Student Life

Tree of Knowledge is located just outside Russell House on Green Street. (Photo provided by: AAAS social media)

The Tree of Knowledge is a great place to learn about Black student organizations and student life. Right in the heart of campus, just outside Russell House on Greene Street, the Tree of Knowledge was donated by the Association of African American Students (AAAS) and Student Affairs on Oct 24, 1995. Meet by the tree on Wednesdays to join in on Hip Hop Wednesday. This is a weekly event to bring students together and show appreciation for Hip Hop music.

Just across from the Tree of Knowledge in Russell House is the Office of Multicultural Student Affairs which supports student needs from underrepresented communities here on campus. You can find many other student organizations in this office including The Black Honors Caucus, Black Medical Student Association, Brother of Nubian Descent, Collegiate Curls, and many others.

U of SC also has 8 of the Divine 9 Greek organizations which participate in recruitment and Greek life activities each year. The Divine 9 were founded mainly at HBCU's but now have chapters all across the U.S. Here at U of SC, we are working to recognize the African American student experience and that includes black athletes. At Williams-Brice Stadium George Rogers stands, one of the first Black athletes at USC along with Jackie Brown (football), Casey Manning (basketball) and Sheila Foster (basketball).

U of SC has eight active chapters of the Divine 9. There are nine historically Black Greek letter organizations that make up the Devine 9. (Photo provided by Fraternity and Sorority life website)

George Rogers is one of the first Black athletes at U of SC. In 1980 he was the Heisman Trophy winner. His statue can be found at Williams-Brice Stadium on George Rogers Blvd. (Photo provided by Ethan Lam)

Association of African American Students is still an active student group on campus, hosting events like Hip Hop Wednesday and you can learn more about their organization through the additional links provided. (pc: AAAC Instagram)

Additional Information

The Association of African American Students:
Instagram: @aaas_1968
African American Studies Program

Multicultural Student Affairs

Greek Life; Divine 8/9

First Black Athletes

Office of Multicultural Student Affairs

Garnet and Black Yearbooks

Photo provided by African American Studies Program website

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