

# SEMAPHORE



March 2016

Dear Members and Friends of the GSA,

I am humbled and honored to serve as the President of Georgia Sociological Association (GSA) for the year 2015-16. As the president of this esteemed organization, I am proud to lead the organization through an important period in its history as we surpass half a century of bringing sociologists together to meet and share their research. Thanks very much for your sustained support of this organization that allows us to accomplish this goal. The theme of this year's meeting will be "Transformation of the South: Georgia on My Mind". More details will be forthcoming.

The 2015 GSA Annual Meeting at Jekyll Island was tremendously successful. Past President Michellene McDaniel, the local arrangement committee Chair, Ned Rinalducci, and the rest of the GSA executive board orchestrated a memorable meeting. Their hard work was greatly appreciated.

I would like to extend my congratulations and a warm welcome to the newly-elected officers of the GSA. Sara Mason from University of North Georgia will serve as the Vice-President and Program Chair for the next year's meeting. Her exquisite organizational skills are bound to make the meeting a success. The 2016 Annual Meeting will be held in Savannah, Georgia. Its unique and historic character with 22 park squares, several museums and over 250 restaurants, will make it an unforgettable experience. I am very proud of the visionaries like John Doby and Drenan Kelly who created this organization. We like to encourage the participation of sociologists and students from the smaller colleges as well as larger research universities in Georgia. I recall attending the GSA meetings as a graduate student at Emory University in the 1970's, grateful for the chance to interact with Drenan Kelly and Robert Ellis from University of Georgia, Eugene Sherman, Jr. from Georgia State University, and of course, my professors from Emory, John Doby, Fred Crawford and Abbott Ferriss. Today many of the smaller Colleges often lack resources to bring scholars to campus. The scholars at the flagship universities who make significant contributions to the discipline should share their expertise with the GSA. It will benefit the conference attendees, especially students. We need to look at this as an opportunity for professional socialization of students and a recruitment opportunity for the graduate schools. Students are always an integral part of the GSA. As part of our continuing effort to create opportunities for the professional socialization of students, the GSA will hold undergraduate and graduate student paper competitions. It is not too early to encourage your students to work on their papers in preparation for the 2016 meeting. The GSA is making funds available to support students by defraying the expenses associated with attending the Annual Meeting. Through the efforts of Linda Treiber, we had a silent auction at our last meeting, raising \$300 for student scholarships. I would like to see that we increase the amount of our student scholarship fund this year. Your suggestions are welcome.

As you all know, the GSA Annual Meeting offers the opportunity for not only students, but all attendees from various institutions to network and discuss issues relevant to teaching as well as socialize with colleagues and old friends. I'll bet you cannot find an organization better in collegiality than our GSA!

Sincerely,

Philip Thomas  
President

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2015 Annual Meeting

# **GSA Executive Committee 2015-2016**

## **Election Results from the October, 2015 Annual Meeting**

**President:** Philip Thomas, Paine College

**Past President:** Michallene McDaniel, University of North Georgia

**President Elect:** Alison Hatch, Armstrong State University

**Vice President:** Sara Mason, University of North Georgia

**Secretary/Treasurer:** Christy Flatt, Gordon State College

### **Executive Committee Members At Large:**

Carly Redding, University of North Georgia

Darina Lepadatu, Kennesaw State University

David Strickland, East Georgia State College

**Journal of Public and Professional Sociology Editors:** Melvyn L. Fein and Linda Treiber, Kennesaw State University

**Semaphore Newsletter Editor:** Kathy Dolan, Georgia Perimeter College

## **2015 Award Winners**

**Georgia Sociologist of the Year:** Linda M. Grant, Emeritus Professor of Sociology University of Georgia

**Meritorious Service Award:** Fred Zampa, Macon State College

## **GSA Silent Auction Raises over \$300 for Student Scholarships**

Thanks to everyone who donated and purchased items in the GSA Silent Auction, held on Friday night, October 16, 2015. An eclectic assortment was offered for sale, including jewelry, books, food items, and a collection of one-of-a-kind curios. The many goods from India donated by Carly Redding raised a combined total of over \$100.

Some of the most popular India items offered by Carly included a decorative table runner, bedspread, beaded pillowcase, and bracelets. The vintage typewriter contributed by David Broad was not only a conversation piece; it sold to current GSA President, Philip Thomas, for \$55.00. Another high grossing item was the framed artwork donated by Kathy Dolan, sold to Laurel Holland for \$30.00. Overall, the GSA Silent auction raised over 300 dollars for student travel scholarships. Thank you for making this event a success!

### **Note from Michallene McDaniel, Past President**

My sincere thanks to everyone for making our 50th anniversary conference in Jekyll Island such a success. We had an excellent turnout, and the presentations by faculty members and students of all levels were interesting and represented the wide range of interests the Georgia Sociological Association encompasses. We had a highly relevant and timely plenary presentation by Jolene Byrne, who provided a sociological analysis of her experience navigating the press as she ran for (and currently holds) political office in Savannah. Our other plenary session, presented by our 2015 Georgia Sociologist of the Year, Linda Grant, updated us on some of the latest trends in pay inequity by gender in academia.

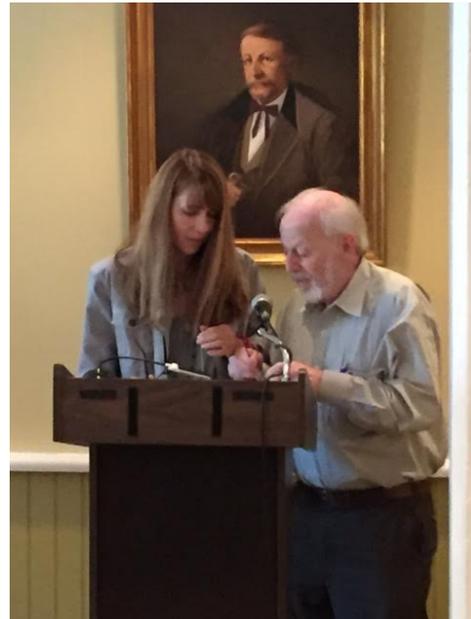
Fred Zampa received his long-overdue Meritorious Service Award after many years of service and commitment to our organization. We look forward to seeing him at the conference again next year! His award, and others, were presented at the most well-attended business luncheon in recent memory. We enjoyed our country buffet in standing-room-only conditions! I hope all in attendance will benefit from greater understanding of the inner workings of our organization, and will be encouraged to get involved. We have FUN meetings.

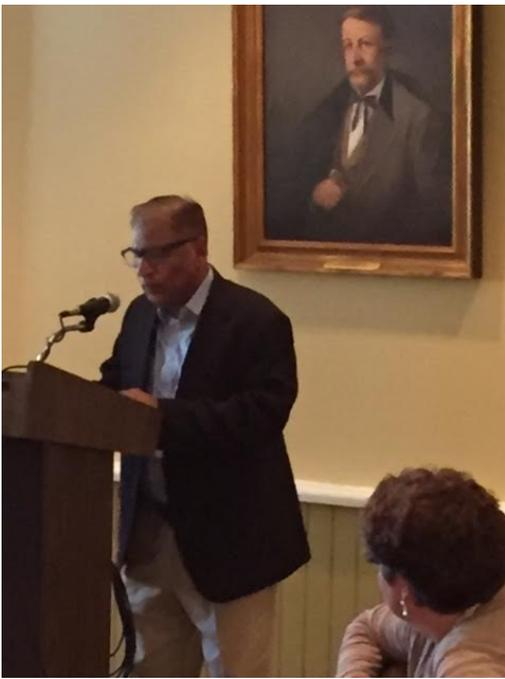
Once again, thanks to the Executive Board for making sure the conference was a success. From Alison Hatch's thoughtful program, to Ned Rinalducci's venue planning, to Christy Flatt basically living at the registration desk for three days, and Philip Thomas making sure the bills were paid, things ran very smoothly. The members-at-large planned interesting and informative sessions, and the participants in their workshops added new dimensions to our understanding of teaching, research and applied sociology. Donald Gregory ensured that we followed our bylaws, Kathy Dolan made sure we were well-informed, and Linda Treiber and Mel Fein informed and encouraged our submissions to our journal.

Finally, thanks to everyone who hung around for our improvised trivia game Friday night. Let's do it again next year in Savannah!

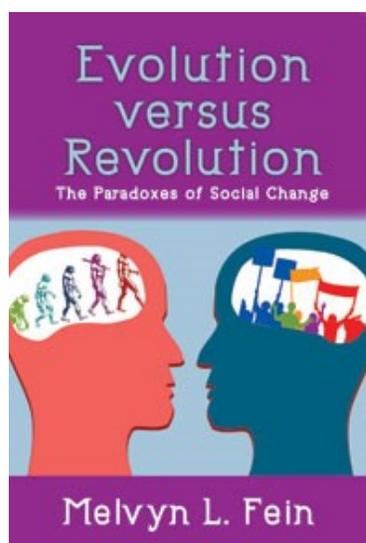
# Photos from 2015 GSA Meeting







## New Book: Synopsis



### **Evolution versus Revolution: Transaction Press**

**Social change is occurring at breakneck speed. Nevertheless ideas about where it is—or should be—headed are often diametrically opposed. Revolutionary and evolutionary theorists have very different views about change. Melvyn Fein's *Evolution versus Revolution* attempts to resolve this dispute in favor of evolution.**

**It does so by seeking to reconcile functional and conflict theories. Fein proposes an integrated model of social evolution that accounts for the complexity, inconclusiveness, and impediments that characterize social transformations. This multi-dimensional approach recognizes that change is saturated in conflict, which is then adjudicated by semi-functional means. Rather than major changes being initiated by conscious decisions that are automatically implemented, power and morality tend to control the direction that significant alterations take.**

**Fein explains how the social generalist dilemma places our need for both flexibility and stability in opposition to each other such that non-rational mechanisms are needed to produce a solution. He also describes how an Inverse Force Rule dictates that small societies are bound together by strong social forces, whereas large one are secured by weak forces. This suggests that professionalized social roles are apt to become more prominent.**

**If social change is, in fact, analogous to natural rather than artificial selection, we may be in the midst of an only partially predictable Middle Class Revolution. Indeed, the current impasse between Liberals and Conservatives may be evidence that we are in the consolidation phase of this process. Should this be the case, a paradigm shift, not a classical revolution, is in our future.**

# Call for Papers

The Journal of Public and Professional Sociology

<http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/jpps/>

Special Issue: [The Journal of Public and Professional Sociology](#)

[CALL FOR PAPERS](#)

**Submissions due March 31, 2016**

(contact Linda Treiber for deadline extension information [ltreiber@kennesaw.edu](mailto:ltreiber@kennesaw.edu) )

## **Intersections and Identities in Contemporary Sociology**

Sociologists have long been interested in issues concerning social class, race, gender, and sexualities. What is the status of these topics in contemporary sociology? Have they been too politicized—or not sufficiently politicized?

What have we learned about the intersection of these identities? A special issue of The Journal of Public and Professional Sociology (JPPS) welcomes submissions on these questions. Papers on empirical research, theory, and commentary are all welcome.

A heartfelt thanks goes out to all JPPS Reviewers. We could not publish a refereed journal like JPPS without your professional service.

Thank you!

Mel Fein and Linda Treiber, co-editors, JPPS

[mfein@kennesaw.edu](mailto:mfein@kennesaw.edu)

[ltreiber@kennesaw.edu](mailto:ltreiber@kennesaw.edu)

PS: Check out our current special issue: "Georgia and the New South on My Mind: Southern Culture in the Peach State and Beyond"

<http://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/jpps/>

Melvyn L. Fein, Editor

## **Journal of Public and Professional Sociology- A Testament**

**Just a brief note about the span and scope of the GSA's Journal of Public and professional Sociology. Since 2011, I have published 6 articles in the journal and have had, as of 10/30/2015, 7,140 down loads of my articles. Most of these have been related to "Dancing with Wolves: Today's Lone Wolf Terrorists" and "Psychological Operations, Terrorism and the Digital Domain" with Mara Mooney. These articles have been viewed in 17 countries, including the UK, Russia, Australia, Germany and a number of other countries in Europe, Africa, the Middle East and Asia. The two above mentioned articles also have been cited in more than 15 other scholarly articles and books and are included as references in Department of Defense and Department of Homeland Security websites. The success of these articles, reflect the visibility and impact of the JPPS and should encourage others within the GSA to consider submitting their scholarship to the journal.**

**Rodger**

**Rodger Bates, Ph.D.  
Professor of Sociology  
Clayton State University**

**GSA on Social Media- Let's network!**

**Please join our facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/223840197679205/?fref=ts>**

**We are on Twitter @GAsociology- follow us!**

**Use #georgiasociology when posting sociology-related items!**

## Obituary Dr. Robert Lightfoot

Dr. Robert Charles Lightfoot, 60, died Thursday evening (February 18, 2016) at Mayo Clinic Health System following and extended illness. Robert was born in Gladwin, Michigan the son of the late Billy W. Lightfoot and Geraldine O. Smith Lightfoot. He was the first son in a career army family, so he spent many years traveling to Michigan, South Carolina, Munich Germany, Brooklyn, New York and finally to Tifton, Georgia. He arrived there for the 8th grade. Robert graduated as the 1973 Star Student of Tift County High. He worked at Kmart and as an orderly at South Georgia Medical Center in Valdosta while he was in college at Valdosta State. His degrees went as follows: 1981 B.A. Sociology-Anthropology, Valdosta State College 1994 M.S. Sociology-Anthropology, Valdosta State University 2007 Ph.D. Criminology and Criminal Justice, Florida State University In 1994 Robert was inducted into the A.K.D. International Sociology Honors Society. Dr. Lightfoot's teaching history went as follows: 2005- Instructor, Assistant then Associate Professor, Sociology, Anthropology and Criminal Justice, Waycross College. 1999-2005 Teaching Assistant and Assistant Internship Director, Florida State University, School of Criminology and Criminal Justice. 1997-1999 Instructor, Sociology and Anthropology, Valdosta State University. 1997-1999 Instructor, Sociology and Anthropology, Coastal Georgia Community College. 1997-1999 Instructor, Sociology and Anthropology, Troy State University, Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base. 1995-1997 Instructor, Sociology and Anthropology, Georgia Military College, King's Bay Naval Submarine Base. Dr. Lightfoot had numerous professional publications and two publications in the Journal of the British Interstellar Society. Robert was a proud member of the Waycross Kiwanis Club and was president in 2009. He was a member of the Society for Creative Anachronism, a medieval recreation organization for over 20 years, where he was known as Lord Ernst von Nuremberg. Robert studied Judo for a number of years and achieved the rank of brown belt and was senior student at the Jessup Judo Academy. His other hobbies and interests included salt water fishing, fresh water snorkeling, target shooting, body building/weight lifting, attending science fiction conventions, writing, reading, armor making, researching military history and stage magic. A favorite quote of his was, the Lion is more sure of the Grace of God than is the Antelope. Robert LOVED to learn – and he never stopped learning and he LOVED to teach – no matter who or what. Survivors include his wife of 24 years, Linda Kay Williams Lightfoot of Waycross; one brother, Michael P. Lightfoot (wife Kathy) of Niceville, FL; two nieces, April Lightfoot of Crestview, FL and Stephanie Bland (husband Dujunnea) of Niceville, FL; a great niece, Laila Lightfoot; and a great nephew, Devan Lightfoot of Crestview, FL; numerous cousins, aunts, and other relatives. (Obituary from Legacy.com)

Robert was a long-term active member of the GSA. He will be missed!

## **Spotlight on Applied Sociology with UNG's Dr. Carly Redding**

**In July and December, 2014 and June and July (and December), 2015 I traveled to Goa, India with University of North Georgia students in order to conduct research. We assessed and explored maternal attitudes about various topics including children's gender, education, discipline, nutrition, and what are considered normal and abnormal behaviors for young children living in Birla, a small impoverished community in Goa. These assessments were important as they allowed researchers to gather information in order to provide this lacking community the needed resources as well as look at maternal interactions with infants in order to define attachment for this area and point toward possible predictors between maternal attachment, cognitive development and vulnerabilities to human trafficking.**

**While working in Birla, researchers noticed an unusually large number of children suffering with behavioral and emotional difficulties. Upon exploration, we discovered many of the children were coming from very strict, overly-structured and abusive home environments. After evaluation and discussion with the educational leaders, it was determined that the needed resource for the pre-school was a way to bridge the gap between education and children who are considered at-risk of developing poor psychological health.**

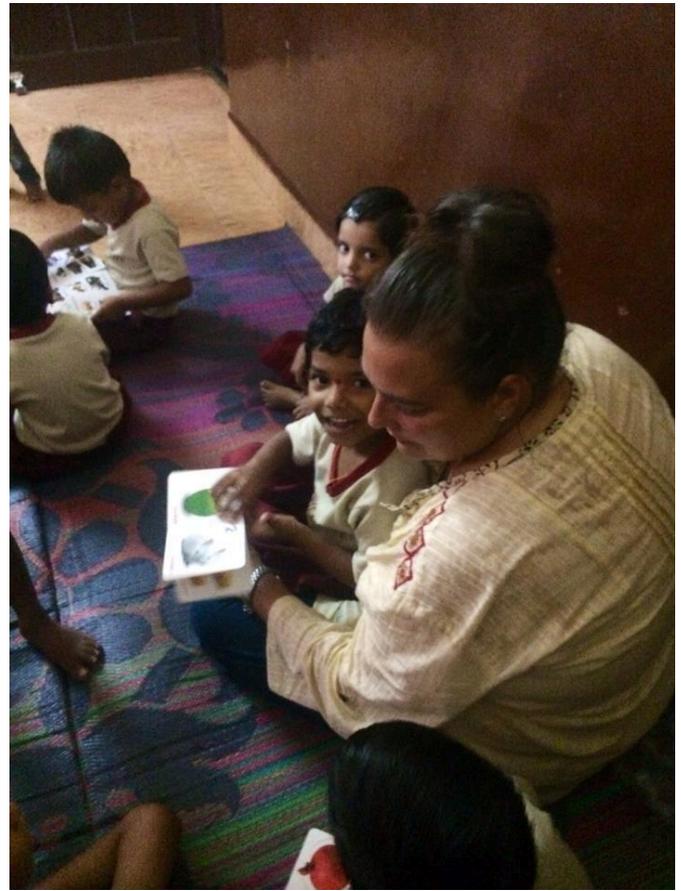
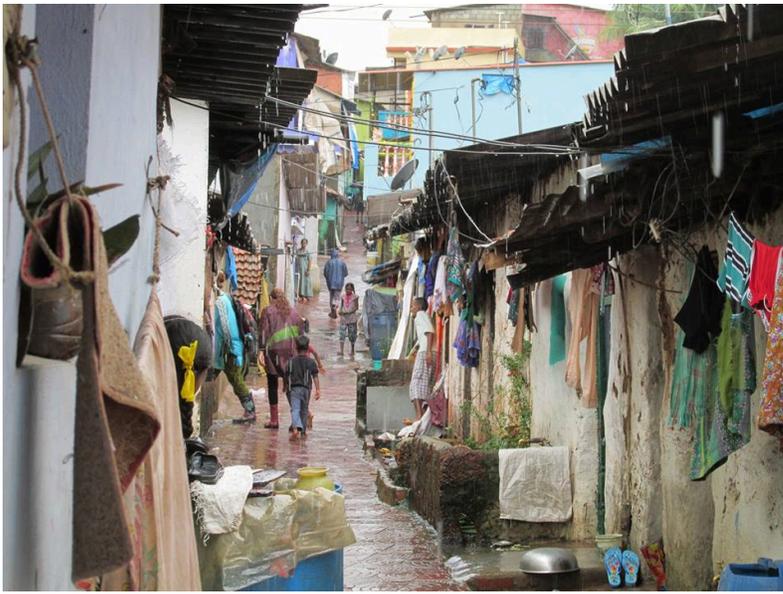
**The Director of the local pre-school asked for assistance in expanding the school to offer services needed for the educational success for at-risk children. During the months of June and July 2015 I worked with community leaders and the pre-school Director in order to develop this needed program.**

**This community is extremely impoverished, consisting of mostly Hindu nuclear families in a densely populated area (41,000 people living on slightly less than 4 acres of land) with little to no access to vital resources such as law enforcement and governmental protection. The average monthly income is equivalent to approximately seventeen US Dollars. This level of extreme poverty and lack of educational resources places many of the women and children in this community at risk of becoming trafficked into India's thriving sex industry (Lee, 2011).**

**The overarching goals of this project are to define attachment for this impoverished area, provide resources to improve attachment where needed, and to assist community leaders and the educational director in continuing to develop pre-K classrooms that are high in both emotional and instructional support to at-risk children. By improving attachment and increasing educational opportunities researchers' anticipation a decline in the amount of enslavement that is happening in this small community.**

# Photos from Dr. Redding's Trip





## Next Semaphore Deadline

**July 15, 2016**

Please send all newsletter items to [kdolan@gsu.edu](mailto:kdolan@gsu.edu). We welcome news, opinions, announcements, and photos. Let everyone know what you and your students are up to!

## Contact Us

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Georgia Sociological Association

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