

## Congratulations!!!

**Rosanne V Guy**

*ALA Student-to-Staff Recipient  
Summer 2018*

**Regina Aaron**

*COEHS Dorothy Dewar Service  
Scholarship*

**Jennifer L. Putnam Davis**

*George Gaumond Award*

**Jessica Haught**

**Lisa O'Donnell**

**Danielle Valenzano**

*H.W. Wilson Scholarships*

**Chi Chia Yang**

*Baker Family Scholarship*

**Jill Wagner**

*2018 MLIS Merit Scholarship*

**Marie Day**

**Marisa Guidara**

**Amber Gruszczyka**

**Kristen Murphy**

*2017 MLIS Merit Scholarship*

**Kimberly Burnette-Dean**

*2018 Virginia Roanoke Valley  
Library Association Scholarship*

Email: [solis@valdosta.edu](mailto:solis@valdosta.edu)

Editor: Amanda A Roper

Faculty Advisor: Prof. Xiaoi Ren

## Talk to Dr. Most

Dr. Most held her Spring 2018 "Talk to Dr. Most" listening session on the evening of Wednesday April 11, 2018 using Blackboard Collaborate inside MLIS Village. Twenty four students participated. The session was not recorded to protect the confidentiality of the process. These listening sessions allow both in-state and out-of-state students a chance to talk directly with the department head. Dr. Most uses the online listening sessions as chances to answer students' questions:

- **Why were the three week summer courses moved to seven weeks?**

Dr. Most explained that each year the constant critique of the three week courses was that there was not enough time to complete the work assigned and that the courses were really hard for people who were working to take. Dr. Most also explained that there are very few graduate programs of any type that offer three week summer courses. The three week semester is much more suitable for undergraduate, on-campus immersion course experiences.

- **TAP students asked about the waitlist in Banner and how it would affect them.**

Dr. Most explained that once the TAP registration window opens students can go on the waitlist and email the professor to ask about the possibility of getting into the class even if it is full. Waitlists will be reviewed and students who need a course to graduate will be given priority if there are too many students on the waitlist to be able to accommodate them all.

- **Several students asked for more details about the contents of different courses.**

Dr. Most reminded participants that all MLIS course syllabi are available on the departmental webpages [here](#).

- **What is the difference between an Independent Study and Supervised Fieldwork and why Fieldwork is not offered in the summer?**

The answer is that eleven weeks is usually not long enough for students to meet the 120 hour fieldwork requirement and that many libraries cannot accept fieldwork students in the summer either because they are a public library and are too busy with summer programming or they are an academic library and too many library faculty members schedule their vacations in the summer. An independent study is an academic course. Fieldwork is the equivalent of an internship.

- **Can students come back to take a course after graduation?**

Dr. Most explained that they would have to apply as non-degree-seeking students and could take the courses as available.

The conversation ended with thanks from many of the participants and Dr. Most promising to share their concerns with the faculty. The next online town hall meeting will be held in July 2018. Watch MLIS Village in BlazeVIEW for an announcement of the date and time.

## Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Dear graduates, we are proud of all of you and feel really happy for all of you! We are especially glad to see those of you who came to campus today to attend the graduation ceremony! Congratulations to all our graduates! We wish you all the best for your future endeavors!





WASHINGTON, DC • MAY 7-8, 2018

**REGISTER TODAY!**

## National Library Legislative Day

This year the American Library Association has a virtual component to National Library Legislative Day. Participants can champion libraries and library resources by checking out ALA's infographic, visiting ALA's Legislative Action Center, and viewing a video on advocacy for libraries.

Your SOLIS president Jennifer Putnam registered SOLIS as a participant. Virtual Library Legislative Day activities will be held throughout the week of May 7-11, 2018. All MLIS students, faculty, and staff are encouraged to participate in this activity. You can find more information at our website at <http://www.ala.org/united/advocacy/nlld>.

## Announcements



Join VSU MLIS  
LinkedIn Group

All current students, alumni, and professors of the Valdosta State University MLIS program are welcome to join this group. This will be a place to connect with our growing network of VSU library and information professionals.

Find out more at:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4874360>

## SOLIS Calls for News Items

Please share with us your news about a recently awarded scholarship, a conference presentation, or a paid internship opportunity, or other exciting news of your scholarly and professional achievements.

Please send your news items to [solis@valdosta.edu](mailto:solis@valdosta.edu) as they happen. Thank you!

Follow Valdosta State University's MLIS program on Facebook for job postings, articles, and discussion related to librarianship.

<https://www.facebook.com/>

## Alumni Spotlight: Holly Phillips

What were your favorite classes you took while in the MLIS program?

*Cataloging, Reference, and Management*

What was your favorite project you worked on while an MLIS student?

*My capstone project was on how libraries are repurposing their spaces to adapt to patron needs and new technologies. Within a year of writing the paper, I was taking the first steps toward the major renovation project at my library that is currently underway.*

How have you applied what you learned in the MLIS program to your current work?

*A major focus of many of my classes was on community building and partnerships. That way of thinking has been very important in my work, because so many grants, funding, and other opportunities depend on collaboration with other community groups. It also helps to think outward about what your library can do throughout your community, rather than just being focused on what's happening within the library's walls.*

Do you have any advice for upcoming graduates on job searches and life as a new graduate?

*I was fortunate to get a professional position at the library I already worked at and loved. A positive attitude, willingness to do whatever is required to get the job done, and a genuine desire to help people will go a long way. Remembering that the patron is the reason we're here will usually lead to making the best decisions for the library and everyone in it.*

*Sarah Shelton Reports*



Holly Phillips is the Director of the Moultrie-Colquitt County Library System. She received her MLIS from VSU in 2012, and a BA from VSU in English/Journalism in 2007.

## Reflection on Dr. Wiegand's Book Talk

*(Juree H. Hall)* One of the most memorable experiences I had as a student during the Spring 2018 semester was the book talk and lecture presented by Professor Wayne Wiegand titled *the Desegregation of Public Libraries in the Jim Crow South*.

Professor Wiegand, a historian, has done years of research on the subject of public libraries. I was most struck with the way he wove his research into the often sensitive subject related to a very painful time in American history, especially for blacks.

Many times during his presentation I found nuggets of information that directly connected to competencies introduced to me as a first year MLIS student.

A good example of this was the general discussion of the management of a public library as an information center. Ensuring access to the public, to any citizen, was and remains a fundamental element of providing services.



I found his presentation on the connection between the integration of libraries and the integration of schools (access to education) extremely profound. The push against racism through integration for access to information and education was powerful.

I was also very moved by how communities influenced and shaped the services provided within libraries during segregation. While the influences on libraries by communities are much more positive today, the overall dynamic of the relationship between community and libraries is also powerful.

The visual aids used in Professor Weigand's presentation provided images that would transport anyone to a time and place where the desire and struggle to access information within one's community was dire.

Professor Weigand's work outlines a very important time of change in public libraries, and most importantly the need for neutrality in the management of information centers. It was a great lecture and one I will hold as a wonderful overall enhancement to my MLIS experience at VSU.

## VSU 2018 Graduate Student Research and Scholarship Symposium

The 2018 VSU 10th Annual Graduate Student Research and Scholarship Symposium was held on Friday, April 20, 2018. Kadry Dale presented on *The Role of Social Workers in Public Libraries* and Kendall N. Ball presented on *Community Representation in Children's Chapter Book Collection at the Chattahoochee Valley Libraries*.

Thank you to both presenters who represented our program and profession so well!

---

## Library Marketing and Communications Conference

The Library and Marketing Communications Conference was held in Dallas, Texas, on November 16-17, 2017. It brought together an enthusiastic group of librarians, library paraprofessionals, and marketing experts to exchange ideas and innovations in the field of library marketing.

My presentation, “But I Want to Do it All! Social Media Strategies for the Small Academic Library” was one of the first sessions on Thursday morning. My presentation focused on social media strategies that combine knowledge of library demographics, understanding of the library’s mission, industry-specific best practices, assessment and sustainable social media marketing practices to maximize marketing reach for small academic libraries.

There were two keynote addresses. Shel Holtz is a communications consultant and he discussed social media, libraries, and crisis communication. Gina Millsap is the CEO of Topeka & Shawnee County Library system and she discussed building marketing buy-in with library staff and community members. In addition to the keynotes, I attended multiple sessions related to media, public relations, the marketing cycle, user-centered design, and data-driven decision-making. Some of the sessions I attended discussed email marketing, creating a communications strategy, data collection from college students, student-centered library communications, digital strategies, data analysis, and a Q&A with leaders in library marketing.

The Library Marketing and Communications Conference gave me an opportunity to learn, engage, and network with attendees from across the globe and it was one of the most professionally inspiring conferences I have attended.

This year’s Library Marketing and Communications Conference will be held November 14-15, in St. Louis, Missouri. Learn more about the conference on their website: <http://www.librarymarketingconference.org/>

*Amanda Addison Roper Reports*

---



Support the Student Organization of Library and Information Science (SOLIS) by ordering your own T-shirt with the VSU and MLIS insignias!

Proceeds of sales in years past have funded ALA conference registrations for several students, travel reimbursements for SOLIS officers representing SOLIS at GLA conferences, a reception for the travelling rare books exhibit on loan from the Remnant Trust, and a 15th anniversary celebration in downtown Valdosta.

Shirts are sold at \$10 each at events such as GA COMO conferences.

### SOLIS T-Shirt Order Form

Yes, I want to support SOLIS! Please send me \_\_\_\_\_ (number) of shirts.

Please indicate the quantity for each size:

Small \_\_\_\_\_ Medium \_\_\_\_\_ Large \_\_\_\_\_ X-Large \_\_\_\_\_ XX-Large \_\_\_\_\_

Order of one (1) shirt is \$20 (includes processing and shipping via USPS).

Order of 2 or more shirts is \$15 per shirt (processing and shipping included)

Total enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Check payment only.

Make check payable to MLIS Foundation . Allow two to four weeks to receive your t-shirt(s).

Your shipping address:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form with your check to :

Dr. Xiaoi Ren  
 Department of Library and Information Studies  
 Valdosta State University  
 Valdosta, GA 31698