sure to see her name next to stories coming out of Europe.

This article was originally published in the April 2007 issue of AlumLine, the CSU Alumni Association's monthly member newsletter.

Top Ten Student for College of Business

ANGELICA RILEY

Whitnee DeAnn Pleasant graduated in May as one of the top students at CSU. Because of her excellent grades and involvement, this business administration major was one of the top ten graduating seniors in the College of Business.

Raised in Denver, CO, Pleasant graduated from Montbello High School. She said she left high school with aspirations of becoming a lawyer. After studying at Colorado State University, her goal changed. "I want to work more in finance," Pleasant said. "That field ... is more geared towards my personality."

Pleasant made the decision to come to Colorado State when she received a scholarship from the Black Issues Forum, during her junior year of high school. Upon coming to CSU, she wasted no time with making the campus her own. Pleasant was involved with the Black Student Services Rites of Passage program, the Albert C. Yates Leadership Development Institute, United Women of Color, and mentored for the College of Business Mentoring Program. She held office as treasurer for Black Definition, treasurer for Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and president for the National Pan-Hellenic Council.

"The African American community on campus is so small that to keep the organizations in good standing, people have to get involved and just participate. I felt like I was definitely giving back to my community and portraying a positive image of the black student on campus," she said.

Like all students, Pleasant had to overcome fears and difficulties. "My biggest fear was failing my classes," Pleasant said. "I overcame that by studying extra hard."

And she adapted very well to being a minority on campus. "Sometimes it was very uncomfortable being the only black person in class. But you have to reach out to other students. That's how we build stronger connections on campus and in general."

As a student with high expectations for herself, Pleasant looked to her mother, friends, and the Office of Black Student Services for support. The connections she made here at CSU proved to be very influential. "Blanche Hughes, Jennifer Molock, Blane Harding, Theresa Grangruth, Tony Daniels... They are all about higher education and bettering yourself. It was an inspiration just to see their achievements."



Pleasant received several awards for her hard work and commitment. She received an award for having the highest cumulative GPA for African American students for both her first and second year at CSU. She was also given the Outstanding Freshman, Sophomore, and Junior awards. And her senior year, she was one of the top ten seniors for the College of Business.

"Manage your time wisely," was Pleasant's advice to students. "Know your limits, become involved and stay focused."



Spotlight on CSU

ADESUWA ELAIHO

The spotlight on CSU is an event that allows the University and the community an opportunity to come together for networking, lunch, and an educational program. In February of 2006 the spotlight focused on the life and journey of Lt. Colonel John Mosely. Lt. Colonel Mosely was amongst the first African Americans to enter Colorado State University and the first Tuskegee Airman. Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated was asked to give a presentation that included history and a step routine to the audience of one hundred faculty, staff, donors and sponsors. The spotlight offered great insight in to the history and struggles of African Americans and was a great kick off event for Black History Month.

Vice President for Student Affairs: Dr. Hughes' Path to Success

ANGELICA RILEY

In January of 2007, Dr. Blanche Hughes became the Vice President of Student Affairs. "It's been fun!" Hughes said with a smile. "I have a division that is incredible; Student Affairs has incredible people." Her work does not end at Student Affairs. Hughes taught a seminar with Key Academic Community and Student Affairs in Higher Education Masters Program (SAHE), because she loves to teach students. "I have been fortunate to find my niche and I absolutely love what I do."

For Blanche, finding her niche was a journey that first began in Lexington Kentucky, the place of her childhood. "When I was a kid I wanted to be an elementary school teacher," Hughes recalled. However, her goals and successes went beyond elementary school. "I never did [teach elementary school] a day in my life. But the education part never changed."

Growing up, Hughes was greatly influenced by her parents. "I think that's where I got my love of education, strong work ethic, and my sense of identity." Inspiration from teachers, professors, and colleagues further strengthened her dream of working in education.

In 1982, Hughes came with her husband and children to Colorado State University, where she received a master's degree in education in college student personnel administration (now called SAHE). Blanche mentioned that she first came to Fort Collins in June. "The assistantship told me there were not many African Americans. I did not see another black person for 2 full weeks, and that kind of

freaked me out. When we went places people would remember us. They were curious." She said that there was nothing here to bring African Americans together but the Office of Black Student Services.

Despite the struggles she faced upon moving here, Hughes has had good experiences and fond memories of Fort Collins. "I raised my kids here. I've made lifelong friends of all different races, which is invaluable for my kids. Now I feel like we have a lot of black people here, even though we still have work to do. The community has grown."

Hughes worked as the director for the Office of Black Student Services from 1985 to 1998, with a two year leave. She implemented several programs during that time. She was particularly proud of starting the African American success class. It was a 200 level course about history and issues to help black students transition. She said that every black athlete was in her class along with other first year black students. Blanche also initiated a multicultural curriculum infusion project. This was a year-long training program for faculty, with the purpose to expose people to diversity, foster change, and make classes more inclusive. In an 8 year period, over one hundred faculty participated.

"I had the opportunity to connect with so many African American students," Hughes said about her years as the director of Black Student Services. "It was a tremendous experience. What better way to give back then to help other people meet their dreams? When I see them being successful, it is just a kick to know that I

had a part in their success."

Hughes' path toward success was paved with hard work and passion for what she does. Now she is the Vice President for Student Affairs and loves her job. "Find your passion," was Hughes' advice for students. "That may change and that's ok. Learn to think, to love, to care about yourself and other people. Focus on trying to learn about being a better person. If you feel good about who you are, you will be successful."



Memories

JESSICA BAUMANN

I would just like to say thank you all of those who read the GRIOT and appreciated its content; and thank to all those who contributed. I would just like to say Angelica Riley is a great editor and has stepped up tremendous amounts.

Taking a step back into time, I would just like to reminisce on all the events and memories that have past by this year.

The year begins by welcoming new and old students in August to the campus with "Welcome Black Week", as well as an ice-cream social put on by Black Student Services.

In September the new freshmen and transfer students are treated to a retreat where new friends are made and bonds become stronger; followed by the Albert C. Yates Leadership Institute, making the students of today leaders for the future.

October was extra special because the office of Black Student Services celebrated 30 years strong on the campus of Colorado State University and another leadership opportunity presented itself with the student of color leadership retreat.

In November the biggest event of the year took place. Hip-hop explosion out did itself and brought great excitement and entertainment.

November and December brought snow blizzards and flight problems for those trying to take vacations over the Christmas break. Let's not forget those holiday finals, yuck!

In January, Martin Luther King Jr. day was celebrated with a march in old town and then spring semester classes.

February was the celebration of Black History Month and that brought great events such as former NBA

player Nevil Shed and a comedy show that had people falling out of their seats.

There were parties, down time and more snow, but overall the 2006-2007 academic year was something to remember.

For those of you graduating, congratulations, and for those of you returning, look forward to all of the events that will take place in the fall. You shall not be disappointed.



JESSICA BAUMANN WAS A GRIOT EDITOR FOR THE 2006-2007 SCHOOL YEAR.

CREATIVE CORNER

Novelty

BY FRANK J. WARD, SENIOR SEEKING ENGLISH



Sitting here
 I wonder what it's like
 Not knowing the power you possess
 Walking around without a care
 Someone next to you is just like you
 The same human shell of the same pearl
 No fear of dark blue suits showing off
 Tinted glasses silver gadgets
 Encased in midnight glaring in the sun.

While I sit here
 The only shell of blackness
 Insignificant to thousands of eyes
 Watching like I'm some kind of novelty
 Is he a ball player with those shoulders
 Stretching arm to arm of his chair
 Legs thick with power
 Visible divots and valleys on black skin
 Got to be from fights right?

Sitting here
 I know these eyes are wrong
 But decades is what it will take
 For different thoughts of blackness
 No I'm not straight from flat sets
 No silver bracelets will ever connect
 From my two wrists
 I have real dreams of grandeur
 Being a success so those eyes will have access
 To a dark face worth more than spit lines
 More ability than 20 points a night

Inflict more damage with my mind
 Than any defense line.

While I sit here
 The only shell of blackness
 I realize
 I'm a novelty
 Head held high I sweat pride
 Stroll perfect without a hiccup
 Clean cut cuffs cinnamon collar
 Khaki pants pressed with precision
 Shoes without laces slick with shine
 Distinguished proper dialect
 Uncanny intellect.

This is a real shell of blackness
 The novelty for masses to follow
 So thousands of eyes will see
 What true blackness can be.

EDITOR'S NOTE

Black Hair Care in Fort Collins

ANGELICA RILEY

One major question on every black person's mind when they come to Fort Collins is, where can I get my hair done? In a town with a very small African American population, that is a very good question.

Having called several hair salons around Fort Collins, I struggled to find certified hair professionals working in the area. Therefore many students seek hair care in other cities. "I go to Cheyenne to get my hair done," said sophomore Sharmayne Syas. Most black students say they go to Denver for a haircut.

But black people have found ways to care for their hair in

Fort Collins. Senior Rachelle "Rock" Mims says that she does her own hair. In fact, students like Rock and Antoinette Hill, also a senior, say that they have plenty of experience in doing other people's hair although they are not licensed.

For people who prefer only professional cosmetologists to cut their hair, there are a few options in Fort Collins. Theresa Grangruth gets her hair done by Karen Legros. "She's the only one I've ever let cut my hair," said Grangruth. Legros is an instructor at Cheeks Beauty Academy and teaches students how to do black hair. Legros referred me to a former student of hers, Ruby Nelson,

who works in a salon in Old Town and does braids and extensions. There is also Debbie Williams, who has turned her own house into a salon.

Students also wonder where they can purchase black hair care products, as the selection at Walmart is disparagingly limited. Distinctive Ebony Hair and Beauty Supply sells products for African Americans and is located on West Oak Street. And some students, myself included, say that they have bought some products at Sally's stores in Fort Collins.

Whether they seek out professionals, have their friends do their hair, or travel to Denver,

black people in Fort Collins have found ways to get their hair done.

There is a Black Hair Supplies and Services binder in the Office of Black Student Services that has more information.

NOTE THAT THE OFFICE OF BLACK STUDENT SERVICES IS A GREAT PLACE TO GIVE YOU IDEAS AND INFORMATION BUT IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APPOINTMENTS THEMSELVES.

First College Experience

JOSEPH GOINGS

College is a lot of hard work and late nights but it will pay off in the end. I am only a month into it, but I'm fully prepared for the long haul.

Four years seems like a long time, but my optimism and desire for success are driving me through this collegiate journey and have helped me get through this first month.

Being truly independent for the first time in my life is quite an experience in itself! With independence comes great responsibil-

ity and with great responsibility comes many important duties. With no one there to say "do this" and "do that," doing things for myself is vital. No longer am I dependant upon others.

I have to motivate myself. Even so, I do not expect to find success alone, because I did not get to where I am now alone. All along the way, people need the assistance of others to reach their goals.

I think that the college experience can make a person

grow up rather quickly, as it is doing with me right now.

These next four years are going to be quite the ride.

PROFESSIONAL STAFF

10 Years in the LSC

DR. JENNIFER WILLIAMS MOLOCK



Greetings!

Welcome to the 2007-2008 academic year! Here in the Office of Black Student Services we are excited about the year ahead!

We have spent a great deal of time over the last year evaluating and restructuring our programs and services to meet the needs of you, our current students. I am going to take a few moments to update you on the exciting new and revamped programs that are available in the office.

For our first-year and transfer students we have the new and improved; Rites of Passage Leadership Program. The program includes the new student retreat, a peer mentoring component, monthly activities/seminars and creating an individualized 4 year program plan.

The second year program is still the Albert C. Yates Leadership Development Institute (named after the University's first and

only African American president), which focuses on the leadership skills and personal development of students. The program includes goal setting, citizenship and constitution discussions, fundraising/grant writing, parliamentary procedures and a leadership retreat!

Our newest program, the Donald W. Wilson Professional Mentoring Program, is for juniors. This program named after a special CSU Alum, Donald Wilson who upon his passing a memorial fund was established. This program connects juniors with faculty, staff and community members with one-on-one mentoring. If you are interested there is still plenty of time to apply. The deadline is November 12th but spaces are limited!

Finally our senior year experience, the Graduation Project will be an opportunity to keep our seniors engaged and focused. The program is designed to assist with the transition from being an undergraduate student to either a graduate student or going into your careers.

As you can see, there is truly something for everyone! We are focused on retention and committed to your academic success. There are many other programs the office has to offer and over the course of the year I will share them in the Director's Corner so keep looking out!

Also, this year marks the 10th anniversary of office space in the Lory Student Center!

What a great time to revamp our office programs! (Prior to 1997, we were in Ayelsworth Hall.)

I hope that you find this first 2007-2008 issue of the GRIOT to be informative, interesting and enjoyable. A special thank you to our Editor-in-Chief, Angelica Riley and our Assistant Editor, Joseph Goings for all their hard work in making this issue possible.

Have a great semester!

Dedicated to Excellence,

Dr. Jenn

Farewell Theresa Grangruth

ANGELICA RILEY

"It has indeed been a wonderful experience at CSU and I have grown so much during my employment here. I have made long lasting relationships with many of the students, faculty/staff and community members," said Theresa Grangruth about her time working in the Office of Black Student Services.

Theresa Grangruth, born in Georgia, has lived in Fort Collins for 21 years. For the last six years, Theresa has been the Administrative Assistant in the Office of Black Student Services. And in that time she has become an integral part of the office. Now, in the beginning of November, Theresa and her husband Darrell will be moving to Minnesota. "I will definitely miss Fort Collins after being here for twenty-one years but must move on to the next phase of life," she said.

While hoping the best for Theresa and her husband, many people are sad to see her go. "From freshman year until senior year, [she] always managed to make us feel at home no matter how far from family," said senior Haimy Assefa.

Sophomore Marlon Blake said, "[She is] a woman who is like a mom to me ... She was the heart of this office and she will truly be missed."

"It has been a pleasure working with Theresa these past six plus years. Theresa and I have a special relationship that extends beyond the work environment. She has been a personal inspiration to me and to my family. She knows me well even to the point where we finish one another's thoughts and sentences at times! The office and the University commu-

nity will truly miss her and the state of Minnesota will receive a jewel!" said Dr. Jennifer Williams Molock, who hired Theresa six years ago.

Theresa hopes that she has touched the lives of students. I am certain that she has touched many lives in this office. She definitely has touched mine.

Thank you, Ms. Theresa Grangruth, for all your hard work in the office, your support, and your friendship. We will miss you. Best wishes to you in Minnesota.





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November / December 2007

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
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| 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 Hip Hop Explosion |
| 11 | 12 | 13 A Girl Like Me | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 Fall Break |
| 18 Fall Break | 19 Fall Break | 20 Fall Break | 21 Fall Break | 22 Fall Break | 23 Fall Break | 24 Fall Break |
| 25 Fall Break | 26 Classes Resume | 27 | 28 | 29 Junior Program Kick-off | 30 | |

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| 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 |
| 23 | 24 | 25 Christmas | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 |
| 30 | 31 New Years Eve | | | | | |