



## 2021-2022 SOLIS Officers Nominees

### Nominee for SOLIS President:

**Bio:** **Melissa Thompson** began her MLIS journey in Fall 2019. She currently works as a library assistant at Augusta University's Reese Library located in Augusta, Georgia. She has a strong interest in diversity & equality efforts in librarianship as well as incorporating comics & graphic novels in education. Upon completion of the program she hopes to become a systems librarian focusing on user experience and web accessibility efforts.



**Election Statement:** Hello all! Last year, I served in SOLIS as your Communications Officer. This year, I am running for the SOLIS President. During my tenure, I learned a lot about being part of a team of uniquely awesome people who wanted the best for our organization and wanted to offer the best for our program overall. I hope to create greater bonds with students, continue to foster an open line of communication, and represent our student organization proudly at Valdosta State.

### Nominee for Communications Officer:

**Bio:** **Avery Johnson** was born and raised in Smyrna, Georgia, and now lives in Dallas, Georgia with her husband and three cats. She has worked in libraries for 5 years, first as a part time clerk at a public library to a circulation supervisor at the University of West Georgia Ingram Library.



**Election Statement:** As communications officer, I hope to work with the other members of SOLIS to ensure that the voices of the MLIS students are heard. Being a distance learner can be difficult to stay in the loop both academically and professionally, and as communications officer I will strive to facilitate communication between the students of this program and the wider world of library science.

### Nominee for SOLIS Vice President:

**Bio:** **Mikayla L. Kittilstved** lives in Washington state with her partner, Nick, and their cat, Purrlock Holmes. She works for the Community Library Network in Idaho and serves on the North Idaho Reads committee. Mikayla enjoys travel, bluegrass music, board games, and *Nancy Drew!*



**Election Statement:** I served as a SOLIS advisory board member during the 20-21 school year. I am now running for VP to increase the representation of West Coast students in SOLIS and to support activities all distance learners can easily participate in.

### Nominee for Secretary:

**Bio:** My name is **Roxanne Williamson**. I am originally from Jamaica and moved to the U.S. in 2005. I acquired my B.A.S degree in Health Supervision and Management from Palm Beach State College. I reside in Stone Mountain, GA, and have worked for DeKalb County Public Library for the past 6 years. I now hold the position of Library Specialist.



**Election Statement:** This position will give me the opportunity to truly become more involved in the inner working of Valdosta State University's MLIS program. Along with this, it provides a means for me to stretch myself in the service of my fellow students and gain valuable experience in strengthening my own abilities in leadership.

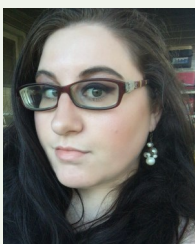
## SOLIS Advisory Board Member Nominees

**Bio: Joycelynn Witherspoon** is from Gary, Indiana. She went to the University of Southern Indiana for her Bachelor's degree in English Literature and finished in Fall 2018. She has worked in both academic and public libraries, with a slight preference for the public sector.



**Election Statement:** I would like to run for a position on the SOLIS advisory board. I have spent two semesters within this MLIS program which can be expanded upon with a position such as this. Not only can I provide a fresh opinion as a newer student, but as a minority student in many aspects. I am from the Midwest unlike many students in my classes thus far, while also being crucially underrepresented by my ethnicity as well. By being on the advisory board, I can aid the leaders of SOLIS with various viewpoints that may have been overlooked.

**Bio: Allyson J. King** is from southwest Georgia. She has worked in libraries since 2013, and joined the VSU MLIS program in Fall 2020 after getting her BA in English and History from Georgia Southwestern. In the future she hopes to work in cataloging or archives.



**Election Statement:** I am running for a position on the advisory board because I want to support incoming students to the MLIS program.

**Bio: Sussan Ayala Rodriguez** is currently the manager at the Upper King William branch of Pamunkey Regional Library. Throughout her time in libraries, she has been an associate, assistant, and a programmer, so she is familiar with most aspects of librarianship. This is her third semester in the MLIS program at VSU.



**Election Statement:** I wish to run for a position on the SOLIS advisory board because I want to engage with other MLIS students to promote the success of our program. The work done by this committee enriches our educational experience by providing scholarship funds and providing opportunities for students to communicate ideas and experiences. I would be proud to serve the organization in this capacity.

**Bio: Brittany N Mayo** is a second-year MLIS student, living in Georgia. While she currently works for a public library, her true passion lies in cultural heritage institutions, like archives and museums. Having worked in an archive and a public library, she offers a unique perspective on information services. She loves reference requests and treats them like a treasure hunt. When not working or studying, she can be found skating, reading, or playing fetch with her two dogs.



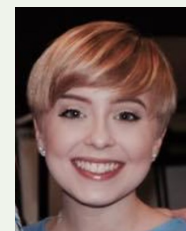
**Election Statement:** As an advisory board member, it is my hope to help bridge the distances between students through programs and dialogue and to help us all grow as professionals.

**Bio: Christine Rogers** is a bookseller-turned-librarian currently working at an academic library in Atlanta, Georgia. She is rounding out her second year of the MLIS program, and is focusing her studies on technology and metadata in the library field.



**Election Statement:** I hope to be a member of the SOLIS advisory board to deepen my relationships with my MLIS peers. With the pandemic preventing in-person meetings for VSU's students across the US, it's more important than ever to implement ways to bridge the distance and form strong connections. I am also interested in being an advocate for other students and learning more about how the MLIS program will continue to evolve.

**Bio: Rebekah Castagna** is in her fourth semester of VSU's MLIS program. She has worked in public libraries as a library assistant for over four years, and she is planning to graduate in the fall of 2022. She hopes to find a position as a collection management or cataloging librarian.



**Election Statement:** I am interested in becoming more involved with the VSU MLIS community. Libraries are my passion and I want to act as a voice for MLIS students while fostering an inclusive, fun environment that will help bring all VSU MLIS students together.

## MLIS program Virtual re-accreditation visit scheduled for October 10-12

Current students: Your MLIS program is asking for your help in supporting our scheduled American Library Association Accreditation renewal process <https://www.ala.org/educationcareers/accreditedprograms>. This process involves a full review of our MLIS program for compliance with the ALA Standards for Accreditation: [https://www.ala.org/educationcareers/sites/ala.org.educationcareers/files/content/standards/Standards\\_2015\\_adopted\\_02-02-15.pdf](https://www.ala.org/educationcareers/sites/ala.org.educationcareers/files/content/standards/Standards_2015_adopted_02-02-15.pdf) and is scheduled to take place every seven years. As you know, all accredited MLIS programs must go through this seven-year review process in order to maintain their ALA-accredited status.

Our reaccreditation site visit will be held virtually this October, after having been postponed from October 2020 due to the pandemic. We have prepared and submitted our self-study document to our External Review Panel and the panel members will be visiting Valdosta State MLIS virtually October 10-12, 2021. The ERP members have asked to speak with different groups of Valdosta State MLIS Program faculty, students, alumni, employers and their stakeholders during their time visiting our program.

We invite you to participate in our reviewers' requested meeting with current VSU MLIS students. **This meeting with current students is scheduled for Monday October 11 at 4:00-5:00 pm eastern time, online via Zoom.**

All current students are also invited to attend the accreditation visit general orientation meeting, where you'll be able to meet the review panel members and ask any questions you may have. **The accreditation general orientation meeting is scheduled for Monday morning October 11 at 8:00-9:00 am eastern time online via Zoom.**

If you are available and willing to participate in either or both meetings, please email Dr. Most at [lrmost at Valdosta dot edu](mailto:lrmost@valdosta.edu) and include the email address you want her to use to send the Zoom invitation. We will send the Zoom link out closer to the date of the meeting.

Thank you in advance for your help with our Valdosta State MLIS Program reaccreditation efforts.

### Congratulations

**Kristina S. Lang** presented her own work and her collaborative work with VSU MLIS alumni **Amy Stalker** and **Angela Dixon** at the 2021 Georgia Library Instruction, Teaching, and Reference Conference (GLITR). The presentation are:

- Staying Grounded In & Out of the Library Classroom: Practical Applications of Contemplative Practices for Instruction Librarians (**Kristina S. Lang**) <https://youtu.be/NekOTTOpfW8>
- Peer-to-Peer Learning: on-site, hands-on professional development (**Kristina S. Lang, Amy Stalker, and Angela Dixon**) <https://youtu.be/xQ47xaG78Pw>

### Awards and Scholarships Opportunities

There are many different award and scholarship opportunities available to MLIS students. Please check out the MLIS [Awards & Scholarships](#) webpage for further information.

**December 1** is the due date for the VSU Merit Scholarship. Please check out the [Application Guidelines](#) here.

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 have funded ALA conference registrations for 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, a 15th anniversary celebration in downtown Valdosta, and many SOLIS activities such as virtual 5k, and t-shirt design contest. The proceeds of sales will be the main funding source for a newly created SOLIS scholarship starting from Fall 2021.

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 fill in the oval next to your preferred t-shirt design:



Please indicate the **quantity** for each size:

Small\_\_\_\_\_ Medium\_\_\_\_\_ Large\_\_\_\_\_ X-Large\_\_\_\_\_ 2X-Large\* \_\_\_\_\_ 3X-Large\* \_\_\_\_\_

*\*sizes not available for white t-shirt*

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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