

# The GRIOT

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**VOLUME I, AUGUST ISSUE**

**Colorado State University**



## *Letter From The Director*

*Bridgette Johnson*

Welcome to the 2011-2012 academic year at Colorado State University! For those of you who are new to the Ram Family, we welcome you with open arms and trust that your experience has been a great one so far!

We are so glad you chose Colorado State University as the place where you will pursue your educational journey.

Whether it is your bachelors, masters, doctorate or professional degree, you have made a wise decision!

For those of you returning to campus this fall, we are glad you are back! You too, have made a wise decision!

Our goal is to support you academically, professionally and personally. We will do this by providing cultural enrichment and leadership development opportunities throughout your academic career at Colorado State University.

Remember while being a college student is exciting and full of

opportunities, your ultimate responsibility is to graduate, so please prioritize accordingly!

We offer mentoring, leadership, professional and cultural programs that are specifically designed with YOU in mind!

Our staff, professionals and students alike, are here to be of service to you! We have an exciting year ahead of us and we can only accomplish our mission with your involvement and dedication to the office.

Make it your home away from home and the place where you can Continue to develop as a student by getting involved in the many programs and resources we have available.

If you have not done so already, make sure you stop by and introduce yourself!

## ***UNC/CSU Football game...***

Did someone say tailgate???? Yes, join the Black/African American Cultural Center for a good ole time as we cheer on the OUR football team! The tailgate will happen occur from 9:00 - 11:0 0a.m. If your interested in joining us...please call the office NOW at 970.491.5781 or better yet STOP on by and sign up!!!

***Go RAMS!!!!***

## **Inside this issue**

<i>Letter from the Director</i>	1
<i>Welcome back Kick-Back</i>	2
<i>Peer mentors and Coordinators</i>	3
<i>Experience of a Lifetime</i>	5
<i>Student Organizations</i>	6
<i>Calendar</i>	7

*Peer Mentors and Coordinators for the 2011-2012 school year*



**Name:** Rachel Medlock  
**Double Major:** Political Science, Sociology concentration in Criminal Justice, Minor—Philosophy  
**Year:** Sophomore  
**Quote:** “They tell me that it’s God’s will I’m asking God will ya”- J. Cole  
**I wanted to be a mentor because I understand the anxiety that comes with being a black student in a predominantly white school. I wanted to those students so they would know they are not alone and if they need anything I will be here.**



**Name:** Alexandria Norris  
**Major:** Human Development & Family Studies with a concentration in early childhood education.  
**Year:** Sophomore  
**Quote:** “The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible.” — Arthur C. Clarke  
**I choose to be a mentor because I want to be a friend, resource, proactive guide, sounding board, and a problem solving aid to those whom I have a shared identity with.**



**Name:** Kayla Tolbert  
**Major:** International Studies, Political Science, Concentration in Middle East and North Africa  
**Year:** Sophomore  
**Quote:** "Love yourself first and then we can all start loving each other" Jill Scott.  
**I chose to work in the office because I enjoy the atmosphere within the office. I also enjoy the programs the office facilitates as well. I am happy to be a part of the team now and look forward to working in the**

office.



**Name:** Amira Ababio  
**Major:** Human Development and Family Studies  
**Year:** Junior  
**Quote:** “You can only become truly accomplished at something you love. Don't make money your goal. Instead, pursue the things you love doing, and then do them so well that people can't take their eyes off you.”

**I chose to become a peer mentor for a second year because I truly enjoyed my experience last year. I felt blessed that I got a chance to bond with so many people including my mentees and the office staff. I love the relationship I have with the office and I truly believe that my position as a mentor allowed me to create these relationships.**



**Name:** Kim Washington  
**Major:** Apparel Design and Human Development and Family Studies  
**Year:** Sophomore  
**Quote:** "Carpe Diem...Seize The day"  
**I wanted to become a mentor because I wanted to become a great resource for the incoming students and to anyone else who needs resources, an ear for listening, or someone to give advice.**



**Name:** Alicia Griffin  
**Major:** Sociology Major with a Criminal Justice concentration  
**Year:** Junior  
**Quote:** "Enjoy your life today, because yesterday is gone and tomorrow may never come." -Alan Coren

**I became a peer mentor for the B/AACC office for the opportunity to share my experience as a college student with incoming freshmen. I believe that guidance is an important ingredient for a successful college experience.**



**Name:** Shannon Patilla  
**Major:** Health & Exercise Science with a concentration in Sports Medicine  
**Year:** Sophomore  
**Quote:** “To be nobody but yourself in a world which is doing its best, day and night, to make you like everybody else means to fight the hardest battle which any human being can fight, and never stop fighting.” — E.E. Cummings.

**I felt compelled to be a mentor because of my own personal experience as a freshman last year. I encountered many positive opportunities and learned more about myself and the environment I occupy, both educationally and socially. When the opportunity to be a mentor presented itself, I realized it would be a great way to enhance the experience of other incoming students. Being a mentor allows me to be a resource and encourage new students during this defining moment of their lives.**

*“They tell me that it’s God’s will I’m asking God will ya”- J. Cole*



**Name:** Shanel Hughes  
**Major:** Communication Studies  
**Year:** Sophomore  
**Quote(s):** "There is always something little trying to keep you from doing something big" and "Rejection is God's Protection"  
**I want to help and support Black students on this campus. My dream is to increase the number of Black students going and staying in college. I feel like by making connections with someone they will feel more inclined to do this. I also want to**

**work with college students one day, and feel this is a great way to start. I am passionate about my people and their success and would like to contribute to it in any way I can.**



**Name:** Zari Oliver  
**Major:** Human Development & Family Studies/ Communication Studies  
**Year:** Sophomore  
**Quote:** "Make the most of your life."  
**I chose to be a mentor because I have been a mentor through several organizations all over campus, however, I have not really gotten the chance to mentor students who look like me and I thought this was the perfect opportunity to do so! I know how helpful it can be to**

**have a mentor who also identifies as a person of color, especially since we are an underrepresented group here at CSU.**



**Name:** Edward Harlan, otherwise known as Ed.  
**Major:** Philosophy and minoring in Criminal Justice.  
**Year:** Junior  
**I chose to work in the BAACC Office mainly because I needed a work-study job, I like the people that work in the office and I like the "homey" atmosphere within the BAACC Office. I chose to be a peer mentor because I wanted to give back to the community.**



**Name:** Danielle McConnell  
**Major:** Communication Studies  
**Year:** Senior  
**Quote:** "Don't run when you lose, don't cry when it hurts."  
**I chose to work in the office because it has impacted my life for the past three years and it opens the door for opportunities to learn and grow while also experiencing all different type of individuals.**



**Name:** Raven-Olivia Kellum  
**Major:** Sociology with a concentration in Criminology and Criminal Justice.  
**Year:** Senior  
**Quote(s):** "Dream as if you'll live forever; Live as if you'll die today" and "To whom much is given much is expected".

**I chose to work in the office because it allows me to be involved in the black community on campus.**



**Name:** Leah Andrews  
**Major:** Political Science with a certificate in Diversity in Law  
**Year:** Senior  
**Quote:** "Be the change you want to see in the world." Ghandi  
**I chose to work in the B/AACC office my sophomore year because I wanted to make the B/AACC office my home away from home. I wanted it to be the one place where anyone,**

**regardless of race felt welcome and appreciated especially African American students. In a university where only 400 out of 25000 students look like you, it's easy for one to feel under the microscope. In the office I like to think that the staff here, including the mentors are in your corner and willing to work with you, and encourage you. As a freshman, I was lucky enough to have a mentor that was willing to help make the transition from high school to college that much easier for me.**



**Name:** Garrett Hayes  
**Major:** Speech Communications w/ Concentration in Education  
**Year:** Senior  
**Quote:** "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence then is not an act, but a habit"  
**I want to give back to the Black students on campus and provide them with an environment conducive to their success.**



**Name:** Tiana Franklin Douglas  
**Major:** Psychology  
**Year:** Freshman  
**Quote:** "Behind every shadow is a beam of light."  
**The office makes me feel at ease, and seems like a place where I will be surrounded by people I can get along with.**

No Picture

**Name:** Dominique Oliver  
**Major:** Business Finance and Minor in Sociology  
**Year:** Senior  
**Quote:** "Everyday strive to do better, know more, and try harder than you did the day before"

**I chose to be a mentor for the office because I enjoy giving back and making a positive impact on people lives. That great feeling you receive from influencing a mentee is what gives me inspiration to get involved in mentoring. I find it very**

**beneficial and I believe it is much needed to have a mentor for guidance. I have had the opportunity to have a mentor and it has helped me through some of my toughest times being here at Colorado State University. I was a transfer student and I had a hard time adjusting to an unfamiliar environment. However, because I had a mentor he helped me become more comfortable with where I was at and wanted to be.**

No Picture

**Name:** Destini McKenzie  
**Major:** Psychology with a concentration in Mind, Brain, and Behavior and a minor in Microbiology.  
**Year:** Sophomore  
**Quote:** "Life Isn't About Finding Yourself. Life Is About Creating Yourself"

**I chose to be a peer mentor this year because I felt my mentor didn't give me all the advice that I could have received. Becoming a mentor, I can help others in a way that I wasn't.**

No Picture

**Name:** Tyreesa Reeves  
**Major:** Double major in Psychology with a emphasis in Early Child Trauma and Sociology with an emphasis in Contemporary Race and Ethnic Relations.

**Year:** Sophomore  
**Quote:** "Pain is inevitable, suffering is optional"

**I chose to be a mentor for one reason, I wanted to make a difference in someone's life.**

No Picture

**Name:** Raquel Iman Robertson  
**Major:** Business Management.  
**Year:** Sophomore  
**Quote:** "I had to make my own living and my own opportunity. But I made It! don't sit down and wait for opportunities to come. Get up and make them."  
Madame C.J Walker

**I decided to become a mentor in the B/AACC office because the office made me feel at home my freshman year. Also, even though I did not exercise my mentor last year, I now wish I had because being in the position of a mentor I get the chance to see how hard it can be to be one. So this year I wanted to come in and help the incoming freshman's be more involved and inform them on how helpful a mentor will be.**

No Picture

**Name:** Marie Bluit  
**Major:** Sociology/Criminal justice  
**Year:** Senior  
**Quote:** "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." Psalm 23:4  
**The people who work in the B/AACC office are all amazing people and bring so much energy to everyone who comes in.**

**My desire was to be a part of such a great group of people.**

### **Upcoming Programs You should be Involved In:**

### **Leadership Development**

### **Donald W. Wilson**

#### **Institute**

-Junior and Senior Program

-Sophomore Program

-Meets Wednesdays @12:00 p.m. beginning September 28th

-Meets Thursdays @ 3:30 p.m.

-Applications due September 22nd in B/AACC

-Application due September 14th in B/AACC

# *Experience Of A Lifetime*

*Tiana Douglas*

Even though the Fall Retreat is a well-known event thrown for freshmen to intermingle with students at all levels and become involved with their community, meeting and greeting was the furthest from my mind as I woke up at 5:30 that morning.

I honestly didn't know what to expect going into this retreat, because all I could think of was how everyone was going to be distant or judgmental, but surprisingly I was mistaken.

Although many of the other students and I were on the edge of falling asleep, making the effort to actual go to this retreat was well worth it.

At this retreat, not only did we meet staff and upperclassmen, we were involved with icebreakers, team-building activities, and discussions that were very interesting.

However, the most memorable part of the retreat was when we went back to campus and did our last portion of the day, which was approximately forty-five minutes of experiencing being a slave.

The leaders of our groups, blind folded us and had each separate group go on a trust walk, a representation of our journey through our college career, while negative and positive voices would influence our decisions along the way.

Once we reached the end, they lead us into a dark room, with the beat of drums playing in the background. Still

blindfolded, they told us to trust them as they taped our hands together and sat us down upon the floor in rows behind one another.

The room at this point was hot, noisy, and uncomfortable as I sat there amongst the other students and listened to the soundtrack of water playing around us.

At this point, it finally dawned on me that this activity they were engaging us in, was us being slaves. While I was tied up, I felt an overwhelming emotional response as one of the leaders began to read an excerpt from the past of slavery to all of us and couldn't help but to feel even more uncomfortable, not just because of my physical strain, but because of the fact this is what our ancestors experienced that whole time.

It made me feel a sense of pride and disbelief at the same time; however, I was and still am thankful that the Cultural Center gave me this opportunity to experience something so rare.

It was refreshing to be around a group of people that felt the same compassion and values as I do. The cultural center's retreat is something I would highly recommend for years to come!

## *Welcome Back Kick-Back*

*Kayla Tolbert*

Last Wednesday, the Black African American Cultural Center, otherwise known as the "BAACC" office, hosted a barbeque near the intramural fields by the recreation center.

The event brought together new and returning students to enjoy a welcome back to campus for another hard working year.

The attendees enjoyed food provided by Famous Dave's as well as vibrant music to set the tone for the reunion of students.

This event enhanced conversations among freshmen and upper classmen and gave the chance for students to ask questions about the BAACC office and the campus also.

As the students became well acquainted with each other, some revealed their opinion on Colorado State University within their first week of school.

Some freshmen found the transition to the campus easier such as Jeffrey Smith who mentions "The campus is beautiful... It is really easy to navigate around it." If there were any questions or information around the campus, this event provided the chance for students to find it.

The barbeque also gave a chance for some students, especially freshmen to express their expectations of college for the year to come. As always, some students are anxious and nervous but some are more confident than others when it comes to facing your first year of college.

For instance, freshman Darren Gardner expects "College will not be as difficult because I have the fundamentals to be successful in college." Darren Gardner is technically a sophomore due to his credits received through the International Baccalaureate program, so college work may come easy for him more than others.

There are many expectations and questions about this year at Colorado State University and the Welcome Back Kickback was there to simply set the tone for the school year and provide information about resources the Black/African American Cultural Center can provide.

*The campus is beautiful... It is really easy to navigate around it."*

The difference between involvement and commitment is like ham and eggs. The chicken is involved; the pig is committed.— Martina Navratilova

**Black Student Alliance (BSA) - Joy Anderson – joy.anderson@rams.colostate.edu**

BSA is a student-led coalition that sponsors cultural activities and advocates the social and political interests of African-American students on the campus of CSU.

**Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.**  
**Joy Anderson**

**Africans United - Vera Asuamuzuah — ventaclus07@yahoo.com**

The purpose of Africans United is to bring awareness of the diverse and rich cultures of Africa within the CSU campus and surrounding community, to establish and participate in activities designed to bring the Diaspora African community together as one and to unite African students on the CSU campus as well as in the community.

Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. seeks to cultivate and encourage high scholastic and ethical standards and to promote unity and friendship among university women.

**Shades - Tim Gold—tdgold@rams.colostate.edu**

Our mission is to create a friendly atmosphere for people who are multiracial and/or in current interracial relationships. Our focus is to educate individuals in an academic and social setting about the ever-growing phenomenon of multiracial people in today's society.

**Omega Psi Phi- Keenan Bender – haneefisa@yahoo.com**

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. purpose is to bring about union of college men of similar high ideals of scholarship, and manhood in order to stimulate the attainment of ideas and ambitions of its members.

**United Men of Color - Edward Harlan edward\_harlan@yahoo.com**

The mission of United Men of Color is to make a positive change on campus and in the community through service, leadership development, building community amongst students and faculty, but most importantly, culturally inclusive programming.

**Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc.- Candice Davis - davisca@rams.colostate.edu**

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. has clearly distinguished itself as a public service organization that boldly confronts the challenges of African Americans and, hence, all Americans.

**Black Definition - Danielle McConnell – danikm28@gmail.com**

Student organization that plans and implements Black History programs throughout the year, with a strong emphasis during the month of February.

**United Women of Color - Raven-Olivia – ravenolivia.kellum@gmail.com**

United Women of Color is a formally recognized student organization at CSU. UWC is a group of women who are ethnically diverse. We value our individuality, but there is power in numbers. We are here to represent and promote issues that concern us. UWC is predominantly from the African American perspective, however it is not exclusive.

Colorado State University  
Black/African American Cultural Center  
204 Lory Student Center  
Fort Collins, Colorado 80523-8016  
**Office Hours: 8:00 am– 5:00 pm**

Phone: 970-491-5781  
Fax: 970-491-0492  
Email: bss@lamar.colostate.edu

# September 2011

Sun

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Sat

				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Rites of Passage	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> <i>B/AACC tailgate for UNC/CSU Game</i>
<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Academic Success: Note Taking	<b>15</b> President's Address	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> <i>CSU/CU Game</i>
<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Diversity Symposium Thru the 22nd	<b>21</b> Leadership Development Institute	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> GPS
<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Donald Wilson Program begins	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	