

2019-2020 SOLIS Officers Nominees

Nominee for President:

Bio: Sarah Shelton Yawn has been in the MLIS program since fall of 2017 and has served as a SOLIS Advisory Board Member for the past two years. Currently, she is working as a Library Assistant at the Margaret Jones Public Library (Worth County Library System) in Sylvester, Georgia. Sarah has a special interest in cataloging and metadata.



Election Statement: I have really enjoyed serving as a SOLIS Advisory Board member the past two years. If elected to serve as the SOLIS President, I will continue to strive to represent all members of the MLIS student body and provide guidance and assistance in relation to SOLIS related activities.

Nominee for Vice President:

Bio: Sarah Joseph is a distance learner from Annapolis, Maryland. She is in her second year of graduate work for her MLIS degree. She loves to hike, read, write, and spend time in nature.



Election Statement: My passion and drive for LIS makes me a great candidate for the position of SOLIS Vice President. As a distance learner, I want to be able to connect and engage with more students and staff to make meaningful connections here at VSU. I am detail oriented, motivated, and punctual, which are qualities suited for a strong Vice President. I have experience being a part of committees in my current library work. I have been on our system-wide Programming and Outreach committee and STEM committee, and had oversight of a committee that developed a children's play area within our library. I have regularly participated in quarterly programming development for my own branch as the head/spokesperson for the Early Literacy specialist team. I would love to be a part of SOLIS and join in creating a welcoming space for students through activities, experiences, and shared information.

Nominee for Communication Officer:

Bio: Pate Council is a second year student of the MLIS program. He has a B.A. in History and currently works as a library assistant at the Willis L. Miller public library in Valdosta and as a graduate assistant in the VSU Archives and Special Collections. Upon completion of his program, Pate hopes to work in an academic or archival setting.



Election Statement: My background as a history major and my work in the MLIS program has allowed me to better develop my writing and communication skills. If elected, I hope to spread the word about the MLIS program to the student body and show students how a career in the world of libraries can be exciting and rewarding.

SOLIS Advisory Board Member Nominees

Bio: Heather Martz is currently in her final semester of VSU's MLIS program, Heather works at the Peachtree City Library as a reference specialist. She also serves on the board of directors as chapter librarian for PFLAG Peachtree City.



Election Statement: I was honored to serve as the SOLIS Vice President last year, and I would love to continue to serve the MLIS student body on the Advisory Board this year. If elected, I look forward to the opportunity to hear from my wonderful classmates and support them in their continuing studies.

Bio: Niq (Nicholas) Tognoni is a current MLIS student and works as the manager of the Studio NPL learning lab and maker spaces for Nashville Public Library. Niq began his public library career in 2009 in the Chicago Public Library's teen maker space, and is committed to public librarianship.



Election Statement: I currently serve on advisory boards for the YOUmedia network, the Frist Art Museum's teen program, and the Creative's Day Network in Nashville, TN. My primary responsibilities on these boards is to review plans, connect members in the community to the organizations, help coordinate events, and serve as a liaison between community members and the organization membership. I am a distance-learning student, but completed my undergraduate and several semesters of another graduate program as an in-person student, and these experiences have given me perspectives relevant to a large student population. My sole experience in libraries is through working in public libraries, and indeed that is where my passion lies. I imagine this perspective will be of use to my fellow students in the MLIS program at Valdosta.

Bio: My name is Matt Yohn. I graduated from the University of Georgia and eventually started working at the library of Life University. After 10 years I realized that this wasn't just a job, but a career. I'm almost halfway through the MLIS program and looking forward to what comes next.



Election Statement: I'm running for the advisory board. I would like to get more involved in the community and the SOLIS Advisory Board is a way to do that. I am a conscientious worker and I believe that I would be an asset to SOLIS. My schedule is flexible so I don't foresee any problems attending SOLIS officer meetings. Thank you for your consideration!

Bio: Regina Aaron is a recipient of both the VSU Dorothy Dewar Service Scholarship and the ALA Kino Lorber EDU/VRT Scholarship. Regina completed her BS in Environmental Science from Oregon State University in 2017 and also holds a BA in Geography from UC Berkeley. Her MLIS interests are online learning and tribal/rural libraries.



She has a background in digital media from working at Warner Bros., Kodak and Sony and currently works within the Santa Monica Public Library system in California as a Librarian Assistant with multiple roles - administrative, circulation and reference. While she is interested in many things including comics, oceanography, coding and screenwriting, her desire is to bring library resources to underserved communities.

Election Statement: I believe that as VSU's MLIS program grows it needs the input from students who reside outside of Georgia. As a California resident my place on the board would bring to light issues of importance to distance students.

ALA Student-to-Staff Report

It was truly an honor to attend the [2019 ALA Annual Conference in Washington, D.C.](#) this summer as an ALA Student-to-Staff participant. Through the [ALA Student-to-Staff Program](#), 40 MLIS students are selected from schools in the United States and Canada to attend the conference and work with a variety of ALA offices and divisions. During the 2019 conference, I was assigned to assist the [ALA Public Programs Office](#), which presents several workshops, screenings, and lectures throughout the conference.

After meeting with my colleagues at a special orientation on the first night, I began my work with the Public Programs Office by assisting at the registration table for the extremely popular program, *Beyond the Racial Stalemate*. It was inspiring to meet people from all over the country, from all different backgrounds, coming together to talk, laugh, and cry. Many of the participants left saying that they would endeavor to bring similar programs to their own libraries when they got home.



Peachtree City Library mascot -Whoolio the owl admiring Library of Congress



As a part of my assignment, I had the opportunity to watch the documentary, *American Creed*, and hear from its creator, Sam Ball, and two librarians who had received grants to present the film at their libraries as a part of a community conversation series. All attendees received a copy of the film with public screening rights, and microgrants are still available for libraries that would like to create programming around the film.

My final assignment for the Public Programs Office was one of their most fun presentations, in my opinion. I attended the *Program Speed Dating with the Programming Librarian Interest Group*, a fast-paced presentation of about a dozen different library program ideas for all age groups. I was able to write a brief article about that experience for the [Programming Librarian](#) website, and I would highly recommend attending this presentation if you're ever at an ALA conference.

I was also able to attend several workshops and presentations in between these assignments, including *The Joy of Finding Out: Adventures in Teaching People How To Do Both Online and Offline Research* with [Daniel M Russell, PhD](#), *Inequity and the Disappearance of Reference and User Services* presented by ALA [RUSA](#), *Behind the Scenes: Creating a Diverse World of Comics*, and *LGBTQ+ Creators and Characters in Kids, Tween, and Teen Comics*.

I was able to learn more about participating in a couple of [ALA Round Tables](#) that I am interested in at a Round Table 101 session, an orientation and tour, and a couple of socials. But probably the most exciting and inspiring sessions were hearing [Jason Reynolds](#) and [George Takei](#) speak about their experiences and their writing.

I was so busy going to sessions, in fact, that I forgot to take any pictures of myself at the conference. I am including a picture of George Takei onstage and my name tag with all of my collected ribbons attached (collecting them was so much fun!). I also used one of my lunch breaks to take my library's mascot, Whoolio the owl, out for some pictures for the [library's Facebook page](#). I'm including a shot of Whoolio admiring the Library of Congress.

I would encourage my fellow students to apply for this program. It was an incredible opportunity, and I am so grateful to have participated. (*Heather A Martz*)



George Takei Onstage

What is MLIS 7960 Supervised Fieldwork: Everything you need to know about the course!

Supervised Fieldwork (MLIS 7960) is a three credit course and is VSU MLIS's version of a for-credit internship. MLIS 7960 requires a student to complete a minimum of 120 hours of work at the fieldwork site during the specified semester. The course is graded as satisfactory/unsatisfactory. Fieldwork may be completed face-to-face or virtually. The point of fieldwork is to learn while you work – to put into practice the theories and procedures you have studied in your courses.

Interested students can read about MLIS 7960 at <https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/student-resources/fieldwork-documentation.php> Below are the answers to frequently asked questions about doing fieldwork in the Valdosta State MLIS program.

When should I take fieldwork?

In the fall or spring semester after you have completed 8 or 9 courses or more. Fieldwork is an opportunity to get some hands-on experience in the area of librarianship in which you are pretty sure you want to work. The course is most effective when taken in the last quarter of your studies when you should have a good idea of what type of work you want to do when you graduate. Many students take fieldwork in their last or second-to-last semester of their studies. Fieldwork is NOT offered in the summer semester because summer placements are hard to find and the eleven-week semester is usually not enough time for students to complete 120 fieldwork hours.

Where can I do my fieldwork?

In a library or information center of the type in which you wish to work that is within commuting distance for you. You and the Fieldwork instructor will negotiate possible placements and the instructor will contact the proposed fieldwork site supervisor on your behalf to see if they can accept a fieldwork student for the semester under consideration. Virtual fieldwork is a possibility if it is appropriate to your goals for your fieldwork.

Who should supervise my fieldwork?

You must be supervised by a librarian who holds an MLIS degree or equivalent. Your proposed site supervisor must have been in their current position for at least one year before they can be considered as a fieldwork supervisor.

Can I do fieldwork in the library where I am currently employed? Yes, but only if the work you are doing is different from your regular tasks and if you will learn something new through the fieldwork placement. For example, if you work as a circulation assistant and you want to learn more about collection management you may request a placement in the acquisitions department of your library system. If your current work supervisor and the department head with whom you want to do your fieldwork both approve your request, we can move forward with the placement process.

What is MLIS 7960 Supervised Fieldwork: Everything you need to know about the course!

What kinds of placements can I request?

There are many different opportunities for supervised fieldwork. Below are just a few examples of types of placements you might consider:

An academic library reference department would be a great place to work if your goal is to work in an academic library and you've taken the appropriate courses in the reference track.

If you are interested in youth services, you could request a placement in a large children's or teen department where you could practice what you've learned in your youth services courses.

If you are a branch manager and you want to learn more about library system management, you could request to shadow a library director for a semester.

If you are interested in archives or special collections and have taken the appropriate courses you could request placement in an archives or historical society collection or a special collections department of an academic library.

May I apply for an existing internship and count it for MLIS 7960?

Yes. For example, several students have worked at CNN as research interns and counted that experience for credit. Several students have applied for and received an Athens-Clarke County Library System Heritage Room internship and counted it for academic credit. Two students were recently awarded Library of Congress Junior Fellowships and counted those experiences for academic credit.

How do I register for MLIS 7960?

Contact your MLIS advisor and let them know you are interested in a fieldwork placement. Describe the type of setting in which you would like to work and your goals for your fieldwork: what would you like to come away with upon completion of your semester of fieldwork? If your advisor approves your request to take MLIS 7960, they will refer you to the Fieldwork instructor. The Fieldwork instructor will work with you to identify an appropriate placement site, get you placed, and then register you for MLIS 7960. You cannot register yourself for MLIS 7960, you must be overridden into the course by the department head.

Questions? Contact your advisor first.

MLIS Students and Alumni Research Presentations

Atlanta Area Bibliographic Instruction Group (AABIG) 2019

MLIS graduate **Kristina S Lang** presented a poster session with **Angela Dixon**, another Valdosta alumna

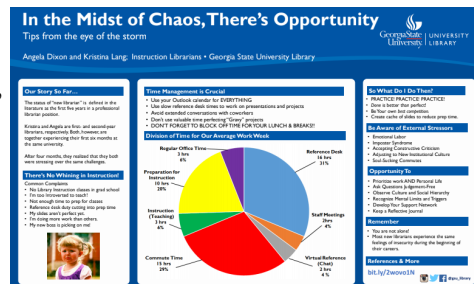
- **Title:** In the midst of chaos, there's opportunity: Instruction observations from the eye of the storm

MLIS graduate **Chih Chia (Joshua) Yang** presented a poster session

- **Title:** Creating instruction opportunities: Outreach to international students

MLIS graduate **Dylitchrous Thompson** co-presented

- **Title:** Service to older adults: Defining the A, B, and C of reference interchange



Florida Library Association's 2019 Annual Conference

MLIS second-year student **Chelsea Gentry** and her colleagues presented a poster session at the **Florida Library Association's Annual Conference** in Orlando Florida on May 15, 2019.

Title: A royal flush: Streaming video as an unbeatable hand

Georgia Libraries Conference VSU Macon Meet-up!

Let's meet up at the Georgia Library conference: Wednesday, October 9th 5:00-7:00 pm at the Rookery private dining room. Address is 543 Cherry Street, Macon, GA. It will be a self-pay happy hour/early dinner group.

We hope to see you at the conference!



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!

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

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/136986118569/>



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>



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 Georgia Libraries 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 :

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