



Congratulations! Class of 2023

Congratulations to all our graduates! It was great to see those of you who came to the campus and attended the graduation ceremony! We wish you all the best for your future endeavors!



SOLIS Calls for Nominations for 2023-2024

A big shout out to 2022-2023 SOLIS officers and advisory board members for their excellent services. Thank you for willing to step up and serve on SOLIS when called upon and did a great job during your term.

President: Roxanne Williamson **Vice President:** Sussan Ayala Rodriguez

Communication Officer: Vanessa Claros **Secretary:** Griffin Kilby

Advisory Board Members: Alana M Baldwin-Joiner, Taylor Naquin, Amanda D Taylor, Heather Wolf, and Will Wood.

SOLIS is now pleased to announce the call for nominations for the **2023-2024** academic year for the following positions.

- The **SOLIS President** serves as ex officio member on the Department of Library and Information Studies Advisory Board. SOLIS presidential responsibilities include attendance (either in-person or virtually) at monthly DLIS faculty meetings, receipt of minutes of those meetings (excluding executive session items), and dissemination of those minutes to the SOLIS general membership.
- The **SOLIS Vice President** or another appropriate designee from the SOLIS Executive Board represents SOLIS on the DLIS Curriculum Committee. Vice Presidential responsibilities include attendance (either in-person or virtually) at DLIS curriculum meetings, receipt of minutes of those meetings (excluding executive session items), and dissemination of those minutes to the SOLIS general membership.
- The **Communications Officer** serves as the editor of the SOLIS newsletter and facilitates other media-driven forms of student outreach.
- The **Secretary/Treasurer** is responsible for taking notes during SOLIS meetings, reviewing SOLIS financial information, and disseminating the meeting minutes and financial information to the SOLIS general membership.
- The **Advisory Board** will consist of at least 6 members.

Together, the officers and the advisory board members will comprise the SOLIS Executive Board with full voting rights for each member of the Board.

MLIS students who are interested in serving on SOLIS in the **2023-2024** academic year should email Dr. Ren at xren@valdosta.edu, and submit the following items by **August 25, 2023**:

1. A short biography (1-2 paragraphs, no more than 50 words)
2. An election statement (The position you wish to run for and your election statement)
3. A photo of yourself – head and shoulders only

Please visit the SOLIS webpage at: <https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/solis/> for more information. You may reach out to your current SOLIS officers and advisory board members for advice and input.

Comments Made by Previous SOLIS Officers

- *I encourage anyone looking to build leadership skills that are applicable to your career in libraries to get involved with SOLIS! Dive in! Make it what you want it to be! With a strong team by your side, you will be surprised just how far you can go. (SOLIS 2022-2023 President Roxanne Williamson)*
- *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. (SOLIS 2021-2022 President Melissa N. Thompson)*
- *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. (SOLIS 2021-2022 Vice President Mikayla L. Kittilstved)*
- *If you can get involved with SOLIS as an officer or board member, you should do it. You won't regret it. (SOLIS 2020-2021 President Matt Yohn)*
- *Please consider running for a SOLIS officer position in future. It is exceedingly rewarding to get involved, feel a sense of comradery, and witness firsthand the high caliber of Valdosta State University's MLIS program. (SOLIS 2020-2021 Vice President Taryn Mirabello)*
- *As SOLIS President, I attended monthly faculty meetings via conference call, led one SOLIS meeting a semester, kept in constant communication with our faculty advisor and with the other officers and advisory board members, and was responsible for helping with SOLIS events. Being a SOLIS leader is a fantastic way to get involved, while receiving your MLIS degree at VSU and it also allows you to work with wonderful classmates and strengthen your leadership skills. If you are thinking about running for president, do it! I was a tad nervous about running and I am so glad I did-I promise it is fun and not near as scary as it sounds. (SOLIS 2019-2020 President Sarah Shelton Yawn)*
- *Serving with SOLIS allowed me to meet and get to know other students within the MLIS program. When an entire program is online, this can be a difficult task and I was thankful for the opportunity this gave us to meet and interact, even if we were so far away. The leaders are really great and care about the students they serve. We had to find creative ways to get students to participate in SOLIS activities and to maintain a social media presence. I believe it is a great way for MLIS students to seek out leadership opportunities if they want to serve their fellow students. (SOLIS 2019-2020 Communication Officer Pate Council)*
- *Serving as a SOLIS advisory board member as a distance learner helped me feel connected to my peers and to VSU as a whole. In addition to meeting with the other board members and staff advisor, I enjoyed working on the semester activities, especially our virtual graduation celebration. I'm grateful to all those who served alongside me, and look forward to what other SOLIS board members will do in the future for VSU. (SOLIS 2019-2020 Advisory Board Member Niq Tognoni)*
- *As a member of the SOLIS Advisory board I attended the SOLIS Board Meetings where we discussed the activities for that semester and other issues. I was also fortunate enough to be able to attend GLA conference in Macon, GA and helped out a little at our MLIS booth in the vendor area. Serving on the Advisory Board has helped me feel a deeper connection to the school and I'm thankful for the opportunity! (SOLIS 2019-2020 Advisory Board member Matt Yohn)*

Congratulations!!

- ◆ Congratulations to **Christopher Skipper** of Virginia Beach for receiving the 2023 Clara M. Stanley Virginia Library Association Professional Associates Forum Scholarship (<https://www.vla.org/scholarships>).



- ◆ Congratulations to **Dawn Renner** (left), for recognition as the VSU Graduate Assistant of the Year - First Runner-Up.

- ◆ Congratulations to **Roxanne Williamson** and **Vanessa Claros** for receiving the **George Gaumond Award** (<https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/student-resources/application-guidelines-george-gaumond-award.php>).



- ◆ Congratulations to **Victoria R. Phelps** for receiving the **MLIS Merit Scholarship** (<https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/student-resources/application-guidelines.php>).
- ◆ Congratulations to **Allison E. Shroy** for receiving the **Merryll Penson Scholarship** (https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/documents/scholarship_applications/merryll-penson-scholarship-application-guidelines-sp2361.pdf).
- ◆ Congratulations to **Emily Roberts** for receiving **Baker Family Scholarship** (https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/student-resources/application_guideline_baker_family_scholarship.php).
- ◆ Congratulations to **Lori Howard** for receiving the first **SOLIS Internship Reimbursement Award** (https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/student-resources/internship_reimburse.php).

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>

Support 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: https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/student-resources/internship_reimburse.php) 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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