

Griot

**APRIL / MAY
2017**
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AND THE FOLLOWING AWARD GOES TO...

- Murals 2017
- Lead Conference
- GPS End of the Year Celebration
- A Night of Celebrating Culture
- Good Food, Good Music, Good Vibes



Murals 2017



Lead Conference



**GPS 2017
Celebration**



**2017 B/AACC
Banquet**

M.U.R.A.L.S. 2017

WRITTEN BY & PHOTO CREDITS: YASMON AMON

ON FRIDAY MARCH 31ST, A DIVERSE GROUP OF STUDENTS CAME TOGETHER TO PRESENT THEIR RESEARCH ON A TOPIC THAT WAS NEAR AND DEAR TO THEIR HEART.

M.U.R.A.L.S STANDS FOR MULTICULTURAL UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ART AND LEADERSHIP SYMPOSIUM WHICH WAS CREATED IN 2014. THE SYMPOSIUM IS NOT LIMITED TO STUDENTS OF COLOR BUT IT HIGHLIGHTS THE ACADEMIC AND RESEARCH CAPABILITIES OF STUDENTS WITH DIVERSE RACIAL BACKGROUNDS. THE CATEGORIES CONSISTED OF STEM PROGRAMS, HUMANITIES, SOCIAL SCIENCES, CREATIVE WRITING, VISUAL ARTS AND PERFORMING ARTS. STUDENTS CREATED A POSTER BOARD THAT WAS DISPLAYED IN THE MAIN BALLROOM AND ALSO CREATED A POWERPOINT THAT THEY PRESENTED TO A CLASS OF FACULTY, GRADUATE STUDENTS AND FELLOW PARTICIPANTS.

THE DAY STARTED OFF WITH REGISTRATION AND POSTER SET UP, THEN STUDENTS ATTENDED WORKSHOPS TO HELP THEM WITH THEIR PRESENTATION. LATER, STUDENTS ATE AT THE LUNCHEON WHERE THE DIRECTOR OF THE BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER, BRIDGETTE JOHNSON, SPOKE ABOUT THE HISTORY, THE MEANING AND PURPOSE BEHIND MURALS. THERE WERE TWO PRESENTATION SESSIONS AS WELL AS A POSTER GALLERY SESSION AND FINALLY, THE DAY ENDED WITH AN AWARD CEREMONY. THE STUDENTS THAT WERE RECOGNIZED WERE 1ST PLACE WINNERS, 2ND PLACE WINNERS AND RISING STARS. THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS SYMPOSIUM WAS GIVING STUDENTS A VOICE AND THE ABILITY TO DELVE DEEPER INTO THEIR MAJOR, FUTURE CAREER FIELD OR HOBBIES. CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AWARD RECIPIENTS, WELL DONE TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS AND THANK YOU TO THE FACULTY, STAFF AND STUDENTS THAT MADE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE.

AWARD RECIPIENTS:

EXCELLENCE IN SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY

ENGINEERING MATHEMATICS

1ST PLACE: ABIGAIL CROWDER

2ND PLACE: SELAM TEWEHADE

RISING STARS: LILIA MAEDA, CHIARA FLORES,
KALENE BORREGO

SERVICE LEARNING AND LEADERSHIP

1ST PLACE: VANCE PAYNE

2ND PLACE: ALLY JOHNSON

RISING STAR: MARCELA RIDDICK

VISUAL, CREATIVE AND PERFORMING ARTS

1ST PLACE: BETHANY ANDRADE

2ND PLACE: DANIELA AGUILAR

RISING STAR: JASMINE HOPE ZACHARIAH

SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

1ST PLACE: DAISZHA COOLEY

2ND PLACE: WHITNEY MARSH

RISING STAR: ADRIENNE SHABANDARIAN,
LYDIA GONZALEZ, ANNIE NGO

OVERALL EXCELLENCE:

ANGEL DE JESUS MARTIN

SOCIAL JUSTICE AND INCLUSION:

ANARELY MARQUEZ-GOMEZ

QUOTES FROM PARTICIPANTS:

"TO PARTICIPATE IN MURALS WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE. ALTHOUGH IT WAS STRESSFUL AT TIMES, FINALLY COMPLETING THE PROJECT AND PRESENTING IT WAS A GREAT FEELING. TO ALSO BE REWARDED FOR MY HARD WORK BY WINNING 1ST PLACE IN MY CATEGORY MADE THE EXPERIENCE EVEN BETTER".

-VANCE PAYNE

"I HAD A REALLY GREAT TIME DOING THE RESEARCH BECAUSE STRESS WAS A TOPIC I'VE ALWAYS BEEN INTERESTED IN, BUT THE ACTUAL DAY WAS KIND OF NERVE-WRACKING. AT THE END OF IT, I WAS REALLY SURPRISED THAT I HAD PLACED AND I'M DEFINITELY THINKING ABOUT DOING THIS AGAIN NEXT YEAR."

-SELAM TEWAHADE

"PARTICIPATING IN MURALS WAS VERY FUN FOR ME BECAUSE I GOT TO DO RESEARCH ON SOMETHING THAT WAS VERY CLOSE TO MY HEART, AND IN THE END BE REWARDED FOR IT. IT WAS GREAT TO SEE HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE INTERESTED IN IT AND HOW THE JUDGES THOUGHT I DID A GREAT JOB OVERALL".

-ALLY JOHNSON



LEAD CONFERENCE

WRITTEN BY: YASMINE AMON & PHOTO CREDITS: DUAN RUFF

ON APRIL 7TH AND 8TH, 2ND YEAR STUDENTS FROM THE STUDENT DIVERSITY PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OFFICES PARTICIPATED IN A LEADERSHIP EVENT IN DOWNTOWN DENVER. THE PURPOSE OF THE EVENT WAS TO CONNECT STUDENTS WITH PROFESSIONALS IN VARIOUS FIELDS AND ALSO LEARN HOW TO PRESENT THEMSELVES IN A PROFESSIONAL WAY. STUDENTS PARTOOK IN WORKSHOPS THAT CENTERED AROUND PROFESSIONALISM, BUSINESS, FINDING YOUR PATH AND LEARNING ABOUT COMMUNITY. THERE WERE SPEAKERS FROM VARIOUS BACKGROUNDS AND ETHNIC GROUPS WHO TALKED ABOUT HOW THEY OVERCAME RACIAL OBSTACLES AND PROSPERED IN THEIR CAREERS. STUDENTS HAD A CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN A NETWORKING EVENT WHERE THEY SPOKE TO PROFESSIONALS AND LEARNED MORE ABOUT THEIR COMPANY.

OVERALL IT WAS A EDUCATIONAL AND ENGAGING.



GPS END OF YEAR CELEBRATION

Written by: Ally Johnson

On April 22nd, GPS, a pre-college mentoring program, had its final meeting in a form of an awards ceremony. The ceremony consisted of the GPS travelers (3rd through 12th graders), their families, and the destination leaders (college mentors). During this time, we reflected on the many meetings that GPS has had and all the memories that were made. There were opportunities for the families to get to know each other better and it allowed parents to see how the destination leaders and travelers interact and communicate with each other. As a destination leader myself, this ceremony is so much more than giving out a certificate and a medal, it's an opportunity for us to thank the travelers and their families for allowing us to spend meaningful time with them. Even though I am a mentor, I felt as though they taught us so much as well. Overall, this was a great time for the GPS family to be in community together and talk about the appreciation we have for everyone.



AU NIGHT

WRITTEN BY: YASMINE AMON

On Saturday April 22nd, the organization Africans United put on AU Night that highlighted various cultures in Africa. Countries such as Sudan, Kenya, Ethiopia, Cameroon and many others performed cultural dances. In addition, spoken word, songs, plays and a fashion show were all part of the show. The night was a huge success and tickets sold out at the LSC Theater. Well done to all the members of AU for putting on a stellar performance and thank you to those that came out to support!



SOUL FOOD GOSPEL FEST

WRITTEN BY: YASMINE AMON & PHOTO CREDITS: ORAWAN SAUTTER

ON APRIL 23RD, THE BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER PARTNERED WITH THE CSU DINING AND HOUSING SERVICES TO BRING AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURE TO THE CORBETT AND PARMELEE DINING HALLS. THE OFFICE INVITED CHEFS WHO MADE A RANGE OF DISHES LIKE CATFISH, RIBS, MAC AND CHEESE, GUMBO, CORNBREAD AND PEACH COBBLER. AS A STUDENT WHO LIVES ON CAMPUS AND FREQUENTLY EATS IN THE DORMS, I WOULD SAY THE FOOD WAS A MUCH NEEDED CHANGE AS IT WAS DELICIOUSLY SEASONED AND PROFESSIONALLY PREPARED. IN ADDITION TO THE FOOD, WE WERE GRACED WITH MUSIC FROM THE HOUSE OF WORSHIP CENTER CHOIR AND THE STUDENT CHOIR, SOULFULL. SHYANN LEE CAPTIVATED THE AUDIENCE WITH HER AMAZING VOCALS ONCE AGAIN. WE ALSO HAD RAWFIRE STEP TEAM THAT TRAVELED FROM AURORA TO PERFORM DANCES TO SONGS THAT INFUSED CHRISTIAN LYRICS AND HIP HOP BEATS. THE EVENT WAS A GREAT SUCCESS! THANK YOU TO THE STAFF MEMBERS THAT PUT THE EVENT TOGETHER.



B/AACC BANQUET

WRITTEN BY: YASMINE AMON & PHOTOS BY: TINA NGUYENA

On Saturday May 6th, the Black/African American Cultural Center presented awards to students, staff, faculty members and community members that have greatly impacted the Black/African American



community at Colorado State University. The banquet began with Bridgette Johnson, the director of the B/AACC Office, who explained the purpose of the banquet and why it means so much to the office. The event was

hosted by Jhasmyne Cooper-Moore and Ahonsi Ohimai who presented various awards that celebrated academic standing, outstanding students, community service, student athletes and Greek organizations.



Attendees were also delighted with performances from CSU Alexis Gwin entertained the crowd with a classic train song, played eloquently on the flute, and also hyped the crowd with a modern song, Mask Off. Sametra Woods and Tricia Alexander captivated us with spoken word and song about being black in America. Mohammad York and Ratu Marutle dazzled the audience with their contemporary dance piece and Devin Jones ended

the evening with spoken word. The banquet was a great success and had a wonderful turnout with many friends and family members who traveled to support their college student. Thank you to all those who put this event together and for providing a space for black excellence to be celebrated on campus.





Special Friends Award
SHAUN GEISERT



Special Friends Award
VINCENT BOOKER



Pillar of Excellence Award
DENITA HOWARD



Blanche Hughes Award
BREA BANKS



Outstanding Senior
DEMI FLORES



Highest Senior GPA
BRIANNA LEWIS



Highest Sophomore GPA
VALENTINE MATONGAH



Outstanding Junior
JHASMYNE COOPER-MOORE



Dawn R. Person Award
MARINA MARTIN



Vivian Kerr Outstanding Student Award
VANCE PAYNE



Bill Green Outstanding Athlete Award
DEONTE CLYBURN



Bruce E. Small Diversity Award
SAMETRA WOODS



Jennifer Williams Molock Outstanding NPHC Chapter Award
AND National Panhellenic Council GPA

ALPHA PHI ALPHA FRATERNITY INC.



Paul Chambers Outstanding Student Organization
BLACK STUDENT ALLIANCE



Paul Chambers Outstanding Student Organization
UNITED WOMEN OF COLOR



Paul Chambers Outstanding Student Organization
UNITED MEN OF COLOR



Outstanding Sophomore
BRITHANY GUTIERREZ



Outstanding Mentor
ALLY JOHNSON & VANCE PAYNE



Outstanding Freshman
DEBORAH ILANGIKWA



Outstanding Staff Member:
SAMETRA WOODS & DAWNÆ DENT



Paul Chambers Scholarship Recipient:
TRICIA ALEXANDER & ALLY JOHNSON



Clardy Hill Scholarship Recipient:
ABRIYANNA SENTER



Director's Award
T'HANI HOLT MIDDLETON

NOT PICTURED:

- Highest Junior GPA: Sierra Thompkins
- Highest Freshman GPA: Yvette Uwineza
- GPS Outstanding Destination Leader: Deja Hill

SAVE THE DATES:

**WELCOME B/AACC BBQ
THURSDAY AUGUST 24TH, 2017**

**ICE CREAM SOCIAL
THURSDAY AUGUST 31ST, 2017**

**SDPS TAILGATE
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9TH, 2017**

**rites of passage RETREAT
SEPTEMBER 15TH – 17TH, 2017**

