DR. COVEY WELCOMES 2016
REC CENTER UNDERGOES IMPROVEMENTS
LIVE MUSIC COMES TO CINEFEST
CULTURAL COMPETENCY CONFERENCE 2016
Cultivating a Culture of Health
SPOTLIGHT RECEIVES NACA AWARDS
STAFF SPOTLIGHT
Christina Wan
Dr. Covey Welcomes in the New Year

Welcome!

This semester marks the beginning of an exciting new era for the university. The consolidation resulting in the addition of the newest college to Georgia State University is now complete. The event was marked by celebrations led by Dr. Mark Becker, Georgia State University President and Dr. Peter Lyons, Vice Provost and Dean of Perimeter College, on each Perimeter College campus in January. With 52,000 students, we have become the largest university in Georgia, and one of the largest in the country. The Division of Student Affairs welcomes our new students and colleagues as we join together to build a bright future of expanded opportunity for all we serve.

We welcome our growing family to the readership of THE BLUEPRINT, the Georgia State Division of Student Affairs newsletter.

In this month’s edition, you will learn about extensive renovations on the Atlanta Campus. The aquatics facility at the Recreation Center now boasts modernized locker rooms, resurfaced pools, improved lighting and many mechanical upgrades. The Cinefest movie theater in Student Center West has undergone a high tech modernization which has transformed the theatre into a broadcast quality performance studio. Although it will continue to serve its traditional role as a movie theater, Cinefest can now host live performances before a studio audience offering Album 88 an unparalleled facility in college broadcasting.

We’re always delighted to highlight awards received by students and staff for exemplary work and there is much to celebrate in this issue. Spotlight, the Atlanta Campus student programming board, was recognized by the National Association of Campus Activities. The Staff Spotlight shines upon Christina Wan, of the Multicultural Center, for receiving the New Professional Award of the Year from the Southern Association of College Student Affairs.

Finally, we’re happy to preview the seventh, national Biennial Cultural Competency Conference sponsored by Psychological and Health Services. This year’s theme is “Cultivating a Culture of Health, Clinical and Community Innovations.” Major speakers include former US Surgeon General, Dr. David Satcher and noted author, inspirational speaker and television personality, Iyanla Vanzant.

We hope you enjoy this edition of THE BLUEPRINT.

DC
Vice President for Student Affairs
Clinical Assistant Professor
Georgia State University
Rec Center Undergoes Major Improvements

As 2015 came to an end, crews of workers were hard at work finalizing several large scale facility projects inside and outside of the Student Recreation Center. Some of these projects are visible while others took place behind the scenes. All of the work will have an impact on the lifespan of the building and will result in a better user experience for years to come.

The Student Recreation Center opened in August of 2001. The student fee, which funds the center, includes a portion dedicated to capital repair and replacement to cover the costs of major facility projects as the building ages. “The building is now 15 years old, and the reason this fund was put in place almost 20 years ago was to set aside dollars to do major capital improvement, which is what we are tackling now. All of these improvements will not only make the building last longer, but it will function with sustainable efforts in mind”, said Allen Wilbanks, Assistant Director of Facilities.

The maintenance projects have addressed various issues around the building stemming from over 15 years of wear and tear. The projects included sealing up the building and making it more energy efficient ($829,000); repairing areas of the aquatic center including repairing the plumbing systems in the three pools (37,850 gallon leisure pool, 204,326 gallon lap pool and 4,670 gallon whirlpool), re-plastering the surface of the lap pool and grounding ladders, poles and lights ($345,000); and installing hospital grade, mold and mildew free partitions in the men’s and women’s locker room showers ($230,000).

The Division of Student Affairs provides a wide array of services and programs designed to create and deliver student experiences that promote learning and success. Recreational Services is committed to providing outstanding facilities for students to have those experiences, and the capital repairs and maintenance projects indicate the investment in the facilities and the students. Wilbanks said, “Everything we do here is for the students. These improvements will make the building better for students for years to come.”
Live Music Comes to Cinefest

Students are accustomed to seeing movies at Cinefest. Now, they can see live musical acts grace its stage. The theater has renovated to accommodate the recording of live music performances, including a monitoring setup in the projection area and additional soundproofing throughout the venue.

“It was a summer long process of various Student Center staff working in conjunction with a local sound design company to make it happen. In 2016, students can expect to see bands of multiple genres gracing the Cinefest stage, for the recordings to be played on Album 88 and for video to be uploaded to the GSTV website.”

– Boyd Beckwith, Student Center Director

The enhancements to Cinefest will help support the Division of Student Affairs’ Strategic Plan by creating and delivering innovative student experiences that promote education and success.

The three-piece power-rock band Ricer took to the stage on November 17, 2015 to play for over 50 students in the first of what Album 88 is calling 88 Sessions. These concerts will provide content for Album 88 and GSTV while also providing experiential learning skills of staging, producing and recording a live event for students hoping to work in the industry.

“The first event was a great step forward, seeing multiple facets of Georgia State media come together and produce a successful show.”

– Joey Redman, GSTV General Manager

These concerts are an effort to increase the use of Cinefest. For example, Spotlight used the space for video game tournaments, game shows and other student focused programming. It is also available for rental to chartered student organizations and university departments (e.g., a Ted Talk sponsored by Leadership Development was held in April 2015). There are also plans for the undergraduate literary journal Underground to stage an event there in the spring of 2016.

Bryce McNeil, Assistant Director for Student Media, also believes the initiative will lead to increased collaboration between the Student Media groups which consist of Album 88, GSTV, Underground, New South (graduate literary journal), The Signal (newspaper) and the new Digital Media group.

“In addition to making Cinefest capable of staging more elaborate audio and video production, this venue will allow for Student Media groups to collaborate on a variety of initiatives, such as literary readings, Student Government debates and roundtable events. It’s not just the benefit of providing content, but providing learning opportunities.”

– Bryce McNeil, Assistant Director of Student Media

Album 88 runs 24/7 on WRAS-HD2 and online at the recently redesigned website. It also broadcasts nightly on WRAS-FM. GSTV uploads video content to its website.
Cultural Competency Conference 2016

The Seventh Biennial Cultural Competency Conference will be held April 7-8, 2016. The theme of this year’s conference is Cultivating a Culture of Health: Clinical and Community Innovations. Conference programs are designed for mental health providers, public health providers, physicians, nurses, researchers and educators and focus on creating health equity and optimal mental and physical well-being in diverse populations. As the United States becomes increasingly diverse, it is essential for providers, scholars and educators to be knowledgeable about strategies for prevention, wellness and best clinical practices across groups. The conference provides an opportunity for learning, networking and inspiration.

Workshop topics include Eat well, be well: The Role of Nutrition in Addressing Health Disparities, Psychological Impact of Racism (documentary and discussion); Sabbath: Health Benefits of Reclaiming Rest; Promising Practices in Counseling with Immigrants; Engaging Target Populations in Effective Psychopharmacological Intervention; Ethical Clinical Practice with Transgender Individuals and more. Continuing education credit will be available.

In addition to stimulating workshops, the conference features an afternoon with Dr. David Satcher, 16th U.S. Surgeon General and Iyanla Vanzant, the number one talk show host on the Oprah Winfrey Network. The shared talk will focus on creating the optimal opportunity for mental and physical health for ourselves and those we serve.

Students can volunteer to assist the conference committee in a variety of roles. Students also can submit research or theoretical papers to the poster session via the conference website. If selected to present, poster presenters will receive free registration for the conference on the day of their presentation and can pay the early bird rate for the other day of the conference. Students also are invited to submit original pieces of art for a juried show in the Gallery Lounge. Students whose art is selected for the show will be invited to a VIP reception to meet keynote speakers, university faculty and administration.

For more information on opportunities to get involved or to register to attend, please visit the Counseling & Testing Center.
Spotlight Receives NACA Awards

Spotlight Programs Board at Georgia State University received two awards at the 2015 National Association for Campus Activities (NACA) South regional conference in October. Panther Prowls received an award for the NACA Outstanding Late Night Event. Eugene Butler, Spotlight’s president, received the NACA South Outstanding Student Leader Award.

Panther Prowls was one of three programs, one for each of three budget levels, to receive the NACA award for the Outstanding Late Night Event. Panther Prowls are monthly late night non-alcoholic activities. These activities include, but are not limited to, novelty acts, interactive games and themed nights. These events provide innovative and engaging alternatives to other late night activities for Georgia State students.

The NACA South Outstanding Student Leader Award, which was received by Butler, is given to one student leader at an NACA member school in the South region who has displayed outstanding dedication to campus activities, helped promote campus activities on his/her campus, actively participated in NACA activities and participated for at least one year in the area of campus activities. Butler was nominated by Phillip Smith, Associate Director for the Student Center, due to his outstanding leadership skills this year during the merger of Spotlight Programs Board and Campus Events.

NACA is a national organization that provides programs and events focusing on student and professional leadership development, program planning, concert management and diversity. The NACA South region includes Virginia (south of metro Washington DC), North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi and the U.S. & British Virgin Islands.

Last year at the NACA South regional conference, Spotlight Programs Board and its members received seven prestigious awards beating out all other college programming boards in the South region. Spotlight Programs Board offers a number of innovative and engaging programs that offer opportunities for experiential learning, such as Panthers at Woodruff, Distinguished Speakers Series, MLK Commemoration and Georgia State night at the Atlanta Botanical Garden. broadcasts nightly on WRAS-FM. GSTV uploads video content to its website.
Staff Spotlight: Christina Wan

At the 2015 Southern Association for College Student Affairs (SACSA) Annual Conference, Christina Wan was presented with this year’s New Professional Award. This year’s conference was held in partnership with Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education (NASPA) Region III and the South Carolina College Personnel Association (SCCPA) in Greenville, South Carolina. Christina serves in the Division of Student Affairs as the Senior Student Development Specialist for Advocacy & Student Success in the Multicultural Center.

The SACSA New Professional Award is given for exemplary service to the association by a member with less than five years of full-time experience in student affairs. The criteria for this award includes demonstrated service to the association, as well as potential to become a leader in the field and role model for other professionals. Christina has been active in SACSA since 2012 and has served as Co-Chair for the Graduate Student Symposium at the annual conference and as a volunteer for the association’s membership committee. She also has presented at SACSA annual conferences on student affairs topics. This year, Christina will serve as SACSA’s Awards and Recognition Committee Chair.

The Multicultural Center supports the retention and graduation efforts of the university by offering a variety of advocacy and support services designed to encourage student success. Through professional association involvement and attendance at conferences such as SACSA, student affairs staff can develop skills to better serve students and learn new methods of supporting student success.

To contact the Multicultural Center, students are welcome to email, visit Student Center East Suite 206 or call 404-413-1584.