

Griot

OCT /
NOV
2017

EDITOR: YASMINE AMON
GRAPHIC DESIGNER: TINA NGUYEN



AKA AND ZETA
NEW MEMBER
PRESENTATION



THE WINNER OF
MS BLACK AND
GOLD IS....



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT:
CARIDAD SOUZA



SELF CARE WEEK
IN B/AACC



- AU, BSA, QT-POC, UMC, AND UWC WEEK
- TASTE OF AFRICA
- REAL TALK QUOTES
- UWC/BSA WEEK COLLAB
- UPCOMING EVENTS IN FEBRUARY



BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN
CULTURAL CENTER
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Africans United (AU) Week

Written by: Yasmine Amon

November 6th to the 11th was Africans United Week! Monday was movie night where we watched 'The Last King of Scotland'. On Tuesday we learned about the stigmas of Mental Health in a workshop hosted by Kanayo of Theta Chi Fraternity Inc. It was a great time to ask questions and discuss a topic that is typically shunned in African communities. Wednesday was Game Night where members played Uno, musical chairs, Minute to Win it games and Act it Out, which is where groups were given a scenario to act out. Thursday was 'Talk Back' which was a facilitated discussion led by Ratu. The topic was 'Relationships in African communities' and members shared parent and family expectations, personal experiences and the college experience when it comes to dating. On Friday, members drove down to the Colorado School of Mines to participate in their Cultural Night. Some members represented their country in their cultural attire during the fashion show portion and the Africans United Dance Team excited the crowd with an upbeat routine. On Saturday, we bonded with a fun game of laser tag at Chippers Lanes and then dinner at Chili's. Overall it was a successful week and members were able to get to know each other outside of regular meetings.

TASTE OF AFRICA

WRITTEN BY: SELAM TEWAHADE

Taste of Africa is and has always been a celebration of Africa. This year, there was a huge turn out, so big that within 20 minutes the Ethiopian/Eritrean food was out. People from all over the Fort Collins community came to celebrate. The DJ played a lot of modern West African music that everyone could enjoy along with current African American music. People laughed as they enjoyed the photo booth and a game of African Musical Chairs. C.O.I.S.A dancers performed a dance inspired by modern Indian music that swept the crowd. The performers were covered in beautiful gold jewelry that shined with every twirl and flick of the wrist. As always with Africans United events, everyone came dressed to the nines. The entire event center was filled with vibrant colors, gorgeous patterns, and gold as people of all ages came together and celebrated the various dishes and cultures of Africa. The countries that cooked were Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Sudan, Kenya, South Africa, Gabon, Ghana and Nigeria. Taste of Africa, for me, is a time to celebrate, relax and to be surrounded by culture and African people which makes Fort Collins seem more like home. While the community here is small, it is growing and coming together. In this way, African students and members of the Fort Collins community keep their culture alive in this college town.



ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA

NEW MEMBER PRESENTATION

Written By: Vance Payne

The Xi Eta Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, INC presented its newest members to CSU on November 5, 2017. They were revealed in Johnson Hall 222 at 5:08 PM. The new sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha have re-established their chapter after a few years of not having members. The ladies showed they are back and ready to work when they came to the stage and immediately commanded attention. They wore identical outfits and masks to hide their identity until the right time.



They provided various pieces of information, speaking as one, then, they each then presented themselves to the audience. The new members are Janae Brown, Daiszha Cooley, Christasia Chavis, and Michelle Nwagwu. They each stated their names as well as their line name within the sorority. To finish off the presentation, they performed a stroll. Overall their presentation was short, sweet, and to the point. The audience cheered as each one was revealed, and the show came to a close.

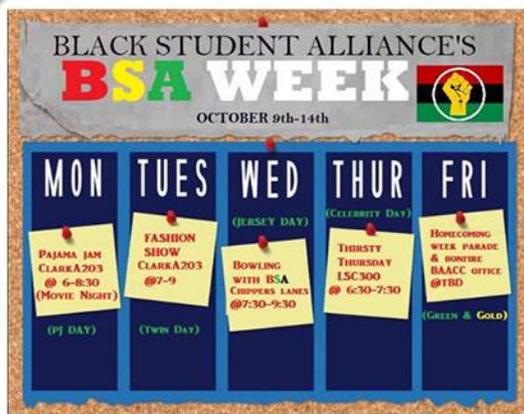


Black Student Alliance (BSA) Week

Written by: Traeae Jefferson

Oh what a week! From October 9th to October 14th, Black Student Alliance held their first BSA Week of the academic year. It was filled with bonding activities like a movie night and bowling night, as well as fun events such as the Fashion Show and the Homecoming Parade.

Each day was a themed spirit day which consisted of: PJ Day, Twin Day, Jersey Day, Celebrity Day, and Green and Gold Day. During the Green and Gold Day, members of BSA walked in the Homecoming Parade with the Black/African American Cultural Center where BSA showed off a poster representing the organization! BSA Week has such a significance because it brings Black and African American students on CSU's campus together to bond and enjoy one another's company.



Miss Black & Gold

Written By: Jordan Logan

On November 4, 2017, The Omicron Tau chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc. brought us an amazing show with their Miss Black & Gold Scholarship pageant. The pageant theme was Queen of the Nile and focused on highlighting the beauty, elegance, and intelligence of our seven contestants: Erica Bishop (CSU), Anjelica Martinez (CSU), Cambry Bethel (CSU), Tricia Alexander (CSU), Jhasmyne Cooper-Moore (CSU), Brianna Faulk (UNC), and Ashley Register (UNC).



All these women put on a fantastic show, from spoken word, to the music selections, to the dances and much more. The crowd was amazing, and there was nothing but black excellence exuding throughout the duration of the show. Overall it was an amazing night. Congratulations to the 2nd runner up, Brianna Faulk, the 1st runner up, Jhasmyne Cooper-Moore, and to the 2017 Miss Black & Gold, Tricia Alexander! Thank you to the brothers of Omicron Tau for bringing us the amazing event and a huge thank you to Brother Ashton



Queer People of Color (QT-POC) Week

Written by: Zelle Moore

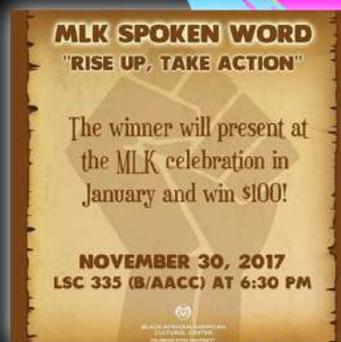
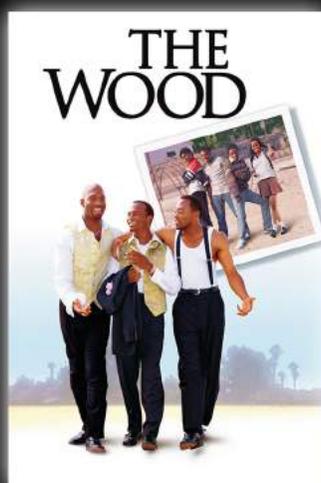
October is LGBT History month and it was this year that COLORS were finally able to implement their contribution to celebrate the lives of student of color who showcase their fabulousness every day and for those who are still learning how. QT-POC week cultivated such engagement. The week kick-off with the Sip N' Paint in which the executive team provided paint and canvases, "vibey" queer cultured music and integrated queer and non- queer students by opening the event to all person. DIY Day was on Tuesday. Tools, such as tie-dye, scissors, and tweezers, were offered to anyone who brought an article of clothing to revamp into exude distinctiveness only queer folks know how to do. Wednesday, was an organized presentation and discussion with Dr. Caridad Souza who shed light on the history of queer people of color in queer movements, mainstreaming commodification of queerness, and what it could like to have a queer perspective in social activism and our daily lives. Thursday, consisted of a day on the plaza where COLORS members highlight QPOC persons in history and mainstream. Queer music was played as they asked people to sign posters showing their support for the QT-POC students on campus. The week ended with a bonding, exclusive to COLORS members. Hopefully, this is the start of a bigger presence for COLORS and amplifying experiences that have been traditionally silenced.



BSA/UWC Week

WRITTEN BY: TRONOE JEFFERSON

During the week of November 27th to December 1st, Black Student Alliance (BSA) and United Women of Color (UWC) collaborated in a week of events for students of color to enjoy each other's company. Throughout the week, there were events such as a Movie Night, Self-Care Night, Trap Karaoke, the MLK Spoken Word event, and a Kick-B/AACC. Overall it was very enjoyable and the perfect timing before all the stress that finals can bring. These two organizations helped students de-stress at the end of the semester.



Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc. New Member Presentation

WRITTEN BY: YASMINE AMON



On Friday December 1st 2017, the Omicron Omicron chapter of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc. presented their new line to the students at Colorado State and community members in and around Fort Collins. The comeback was titled Rezurrection, which was fitting due to their absence for nine years. The seven ladies who were presented included Ally Johnson, Tricia Alexander, Ashle' Tate, Myanne Hamm, Rae Marsh, Autumn Redding and Jaida Rollins. It was a full house and the energy was high as the ladies of ZPhiB sang, stepped, danced and strolled. It's great to see the women in blue back on campus and we look forward to seeing what they do in the spring semester.



FACULTY SPOTLIGHT: DR. CARIDAD SOUZA

Women Studies is finally a major at Colorado State University, what was the physical process that you had to go through to get to this point? How long did this process take? What steps did you go through?

Developing a major is no mean feat and takes a lot of time and administrative effort. It took four years of research surveying courses, finding comparable programs in the state and at institutions like ours, discussing the feasibility of the new major with deans, the provost, and various committees that work on curriculum, new programs, and budgets to get to a place where we could propose the major. Initially, we had to make a case for the new major by doing survey research on the demand for Women's Studies classes among students and align that with what we could offer considering our faculty and course offerings. After a developing a three-part proposal and visiting with various committees and administrators, the new undergraduate degree was approved unanimously at various levels. I must thank the Provost Rick Miranda and others in upper administration like President Tony Frank, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs Kelly Long, the Dean of CLA Bill Withers, Associate Dean for Undergraduate Affairs Roze Henschell, former Vice Provost for Undergraduate Affairs Kathy Pickering among others who were 100% supportive of having this new major.

What was the emotional process like for you and what does it mean to you know that you are finally here?

Sometimes, it felt like this process would never end. I presented on the proposal three years in a row and was always hopeful, even when things took long. I know that administrative changes take time and that you just have to stay the course and continue to do the work, and eventually you get there. Finally arriving at the new undergraduate degree feels very exciting and refreshing. I feel like I can finally focus on building the program and work more closely with students.

What motivated or inspired you to make this minor into a major?

When I was hired, the idea was that I would complete a process that had been started by Women's Studies faculty prior to my arrival. Part of coming to CSU for me had to do with seeing such a long and extensive commitment to Women's Studies by faculty who had poured their energy and work into sustaining this program. I was inspired by all the work that came before me and so it was easy to continue the momentum towards building a new major.

What will the courses in this major consist of? What kind of career can one pursue with a Bachelor's degree in Women's Studies?

Courses designate with the WS prefix are very intersectional and address gender as a social category and status that is inflected with other social categories of race, class, sexuality, and ability. Courses range from the Introduction course, Queer Studies, Feminist Friendship, Women of Color, Feminist theory, Masculinities, Race, and Sexuality to Indigenous Women, Children, and Tribes. We also sponsor courses by people with expertise in gender violence and sexual assault. Other elective courses are scattered across a variety of departments and include courses such as Gender in the Economy, Psychology of Gender, Psychology of Women, Gender and Community, Gender and Society, Early Women Writers, American Women's History Since 1800, Feminist Philosophies, Women in Art History, and even Women in Music. There are many courses to choose from.

Whenever I am asked what you can do with a Women's Studies degree I say EVERYTHING. Instead of approaching this degree in terms of the types of jobs you will acquire, I like to think about the framework that you acquire from this type of training that you take to just about any profession, job, or vocation you want. A Women's and Gender Studies degree is relevant to navigating today's world, and provides a framework for students to apply to their academic,

professional, and personal lives. Like a microscope that brings the world into focus, this framework allows us to see how our social and cultural lives are governed by gender relations. For example, have you considered how institutions, organizations, or the economy are gendered? Do you ever wonder why some images are more prevalent in popular culture than other? Looking at the world through a Women's and Gender Studies lens allows us to more directly and effectively address issues of social justice and social change as it pertains to gender relations in the contemporary world. By studying gender relations, students learn skills that work towards dismantling gender-based inequality and promote gender equity in various arenas of social life.

What do you think this means for the community of Colorado State and the city of Fort Collins?

What I believe that this means for our community is that we will have a solid group of people who will receive the kind of academic training in understanding the conceptual and practical nuances of how to approach gender and sexuality in today's world. Considering the challenges facing us about gender and sexuality, I see our students as being on the forefront of how our CSU community, the city of Fort Collins, and the state of Colorado will lead regarding gender and sexuality issues, policies, and perspectives throughout the 21st century.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Not at all. Thanks for this interview.

OCTOBER REAL TALK

WRITTEN BY: JANAYE MATTHEWS

OCTOBER 3RD, 2017
GENDER ROLES IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY

“

"We're praising [black women] for showing traits that we like, which is masculinity, and when we criticize a man for showing feminine traits, we're criticizing them for having traits that we don't like, which is femininity."

-Selam Tewahade

”

OCTOBER 10TH, 2017
TOXIC MASCULINITY

“

Why do women notice hyper-masculinity more than men?

"The oppressed learns more about the oppressor...it's more about the survival."

-Ratu Marutle

”

OCTOBER 17TH, 2017
CULTURAL NORMS

“

"It takes a village to raise a child."

-Anonymous

”

OCTOBER 23RD, 2017
R&B MUSIC

“

"RnB is interconnecting people's souls."

-Micaela Parker

”

NOVEMBER REAL TALK

WRITTEN BY: JANAYE MATTHEWS

OCTOBER 31ST, 2017
BLACK REPRESENTATION IN MOVIES

“

“Each director, each actor is going to channel the black experience differently.”
-Mohammed Y.

”

NOVEMBER 7TH, 2017
BLACK PARENTING STYLES

“

“I feel like parents pick and choose the time when they consider (their kids) to be grown.”
-Joycey

”

NOVEMBER 14TH, 2017
RACISM IN THE DORMS

“

“All these micro aggressions have you on guard at all times”
-Jada

”

NOVEMBER 28TH, 2017
OPEN FORUM

“

“Women know that men have been taught not to hit a woman, so they take advantage of that.”
- Mohamed B.

”

SELF-CARE WEEK

Written by: Yasmine Amon

The last week of classes, the Black/African American Cultural Center held a self-care week for students to de-stress before finals. It was an enjoyable and much-needed three days of food, laughs, deep breaths and deep thinking. On the first day, we had a potluck where students and staff brought fried chicken, macaroni and cheese, spaghetti, greens, chips and drinks. It was a fun time where we could just sit and eat while being in community with each other. On Wednesday, the office gave space for free fifteen-minute massages. It was a great way to unwind from the week. On Thursday, Duan Ruff, the former Assistant Director came to the carry out a Black healing space with his wife. They set up several areas such as painting, yoga, a calming space, coloring and drawing. Many students expressed how great the idea was as it created an intimate and calming space for many. This week was a fantastic idea and I hope they hold a similar event in the spring semester.

United Men of Color (UMC) Week

Written by: Jaylen Spires

From Oct. 23 - Oct.29, The brothers of United Men of Color created a week full of knowledge, fun, relaxation, and brotherhood. We started the week off with a masculinity workshop, Monday afternoon, to discuss what it means to be masculine and the pros and cons that come with it. On Tuesday, we had a conversation with Jordan Logan about knowing your rights in America and on Wednesday a study session was held in the Morgan Library. The “Pick up, Kick Ball” game for Thursday evening was canceled due to cold weather but this minor setback prepared these brothers for a major comeback on Saturday night at the 1501 Rest Bar for the Halloween party. The week ended with a relaxing day on Sunday, for the brothers to hangout and bond and ending in their chant...

UMC! We All We Got!

United Women of Color (UWC) Week

Written by: Bethany Norwood

From October 16th – 29th, United Women of Color redefined excellence, self-care, and sisterhood for UWC Week. The week consisted of an All Org Game Night on Monday, a classy date night on Tuesday, a poppin' promotional party on Wednesday, a sexy self-care night at the Rec on Thursday, a Pure Romance Party on Friday, and giving back with CSU Serves on Saturday. UWC Week focused on what it means to take care of yourself, your sisters, and your community. Each night, the group met and incorporated the core principles of being a phenomenal woman of color into each event. Members grew in fellowship with one another and not only were bonds formed and strengthened, but the organization presented this year's powerful group of women.



Black History Month:
**A ROSE THAT GREW
 FROM THE CONCRETE**
February 2018

Tupac

Wednesday January 31st

Thirst for Knowledge:
 The Legacy of Black
 Greek Traditions
 4 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
 LSC 372-374

Sunday February 4th

Meet the Greeks
 4 P.M. - 6:30 P.M.
 Cherokee Park Ballroom

Wednesday February 14th

Sex 4 Chocolate
 6 P.M.
 LSC 386

Tuesday February 20th

Real Talk: Black Hair
 4 P.M. - 5 P.M.
 LSC 335

Monday February 26th

Rams for Social Justice:
 A Student's Role in
 Creating Change
 6 P.M.
 LSC 382

Thursday February 1st

Black History Month Kickoff
 4 P.M. - 6 P.M.
 LSC Ballroom A&B

Tuesday February 6th

Real Talk: Embracing our
 Culture: Africans
 and African Americans
 4 P.M. - 5 P.M.
 LSC 335

Black History
 Month Luncheon
 By Invite Only
 NOON - 1:30 P.M.
 LSC Grey Rock Room

Keynote - Angela Davis
 7 P.M.

Thursday February 15th

Being Black & Undocumented
 4 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
 LSC 322

Aspen Grille
 Reservations Required
 970.491.7006
 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Wednesday February 21st

Black is/Black Ain't
 6 P.M.
 LSC 335

Tuesday February 27th

Real Talk: How Far
 Have We Come
 4 P.M. - 5 P.M.
 LSC 335

InnatelU Liberation Circles
 Registration Required

Friday February 2nd

A Few Black Inventors
 Who Changed the World
 Drop in 10 A.M. - 2 P.M.
 LSC 328-330

Thursday February 8th

Rising Hate in America
 5 P.M.
 LSC Cherokee Park
 Keynote - Lecia Brooks

Friday February 16th

BSA Comedy Show
 Hosted by Nate Jackson
 6 P.M.
 LSC Theater

Aspen Grille
 Reservations Required
 970.491.7006
 11 A.M. - 1 P.M.

Thursday February 22nd

Being Black & Disabled
 4 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
 LSC 322

Wednesday February 28th

InnatelU Liberation Circles
 Registration Required
 Closing Celebration
 7:30 P.M.

Saturday February 3rd

Say It Loud Cultural Expo
 6 P.M.
 LSC Theater

Tuesday February 13th

Real Talk: Interracial Love
 4 P.M. - 5 P.M.
 LSC 335

Expressions of Love
 Poetry Night
 6 P.M.
 LSC

Saturday February 17th

Stepping Through the
 Decades Step Show
 Hosted by Nate Jackson Show
 6 P.M.
 LSC Theater

Saturday February 24th

Black Women's Summit
 By Invite Only
 Registration Required
 Keynote - Manoucheka
 Celeste

Thursday March 1st

Being Black & Gender
 Non-Binary
 4 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
 LSC 376

Designed by: Tina Nguyen

Please join me in acknowledging and thanking the following sponsors:

Aspen Grille, Athletics, Africans United, Black Student Alliance, Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, Office of International Programs, Ram Events, National Pan-Hellenic Council, National Society of Black Engineers, Paul Wood Florist, United Men of Color, United Women of Color, University Center of the Arts Theater Department, Women and Gender Advocacy Center. For more information visit: baacc.colostate.edu



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 CULTURAL CENTER**
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