



# Semaphore

The official Newsletter of the Georgia Sociological  
Association

June 2017

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# From the President

Dear GSA Community-

I hope your summer is off to a fabulous start! I am excited to share with you details of our 2017 annual conference.

The Georgia Sociological Association Annual Conference for 2017 will be held at Lake Blackshear Resort in Cordele, Georgia from November 2-4. In accordance with this year's theme, "Engaged Sociology: Global Social Justice" a private tour and reception will be held the evening of November 4th at the Habitat for Humanity Global Village Discovery Center in Americus. Registration for the conference will be available on our website within in the upcoming month.

Please find attached the paper proposal form. This form is also located on our website. Proposals are due to Dr. Carly Redding by October, 2nd to Carly.Redding@ung.edu. In addition to submitting your own proposal, please also encourage your students, undergraduate and graduate, to submit one as well.

Lake Blackshear Resort and Golf Club has fabulous meeting spaces, a beautiful lakeside view, and convenient access to a nature trail and the SAM Shortline Excursion Train. The resort is located on Georgia Veterans State Park which also houses a Military Museum. Additional details about the Resort can be found here: <http://www.lakeblackshearresort.com>.

A block of rooms is available for conference attendees at the rate of \$139 a night (for November 2 and 3). You may make your room reservations by calling 800-459-1230 and asking for the group block #284487. Alternatively, you may reserve your room by going to the website ([www.lakeblackshearresort.com](http://www.lakeblackshearresort.com)), clicking on the "book online" box, and entering the above group ID. Room reservations must be made by October 20th in order to secure discounted rate.

Additional details about the location of the tour and reception at the Global Village Discovery Center can be found here: <https://www.habitat.org/about/global-village-discovery-center>. The reception is scheduled for the evening of Friday, November 3rd. More details will follow.

I'm looking forward to seeing you in early November!

Best,

Ali Hatch, President

Georgia Sociological Association

Alison.Hatch@armstrong.edu

## 2016 Annual Meeting Awards

The Georgia Sociological Association was proud to award travel scholarships to the following 2016 GSA Scholarship Recipients:

Elijah E. Banks – University of West Georgia

Shane M. Kiral – Columbus State University

Nia O. McClurkin - Reinhardt University

Jordan F. Miller – Georgia State University

Sadie F. Simpson - Reinhardt University

Natasha Trotsiouk – University of North Georgia

Barbara Thomas – Clayton State University

The Silent Auction raised \$428.95 for student scholarships. Thank you to everyone who donated to or bid on items in our auction! This money is used to help students pay for travel expenses to attend and present papers at the GSA Annual Meeting.

*The Undergraduate Student Paper Competition Award Winner for 2016 was Victoria Allegood, for her paper, "Adoption Processes and Relationships". Victoria is with Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. Congratulations, Victoria!*

## There was a tie for the Graduate Student Paper Award:

Jordan Forrest Miller, **Searching for Community: YouTube as a Site of Counternarratives to Transnormativity**, Georgia State University

In June 2015, Caitlyn Jenner created waves of excitement with her coming out announcement on the cover of *Vanity Fair*: "Call me Caitlyn." From the perspective of critical trans politics, however, the heightened visibility of trans people in mainstream media does not call for unequivocal celebration. Though trans women of color, such as Laverne Cox and Janet Mock, are more visible in mainstream media than ever before, mainstream media still largely depicts trans people through white constructs of what it means to be trans, namely medicalized binary transitions. Many trans people who deviate from mainstream media's depiction of trans people are creating their own media on YouTube to voice their lived experiences. In their paper "Searching for Community: YouTube as a Site of Counternarratives to Transnormativity," they argue that transnormativity is pervasive and reinforced by trans YouTube content, through YouTube's search parameters, and again by the lack of positive interactions between trans vloggers.



Bio

Jordan Forrest Miller is a first-year PhD student in Sociology at Georgia State University. Jordan received their MA in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies from Georgia State University in 2016 and their BSED in Kinesiology from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville in 2013. Their research interests include political economy, trans media, transnormativity, and trans social movements. Their Master's thesis titled "'I Wanna Know Where the Rule Book Is': YouTube as a Site of Counternarratives to Transnormativity" can be found [here](#).

Koye Wayne Korbl, **Terrorism: Motivation and Theory**, University of West Georgia

The paper explores motivations for terrorist acts from the perspectives of Rational Choice Theory and Social Solidarity Theory. It explains difficulties encountered by various scholars and government agencies in agreeing on a common definition of terrorism and reviews some of the possible demographic, psychological and social dynamic causes of terrorism. It concludes that understanding motivation for terrorist acts cannot be determined uni-dimensionally and proposes that the different levels of terrorist organizations are best understood using different theories — with individual suicide bombers' motivations best explained by Social Solidarity Theory and sponsoring organizations' motives best explained by Rational Choice Theory.



Bio

After receiving a Bachelors degree in Radio-Television-Film from the University of Texas at Austin, Wayne Korbl worked in media for many years before returning to the University of West Georgia for graduate school, where he received an MA in Psychology. He is currently working on a second Masters degree in Sociology and working to obtain a Graduate Certificate in Data Analysis and Evaluation Methods. He has also served as a part-time Instructor and Graduate Research Assistant at UWG.

Kathleen Lowney, Professor of Sociology, Valdosta State University, was named the 2016 GSA Sociologist of the Year

Rodger Bates, Professor of Sociology Clayton State University received the 2016 GSA Meritous Service award

## 2016 Executive Board Election Results

President – Alison Hatch

President Elect – Sara Mason

Secretary/Treasurer – Christy Flatt

Semaphore Editor – Kathy Dolan

Members at Large

Darina Lepadatu

Anne Borden

Michallene McDaniel

## Letter From Your Past President

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Dear members and friends of GSA,

It is hard to believe 2016 is over. The year has flown by. I know I have had a great year, and it has been a pleasure to serve as the 2016 President of Georgia Sociological Association. I like to thank all the participants for attending the 2016 GSA annual meetings in Savannah, Georgia. Your presence made the 2016 year's meeting a success. I hope you have enjoyed a wide variety of sessions including the papers related to the theme "Transformation of the South: Georgia on My Mind."

A successful conference does not take place without a lot of planning and hard work of the executive board members. Sara Mason, as program chair, has worked closely with the executive board and all the paper presenters, moderators and workshop leaders to put together an outstanding program. Thank you, Sara for your hard work. I am very happy to note that the highlights of the meeting were the following: The Plenary speech of the Georgia Sociologist of the year, Dr. Kathleen Lowney on Thursday morning and the Thursday evening tour of the

Gullah/Geeche's Pin Point Museum in Savannah. Thanks very much Alison Hatch for organizing the Pin Point Museum visit.

We always enjoy the Silent Auction to raise money for the student scholarships, and I would like to thank all those people who brought items for the auction and people who auctioned the items. Your generosity keeps the GSA student scholarship alive.

Thank you to all our student participants and their faculty mentors who encouraged them to join the paper and panel sessions. Thank you Michallene McDaniel for organizing the GSA student paper competition.

Thanks Secretary-Treasurer Christy Flatt for handling the most difficult job of the organization. Also, I would like to recognize the Research committee Chair, Carley Redding, the Teaching Committee Chair, Darina Lapadatu, and the Applied and Clinical Sociology Committee Chair, David Strickland, for organizing interesting workshops/sessions related to their committee assignment.

We need to give credit to our organization for the collegiality of its members – the faculty, students and practitioners. We always have a very friendly atmosphere at the meetings which encourage open discussions in our sessions. It was not any different at the Savannah meetings. As an organization we are proud of it.

Again, I would like to thank all the participants and organizers who have contributed to the success of our meetings in various ways. Since your presence made the Savannah meeting a special event, I hope you will consider attending the 2017 meeting. It is about time for students and faculty to start getting ready for the next meeting. I am looking forward to meeting you all again at the next annual meeting. My tenure as president has been memorable. Again, thank each of you very much.

Have a great year!

Philip Thomas

Past President

# News From Across the State

## Reinhardt University News

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AKD inductees for Reinhardt University 2017 are:

Brittany Franklin  
Colleen Ciccì  
Katie Payne  
Tommy Lee Miller  
Darian Harris

Dr. Donald Gregory was recognized by AKD for 10 consecutive years of service as a chapter representative.

Dr. Donald Gregory was promoted to full professor.

## University of West Georgia News

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Paul Luken Retirement from UWG

By David Burton

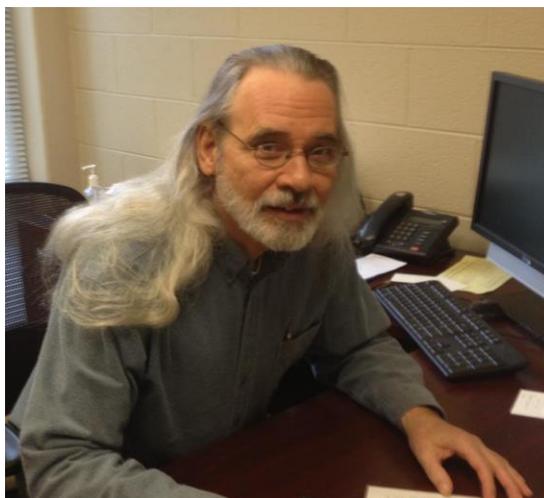
Paul C. Luken is a highly regarded among members of the Sociology Department at the University of West Georgia. Dr. Luken has served this school for 12 years and some would argue we are indebted to his wisdom that has impacted the curriculum of the social science department and will continue for years to come. He has served as chair for the Sociology Department in the last four years. His social science background is even more impressive due to the extraordinary amount of studies, presentations, chair positions he has participated in. Dr. Luken has announced recently that he will be leaving UWG in search of his retirement. I met with Paul Luken to ask him a few questions concerning his time here at the University of West Georgia and what his plans may be afterwards.

I asked Paul what he felt his most prized achievements at UWG might be. He was very proud of his work on the sociology curriculum as the department continually strives to move forward with classes such as Applied Statistics and Communicating Sociology as requirements. My personal interest begged the question what Dr. Luken's favorite field of sociology might be? He

passionately described me his research and love for understanding the current housing system. He posed these questions for me and in doing so inspired me to look into this research as well: How did we move into this current model of what a home should look like, and what role does the home play for families? Next, I asked if there were any changes he would have liked to see implanted after his time here at UWG. “More changes in the curriculum so that it can be made more flexible without losing

rigor”, and he would also like to see the department keep track of its graduates after graduation. His extensive research plays into his personal intellectual mentors Dorothy Smith and Suzanne Vaughan. Dorothy Smith, a Canadian sociologist, developed institutional ethnography, and Suzanne Vaughan is a professor at Arizona State University. Luken has had the pleasure to work with Vaughan on a very wide range of topics and studies dating as far back as 1991.

For those of you wondering what Dr. Luken is in pursuit of after his departure from the University of West Georgia, he simply stated with a smile on his face, “I plan to be lost for awhile, see what comes next; it will be different, but I don’t know what it will be. I don’t plan on becoming inactive as a sociologist. I still want to be engaged in the discipline”. In that moment I could only think of the late Tolkien “Not all those who wander are lost” experiencing the adventure of life without a course of action but a calling from the heart. I would like to wish Paul Luken a healthy retirement in whatever adventures he might find himself but know that he is not lost.



## Paine College News

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The Iota Chapter of ADK at Paine College, Augusta, Georgia, inducted its newest members on Thursday, April 13th, 2017 under the direction of Dr. Philip Thomas. This International Sociology Honor Society has been a key feature of the Social Department since 1991 and a gateway for many student scholars to graduate school and service opportunities. Dr. Melencia Johnson, Professor of Sociology at the University of South Carolina at Aiken was the speaker, encouraging students to find the issue that stirs up a fire within that can light the path toward excellence in service and scholarship. An honor cord and certificate were bestowed to each student as a symbol of their academic achievements at Paine College and the expectation for them to further their academic statuses.

Congratulations to the 2016-17 inductees: Kiandra Monshay Guilford, Latitia Noel Hayes, Jessica LaVontae Lewis, Demetrius Nocole Perrymond and Jalen Jeremiahus Reid.

Dr. Philip Thomas, Professor of Sociology at Paine College, Augusta, GA, received the United Methodist Exemplary Teacher Award on May 7, 2017 during the 135th Commencement Convocation. The General Board of Higher Education and Ministry of the Methodist Church through the division of Higher Education offers support for this award to institutions of higher education affiliated with the United Methodist Church.

## Georgia Highlands College News

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Josh Stovall was recently awarded promotion to Associate Professor at Georgia Highlands College, effective August 2017. An article he co-authored, that is based off of research he helped set up, supervise, and conduct, is forthcoming in *Community Development*. The title is: "From Mass Consumer Society to a Society of Consumers: Consumption and the Experience of Community in Late Modernity." He also developed a special topics course on Qualitative Research Methods that he am excited about teaching at GHC for the first time this fall.



Photographs needed for new GSA website! The GSA is building a new website, and we would appreciate if you would share photos from GSA meetings and events from over the years. Please send electronic copies of any photos to GSA President Allison Hatch at [alison.hatch@armstrong.edu](mailto:alison.hatch@armstrong.edu).

Please send all Semaphore news to Kathy Dolan, Semaphore Editor at [kdolan@gsu.edu](mailto:kdolan@gsu.edu). Thank you!