

The GRIOT

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VOLUME III, MARCH ISSUE

Colorado State University

First Lady: Michelle Obama

By Trenice Lane

Michelle Obama is the first African American woman to become a First Lady in the White House and is a true inspiration to many women around the world. Michelle is married to Barack Obama, the first African American President, and they have two children, Malia and Sasha.

Michelle Obama is not only known as the First Lady to President Obama, but Michelle herself has taken action as a prominent figure in today's American society. Michelle Obama has developed programs that support children, women, and military families. Michelle has an open heart and is very passionate in implementing programs such as *Let's Move* and *Joining Forces* in order to better America through providing for its citizens. For instance, the *Let's Move* campaign focuses on childhood obesity and it invites people such as parents, teachers, nurses, and others to work together in battling obesity through helping children be more active and healthy. On the other hand, *Joining Forces* is a program that works on giving back to our members of the military, including their families. This program raises awareness to the needs of military families that regard school, employment, and physical wellness. Michelle Obama believes that we should work together to give them the support that they have earned from fighting for our country. While those are just two programs, she has also initiated programs which help women build a balance with their careers and family lives.

Not only has Michelle Obama made numerous accomplishments as the First Lady of the United States, but she enjoys spending each moment with her family and is a supportive individual, especially for Barack Obama. She remains one of the top prominent figures in American history and is truly inspirational to many around the globe.



Photo courtesy of Google.

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Condoleezza Rice: 66th United States Secretary of State

By Michael Burnett



Photo courtesy of Google.

Women have been put on the back side of politics for a long time. They are not seen in the public eye often but when they have a presence they really make an impact on society. It is crazy to think that women have had their Suffrage Rights since the 1920s, but are still discriminated against or criticized on how they hold positions of power.

We have improved as a nation as far as equality but still have a long way to go but we want to acknowledge one woman that has paved the way for not only women but also black women: Condoleezza Rice. As a young child, she said her father had high expectations of her to be a significant societal figure. Condoleezza Rice was the second woman that held the position of Secretary of State and the first African American woman to hold a position of power at this level. She gives young African American women hope and motivation to continue to fill political positions even in the face of adversity.

As a young girl she grew up in one of the most discriminatory regions of America: Birmingham, Alabama. Rice received her Bachelor and Master degrees in political science, and also her Ph.D. in International Studies. Rice was a special assistant to President George H.W. Bush in 1989, and was also appointed secretary of state by George W. Bush in 2001.

Out of all the great things she has done in her professional life she really brings a smile to her family and the African American community because her drive for success has led her to hold so many important roles in America's government. She really is a significant figure in the black community as well as the women's community.



Photo courtesy of Google.

Blanche Hughes Makes Her Mark at CSU

By Torsban Thomas

When the idea of prominent women on Colorado State University's campus comes into mind, Blanche Hughes is one of the most influential black women with a solid presence not only within the Black/African American community but also among CSU's campus in entirety. Blanche's early education resided at Earlham College, where she earned her bachelor's degree; and preceded at CSU earning a Masters of Education degree and a Doctorates degree in Sociology.

"Without a doubt, it is hard to believe Blanche doesn't have super powers because she also manages to fulfill all her other passions"

Before reaching her position as Vice President for Student Affairs, her career gained momentum through her experience working as a professor and chair of the Sociology department at Pikes Peak Community College as well as serving as the Director of Black Student Services, which is known as the Black African American Cultural Center, and six years as the Associate Vice President for Student Affairs. Due to her experience working side by side with students and staff and

her impeccable drive, she has reached the role of Vice President of Student Affairs that she has held for seven years.

Her current role as VP of Student Affairs demands that she works with a division that includes 21 departments that collaborate with other units in the University community to help our students and staff be successful.

Beyond what her career title entitles her to do, she still finds time to teach and advise in the Student Affairs in Higher Education Graduate program, which is also known as the SAHE program.

Without a doubt, it's hard to believe Blanche doesn't have super powers because she also manages to fulfill all of her other passions such as, teaching, mentoring students and staff, presenting issues that confront diversity, parent transition, and issues surrounding work and family management. On top of all the things she has also has earned the greatest gifts of life intrinsically with maintaining a strong marriage, having four successful children, and being further blessed with three grandchildren.

In every aspect of Blanche, anyone can find inspiration in her and she can evoke inspiration in anyone she comes in contact with, no matter his or her background. She's a leader that leads by many definitions.

United Women of Color Celebrates Women’s History Month with Maisha Pollard



Photo courtesy of Google.

By Kayla Tolbert

Maisha Pollard

CSU Alumni

Executive Director of Fields

Memorial Fund

In inspiration of Women History Month, United Women of Color decided to celebrate women in history at their event, “Women Celebrating African American Women Who Have Paved the Way”. The keynote address was given by a Maisha Pollard, CSU alumni 2001.

Maisha Pollard is the sister of CSU alumni, Javad Marshall Fields. Javad Marshall Fields was killed along with his girlfriend Vivian Wolfe in 2005, due to the fact they were witnesses of a crime and planned to testify the day after their murder. Maisha Pollard works with her mother, Rhonda Fields, with the Fields Wolfe Fund.

The Fields Wolfe Foundation was created in honor of Javad Marshall Fields and his fiancée Vivian and installed a mission to make the justice sys-

tem more effective in protecting witnesses. Maisha Pollard not only shared her experiences with activism in celebration of her brother, but she shared how people such as Shirley Chisholm and Harriet Tubman have inspired her as a woman. Women of Color sometimes go without recognition in history, when their contributions have caused various successes for others in our society. Maisha Pollard presented how women of color have the power to make a difference not only in the African American community but also among America itself.

Maisha Pollard has used this experience to give back to her local communities as well as the Colorado State University community. Maisha Pollard resides in Colorado with her husband Greg Pollard and their three children.

Women in Athletics

By Erica L. Boyer

Sports have always been a major source of attraction, but for women we're limited in which sports we were able to partake in. Sports were seen as male activities unless women chose to participate in sports like tennis, swimming, etc. As the years have passed the number of women in sports has drastically increased. For every sport men have there is also a women's team. Opportunities for women in college athletics, the WMBA, and various other leagues have skyrocketed. We've all seen the "I can do anything better than you!" commercial. A prime example of the way the dynamic of sports has changed for women. However, though women now have the opportunity to play the same sports as men, there is still various aspects that need to be fixed in the world of women's athletics. Women professional athletes are paid far less than their male counterparts, and the enthusiasm as well as support is seen at a lower level than male sports. Although women are able to have these opportunities, there needs to be recognition in improving the equality among women and men within the athletic world.



Photo courtesy of Google.



Photo courtesy of Google.



Photo courtesy of Google.

APRIL 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 <i>UWC Meeting @ 5 p.m.</i>	2	3 <i>Real Talk @ 4 p.m. BSA Meeting @ 5 p.m.</i>	4	5	6
7 <i>African Night @ 5 p.m.</i>	8 <i>UWC Meeting @ 5 p.m.</i>	9	10 <i>Real Talk @ 4 p.m. BSA Meeting @ 5 p.m.</i>	11	12	13
14	15 <i>UWC Meeting @ 5 p.m. Rice Event @ 11</i>	16	17 <i>Real Talk @ 4 p.m. BSA Meeting @ 5 p.m.</i>	18	19	20
21 <i>Soul Food Gos- pel Fest @ 4:45 p.m.</i>	22 <i>UWC Meeting @ 5 p.m.</i>	23	24 <i>Real Talk @ 4 p.m. BSA Meeting @ 5 p.m.</i>	25	26	27
28	29 <i>UWC Meeting @ 5 p.m.</i>	30				