

March 1, 2022  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **STUDENT DOCUMENTARY HIGHLIGHTING BLACK WOMEN IN THE UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA'S HISTORY TO DEBUT IN MARCH**

COLUMBIA, S.C. — In recognition of Women's History Month, former University of South Carolina Student Body Vice-President Hannah White is officially releasing "The Backbone", a feature-length documentary chronicling the perspectives and experiences of Black women at the University of South Carolina since its desegregation in 1963.

"The Backbone" features over 20 outstanding Black women alumnae in the University's history including:

- **Dr. Henrie Monteith Treadwell '65** - First Black student to graduate from UofSC since 1877
- **Gail Bush Diggs '77** - Second Black woman to be Homecoming Queen at UofSC
- **Jotaka Eaddy '01** - First Black woman to be Student Body President
- **Yvonne Miller '05** - First Black woman to serve as Student Body Vice-President
- **Markeshia Grant '12** - Former Gamecock Women's Basketball Player
- **Karli Wells '16** - 2020 Vision Protest Activist

The film began as White's senior Honor Thesis project and expanded into a much more complex film, prompting her to form a team that includes South Carolina Gamecock Women's Basketball Production Manager Kendric Lindsey as the film's Producer & Editor and UofSC alumna Lyric Swinton as Production Manager.

"Through this film, I wanted to ensure that people never forget the role that Black women have played in making the University of South Carolina what it is today," said White. "This documentary is dedicated to all of the Black women who have made the University of South Carolina what it is today. Although we were only able to highlight a few of many stories from Black women in UofSC's history, we acknowledge and honor the contributions of ALL Black women to our campus. Whether you were affiliated with the University as a student, professor, administrator, custodian, food service worker, groundskeeper, etc., thank you for being the backbone."

There will be a series of three premiere events in March:

- **Friday, March 18th at 6:00PM (Reception at 5:00PM) on the rooftop of Gambrell Hall**
- **Thursday, March 24th at 6:00PM in Russell House Theater**
- **Tuesday, March 29th at 6:00PM in the Historic Booker T. Washington Auditorium**

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Sponsoring organizations and departments for the film series include: Iota Chi Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc, Theta Gamma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc, Zeta Theta Chapter of Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc, African-American Studies Program, TRIO Programs, Garnet Media Group, UofSC Black Alumni Council, Museum of Education, Center For Civil Rights History & Research, Office of Diversity & Inclusion, Russell House University Union, Association of African-American Students, Black Honors Caucus, SAVVY, UofSC NAACP, and Carolina Productions.

Tickets for all three events are free and can be reserved at [linktr.ee/thebackbonefilm](https://linktr.ee/thebackbonefilm).

For information or media availability with “The Backbone” film team, contact Lyric Swinton at [lyricswinton@gmail.com](mailto:lyricswinton@gmail.com).

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GRAPHIC ATTACHED