



From Your SOLIS President Melissa N Thompson

Wow! What a year it has been. Thank you all for allowing me to serve as your 2021-2022 SOLIS President. It was a role I didn't know if I was prepared for, and yet I've learned so much and developed great leadership skills and enjoyed opportunities to creatively collaborate with my peers. This experience was made a wonderful one by the help of the SOLIS Board members, who each contributed their unique experiences, suggestions, and ideas to help make our past year one of success.

Our Board kicked off our first event last Fall with the 3rd Annual SOLIS Virtual 5K! Following the lead of its predecessors, we encouraged participants to donate to their desired charity and complete their virtual 5K—their way! We accepted entrants that completed any activity that could add up to a total of 5K. This included walking, running/jogging, and biking. To motivate participants, we included a random drawing for gift card and SOLIS t-shirt prizes! The winners were announced on our MLIS Facebook group page.

Additionally, we created our first Twitter and Instagram accounts! Our Board worked hard at getting them set up, including the drafting of a social media policy handbook for our future Board members to utilize. It is our hope that SOLIS uses the new accounts to interact with students, market events, and even interact with other student organizations at Valdosta State.

This Spring, we are heralding our annual SOLIS T-Shirt Sale, an Art Exhibit, and a Resume Building Workshop! The creativity of my fellow peers helped to make these events possible.

To the future SOLIS President:

My advice is to make the role your own! Incorporate your interests and ideas, keep your Board in the loop of things, and ensure that everyone has an opportunity to make their voices heard. Interact with fellow students often! This leadership role is a wonderful experience, and I can't wait to see future iterations of SOLIS and its activities.

Again, thank you so kindly to all for your support and hard work. It has been a pleasure representing our students on behalf of the MLIS program and Valdosta State University. To the SOLIS Board, thank you for your creativity and your willingness to help kick start our ideas into action. To Dr. Ren, thank you for being a patient and supportive faculty advisor! And to the students of our program, thank you for participating in our events and being interactive with us through our platforms, new and old. Have a great semester and congrats to all of our 2022 grads!!

From Your SOLIS Vice-President Mikayla L Kittilstved

Thank you for trusting me to be your SOLIS Vice President during the 2021-2022 academic year. Participating in SOLIS—particularly during a year when so many students and faculty banded together to assure re-accreditation—was a rewarding experience. I especially appreciated the opportunity to attend curriculum committee meetings and witness the care the MLIS faculty put into delivering top-notch practical instruction.

I hope that you had a chance to participate in the annual virtual 5K and continue to take part in the social media outreach, virtual events, and T-shirt sale happening this spring. As a West Coaster, I've loved that virtual events keep me in touch with the VSU MLIS community and encourage you to join in no matter where you are!

Thank you to our faculty advisor, Dr. Ren, for her excellent guidance and to the other SOLIS officers who've worked hard to make connections among the students. To my fellow students, I highly recommend getting involved in SOLIS for the 2022-2023 academic year and seizing every chance to virtually connect with your peers inside and outside the classroom.

Wishing you all the best for the rest of your semester, and congratulations to the MLIS class of 2022!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to our current student Laura Judge for being the recipient of the **Early-Career Library Staff Scholarship for the PLA 2022 Conference**. Laura has worked in the field of Information Science for more than ten years. She has been a research assistant at Harvard, a lecturer at Keene State College, a teacher, audio-visual archivist, and has spent time on the lecture circuit in Hungary. Throughout her career she has worked to build inclusive collections, analyze institutional policies and infrastructure for accessibility, and host educational and collaborative programs. She believes that public libraries should center diversity, equity, and inclusion in order to foster resilience, connection, growth and so much more within their communities.



Here is the PLA report: https://www.placonference.org/general_scholarships.cfm

George Gaumond Award

- Melissa N Thompson

Baker Family MLIS Scholarship

- Kayleigh Capps Thompson
- Noelle Tagliarini

Merryll Penson MLIS Scholarship

- Mikayla Kittilstved
- Jennifer Johnson

MLIS Merit Scholarship

- Heather Higgins

MLIS Awards & Scholarships information webpage: <https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/student-resources/scholarships.php>

SOLIS Spring 2022 Events and Activities

Calling All Creators

SOLIS wants to spotlight creative MLIS students & faculty members. All types of art are accepted! Drawings, paintings, music, needlework, photography—whatever you create, we would like to see! Submit your work by visiting tinyurl.com/SOLISartshow We're accepting entries through April 30th.



Call for updates: Please share your news about recently awarded scholarships, a conference presentation, a paid internship opportunity, or other exciting news of your scholarly and/or professional achievements by sending them to xren@valdosta.edu as they happen. Thank you!

Twitter: https://twitter.com/SOLIS_VState

Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/solis_vstate/

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

SOLIS Spring T-shirt Sale

The SOLIS T-Shirt Sale event is now underway! From now through May 1st, your Student Organization is asking that you purchase a VSU/MLIS t-shirt! All funds benefit our MLIS program scholarships. Order form: <https://tinyurl.com/solis-tshirt>

Already have too many shirts? Not sure what you could do with another?

We've got some cool tips to help you repurpose your new shirt! One method you could try is creating a stuffed toy out of clothes you have laying around! Try it with your new t-shirt & share your results on Twitter and Instagram! Don't forget to tag us (@SOLIS_VState).

Link to an example tutorial: https://youtu.be/Lw_Z52xdPUo

Alumni Spotlight

Stacey Wright

Short professional biography:



Stacey Wright stalks the dead, assists the living, and casually throws herself into research rabbit holes on a daily basis. As the Toombs County Librarian, she utilizes multiple and varied skillsets while operating the Ladson Genealogical Library and the Vidalia-Toombs County Public Library in Georgia. She is currently wrestling with a major building renovation while getting ready for the upcoming summer reading program.

What were your favorite classes while in the MLIS program?

It would be a tossup between the Preservation and Genealogy courses. My background is in archives and I love the different aspects of the field, at the same time, one of my favorite hobbies is genealogy, so getting to research and earn class credits at the same time was great.

What was your favorite course project while receiving your MLIS degree?

Thinking of this project still makes me smile. While taking the Management course we were told to research and write a strategic plan, the library being used could be based off a real library or not. I was taking the class with two of my best friends and since we were in the same group, we asked the professor if she would allow us to use the Hogwarts Library as the library in our paper. She agreed and we ended up having a blast brainstorming and writing it up.

How has what you learned while getting your MLIS degree directly affected or been applied to your work?

I find this to be a difficult question as to me it is the small things. I have moments of “wait, we talked about that in class” all the time, and have even referred back to the coursework I have saved in my google drive, so I think for me there is a daily affirmation of the lessons I learned throughout the program.

Do you have any advice for upcoming graduates on how to navigate the job search and/or the field as a new graduate?

In terms of advice, I will lean on the cliché of not letting fear keep you from trying something new. If you find yourself, interested in a specific job listing and you are not sure if you have all the skills they want, check and see if any on-site training is available or reach out to classmates and see if they have any tips. Enthusiasm can go a long way and people can tell when you enjoy your job.

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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