



February-March 2019

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

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Notes From Your SOLIS Officers

SOLIS President Ashton Hedrick has attended monthly MLIS faculty meetings remotely since October 2018. Your Vice President Heather Martz has been able to attend monthly MLIS curriculum meetings remotely too. The following are their reports.

From your SOLIS President...

Being president of SOLIS this year has been an honor and a privilege. SOLIS has become a cohesive group that gathers together with active participation to plan activities for students. This year, we have had great success with SOLIS activities. We planned a book drive with the VA hospital, a social media campaign to market t-shirt sales, a peer advising board for new students and SOLIS students to engage and provide mentorship, and an activity promoting literacy for children by reading to therapy dogs.

SOLIS also engages with faculty and provides opportunities for sharing student opinions with faculty. Working with the faculty, we have engaged on matters such as Graduate Student Association involvement, class offerings, peer advising, and curriculum matters.

As I only have one semester left as president of SOLIS, I would like to extend my appreciation to my fellow board members and our faculty advisor, Dr. Ren, for helping to provide me with the right guidance and information to guide SOLIS in the right direction, as well as being go-getters who are willing to complete any task! Thank you, everyone, for all your hard work, and for putting up with my constant emails!

For the next SOLIS president, I would also like to provide a piece of advice: the best way to stay on task and accomplish what you have set out to do is to remain in constant communication with your board members and your faculty advisor. Email collaboration has been my best tool. In addition, it helps to have a list of things you might want to bring up in a SOLIS meeting or faculty meeting that you can add to the agenda.

Lastly, I would like to thank every student and faculty member who has participated in SOLIS activities this year. SOLIS appreciates your involvement, and I encourage you to become involved in SOLIS if you have not already done so. I hope that you all have a wonderful semester and continue to succeed in your academic endeavors at VSU!

All the best,

Ashton

From your SOLIS Vice President...

I have enjoyed the opportunity to attend the MLIS Curriculum Committee meetings remotely. It has allowed me to be involved in a vital part of our academic program, even from off-campus. It was humbling to hear how thoroughly and passionately our faculty discuss every aspect of our classes in order to give us the opportunity to receive an excellent preparation for our future careers.

In the October 2018 meeting, updates to some of the Cataloging and Classification Track courses were discussed. Some changes in titles occurred in order to better reflect the emerging standards and practices of the field, such as renaming 7310, which had been Descriptive Cataloging, and is now Introduction to Metadata for Catalogers, and 7330 from Metadata and Advanced Cataloging to Advanced Metadata. The 7310 course was also made an additional prerequisite for 7330. These alterations were carefully considered before adopting any changes. APA citation standards were also discussed at this meeting.

The February 2019 meeting began with an update on the ongoing process of reviewing 7700 Research Methods. Dr. Alemanne reported that after reviewing the syllabi of other institutions to evaluate their course descriptions, textbooks, research methods covered, and assignments, followed by an alumni survey, which was now completed, the department was ready to move on to stakeholder focus groups later this spring or summer. She shared that they would complete their review of the course this year. Also discussed were minor changes to the transfer credit policy. The committee agreed to recommend that only six credits should be accepted instead of nine, and that they should be no older than five years instead of seven.

I have enjoyed my time serving as your SOLIS Vice President, and I look forward to continued participation. If you have any questions, please feel free to email me at hamartz@valdost.edu.

Congratulations...

The 2019 Awards go to:

Amanda Addison Roper - *George Gaumond Award*

Alexander Thomerson, Jacquelyn Johnson - *MLIS Merit Scholarships*

Ashley Johnson, Heather Martz - *H.W. Wilson Scholarships*

Sarah Shelton Yawn - *Baker Family MLIS Scholarship*

ALA Registration!

Are you planning to attend ALA in Washington, D.C. June 20-25 this summer? If so, you are eligible for reimbursement for your registration fee through SOLIS. SOLIS funds two-three student registrations for full ALA registration which covers any and all conference dates between June 20 and June 25 and all sessions except for pre-conferences and optional ticketed events. Both Georgia residents and out-of-state students are eligible for all SOLIS awards.

Apply by sending an email to Dr. Ren (xren@valdosta.edu) with your receipt for ALA registration attached by **Wednesday, May 1st**. For more information on the conference, visit the site at <https://2019.alaannual.org/>.

Fall Registration!

Fall Early Registration

- Starts April 1
- Advising week starts March 25

Fall Registration End Date

- August 22

Fall Semester Date

- Fall begins August 19

GLA 2019 Scholarship

The Georgia Library Association awards two scholarships annually to students pursuing a master's degree in library science. The 2019 Scholarship Committee is currently accepting applications for the 2019 scholarship awards.

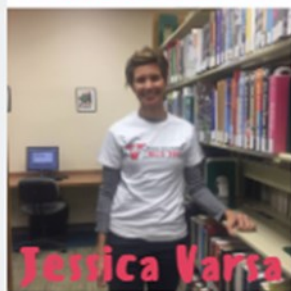
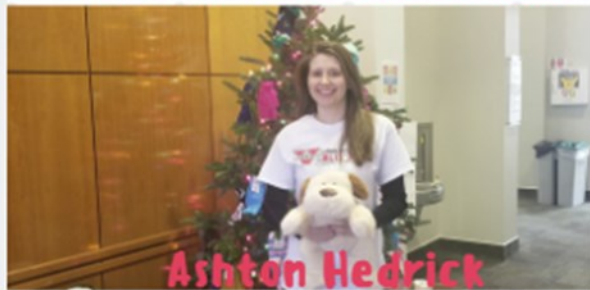
The Hubbard Scholarship of the Georgia Library Association is made possible by the family and friends of Mr. C. S. Hubbard, an early supporter of libraries in Georgia. The \$3,000 Scholarship award, is intended to recruit excellent candidates for librarianship in Georgia and provide financial assistance toward completing a Master's degree in library science.

The Beard Scholarship, in the amount of \$1,500, is made possible by friends and colleagues of the late Charles Edward Beard who served libraries and the library profession for almost 40 years with distinction and dedication. The purpose of this scholarship is to provide financial assistance toward completing a Master's degree in library science for candidates who show strong potential to inspire and motivate their peers in the profession and in professional associations.

Recipients of both awards must agree to work for at least one year in a library-related capacity in Georgia following graduation. Applicants need not be residents of Georgia to apply. The deadline to apply for the 2019 scholarships is **May 24**. Please visit the Georgia Library Association website for details: <https://gla.georgialibraries.org/resources/scholarships/>

SOLIS T-Shirt Campaign Report

In December 2018, SOLIS organized a t-shirt marketing campaign. MLIS faculty members and MLIS students wore their MLIS program t-shirts to their libraries, places of work, and when volunteering in their communities to show their support for the program. A big thank you to all who participated!



SOLIS PawstoRead Activity Report

In March, 2019 SOLIS raised awareness for PawstoRead, an advocacy program for children learning to read using therapy animals. SOLIS members and MLIS students took pictures reading to therapy animals at libraries to demonstrate that reading to animals can be easy and fun, and to raise awareness for this wonderful program!





Alumni Spotlight: Sandy Hester

Sandy Hester has been working in public libraries for 25 years, beginning as a student page at the Tifton-Tift County Public Library in Tifton, Georgia at the age of 16. Since, she has served various roles at the TTCPL with the last being Head of Reference. Just 3 months before graduating from the MLIS program in 2005, she accepted the position of Director of the Fitzgerald-Ben Hill County Library in Fitzgerald, Georgia where she would stay for the next 10 years. In July of 2015, she accepted the position of Support Services Librarian with the Coastal Plains Regional Library System and was later named Director of the Coastal Plains Regional Library System in June of 2018. Hester has recently been honored with the award of 2018 Librarian of the Year for the state of Georgia. She has one daughter and is also an active member at her church.

1. What were your favorite classes while in the MLIS program?
 - a. My favorite class of the MLIS program was the Foundations class. This class offered a great introduction to librarianship and facilitated relationship building among the students. I am still connected with some of those classmates almost 15 years later.
2. What was your favorite course project while receiving your MLIS degree?
 - a. My favorite course project was cataloging a trumpet with all its components. I realize that sounds a bit ridiculous given the many other projects that had more practical applications. Dr. Yontz used this assignment to bring some levity to an otherwise slightly dull topic (sorry catalogers...).
3. How has what you learned while getting your MLIS degree directly affected or been applied to your work?
 - a. I gained a tremendous amount of knowledge over the course of attaining my MLIS but I think creating and maintaining my portfolio, which began way back in Foundations, has had the most direct impact on my career. I am convinced that having a portfolio during my first professional interview, with tangible evidence of my abilities, tipped the scales in my favor and helped me land that position. Using those same principles and techniques, I created a “portfolio” for my library and was able to use it on numerous occasions to tell the library’s story to important stakeholders, including funding agencies. I have continued to use my personal portfolio at subsequent interviews with consistent success.
4. Do you have any advice for upcoming graduates on how to navigate the job search and/or the field as a new graduate?
 - a. Make your resume/vitae accomplishment-focused rather than task-focused.
 - b. Self-promotion is great but be sure to have the skills to back up your claims. Polishing your resume/vitae is great but over-embellishment can quickly backfire. You never know what skills your interviewer may possess. If you claim to be fluent in another language, be prepared to converse in that language during the interview.
 - c. Even if you know the answer to an interview question right away, take a moment to breathe before saying it aloud. That split-second pause helps you to appear calm and demonstrates to the interviewer that you are putting thought into your answer.
 - d. Take your portfolio in print and digital form!

SOLIS Financials

SOLIS funding is supported through T-shirt sales and donations. From January to February 2019, SOLIS received \$42 as gifts and T-shirt sales brought in \$70. Our current balance is \$1817.09. Thank you for your support!

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 xren@valdosta.edu as they happen. Thank you!



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 face-to-face events such as GLA conferences and previous New Student Orientations.

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 _____

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 :

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