

# The GRIOT

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## Colorado State University

### Homecoming Pageant

*Grace Stamps*



On October 6th 2013, the B/AACC held the second annual B/AACC Homecoming Pageant. Hosted by last year's Ms. CSU winner, Shannon Patilla.

The pageant was comprised of 10 contestants: Sesugh Solomon Tor-Agbidye, Niyankor Ajua, Monica Shavers, Makeda Hope-Crichlow, Kwjuantiz Yearby, Shayla Monteiro, Jordan Rose-Williams, Joie Robertson, Marissa Rudd, and Diondre Morales. It attracted over 150 audience members. Four awards were passed out that evening: Miss Congeniality, Ram's Choice, and Mr. and Ms. CSU.

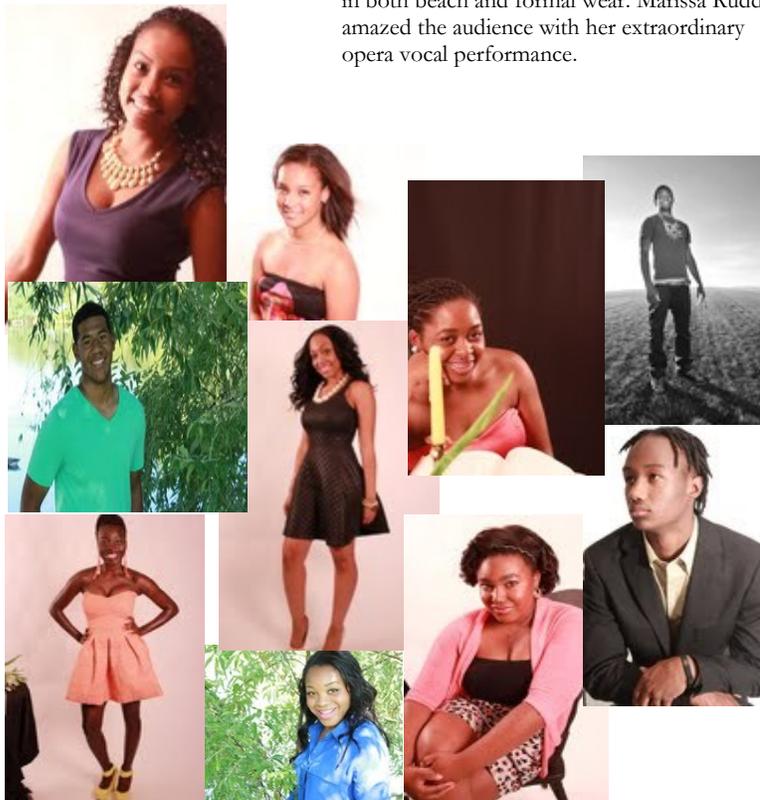
Marissa Rudd, a CSU sophomore, was awarded both Miss Congeniality and Ms. CSU. Ms. Rudd astounded the audience with her sharp responses to interview questions, stylish outfits in both beach and formal wear. Marissa Rudd amazed the audience with her extraordinary opera vocal performance.

Mr. CSU was given to freshman Diondre Morales, who wooed the judges with his playful attitude and family values. Escorted by his younger twin brothers Mr. Morales earned "awes" from the audience and judges. He also earned laughs with his riotous salsa dancing, and applause for his interview response where Morales explained that his mother (seated in the crowd) was his true role model.

Freshman Monica Shavers received the title of Ram's Choice, an award decided by the audience. She impressed the audience with her unique fashion choices and beautiful singing and earned a gift basket full of goods.

The winners of Mr. and Ms. CSU were awarded a place in CSU's 2013 Homecoming Parade and will also host a variety of events through the B/AACC office for Black History Month.

The proceeds earned from the Homecoming Pageant will benefit Black History Month events in February.



### Inside this issue

<i>Homecoming Pageant</i>	1
<i>A game to Remember &amp; Real Talk</i>	2
<i>3 on 3 Tournament &amp; African American Women Dedicated to Excellence</i>	3
<i>Ice Cream Social and Scavenger Hunt &amp; National Breast Cancer Awareness Month</i>	4
<i>A Night Out with the Rites of Passage Crew &amp; Tailgating with the B/ AACC Office</i>	5
<i>Calendar</i>	6

## *A Game to Remember*

*Torsban Thomas*

Before being a mentor in the G.P.S. program, I volunteered to help chaperone the kids at one of last year's football game. From that day forward I knew I wouldn't miss the next opportunity to become a mentor.

This particular event was what sparked my passion for mentoring the youth. On the way to the game I was in anticipation, the group of kids we have seem to give you a new light about yourself that you can't deny.

While they were arriving at our meeting place by big bubba, I remembered thinking to myself, "This is going to be the greatest game ever." We are entering the game, and it is an orange-out game so all the college students have on their orange and are raging with school spirit.

I think this is a really great game to take them to because the kids get to see their mentors be apart of this huge university and that elicits hope and dreams of them being apart of a university as well. We all sit down and start watching the game with each other and we get to see their faces light up, we get to experience who these kids really are.

Around half time we take them to get their choice of stadium food, which really makes them happy. While they're with us we try to give them the full college football game experience and I believe we accomplish that every time. When they're around there's not one frown. We help contribute to their smile while they become apart of ours and that's an amaz-



## *Real Talk*

*Stephan Gaddis*



Ever wondered how others felt about certain issues? Ever wanted to just vent about an exciting topic? Real Talk is your answer. Real Talk is a group discussion open to anyone on campus about topics related to student's everyday lives. Every Tuesday at 4 pm in the Black African-American Cultural Center in the LSC West, Real Talk is filled with students of different backgrounds ready to discuss the current issues of today.

These discussions vary from many deep topics, the last few "Friends with Benefits," "Interracial Dating," and "Being Black and Identifying as gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, queer, questioning or an Ally" have all drawn in different crowds, but have surely gotten people talking. Although these discussions

only occur for about an hour, they are surely worth every minute, as we allow people to confide about their personal experiences about the topics.

Hosted by Erica Boyer and myself, we facilitate the discussions with general questions designed to spark a conversation. With many more great topics to discuss each week, we look forward to more and more students coming each week! Good food, good people, and definitely good conversation are promises each week so don't hesitate to come!

## *3 on 3 Tournament*

*Stephaun Gaddis*

This 5<sup>th</sup> annual event, held by the prestigious members of The United Men of Color, took place Saturday October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2013. This tournament was held on the courts of the I.M. gyms located on campus from 11 am to 4 pm and was surely a great event.

With the essence of bragging rights and a cash prize on the line, this event was any basketball player's dream, and definitely an epic battle to the finish. Many teams

across Colorado came up to the city of Ft. Collins to win this eventful tournament where one group came out on top in the end.

The winners received a \$300 cash prize while second place received a special prize as well. All in all, this annual event once again brought many basketball fans together to watch as these skilled athletes put on a show!



## *African American Women Dedicated to Excellence*

*Torsban Thomas*

My freshman year, I didn't take the opportunity to be a part of other communities besides Key Academic. Now that I'm a mentor, I see how much one can grow from it.

I really regret not taking all the hands that reached out to me, because there is so much support in this wonderful group of young ladies. There are a million and one wonderful things I could say about African American Women Dedicated to Excellence.

What is unique about this program is that Mrs. Bridgette and I work hand-in-hand with a group of young women on what it means to be an African American woman. The most amazing thing about working with this program is the amount of bonding we experience.

I've never seen a group of women all different shades, shapes, sizes, and backgrounds be so open and vulnerable with one another. As women we are the harshest toward one another, but within our group we empower one another to be better and that's the true beauty.

The connection we are building as black women, as peers, as students can never be broken because at the end of our journey with one another we take a piece of each other with us. I am so blessed and truly honored to be chosen to be apart of this program. I love my girls!

## National Breast Cancer Awareness Month

*Stephann Gaddis*

If you didn't know by now, October was National Breast Cancer Awareness Month! Thank you to everyone who gave effort in supporting awareness this month in numerous ways!

Whether it was wearing pink ribbons, pink clothing, or other awareness events, giving donations, and volunteering; we show our gratitude for your support. The

support for awareness of Cancer speaks volumes about unity at CSU and national support for all affected by Breast Cancer.

With such help on campus, it assures that we all have what it takes to make a difference. Once again, thank you for the support and continue to spread Breast Cancer awareness!! Go Rams!



## Ice Cream Social & Scavenger Hunt

*Alexandria Norris*



There was Vanilla, Chocolate, Cookies and Cream, Strawberry, Banana, Mint, and a lot of Whip Cream. The Ice-cream Social was a huge success, thank you to all that came out and joined us for an unforgettable night.

On September 18th, more than 30 students loaded into the vans and personal vehicles to head out for a day of excitement. This Rites of Passage affair, hosted by the Black/African American Culture Center, was created to give students the opportunity to explore Fort Collins in a fun and innovative way.

In small groups we conquered the bear in the pond, sang at the lively Aggie, Superman'ed at ten thousand villages, created art in the streets, and showed our RAM pride!

Since the retreat, this was the Rites of Passage semester kick-off event. It was a first for all and it was perfect. A perfect way to welcome the year, meet new people, build those forever friendships, laugh, and strengthen our community here at Colorado State.

If you missed the Rites of Passage Ice Cream Scavenger Hunt, you missed out on a time full of laughs, stories, and of course free ice-cream. However, don't fret more programs are soon to come, so you will have the opportunity to join us for the next one!



## *A Night Out with the Rites of Passage Crew*

*Maya Lovelace*



Food, bowling and a fantastic atmosphere is the perfect recipe for a good time in the midst of midterms. For the month of October students from the Rites Of Passage (ROP) had their group outing at Chippers Lane Bowling Alley.

Among the thirty-five ROP participants were Mrs. Bridgette Johnson and Duan Ruff along with peer mentors. The night was filled with lots of laughter and competition as everyone split up into groups of five and competed amongst each other.

As stated by ROP participant, Kenyon Jackson, “The outing was overall a great and fun experience. I enjoyed myself among my peers and also with the B/AACC office staff. I enjoyed myself and I’m looking forward to November’s festivities for us.”

In my personal opinion, the outing at Chippers Lane allowed us to get to know one another on a more intimate level. I was able to meet new faces from the ROP program and also got better acquainted with some of the other mentors.

One of the mentors I was able to sit down and talk with was Suprina Williams. Suprina agreed as well, that this year’s bowling outing was a success and that next month’s

activity will be even better.. Although neither one of us was able to bowl it was still fun interacting and watching everyone else enjoy their time bowling.

I did notice a few gutter balls here and there and plenty of strikes were made but by the end of the night we had declared a winner. Out of the six lanes that were rented out, the overall champion of the ROP bowling outing was Ona Kola-Kehinde.

There were many runner up’s but Ona bowled the highest score with a 121. Collectively, the night was very successful and there will possibly be a rematch sometime soon. If you missed out I highly encourage you to check your emails and join us for the remainder of activities for ROP.



Ona Kola- Kehinde (top right)

\*On behalf of the Black African American Culture Center, we would like to thank Chippers Lane for the memorable experience as well as mentors Alex, Erica and Kim for providing transportation.

## *Tailgating with the B/AACC Office*

*Erica Boyer*

Football tradition goes hand in hand with tailgating! So we decided it was only right to get out the grill and get the food and music going.

With our very own, Duan Ruff on the grill we grilled up some burgers, veggie burgers and of course hot links! The students poured in to enjoy the good food before kickoff against Cal Poly.

Though the tailgate was the day after the flood, community support was at an all-time high. The recent tragedy didn’t seem to hinder the school spirit from any of our Ram fans. All of the tailgating must have sparked something within our Rams as they were able to defeat Cal Poly.



# November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>Real Talk @ 4 p.m.</i>			<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> <i>CSU Football vs. Boise State @ 6</i>
<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<i>Real Talk @ 4 p.m.</i>	<i>Rites of Passage: The Science of Learning @ 6-7 p.m.</i>	<i>Rams for Diversity @ 5 p.m. (In Denver)</i>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> <i>Elle Varner Concert @ 6 p.m.</i>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<i>Real Talk @ 4 p.m.</i>	<i>Rites of Passage: Yoga Class (Relaxation and Focus) 6-7 p.m.</i>	<i>CSU Volleyball Vs. New Mexi- co @ 7p.m (White Out)</i>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <i>Step Show &amp; Step Show After Party @ 7 p.m.</i>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<i>Real Talk @ 4 p.m.</i>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b>	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Break</i>	<b>30</b>



**Colorado State University**

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