Innovative · Engaging · Experiential
Enhancing the Global Competency of Our Students
Welcome from Dr. Covey

Welcome to our Readership!

Many of you are receiving THE BLUEPRINT, the electronic newsletter of Georgia State’s Division of Student Affairs, for the first time. This is the third edition of what is becoming a periodic update on the evolving palette of programs, services and facilities offered to enhance the quality of campus life and the co-curricular experience. THE BLUEPRINT also serves as a forum to increase awareness of useful resources and as a vehicle for sharing departmental, staff and student accomplishments. Print versions of the January and March issues are available for your review.

The beginning of each year is an exciting time on any campus and at none more so than at Georgia State. We begin this edition with an overview of the varied opening activities which are encompassed by, Panther Welcome, our annual embrace of new and returning students.

In this issue you will find that the Staff Spotlight is shining upon Dr. Michell Temple, Director of Disability Services, who is the most recent member of our team to complete a terminal degree. Other colleagues are also applauded for attaining professional recognition at the university and national level. We are very proud of our most recent Sparks Award recipient, Lesia Chandler, and Tonya Cook, winner of the Carl V. Patton Award for Community Service.

We are also happy to share that Georgia State has been selected for the Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll, and that the Counseling Center received national honors in the form of the Innovations in College & University Counseling Centers Award from the Association of University and College Counseling Center Directors.

The Student Center continues to serve you better with the addition of new retail food offerings including Burritobowl and Freshens in the Courtyard.

Finally, the Dean of Students Office, in cooperation with other campus departments is forging a relationship with EMBARK Georgia, to better assist homeless students and students in foster care.

Again, welcome back for the fall semester and welcome to THE BLUEPRINT.

Dr. Douglass F. Covey, Sr.
Vice President for Student Affairs
This past summer semester Michell Temple graduated with her doctorate in education from the University of West Georgia. Her area of study was in professional counseling and supervision, with a concentration in program evaluation and her research interest and dissertation focused on the use of best practices to design and implement cultural programs.

"Like many people, I reflect on my background and am wonderfully amazed that somehow a person that came from that has now arrived to this, the title of Dr. Temple. Like many, my journey was difficult and filled with obstacles that I had to move, breakthrough, or climb over. I am honored to say that I had a great support system in all aspects of my life because I could not have achieved this professional milestone on my own. So, in short, it feels great to finish." ~ Michell Temple

Michell has worked at Georgia State for the past three years. She has been the Director of Disability Services for the past two years. Michell began her career in vocational rehabilitation but quickly realized she had a passion for working with students on a college campus. Michell’s first job was at the Atlanta campus of Savannah College of Art and Design and she came to us from Georgia Institute of Technology.

Michell has a philosophy of student empowerment and advocacy. She understands the importance of supporting students, especially students with disabilities, but also realizes the significance of helping our students to be self-sufficient.

“One of my many goals in my work is to promote disability as diversity. As I believe, and research shows, that a person has the greatest opportunity to thrive when he or she embraces the multiple identities that create oneself. My hope is that students at Georgia State embrace disability as diversity and thrive as a result!” ~ Michell Temple

A consummate professional, Michell is involved in several professional organizations. For example, she is a member of National Rehabilitation Association (NRA), National Association of Multicultural Rehabilitation Concerns (NAMRC), License Professional Counselor Association of Georgia (LPCA-GA), the American Evaluation Association (AEA), and the Georgia Association of Higher Education and Disability (GA-AHEAD). This past semester, Michell was awarded the Joyce Keener Meritorious Service Award. The award is given through NAMRC for continuous and loyal service to the association. The significance of this award is that the service must be demonstrated at the national, state and local levels.

On August 24, 2015, over 32,000 students began their fall semester on campus at Georgia State University. Over 3,400 of these students are freshmen just beginning their college journey at one of the leading urban research universities in the nation. With so many exciting things happening at Georgia State, some may find it challenging to adjust and get involved. Fortunately, Panther Welcome is here to help!

Panther Welcome is an opportunity for freshmen to integrate with the campus community and the downtown Atlanta area. In collaboration with many departments throughout the university, Panther Welcome is a two-week-long extravaganza featuring over 30 diverse events and programs. Newcomers and returning students alike will find their fall semester arrival less worrisome and more exciting when they participate in this annual opportunity.

During Convocation, the new freshman class received their medallions and recited the Freshman Pledge. Afterwards, the new panthers were invited to celebrate at the Panther Welcome Block Party at Hurt Park. That was only the beginning of these two eventful weeks to come. Dozens of other inclusive and engaging events will follow, such as organizational meet and greets, a pool party at the Recreation Center, multiple job fairs, welcome receptions for minority communities, an enlightening seminar on studying abroad and so much more!

Alongside these exciting happenings, students will have the opportunity to take part in many of the programs and organizations offered on campus. A great way to get to know the university better is by joining one of the over 400 student organizations available. Students will have the chance to meet many of the members by attending the Student Organization, Atlanta Vendor and College & Campus Life Fair on Thursday, September 3. For anyone having trouble finding their way around campus, just look for an Ask Me Booth! These helpful information hubs will be located throughout campus during the first week of school.

Another program of interest is the Food and Toiletry Drive, which is dedicated to assisting students in need. Designated donation bins are placed throughout the campus during the first two weeks of school. Please consider dropping off non-perishable food items and personal toiletries to aid students and help stock the Panther Pantry.

All of these opportunities encourage students, faculty and staff to join together and bring a greater sense of panther pride to our campus community. We hope to see you there!

Staff Spotlight: Michell L. Temple, EdD

Panther Welcome
Congratulations Student Affairs

The Division of Student Affairs is composed of a diverse and devoted staff that encourages its members to aspire to new and exciting feats. We are honored to have so many committed workers recognized for their accomplishments.

The Division of Student Affairs is proud to announce the following award winners:

Civic Engagement
Community Impact Award
The Atlanta Community Food Bank has awarded the office of Civic Engagement for their role in helping eradicate hunger in Atlanta. ACFB uses more than 1,700 volunteers each month to distribute over 60 million pounds of food annually to their 600 nonprofit partner agencies. Many of these volunteers come from Georgia State, including Atlanta Based Learning participants who are coordinated in partnership between Civic Engagement and Undergraduate Studies. In addition to providing volunteers, Civic Engagement has been recognized for going above and beyond to bring awareness about hunger issues to the GSU community by hosting an annual Hunger and Homelessness Week on campus. Each November, students engage in service projects, panel discussions, networking events and city walks that deepen their understanding of the issues so many people in Atlanta face daily.

Counseling Center
Innovations in College & University Counseling Centers Award
The Georgia State University Counseling & Testing Center received the Innovations in College & University Counseling Centers Award this year from the Association of University and College Counseling Center Directors (AUCCCD). Our colleagues were selected for their innovation of a stepped-care model of service delivery that includes mind/body intervention with the menu of services offered after a same-day initial consultation. Student satisfaction data and student learning outcomes were considered. Six counseling center leaders nationally were chosen to present their Center’s innovation in student counseling services at the AUCCCD conference in Salt Lake City, Utah in October 2015. The institutions recognized are: Arizona State University, Florida Gulf Coast University, Georgia State University, Ithaca College, Loyola University, Chicago and Rutgers University.

Multicultural Center
Tonya Cook:
Carl V. Patton President’s Awardee for Outstanding Faculty or Staff Award
The President’s Awards are based on the university’s statement of commitment, which identifies unifying principles for the university community to follow. On May 4, 2015, this noteworthy award was presented to Tonya Cook, Program Specialist for the Multicultural Center. Her commitment to community efforts such as a Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated Stork’s Nest Blitz, National Black Arts Festival, GSU Alumni Association and the Atlanta Women’s Foundation were showcased at the award ceremony via video presentation.

Several breakfast options will also be available. In addition to three breakfast burrito bowls by Burritobowl, Freshens will provide fresh-blended smoothies, including options made with sorbet and Greek yogurt, as well as baked goods such as bagels, pastries and muffins and a selection of Starbucks coffees, which are widely known and extremely popular at college campuses that also house Freshens.
New Foods For Thought

The Courtyard food court in Student Center East underwent renovations over the summer to prepare for opening on August 24 of two new eateries: Burritobowl and Freshens Café and Bakery.

New to the Georgia State campus, Burritobowl will take the place of Einstein Bros. Bagels, which closed its venue in the Courtyard at the beginning of the summer. Freshens is moving to the Courtyard from the Panther Club food court in Student Center West, and Pasta Creations, a popular luncheon spot, is moving from the Courtyard to the Panther Club. The Carving Board and Far East Fusion will remain in the Courtyard and reopen along with the new restaurants at the beginning of fall semester.

The dining changes were determined in a student-driven effort to expand the range of healthy, diverse and affordable breakfast, lunch and dinner options for Georgia State students, faculty and staff. The changes were initiated by the Student Government Association (SGA) and the Student Center Advisory Council. Both groups were responsible for evaluating the Courtyard’s offerings and growth potential as part of the Student Center’s focus on meeting the unique needs of Georgia State students.

Boyd Beckwith, Student Center director and SGA advisor, said that both the SGA and the Student Center Advisory Council members were impressed with the quality of Burritobowl’s food, which they were given the opportunity to taste test, noting that Burritobowl is an affordable option offering fresh, healthy meals with the flavors of international cuisine.

Beckwith said members liked the restaurant’s price points and diverse offerings and were excited to bring something new to the Courtyard for students in the fall. Burritobowl’s menu includes antibiotic-free chicken, beef, pork and veggie burritos, rice bowls, quesadillas and salads, all of which are completely customizable without additional charges, and any rice bowl can be made as a burrito.

“Customization is going to be very appealing to students. In addition, students, faculty and staff who are here in the evenings can go to the Courtyard for both lunch and dinner and get different selections for each meal, something that was difficult to find previously.”
~ Boyd Beckwith

Spotlight Programs Board
Phillip Smith: Outstanding Campus Activities Professional Award
Presented annually at the NACA South Conference, this award goes to an NACA South staff member who best represents outstanding achievement in the area of campus activities advisement. Phillip was recognized for his dedication, hard work, initiative and strong positive relationship with the student body. As director of the Spotlight Programs Board, Phillip and his staff have brought some of the world’s most renowned speakers, educators, and performers to Georgia State’s campus. Phillip’s passion for creating a more engaged and involved student body has made him the most deserving of this award.

Student Center
Lesia M. Chandler: 2015 George M. Sparks Award
The George M. Sparks Award is designed to recognize Georgia State University’s extraordinary faculty, staff and students. This award is received by those who go the extra mile, persevere through challenges and maintain good humor, qualities of former university president Dr. George McIntosh Sparks, who served from 1928 to 1957. Lesia has been recognized for her superb customer service, spirit of volunteerism and impactful relationship with her student staff.

University Housing
Best Practice in Preparation Activities for Fire Safety Module
Best Practice in Educational Activities
NASPA awards these to members of the NASPA Campus Safety Knowledge Community for best practices in activities related to keeping students safe on campus. University Housing received Best Practice in Preparation Activities for Fire Safety Module for creating a fire safety module in which student housing residents must view a brief video and take a short quiz on the information, requiring a minimum score to pass. They received Best Practice in Educational Activities for their Housing Safety and Security Week program for the week of September 8 – 12, which included fire safety, extinguisher use, dialogue with GSUPD and Panther Ambassadors, active shooter training, suicide awareness and safety reflections.

Rebecca Moreau: Peach Award for Advisor of the Month
The Georgia Residence Hall is an organization dedicated to awarding the outstanding achievements of individuals and organizations on campuses across Georgia. Rebecca currently serves as the Assistant Hall Director of Patton Hall, a community for first year students within Georgia State’s University Housing. As the advisor of the Patton Hall Council, she worked with student leaders to create programs and find ways to advocate for residents of the hall. Rebecca’s dedication and encouragement helped the hall council succeed in reaching their goals and objectives for the year.
EMBARK Georgia

EMBARK Georgia was developed with support from the College Access Challenge Grant (CACG) in 2012. The CACG was based in the University System of Georgia office with an emphasis placed on finding ways to increase college access for underrepresented populations. As a result, EMBARK Georgia was created to address the needs of homeless students and students in foster care. The EMBARK Georgia statewide network serves post-secondary professionals and institutions to ensure connectivity, share best practices and provide information exchange among youth, community based stakeholders and K-12 educators in support of former foster and homeless youth. Georgia State University first connected with EMBARK Georgia by establishing a designated point of contact for those seeking assistance for homeless and foster students. The designated points of contact for all University System of Georgia and Technical College System of Georgia institutions are listed on the USG website.

Over the last year, the office of the Dean of Students has built a relationship with EMBARK Georgia and researched ways and opportunities to better assist homeless students and students in foster care. With a better understanding of state and national best practices for serving the youth in this population, a direction has been developed for how to specifically assist Georgia State University students who may be dealing with these types of issues.

While many faculty and staff assist students in this population on a regular basis, establishing an organized network will allow for greater assistance to students. Staff will be able to share resources, provide appropriate and direct referrals, view the students’ needs comprehensively, provide early intervention of student issues and gain a better understanding of how Georgia State University can assist students with college success. The network will serve to provide greater college access by making students aware of the opportunities and resources available to them. EMBARK will directly impact student retention in that it seeks to provide students with the tools to remain enrolled and progress through college.

The EMBARK Network at Georgia State University will initially consist of offices that can assist students with enrollment, financial aid and housing. The goal is to address students’ immediate needs of stable housing, tuition and food insecurity. The office of the Dean of Students plans to work closely with students to provide ongoing assistance, planning and referrals through the students’ first year at Georgia State. The network will further add staff who can assist students with planning for longer term needs such as securing employment, scholarships, tutoring, academic planning, budgeting and life skills.

In addition to needing basic necessities like food and shelter, students in this population will benefit greatly from learning how to navigate college, basic life skills and after college planning. Eventually, a mentorship program will be created to provide students with a faculty or staff mentor who can assist the student for the duration of their college career, providing guidance on interpersonal skills, etiquette, personal responsibility and transitioning to career or graduate study.

It is clear that the added support, guidance and resources we can offer will allow these students to be able to stay in school and graduate. We are excited about playing a part in helping students pursue their dreams.

In conjunction with Panther Welcome, the office of the Dean of Students will host a food and toiletry drive to stock items that students may need when experiencing homelessness. If you would like to contribute, please donate nonperishable food and new toiletry items in the boxes that will be placed in designated Division of Student Affairs offices. A portion of the items collected will be donated to Panther Pantry, Georgia State University’s student food pantry. Check the Panther Welcome schedule for a list of offices where donations are accepted.

We look forward to creating a sense of community and shared experiences across our campuses.

~ Dr. Douglas F. Covey, Sr.