

The GRIOT

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Lecture from Jacqueline McLeod

Danielle McConnell

The movie *The Help* focuses on several aspects surrounding the ideas of gender roles and norms within society. This film is based in the 1960's and tells the story of the women's movement throughout history and the struggle of African Americans to adapt.

In the lecture given by Jacqueline McLeod, she explained various scenes of the movie that were inadequately portrayed in an attempt to sanitize the perception of what was taking place in the South. In all, there is a constant reminder of a struggle for power by both class, gender, and race within this film, which was also described in her lecture.

Jacqueline tells of several instances when even her own mother played the role of what was needed in order to get power for herself and for her family.

The goal for women who were house maids was to make sure that their children, specifically their daughters, never had to work in that same field.

There was also an extreme value for empowerment within women and also a change in the manner women lived their lives without the help of a man in the 1960's. Jacqueline describes a great migration that occurred in this time period, when men were leaving the south to get better jobs and women were leading themselves into the work force.

This was a structure that was unfamiliar to the family. A new role however, was being taken on by the women who wanted to be able to take care of their children.

Now the women were faced with trying to gain power within society, not only over the economic potential they could have but also over their sexual bodies, as these were seen as objects for the taking.

In many respects this could be classified as a women's movement because of the empowerment that was attempting to be had. There wasn't a struggle for power with

just African American women but women as a whole.

Men were not being placed under arrest or convicted in any way for raping a woman, and because of that there was a constant fear of these working maids being raped in the very kitchens they worked in.

Women utilized the way they were seen in society, the homemaker, or the maid, to create more barrng within the overall culture they lived in. Because going to meetings and organizing rallies was seen as simply a woman's busy work, it was overlooked by men and gave way for more power to be gained by women.

In this lecture another valid point was introduced in regards to this film. It was the idea of what it meant to have certain actresses and races playing certain roles within the film industry. It is interesting when one thinks about how many different types of characters a female plays in a film.

Jacqueline paid specific attention to those films that get nominated for awards. She stated that Hattie McDaniel won an academy award for playing the role of a Mamie, and it was said that the door had been opened for African American actresses. In that same instance however, in the year 2012, African American women are still winning awards for playing those same or similar roles.

Recognition exists in the glorified negativity that is displayed within films and it fails our society. These ideas perpetuate the stereotypes about the way females and males are supposed to act, but also, the way certain races are supposed to act.

Our society glorifies and reinforces negativity, therefore African American actors and actresses are awarded for playing the roles that support the beliefs of how a particular race should act.



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Say "Hello" To Our Peer Coordinators for the 2012-2013 School Year



Name: Alexandria Norris
Major: Human Development & Family Studies with a concentration in early childhood education.
Year: Sophomore
Quote: "The only way of finding the limits of the possible is by going beyond them into the impossible." — Arthur C. Clarke
RETURNING



Name: Kayla Tolbert
Major: International Studies, Political Science, Concentration in Middle East and North Africa
Year: Junior
Quote: "Love yourself first and then we can all start loving each other" Jill Scott.
RETURNING



Name: Edward Harlan, otherwise known as Ed.
Major: Philosophy and minoring in Criminal Justice.
Year: Senior
RETURNING



Name: Michael Burnett
Year: Freshman
Major: Undeclared
Quote: "When you want to succeed as much as you want to breathe, then you will be successful."
NEW



Name: Erica Boyer
Major: Dual major in animal science and equine science
Year: Sophomore
Quote: "Don't make excuses , make it happen."
NEW



Name: Torshan Thomas
Major: Psychology
Year: Sophomore
Quote: " What doesn't kill you, makes you stronger"
NEW



Name: Trenice Copeland
Major: Spanish with a minor in theatre
Year: Sophomore
Quote: "Never take a person for granted, hold every person close to your heart because you might wake up one day and realize that you lost a diamond while you were too busy collecting stones"
NEW



Reflections From B/AACC Graduating Staff



Raven-Olivia Kellum

As I look back over my 4 years at CSU I am truly grateful for all of my experiences. No one ever told me college was going to be a walk in the park, but it was definitely a learning experience. I not only grew academically, but I grew as a woman as well. Being a student at CSU has allowed me to experience different people and cultures I would have never encountered had I stayed in New York.

I am truly appreciative of the Black/African American Cultural Center for making me apart of their family. One of my biggest fears about attending college was being away from my parents. The support I received from B/AACC allowed me to get over my fears and give 110% in all that I did. I learned to stand out and be a leader by taking part in programs such as Donald W. Wilson Mentoring and the Leadership Development Institute.

I would not have been able to make it on this long journey if it weren't for my parents, friends and mentors. I am truly blessed to have Mrs. Bridgette and Marcus in my life. I want to thank them for putting up with me even when they probably didn't want to. I am thankful for you seeing the best in me even when I didn't see it in myself. If it weren't for your guidance and support I wouldn't be the G R E A T woman that I am today.

Overall, I had an amazing journey at CSU even with its occasional road blocks and hurdles. I am proud that I never let anything stop me from pushing forward. Now 4 years later, I am proud that all of my hard work and dedication did not go in vain. However, my journey is nowhere near done, but at least I can look back and not regret anything I have done during my time at CSU. No matter if I am in CO or back in NY, I will always bleed green and gold. I am always and forever proud to be CSU Ram.

“You have brains in your head. You have feet in your shoes. You can steer yourself in any direction you choose. You are on your own now. And you know what you know. You are the guy who’ll decide where you go” - Dr. Seuss



Garrett Hayes

I could sit here and tell you the cliché story that my four years at Colorado State University have magically been the greatest four years of my life because that's what college is supposed to be, but I'd rather keep it real and let you know that these past four years were exactly what I made it.

I can honestly say that I have grown as a man from the minute I stepped on campus up until today simply because I took advantage of the opportunities placed in front of me.

So often we take for granted the opportunities and advantages that we have, but recognizing these opportunities and utilizing them can turn a good college experience into a great and productive one. Mentors can only mentor as much as you allow them to. Teachers can only give you as much knowledge as you're willing to take. Service projects are only around until someone decides to pick them up. A closed mouth doesn't get fed and your crush remains a crush until something is said.

The men and women I consider my mentors have had the biggest impact on my life because I recognized them as resources. I have learned more outside of class than in class because I didn't put a cap on how much knowledge I wanted to take in, and I have learned that if I don't ask for something no one knows that I need anything.

What I am trying to say is that I recognize that to many of us, Fort Collins is an alien environment, but it doesn't mean that there aren't aspects that we can't benefit from. It is because I took advantage of my opportunities and recognized the potential of the people around me that I have taken in all that Colorado State University has to offer. I have grown into a stronger and smarter individual on a mission to continue to grow.

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Leah Andrews

Walking on this campus in the fall of 2008, I never thought I would get here. Four years later I am about a month away from walking across the stage in Moby arena to receive my bachelors degree. These past four years seem to have flown by so quickly. Having elbowed my way through many hardships, I now stand here a completely different person. I am stronger, more driven, more confident.

I have grown from being shy and unsure of myself, to a fearless woman with an unbreakable will. I am a better leader and a better friend. I am well aware that I did not make it here alone. I have been lucky enough to have a few very special people who stood by me from the beginning and never left my corner.

Among the staff here at CSU, I must thank Bridgette Johnson, director of BAACC. She has been more than just my boss, (*wink*) having provided a level of support beyond anything I could have asked for, but more of a mentor and friend. I will truly miss her after graduation. I will be back to visit though!

Besides an awesome achievement and the beginning of a new chapter, my graduation will mean that much more to have my entire family there, including my father, a 5 year cancer survivor. I still tear up when I remember him telling me he had to live long enough to see me graduate. He is perfectly fine now and we all know he will live forever!

This achievement is as much for him as it is for me. I am thankful for the privilege of going to college, the struggles that made me who I am, and finally the benefits of perseverance. Here's to Colorado State University, I am the class of 2012!!!

“I hope your dreams take you...to the corners of your smile, to the highest of your hopes, to the windows of your opportunity, and to the most special places your heart has ever known.” - Unknown



Danielle McConnell

To say that these past four years have been an experience, would be an understatement. Even now as I write this, I reflect back on how far I truly have come as an individual, a student, and a woman.

When I started here at Colorado State University I was a “little, hundred pounds soaking wet girl with the micro-braids,” as one of my mentors, Marcus Elliot likes to recall. I was shy, reserved, and unsure of what this world of college would bring me. That shell quickly broke as I was left on my own to experience what college life had to offer, and I can truthfully say, I wasn't ready.

I experienced failure, happiness, heartache, growth, and empowerment that is irreplaceable. I established connections, some still strong, and some that have dwindled. As my mentor, and mom away from home Bridgette Johnson would tell me, “ You learn who is in your life for the moment and who is in your life to stay forever.” I definitely learned that the hard way.

It was those friends, here now or not, and those experiences, that created a framework of understanding within myself, of who Danielle McConnell really is.

Four years later, college has given me more than I ever would have pictured, and lessons that can't be taught in any classroom. I am thankful for the opportunities given to me. Working in the Black/ African American Cultural Center, joining organizations that trained me to be a leader like United Women of Color, Associated Students of Colorado State University, and Black Definition, but also taking the time to develop me.

I believe so easily we get lost in all the positions and roles that other individuals want us to play. One thing I can honestly say CSU did for me is establish the exact role that I choose to play in my life. I will leave here with a passion for life, friendship, and strength, something that was not engrained in me before this moment.

It has been a long time coming, but I cannot say that the Black/ African American Cultural Center and the people I will leave will not be missed. Those priceless moments of triumph, with those inspirational people are something that I will hold onto forever.

Those late night computer stares, early morning drives next to early morning classes, and those all too familiar lectures from those who stood in as my mother while I lived the college life, will be stared at in the rear view mirror as I move excitedly away from them.

If college is what you make it, mine has definitely been an amusement park, full of ups and downs, tears and laughter, but most importantly, a growth of exponential intelligence and memories permanently framed and stored in my heart. Thank you Colorado State University.

APRIL 2012

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 <i>28th Annual Awards Banquet @ 3 p.m.</i>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 <i>G.P.S End Of Year Event @ 11 a.m.</i>
22 <i>Soulfood Gospel Fest @4:30 p.m.</i>	23	24	25	26	27	28 <i>Celebration of Graduates @ 1 p.m.</i>
29	30					