

# Griot

Sept/Oct 2018

Editor: Kerriana Tatum

Graphic Designer: Jordan Logan

MITES OF PASSAGE  
RETREAT

MEET YOUR NEW  
RETENTION  
COORDINATOR

RAMAPALOOZA  
WELLKINDA

WELCOME B/AACC BBQ



*In the records of West African history, "Griot" (pronounced gree-oh) was the honored name bestowed upon wise and knowledgeable story tellers entrusted with the task of documenting tribal histories and genealogies.*



**Director's Note**  
**Meet Your 2018 - 2019 B.E.S.T Staff**  
**Ice Cream Social**

**Student Spotlight: CJ Porter**  
**Student Athlete Article**

# DIRECTOR'S NOTE



Fall 2018 has begun and life in the Black/African American Cultural Center has been pretty busy. Just want to give a shout out to the 1st year students. Your involvement at the Rites of Passage retreat and in the office has truly made this community better! We look forward to seeing you grow as leaders in your respective communities, and the campus.

Thank you for being YOU!

I am also happy to WELCOME BACK Mr. Adrian Jones. Adrian serves as our Student Development and Retention Coordinator.

In such a short time he has made a significant impact on the work we do and the relationships we develop. As you keep reading you will learn more about him... If you have not met him, please stop by to say hello. Our two new Lead Peer Coordinators, while awkward together, they make a huge difference in our day to day work by lightening the load

and serving as liaisons – thank you Janaye Matthews and Ally Johnson. Finally, again, having a full professional staff and awesome student staff who have made the transition to college for many 1st year students smooth, I believe we are on the road to an awesome year as we focus on Cultural Programming, Leadership Development, Academic Enhancement, Mentoring Opportunities, Personal Development and Service Learning. I continue to hear folks say, “stay focused on your academics; that is what you came here for.” I get it, while this is very TRUE, AND AGAIN I must remind you to be aware of your emotional and mental state, seek counseling if needed, and have a little fun!

Looking forward to an awesome year full of opportunity!

Sending LOVE and positive vibes on behalf of the Pro Staff

~ Ms. B



# MEET ADRIAN JONES

## OUR NEW STUDENT DEVELOPMENT & RETENTION COORDINATOR



### What is your position in the office?

"Student Development and Retention Coordinator. I assist in programming in order to enhance the engagement of students."

### Where is your hometown and where did you graduate from?

"Denver, Colorado.  
MLK Jr. Early College & CSU with a bachelors in Social Work."

### What are you looking forward to this year?

"I am looking forward to the R.O.P Retreat, Black History month, and planning some of the upcoming office events. I am also looking forward to growing as a professional, and in my personal life."

### How is the transition from being a CSU student to now a CSU Professional?

"There are different up and down's that I am working on. There is also the great process of growing to be a professional for my community."

### Why did you choose to come back to CSU?

"I really love the work that the office does and appreciated the support the Black African American Cultural Center gave to me as a student, and so I am honored to be giving back the support."

interview conducted by: Jaquikeyah Fields

# Meet Your 2018 B.E.S.T. Staff



**Ally Johnson**  
4th year  
Major: Psychology  
Minor: Clinical/Counseling  
Amonique@rams.colostate.edu

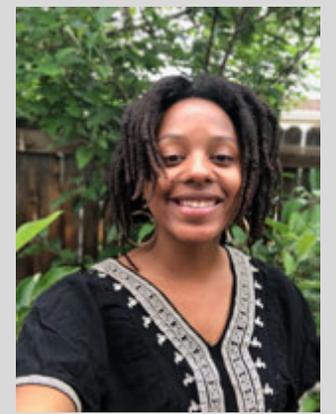


**Janaye Matthews**  
3rd year  
Major(s): Biomedical  
Engineering & Electrical  
Engineering  
Minor: Ethnic Studies  
Janaye.matthews2@gmail.com



**Vance Payne**  
4th year  
Major: Mechanical engineering  
Minor: Spanish  
V.payne2014@gmail.com

**Zion Jones**  
4th year  
Major(s): Ecosystem Science  
and Sustainability  
Minor: Ethnic studies  
Zion@rams.colostate.edu



**Rachel Surrat**  
4th year  
Major:  
Psychology/Clinical/Counseling  
Psychology  
Minor: English  
Rsurratt@rams.colostate.edu

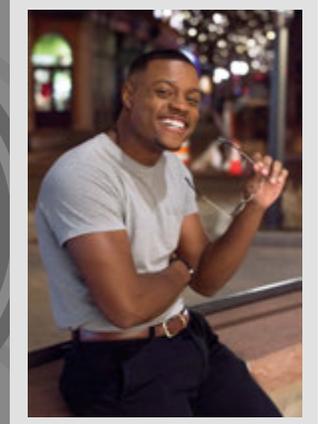


**Shayla Berrian**  
3rd year  
Major: Communications  
Minor: Business  
Sherrian@rams.colostate.edu

**Jaylen Spires**  
2nd year  
Major: Hospitality Management  
Minor: Business  
Jspires@rams.colostate.edu



**Mohammed York**  
4th year  
Major: Dance  
York.mohammed@gmail.com



# Meet Your 2018 B.E.S.T. Staff



**Marcela Riddick**  
3rd year  
Major: Zoology Conservation  
Minor(s): Biology and Business  
Administration  
Mriddick@rams.colostate.edu



**Ahjina Hopkins**  
3rd year  
Major: Communications  
Studies  
Minor: Interdisciplinary Film  
Studies  
17rizzo@gmail.com

**Chizel Perry-Gray**  
3rd year  
Major(s): International Studies  
and Communications  
Minor: Leadership  
Cperrygr@rams.colostate.edu



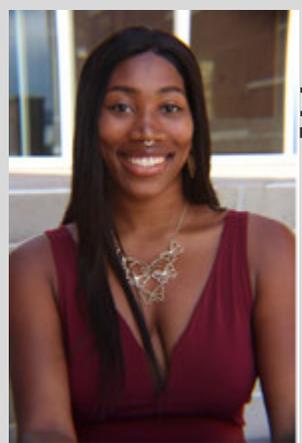
**Ahonsi Ohimai**  
4th year  
Major: Health and  
Exercise Science  
Concentration in Sports  
Medicine  
Ahonsi.Ohimai@colostate.  
edu



**Analyssa Green**  
4th Year  
Major(s): Social Work &  
Sociology  
Analyssa@rams.colostate.edu



**Jaquikeyah Fields**  
2nd year  
Major(s): Ethnic studies &  
Political science  
Minor: Spanish  
jakeyah@rams.colostate.edu

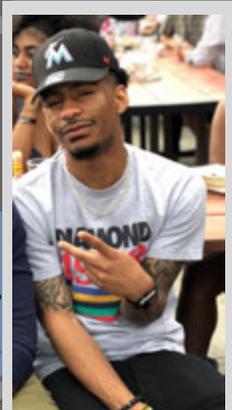


**Kerriana  
Tatum**  
3rd year  
Major: English and  
Political Science  
tatunke@rams.colostate.edu



**Aderonke Adebayo**  
2nd year  
Major(s): Human Development  
and Family Studies  
Ronkeadebayor7@gmail.com

**Jordan Logan**  
4th Year  
Major: Communication Studies  
jordanlogan35@gmail.com





## **CHIZEL PERRY-GRAY**

I am in my third year at CSU double majoring in International Studies and Communications. I am currently a Peer Mentor in the B/AACC as well as an Resident Assistant in Ingersoll Hall. The senate is composed of representatives from all of CSU's academic colleges, undeclared students, graduate students, the CSU Student Diversity Programs and Services Offices, and Student Councils on campus. Senators from academic colleges represent 750 students each, while other Senators represent a specific demographic in the CSU community. As a senator I represent the Black and African American Cultural Center. This position is an avenue to effect change on campus through legislation. Any student is eligible to write their own legislation, but as your senator I can help you write it. Through legislation, the Administration of Colorado State University can hear your voice.



## **JAYLA HODGE**

I am a 4th year student majoring in Journalism, Political Science with a minor in Business administration. I am The Black and African American Associate senator for ASCSU. I work with the other senators and associates to make sure the office and its interest are represented in the student body as well as issues and concerns. I serve as a liaison between the office and ASCSU. In addition to this position, I am also an Editor at The Collegian and serve as an executive for organizations like United Women of Color and Business Diversity Leadership Alliance.

**ASCSU B/AACC  
SENATORS**



## VANCE PAYNE

I am a fifth year graduating senior studying mechanical engineering with a minor in Spanish. I have served as one of the representatives to PMSAC for the Black/African American Cultural Center for the past 2 years and will serve again this year. PMSAC is the Presidents Multicultural Student Advisory Committee. The purpose of this organization is to allow students to have a voice when it comes to issues of diversity and inclusion. I initially got involved with this committee my junior year after Ms. Bridgette recommended me for the position. It provided me with an opportunity to better understand how the university processes issues that students face. It also allowed me to have an influence on the way the university handles certain situations.



## JANAYE MATTHEWS

Major: Biomedical Engineering & Electrical Engineering  
 Minor: Ethnic Studies  
 Black/African American Cultural Center || Lead Peer Coordinator || PMSAC Liaison  
 Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. || Tau Lambda Chapter President  
 National Society of Black Engineers || Region VI Membership Chairperson  
 PMSAC is a space that allows students that hold marginalized identities to voice their concerns and experiences at CSU. We do not just speak for ourselves but for our communities, and it allows us to illuminate shared experiences, which serve as a reminder that we're not alone. By engaging in this space we're ultimately searching for solutions - ways to improve our campus experiences.  
 This is my first year representing B/AACC in PMSAC. I'm excited to use this space to learn more about different facets of CSU and how we, as students, can make a difference.

# President's Multicultural Student Advisory Committee (PMSAC)

# Open House

written by:  
Mohammed York

**On a beautiful Friday, August 17th with first year students starting their new journeys, the Black/African American Cultural Center kicked off the 2018-2019 school year with nothing but love and positive energy at the annual Open House. Music filled the room, along with laughter, and dance. Peer mentors in our office were able to connect even further with their first-year students at Colorado State University, passing along wisdom and meaningful gifts.**



**BAACC seemed to be a beam of light shining through the Lory Student Center. BAACC, like every other Student Diversity Program Service office provides a space for all. A space to breathe without stress, a space to be supported, and a space to be unconditionally loved. As always, the Black/African American Cultural provided space for networking with students and faculty. This was truly a sight to see. Black excellence at its best, nothing less.**





# RAMAPALOOZA WAKANDA...WELLKINDA

**At the start of every fall semester, the Lory Student Center hosts Ramapalooza as part of Ram Welcome. This helps first year students socialize and meet new friends. Most offices host a game session to bring students into spaces they identify with to get students involved and get to know the office. The Black/African American Cultural Center hosted Wakanda/Well-Kinda. In our space, we held games such as Wheel of Fortune, No Reason to Fear Factor, Black Card Revoked, and Lip Sync for Your Life.**

**By the end of the night, most of the games were closed due to the amount of participation in the Lip Sync Battle. Likely to be the biggest Lip Sync Battle on campus, it turned highly competitive and even other offices got involved, including the Native American Cultural Center, and the Asian Pacific Cultural Center. It was a great way to start the year and an amazing night of student involvement and fun.**

**WRITTEN BY: Jaylen Spires**



## We All Scream for Ice Cream

Who wouldn't want to gather together with many new faces and eat FREE tasteful ice cream? On August 22nd, the Black African American Cultural Center (B/AACC) had their very known Ice Cream Social once again. This was an opportunity where first year students, Mentors, Peer Coordinators,

and PRO Staff, through the B/AACC office, got to converse with one another while eating ice cream. During this time, Mentors met their new 1st year mentees and got to know them better! There was a display of Black Joy, dancing, and lots of fun.

written by: Jaquikeyah Fields



# Welcome B/AACC BBQ

We came back to school in style! The welcome B/AACC BBQ has notoriously been a chance for students to reconnect with one another once everyone is back on campus, and this year was no different. After packing into the shelters of Rolland Moore Park, we danced and strolled, played games and sports, and of course, enjoyed some fresh burgers, hot links, and the best mac-n-cheese in Northern Colorado (these are facts).

For returning students, the barbeque was a refreshing source of renewal as they got settled into the grind of classes. It served as the first reminder of the year that they have a community to support them through all the trials and tribulations and the celebrations of college. For first-year students, the BBQ was an early affirmation, a real-time chance to see what “We Got Your BAACC” means.



written by: Janaye Matthews

This year came with a welcomed presence from some of our Black/African American faculty members as well. To see them among the community was a source of comfort and a reminder that they go through it too, they get it, and they're here to support students inside and outside of the classroom. In addition to many students and community members, we also felt the presence of some fraternities and sororities from the National Pan-Hellenic and Multicultural Greek Councils. Since fall 2017, the Divine Nine community has re-surfaced on campus, and they made sure to show out and bring tons of energy to the BBQ!

Thank you to DJ Muñoz, who held it down with the music, while we all hyped each other up, and it made for a good time. The hope is always that the high energy and good vibes will stick with us, as we keep on keepin' on through this year.



**"I find, in being black, a thing of beauty; a joy; a strength; a secret cup of gladness."  
~Ossie Davis**

# Rights of Passage Retreat

written by: Zion Jones

Each year, the Black/African American Cultural Center engages with first-year students in the Rites of Passage Retreat, which is designed to improve student development and retention. The retreat this fall took place the weekend of September 14th to September 16th at Estes Park YMCA. In attendance were a gathering of 51 first-year students, 14 students staff members, our three professional staff, and a special attendance by a graduate student at CSU, Malik Burton.



The rejuvenating three-day weekend retreat was an opportunity for self-identifying black students and faculty to engage in self exploration by exploring intersectional identities; and community exploration through team-building activities such as horseback riding, archery, crafts, yoga, and zip-lining. The retreat, held in Estes Park, Colorado is home to the Arapahoe nation and not only allowed us to reflect on important aspects in Black history, but Indigenous American history as well. The Rights of Passage Retreat served as an emotional weekend for all and a fulfilling weekend for many.



# STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

WRITTEN BY JAYLEN SPIRES



## CJ PORTER

CREATOR OF BOT-MAN

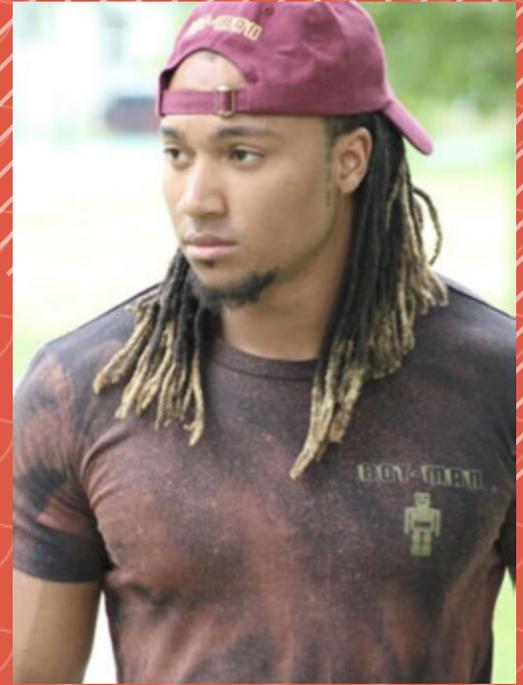
**CJ Porter** lives a double life as a junior at Colorado State University, majoring in Human Development and Family Studies *and* as the creator of **Bot-Man**, the fashionable and authentic clothing brand. Describing himself as a very laid-back person and a lover of sports, CJ Porter loves going to the CSU Rec Center to play pick-up basketball. Balancing being a full-time student, being physically active, and making Bot-Man successful is a struggle for CJ, but he is strong minded and makes sure everything is done. Bot-Man was created on April 11th of 2017 and was influenced by the people CJ grew up with in Aurora, who went through a lot, yet they kept moving forward.

CJ's future goals are to have a worldwide brand comparable to Nike and Jordan, and to own his own store. Also, he wants to donate some clothes to the homeless as a service project. CJ has explained that having the privilege to sell his products in the CSU Bookstore has made him "excited and proud" of how far he has come in this period of time. He hopes to continue to sell his products in the Bookstore in hopes that it will expand into something greater. Looking forward to winter products and more work out wear, CJ said the newest drop will be the "**Bot-Man slides**"! So be ready!



See some of CJ's merchandise on the next page!

CSU X BOT-MAN



CSU X BOT-MAN



Catch Bot-Man in the Bookstore of the LSC!



CSU X BOT-MAN



Congratulations to CJ for expanding your brand!

# Why Attend a CSU Sports Game?

written by:  
**Warren Jackson**

**Why is attending CSU sporting events important? Many might say it's not about what you know, but who you know. In college, although there are many ways to make connections and relationships, the most common way is through sporting events. These connections are very important and could make anyone who utilizes them a very successful person in the future. Going to college is not**

**only about getting an education, but it is also about networking yourself and really establishing your presence. Sports not only bring people together, but they also bring exciting and unforgettable memories. Because of this, I went to ask some students and faculty on why attending CSU sporting events are important, and here's what I got:**

**"It helps build school pride. Nothing brings a campus together more than cheering for your school at a sporting event."**

**-Coach Bobo  
CSU Head Coach**

**"It will help the economy of the town and university! When you win games, it will help bring enrollment to the university. More enrollment means more money and tuition to the university...becoming more involved/diverse and well rounded. Becoming part of something bigger than yourself."**

**-Coach Alvis Whitted  
CSU Wide Receiver Coach**

**"Sporting events at CSU helped me make relationships that I will forever value. Through sports, it has helped me meet with people that conduct study groups for the same courses that I have. It helps bring me together with my family; we all attend the CSU sporting events and really bond and have a good time at them."**

**-Lauren Rice  
CSU Student Athlete**

