

OFFICE OF THE VICE PRESIDENT FOR DIVERSITY

W E L C O M E D , V A L U E D , a n d A F F I R M E D

December Newsletter

In This Issue

- ♦ Graduation Commencement Schedule
- ♦ **Special Article:** *B/AACC 40th Anniversary* by Donovan Tate
- ♦ RDS: De-stress with Dogs
- ♦ Worlds AIDS Day Events
- ♦ **Special Article:** *Thoughts of Black Girl Dangerous* by Tricia Alexander

Fall Graduation Commencement Schedule

Congratulations to all Fall 2016 Graduates!

Friday, December 16, 2016

- Air Force ROTC Commissioning 9:00 a.m., Lory Student Center
- Army ROTC Commissioning 10:00 a.m., Lory Student Center, Grand Ballroom
- The Graduate School 3:00 p.m., Moby Arena
- College of Health and Human Sciences 7:00 p.m., Moby Arena

Saturday, December 17, 2016

- College of Agricultural Sciences 9:00 a.m., Lory Student Center, Grand Ballroom
- College of Business 9:00 a.m., Moby Arena
- College of Engineering 12:30 p.m., Lory Student Center, Grand Ballroom
- College of Natural Sciences 1:00 p.m., Moby Arena
- College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences 4:00 p.m., Lory Student Center, Grand Ballroom
- College of Liberal Arts 5:00 p.m., Moby Arena

Sunday, December 18, 2016

- Warner College of Natural Resources 9:00 a.m., Moby Arena

THE BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER

40 years

Homecoming Anniversary

WRITTEN BY: DONOVAN TATE

The 40th anniversary of the Black/African American Cultural Center was a moment to remember. As a graduate student who is currently in his 5th year of education at Colorado State University, I never thought that the B/AACC office would have impacted me as profoundly as it has today. The office has had a great influence on the way I navigate through my everyday circumstances. It has allowed me to grasp tightly to my identity as an African American young man who is dedicated to both his personal and professional development. Additionally, it has given me the opportunity to foster meaningful relationships with various people,

staff, mentors, educators and coordinators who validate me and my experiences. At the 40th anniversary banquet, I was able to share my appreciation for what the office has done not only for me, but also for a community of other students who can testify to its widespread impact. During my speech, I touched on the commitment the office makes to culture, awareness, understanding and advocacy for the diverse population of students at CSU. I spoke on the trials and tribulations that people of color endure in this country due to the harsh realities of institutionalized oppression such as mass incarceration, police brutality and the media's dehumanization of black and brown people. Everyone in attendance spoke highly of my speech and appreciated what I had to say on the topic. It was a wonderful sight to see so many historical faces in the room.

Alumni from an array of





graduating classes attended the banquet to celebrate B/AACC's achievements and success over the years. I saw both new faces and old faces; recent graduates and older graduates. However, no matter the difference in graduating classes, one thing was constant; everyone was there to express gratitude to a special office that helped mold them into the very successful individuals that they are today. All the individuals in attendance had something special to offer the communities they impact, the people they serve and the world overall. The delightful music and delicious food set the tone for an exciting atmosphere. The vibes in the room were characteristics of joyfulness, unity and solidarity. It was a time where alumni could embrace the one thing that will forever connect them when all else changes, and that was the connection we had all made while utilizing the B/AACC

office's magical space. I hope to be invited to the next celebration and I cannot wait to see the journey that my peers undertake in the next several years. I have no doubt that they will go far and wide, impacting every life that they touch. I am sure of this because B/AACC teaches students how to give back and pull others up alongside them. Going forward, I am excited to see the impact that my peers make on the world and look forward to linking up with them again at the next B/AACC celebration years down the line. Until then, thank you B/AACC for the opportunity, for validating me and others, and reminding me that I am enough.





Colorado State University

De-stress with **DOGS**



an equal-opportunity University

6-8 p.m.

Dec 6 🐾 LSC 226 & 228

Dec 8 🐾 TILT Building

Disability accommodations available with prior arrangement. Call (970) 491-6385.

We respectfully request scheduled dogs only at this event.



SPONSORED BY:

RESOURCES FOR
DISABLED STUDENTS

HOUSING &
DINING SERVICES

STUDENT DIVERSITY
PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

CSU HEALTH
NETWORK

WORLD AIDS DAY

DECEMBER 1 ♦ 5:30 P.M.
LSC BALLROOM B

candlelight vigil

Sponsored By:
Office of International Programs
Northern Colorado AIDS Project
Residence Life
Pride Resource Center
Women and Gender Advocacy Center
CSU Health Network
RamEvents



Colorado State University

An equal-access and equal-opportunity university

It's time for access, equity, rights - now!
leave no one behind

Movie: Dallas
Buyers Club

Thursday,
December 1st
7:30pm
LSC Theater

Free HIV/
Hep-C Testing

Friday,
December 2nd
10:00am-2:00pm
LSC 372



THOUGHTS OF BLACK GIRL DANGEROUS



“I was not put on this Earth to hold your hand through your social justice journey. That is what Google is for” were the words of Mia McKenzie, also known as Black Girl Dangerous. To some, this may come off as a little harsh, but McKenzie kept it real on how it feels to be a part of a marginalized group. Mia McKenzie, a queer, black feminist and writer from Philadelphia, was the LGBT History Month Keynote Speaker. Her work has been recognized with several awards and grants. Her debut novel *The Summer We Got Free* won the 2013 Lambda Literary Award and her second book, *Black Girl Dangerous*, is used to teach about queerness, class, and gender at universities across the country. McKenzie brought a refreshing view on the social justice fight when she gave her speech unapologetically and eloquently. As a black woman who has attended schools with white students most of my life, I needed to hear what she had to say. It was as if her words were the thoughts I kept in the back of my mind.



She deemed her ideas on how to handle social justice as radical and often the term radical has a negative connotation in our society; however, her perspective wasn't radical in a way that was damaging to others.

Her form of radical promoted the mental and emotional health of people with marginalized identities. McKenzie addressed how most of what we are taught when it comes to discussing social justice topics are methods that cater to those with dominant identities.



Another key point she stressed is our society's habit of equating the hurt feelings of those with dominant identities with the oppressions of those with marginalized identities. McKenzie explained that it is feeding into white supremacy to have this mentality and it's another form of silencing to those who are already marginalized. She closed by stating she will only be taking questions and having conversations with people with marginalized identities and she acknowledged how it often catches everyone off guard when she says this. She vocalized it best when she said, "You have to be silent for 20 minutes. Marginalized people have been silenced for centuries." Her unapologetic dedication may have been interpreted as rude by some but in today's overtly racist world, it's necessary. Overall, from her demeanor to her words, she assured the space would be dominated by those with less privilege. I hope to see more of us command spaces like this on campus.

Mia McKenzie



SPECIAL THANKS TO RAM EVENTS, PRIDE RESOURCE CENTER, AND THE BLACK/AFRICAN AMERICAN CULTURAL CENTER FOR YOUR SPONSORSHIP AND SUPPORT

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GIFT TODAY**

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