It is with great pleasure that Georgia State University introduces Jeffrey Coleman! Jeffrey currently serves as the Director of the Multicultural Center, which is located in Suite 250 of the Student Center. Jeffrey’s interest in multicultural and diversity work began as an undergraduate at Trinity College in Hartford, Connecticut. Shortly after graduating, Jeffrey began his work in earnest when he served as the Coordinator for the P.R.I.D.E. program and supervisor of the cultural houses. Jeffrey next moved to the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he served as the Assistant Director of Multicultural Affairs. Jeffrey arrived at Georgia State University in the fall of 2014 to direct the Multicultural Center.

Since becoming a member of our campus, Jeffrey has enhanced the multicultural programming immensely. Jeffrey’s philosophy is providing students with cultural competency in an effort to make them more effective citizens. In the short time that he has been on our campus, Jeffrey has created a Multicultural Student Council, provided funding for the multicultural program, redeveloped the MLK program and worked collaboratively with University Housing to develop the student-focused PAC3 program.

“Jeffrey is a true visionary who serves as a wonderful addition to our campus. I am most proud of the work towards Panthers for a Cultural Competent Campus (PAC3). To see that vision manifested in PAC3 is phenomenal.”

~ Dr. Darryl Holloman
Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs & Dean of Students

PAC3 was created as a cultural program to create cultural leaders, and most recently received an award at the 2015 NASPA conference.

For additional information, visit the Multicultural Center, Suite 250 of the Student Center, call 404-413-1584, or visit multicultural.gsu.edu.

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

The second issue of THE BLUEPRINT focuses on exciting new developments in the life of the university and the relationship of these changes to our work in the Division of Student Affairs. Our newest housing initiative, which involves a novel public-private partnership, is well underway and promises to further invigorate campus life downtown. The much discussed consolidation of Georgia State University with Georgia Perimeter College will result in Georgia State becoming one of the nation’s largest universities. The implications of these changes impact student affairs practices and are large indeed. Several of our students will travel to Costa Rica with Panther Breakaway International, or summit Mt. Baker with President Becker, highlighting the experiential learning in which we pride ourselves. Darryl Holloman was honored with a 2015 NASPA award, and our Staff Spotlight shines this month on a recent addition to our student affairs’ family, Jeffrey Coleman, the director of our newly created Multicultural Center.

We hope you enjoy this month’s edition of THE BLUEPRINT. There’s a lot going on.

Dr. Douglass F. Covey, Sr.
Vice President for Student Affairs

New Housing Initiative (P3)

As part of a Board of Regents’ program to reduce system-wide indebtedness for revenue bond funded projects, Georgia State University is participating in the first phase of a public-private partnership (P3). Under the agreement, the Corvias Corporation was chosen as the Board of Regents’ partner in retiring existing revenue bonds and developing new construction projects on several campuses. At Georgia State University, this means that debts associated with the construction of the Commons and Patton Hall have been assumed by our private partner, and that Corvias will be the developer of our next residence hall project.

Student residents of the Commons and Patton Hall will continue to reside on campus under the supervision of the housing department’s professional residence life staff. Programming and the enforcement of community standards will continue the same as at other campus residence halls. Security will remain under the jurisdiction of the campus police. Corvias will assume responsibility for custodial and maintenance operations in the two facilities, but must maintain university standards. Rental rates will not be allowed to exceed the level which would have been anticipated prior to the partnership. From a student perspective, the change will appear seamless.

Panther Breakaway International Continued

For all but one of the student participants, this is their first experience abroad. Some have previously attended the domestic Panther Breakaway programs and are eager to engage in service internationally. They will be sharing their journey, beginning with the crowdfunding project and continuing on to the service trip itself, using various forms of social media. Feel free to follow along by looking for #panthersservetheworld!

For additional information concerning Panther Breakaway International, please visit Civic Engagement in 428/429 University Center, call 404-413-1836, or visit service.gsu.edu.

NASPA Award Winner: Dr. Holloman

Dr. Darryl Holloman, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students, was awarded the 2015 NASPA GLBT Issues Knowledge Community Award for Service to Student Affairs at the annual conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dr. Holloman has championed many causes for education, awareness and advocacy for the GLBT community in higher education. He has led efforts to create Safe Zone programs at Columbus State University, served on GLBT university taskforces at Rutgers University and is currently leading a climate study of GLBT students at Georgia State.

He has written and published numerous scholarly articles and presented across the nation on topics that highlight fostering social change in the GLBT community. His book, Boyhood to Manhood: Deconstructing Black Masculinity through a Life Span Continuum, is set to be released in April, 2015.

“Darryl influences the lives of students and colleagues, doing his part to shape the future of higher education. He is most deserving of this award, truly a student advocate and, I believe, one of the best in the business. We are lucky to have him!”

~ C. Bernard McCrary, Director of Black Student Achievement

The National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) is home to a host of knowledge communities that provide access and information on a variety of subject areas including social identities. The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) Issues Knowledge Community provides avenues for both social and professional involvement. The knowledge community activities allow for personal and professional growth; increased awareness and acceptance of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender professionals and students; and promote understanding of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender professional and student needs.

The GLBT Issues Knowledge Community recognizes individuals, programs, and research that have made extraordinary contributions to the advancement of sexual and gender minorities’ inclusivity and education at the highest and broadest level. The aim is to exhibit excellence and innovations that have added to the profession of student affairs and higher education.

For additional information, visit the Dean of Students located in Student Center Suite 300, call 404-413-1515, or visit deanofstudents.gsu.edu.
Panther Breakaway International

In May 2015, Panther Breakaway and Civic Engagement are sponsoring the first ever Georgia State University international service learning trip. This service trip to Costa Rica is being coordinated in partnership with the Peacework Development Fund, Inc. During the week in Costa Rica, the eight students selected to go on the trip will be working at a primary school in a rural region of the country that was damaged and displaced by a mudslide. They will be providing classroom assistance to the teachers, building a playground for the students and planting a garden program to assist with the needs of the school cafeteria. This trip will not only aid the members of this Costa Rican community, but will enrich and expand the lives of the Georgia State students through this service learning experience.

Panther Breakaway, a program within Civic Engagement, has been offering alternative break trips serving communities in the southeast United States since 2002. This Panther Breakaway trip will be the first international trip and is aimed at combining service learning with cultural competency that will be useful for students as they begin their careers in today’s globalized workforce. Panther Breakaway participants serve the world by helping to build stronger communities, touch the lives of those in need and form new relationships. The impact of these experiences promotes both personal and professional development and serves as the catalyst for a life-long commitment to active citizenship. Most students will continue to engage in thoughtful action and service as they recognize and become more aware of social and cultural issues beyond the trip.

Panther Breakaway alumni have shared stories about how attending a service trip changed their career goals by introducing them to social justice issues and career paths they had not previously considered. Students also have the opportunity to build transferable skills that they can use regardless of their professional goals.

In an effort to reduce costs for the program participants, the trip is partnering with various campus affiliates. TRIO Student Support Services generously agreed to support one of the students with a full scholarship. The student recipient was one of many interested in the trip and was selected through a competitive scholarship application process. University Housing is also a partner for the trip as the offices work together to develop collaborative programming. University Housing is sponsoring one of the staff members to attend as a chaperon. The staff member’s ability to speak Spanish will be a valuable asset! Georgia’s Own Credit Union is another partner as they have generously agreed to contribute $1,000 towards the trip costs.

In addition, the entire group is partnering with Development and Alumni Affairs to engage in a crowdfunding project. The students are reaching out to friends and family to raise awareness of the trip and ask for donations to offset the costs. The total cost of the trip is $1,782 per participant, which includes all transportation, lodging and meals. The main goal is to offset the student costs by $582, which is the amount of their final deposit for the trip. In addition to providing these funds for the students attending, the hope is to raise $2,000 that will go towards building the playground at the school. Additional funds will go to offset the cost of the staff members who will be chaperoning the trip. As part of the crowdfunding project, the students created a video discussing the trip. To see the video and learn more about crowdfunding visit the project website. Your support would be appreciated! You are welcome to support the project financially or by sharing the website with your networks.

New Housing Initiative Continued

The great boon to the institution for entering into the agreement is that it will enable the acceleration of new housing construction. The first project under the agreement is well under way at the corner of Piedmont and Dobbs, across from the Commons and adjacent to Centennial Hall. Site preparation has already begun. Demolition of the former Friends building and the Gourmet Services building is already complete. Opening in the fall of 2016, it will be the university’s newest residence hall with a capacity of 1,152 beds. The facility will also house the third, and largest, campus dining hall which will operate 24 hours daily.

The new facility will enable the university to keep pace with the growing demand for campus housing and will meet our longstanding goal of attaining and maintaining the capacity to house twenty percent of the student body. With the new residence hall, more than five thousand students will be able to live on campus. The growth of the residential population pays dividends in terms of increased student retention and greatly increases student utilization of a wide spectrum of student services.

For additional information, visit University Housing, located at 75 Piedmont Avenue, Suite 110, call 404-413-1800, or visit myhousing.gsu.edu.

President Becker Climbs Mount Baker

At the end of May, ten students will join co-leaders President Mark Becker and Carson Tortorige in a life-changing journey to the top of a mountain with one of the highest recorded snowfalls on Earth, Mt. Baker. The mountain rises to nearly 11,000 feet and lies to the north of Mt. Rainier, just outside Seattle, Washington.

Carson Tortorige is the Coordinator of Outdoor Recreation and oversees the Touch the Earth program at Georgia State University. Tortorige has taken groups for winter expeditions to the Presidential Range near Mt. Washington in New Hampshire, led ice climbing expeditions, and summited smaller mountains. However, he says this will be at the top of the list of epic trips ever offered for several reasons, including the honor of leading a trip with President Becker.

President Mark Becker certainly has an adventurous side, too. From his outdoor experience gained through backpacking as a high school student, he immediately fell in love with the mountains. After a light-hearted scramble with friends up Mt. Saint Helens in 1980, and being taunted by the towering beauty of Mt. Rainier during his two-year, post-doctoral fellowship in 1987 at the University of Washington in Seattle, Dr. Becker knew in 2012 that it was now or never. On July 8, 2013, Dr. Becker checked off a major item on his personal bucket list by summiting his first large glaciated mountain. Since then he hasn’t stopped braving the cold and setting new summit goals for himself.
President Becker Climbs Mount Baker Continued

With over seventy applicants for this trip, President Becker and Mr. Tortorige sat down to discuss the qualities of each applicant. They kept two outcomes in mind: campus/student benefit and group safety. Summiting a large glaciated mountain at altitude is not something to take lightly. Aside from the intense training and high-quality gear needed to even get to the base, everyone on the mountain is required to behave responsibly, cope with unpredictable changes in weather and help each other to achieve their goal, all while staying safe. In the end, the ten students were handpicked to provide the trip with a wide range of educational backgrounds, academic interests and personalities.

“Many people are likely capable of summiting Baker, but the more prepared one is mentally and physically, the better they will enjoy it.”
~ President Mark Becker, Georgia State University

To help these students succeed even before they reach the trail head, the leaders are hosting four progressive mandatory checkpoint hikes to work with the students and evaluate their progress toward a desired fitness level. To help between hikes, President Becker has required the students to keep up a weekly workout schedule leading up to the trip. President Becker emphasizes that because there are only ten short weeks to prepare for Mt. Baker, it is important that the students plan and structure their training accordingly. The students also have access to the Recreation Center’s personal trainers in the Fitness Center for free weekly endurance training donated by the department.

The eight-day trip will begin with a flight to Seattle and a tour of the area with Tortorige, including the beautiful San Juan Islands. From there, Tortorige will lead them to the gear outpost for the American Alpine Institute where they will pick up extra mountaineering guides and the necessary gear. For three days the group will train extensively to develop beginner mountaineering skills, such as traveling as a rope team, ice climbing, self-arrests from glissading and rope rescues from crevasses. The final 18-hour day will be a summit attempt to the top.

Perhaps the biggest hurdle, however, is the financial burden of summiting a glaciated mountain. Tortorige explains that with hundreds of pounds of gear, high caloric food, paid professional guides, transportation and permits the cost will total close to $2,000 per person.

The team is mounting a powerful crowdfunding campaign from the support of the Annual Programs Office and University Public Relations and Marketing Communications to help raise financial support from donors who see this as a worthy cause. The donation link is hosted at Impact Georgia State. In a video promoting the crowdfunding, Dr. Becker calls for supporters to help the students get to Mt. Baker and assures that they’ll get themselves to the summit.

To capture the goal-setting and achievement process, leadership-inspired student learning outcomes were established with the aim that the positive effects realized on this trip will be brought back with contagious enthusiasm to the campus community. Developed by Recreational Services, these measured outcomes will shed light on the mountaineering skills the students will develop over the course of training for and climbing Mt. Baker, as well as measure any transferable life skills the students gain throughout the entire process.

“This program has required a substantial amount of collaboration between many university departments. We are so excited to collaborate with President Becker to offer this once in a lifetime experience.”
~ Melissa Buchheit, Director of Recreational Services

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Georgia State & Georgia Perimeter Consolidation

The exciting announcement that Georgia State University will be consolidating with Georgia Perimeter College will have a substantial impact on the Division of Student Affairs. Dr. Darryl Holloman, Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students and Dr. Rebecca Stout, Associate Vice President of Student Affairs, are co-chairing two major subcommittees making recommendations regarding student affairs services. Each is co-chairing with a colleague from Georgia Perimeter. Dr. Holloman co-chairs with Dr. Coletta Carter, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs, and Dr. Stout co-chairs her committee with Dr. Matthew Robison, Dean of Students at the Dunwoody campus. Their committees are comprised of representatives from each institution in the respective practice areas which are the focus of the committees.

The enrollment for Georgia State University in the fall of 2016 is expected to exceed 53,927 students.

For comparison, enrollment in fall of 2014 was 32,842 students.

Every year close to 1,500 Georgia Perimeter students transfer to Georgia State University.

“Although there are many questions and challenges associated with the consolidation of two large and complex institutions, there are many exciting possibilities for enhancing the student experience. We look forward to creating a sense of community and shared experiences across our campuses.”
~ Dr. Douglass F. Covey, Vice President for Student Affairs

The consolidated institution will be known as Georgia State University and will be under the leadership of Georgia State’s President, Dr. Mark Becker. The consolidation of student affairs services will mirror other elements of the consolidation process. As the newest college at the university, Georgia Perimeter, like the other academic colleges, will be supported by enrollment services, financial and administrative services and student affairs services under the auspices of the central administration. Dr. Douglass F. Covey, Georgia State’s Vice President for Student Affairs, continues as the institution’s chief student affairs officer. During the consolidation process, Dr. Covey will serve as the functional area coordinator (FAC) who will review recommendations from the consolidation subcommittees making recommendations in the areas of student affairs. A consolidation implementation committee, co-chaired by President Becker and Dr. Watts, Interim President of Georgia Perimeter, will in turn review recommendations from the broad array of working groups. Decisions regarding budget, personnel, organizational structure and facilities are outside of the responsibility of the consolidation committees and are reserved for Dr. Becker.