

August ~ September

# THE GRIOT

In the records of West African history, "GRIOT (pronounced gree-oh) was the honored name bestowed upon wise and knowledgeable story teller entrusted with the task of documenting tribal histories and genealogies

This issue covers:  
Open House  
Ice Cream Social  
B/AACC BBQ  
and more...



BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN  
CULTURAL CENTER  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

## Meet the Editor

*Precious*



### *My favorite quote:*

"Even if it makes you uncomfortable, I will love who I am" -Janelle Monae

Hello, my name is Precious. I'm a second year with a major in Psychology. I hope to be a therapist or psychiatrist in the nearest future.

I am Nigerian and an immigrant. My family and I immigrated from Nigeria when I was 6. I still speak my language and hope to teach my children.

I love learning new dances, more about space, and meeting new people. I'm very social and an extrovert but I do like personal time.

It's been a great and loving experience to be this year's GRIOT. I can't wait to continue and build my editing and writing skills. Please let me know how I did on my first edit!

# LETTER FROM DUAN

**From 1997 when I stepped on this campus as an 18 year old first year student, to 2021 when I walked into the office as the Director taking over for one of (if not the best) Director of the B/AACC office I am filled with humility, reverence, and appreciation for the opportunity be the servant leader of this office. This office has given so much to me and my family over the years...I can only give this place everything I have. My philosophy outside of servant leadership is Keep the Main Thing the Main Thing...and that is what we are going to do in the B/AACC office. We will ensure that students have every opportunity to be successful and graduate with their degree. We are all about student success and we center blackness in this office and all the different intersection of being black and...holding one or multiple additional identities. To students reading this we got your B/AACC and we are here for you every step of your journey. To Alumni reading this, we need you for support for the students currently traveling a journey that you know so well. To all the others reading this...we appreciate you, your support, and hope to see you at some of our events, where you can experience and be a part of the Black Ram family!!!**

**With Peace and Love. ~Duan**





# Letter From Adrian

**Greetings! I am excited to share words for this edition of the GRIOT! What an awesome chance to be a part of the amazing history of this amazing office. As a 2017 Colorado State University of Alumni, I am delighted to serve as a professional staff to an office that made such a huge impact on my college journey. If you are first year student, welcome to CSU. This is the stepping stone for the pathway of a new journey that will take you far. If you are a returning student, continue to do your best with your academics and be in the moment – HAVE FUN!! If you are graduating, enjoy this last year and make time to simply BE. And also get on up out of here – there is a world waiting for your energy, your knowledge, and all the great things you have to offer the world and add to your pallet. Writing this being having been a part of CSU for 10 YEARS as both a student and a professional is such an honor. I am excited to serve you all and look forward to a great year and always remember, WEGOTYOURBAACC! ~Adrian**





# Meet the B.E.S.T Staff



Jasmine

My name is Jasmine Retland and I work as a Peer Coordinator and a Peer Mentor in the office. I'm going on my third year as a Music Therapy major. My favorite hobbies are singing, hiking, and hanging with friends. If you need your hair done hmu! Also catch me at the games as a Presidential Ambassador and events as the RamEvents Liaison.  
Go Rams!



Betel

My name is Betel Binyam. My major is Sociology with a concentration in criminology. I am looking forward to going to law school. My favorite things include spending time with my family and friends



Shaza

Hi my name is Shaza! I'm a third year biochemistry major on a pre-med track. I'm a Sudanese-American and I've lived in Fort Colliuns for most of my life. I love traveling, writing, and lisetning to music. This is my first year working as a peer coordinator at the B/AACC office and I'm excited to meet new people and build community on campus



Abby

Hi my name is Abby. I'm a second year Psychology major with a concentration in clinical counseling. I love hiking, drawing, reading, playing volleyball, and crocheting. I'm excited to work at BAACC to help students (including myself) connect with one another and grow to reach their full potential



Andrew

I am a senior in Journalism with a minor in Communications Studies. I enjoy writing stories and creating digital art. My goal is to get into digital and video production with the long term goal of film making



Steph

My name is Steph, a black man from Montbello. I love ALL my communities and will continue to strive for Black Excellence





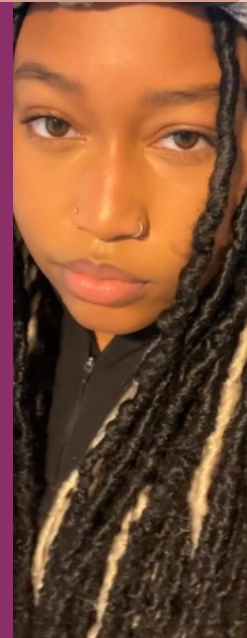
## Claudia

Hey! My name is Claudia Paraiso and I work as a peer mentor here at the B/AACC office. I am a second year student majoring in international studies and political science with a French minor. In my free time you can find me hanging out with friends and family, playing volleyball and basketball, or listening to music



## Lexi

Hi I'm Lexi, this is my 4th year at CSU and I am majoring in Human Development and Family Studies with a Pre-Health Professions concentration. I am a peer mentor as well as the graphic designer for B/AACC.



## Maya

Hi, my name is Maya. I am a third year Chemistry major. I am really family/friend oriented person and enjoy meeting new people so if you ever need anything let me know!



## Denzel

I am Denzel Hampton, a junior in chemical and biological engineering. I like to travel and find what the world has to offer.



## Sabina

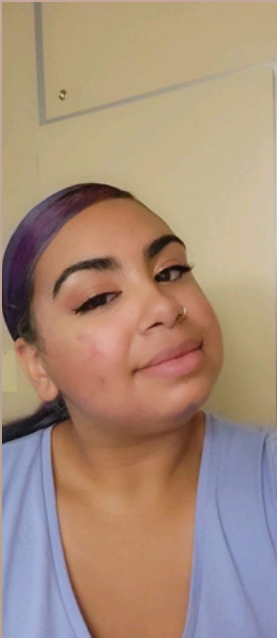
Hi all! My name is Sabina Gebru and I am an Inclusive Community Assistant for B/AACC. I am a 3rd year Human Development and Family Studies major. I love trying new things and exploring! I'm currently getting over my fear of running by training for a 10K. I love working with the BAACC office and can't wait to see how this year goes!



## Savannah

Hello! I am a 4th-year soil and crop sciences major with minors in organic agriculture and Spanish. I was born and raised in Seattle, Washington, and I moved to Fort Collins in 2019 to attend school at CSU. In my free time, I like to roller skate, paint, visit beautiful spaces around Fort Collins, and read, especially books about African-American history. My strong passion for social justice and want to help my community and students like me has led me to work with B/AACC, whether I'm connecting with my mentees or just kickin' it in the office I'm so happy and grateful I was able to find such a tight community so far from home.





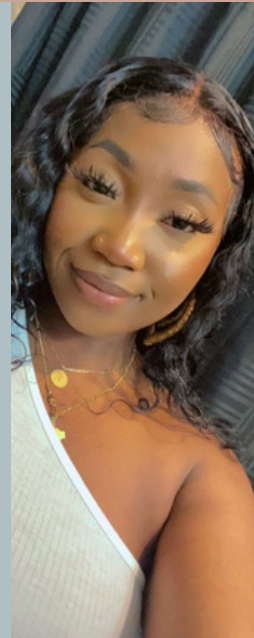
## Kiah

I'm Kiah. I'm a third year Psychology major concentrating in Clinical and Counseling studies. I plan to work with family systems in underrepresented communities. I would love to serve as a bridge for people who are most often forgotten and the Mental Healthcare system.



## Nevaeh

I am a senior studying Zoology with intentions to go to veterinary school. I grew up living in different countries around world which allowed me to experience different cultures and ways of life. As a result, I have many experiences from which I have grown and have become a better individual



## Bolu

I'm Bolu. I'm fourth year HDFS Prehealth Major. I'm also the President of Delta Sigma Theta and Africans United. I love playing piano.



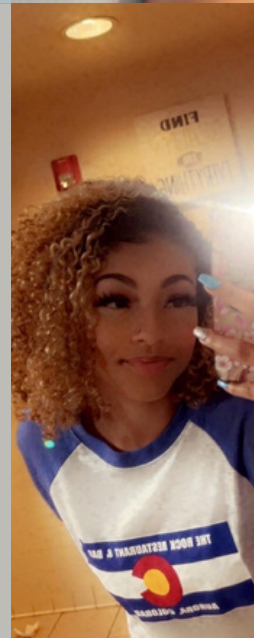
## Ashenafi

My name is Ashenafi Paulos and I'm a second year Environmental Sociology major. This is my first year working at B/AACC and I'm excited to see how this year goes.



## Ricky

Hi, I'm Ricky. My pronouns are She/They/Ella, I am a proud woman of transgender experience. I am a sixth year Wildlife Biology major and a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion minor. I am currently really passionate about researching how wildlife are responding to climate change and habitat loss



## Kam

I am a second year Criminology major. As well as a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc. I wear my pink and green with a passion and strive to always do my best. I love the work I am putting in to creating the person I want to become.



# Meet Lead Peer Coordinators

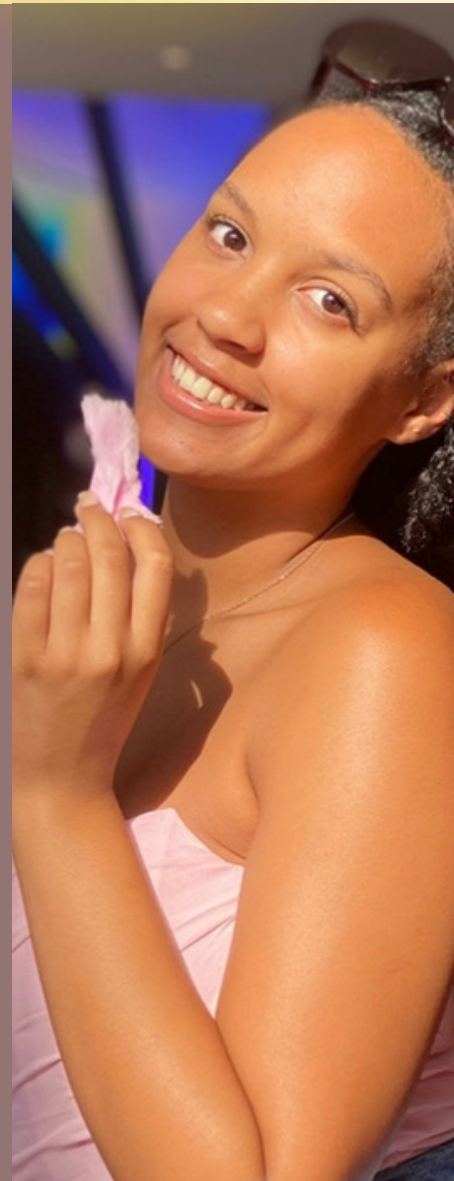


TJ

I'm a 4th year studying biological science with a concentration in microbiology on the pre-veterinairn track. I'm a designer, artist, and poet. If you want fashion ideas you can find me on instagram @Koku\_Tenshi

Jocelyn

Hi! My name is Jocelyn Lapham and I am a 5th year here at CSU, studying Visual Arts with a concentration in Graphic Design. I am going into my 3rd year working at the B/AACC Office as a Lead Peer Coordinator and Peer Mentor. I'm all about community and helping my peers succeed, so you can also find me working as the Key Plus Community Engagement Student Coordinator and other various jobs around campus. Fun fact about me: I designed and helped paint the new RamWalk Mural-please check it out at the next football game or anytime on campus!





# Open House

August 19, 2022



PEOPLE HAVE DIFFERENT EXPERINCES WHEN IT COMES TO STARTING A NEW SEMESTER. FOR SOME PEOPLE IT MEANS A NEW LIFE. THE B/AACC OFFICE EMBRACES ALL THOSE DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES. THE OPEN HOUSE IS A WAY FOR FIRST YEAR AND TRANSFER STUDENTS TO MEET NEW FRIENDS, GET TO KNOW THE OFFICE, AND ENJOY A WARM WELCOME TO CSU. THIS YEAR STUDENTS RECEIVED A WELCOME BAG WITH MANY GOODIES. THE OFFICE WAS PACKED WITH PEOPLE. THERE WAS LAUGHTER AND MUSIC ALL OVER THE ROOM. THE STUDENTS WHO COULDN'T MAKE IT ALSO RECIEVED THEIR WELCOME BAGS. EACH PEER MENTOR PERSONALLY DELIVERED BAGS TO THE DORMS OF THOSE WHO COULDN'T MAKE IT.



# Ice Cream Social

August 24, 2022

The Icecream Social is an event for Black student organizations to introduce themselves to new students and the community! There was free ice cream and each student org had a poster that included information about their club and how to get involved. It was such an informative event and it was so nice to learn about how to get involved on campus with black student club! -Shaza Mohamed





# WELCOME BAAACC BBQ

September 1, 2022

The annual BBQ is always an amazing time.

It's an opportunity to meet new people in the community and enjoy yourself among your peers. This year it was my first year attending as a B/AACC staff member and it was so fun to participate in the set up process and see all our hard work pay off. -Shaza Mohamed





# Rite Of Passage

September 16-18

**Hello, My name is Jacob Perreault. I'm a first year Computer Engineering Major. I also went on the retreat. The Rite of Passage gave me the opportunity to make new friends and connect with my blackness. I'm very happy I went. My favorite moment was Saturday night after the talent show, hanging out with my friends and just having a good time. ~Jacob Perreault**





# REAL TALK

**Real talk is a space to talk about real black issues, bring awareness to social issues and problems in our society. It's a brave space.**



**Every Tuesday people from different cultures and identities gather in the B/AACC office to talk about different topics. Some are controversial while some are social but all those topics are focused on the real Black and intersecting issue.**

**NEW EPISODE**

THE BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER PRESENTS REAL TALK

**HYPERSEXUALITY**

BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

COME JOIN US AS WE TALK ABOUT THE IMPACTS OF BEING HYPERSEXUALIZED IN THE WORLD TODAY



The Black/African American Cultural Center Presents Real Talk

**Cap in the Rap**  
Your Favorite Playlist

05:55 24:30

BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER  
COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

Tuesday, September 13th  
@4pm in B/AACC (LSC 335)

Join us to talk about if rap is progressing o  
ing us back in the black communit



LOOK OUT FOR:  
MORE REALTALKS  
TAILGATES  
AND MANY MORE

