



Congratulations . . .

Michael Todd Kennedy
Charles Beard Award
 2014 Recipient

Andrea Coston
 VSU MLIS Graduate 2013
 Dual School Media Certification 2014
 Selected as VSU's first
 Online Student Ambassador

Dr. Anita Ondrusek
VSU Excellence Award for Online Teaching
 Inaugural recipient

Read more about Ms. Coston and Dr. Ondrusek at <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/online-programs/>

Welcome . .

Jessica Whitten
Newsletter Production Editor

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MLIS Program Ranked Nationally, Named a “Best Buy”

Excerpts reprinted from *Valdosta State University News*

VALDOSTA — The online Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) program at Valdosta State University has been named a Best Buy by the experts at GetEducated.com.

VSU’s MLIS program was among 23 similar online degree programs across the nation to be independently reviewed. Of those, 12 were found to offer a high quality education at a cost that ranks well below the national average.

VSU came in at No. 2, outranked only by East Carolina University in Greenville, N.C., which has an in-state tuition rate that is about 22 percent lower. VSU, however, has a lower out-of-state eTuition rate — more than 189 percent lower — since the cost of attendance is not based on residency. As a result, VSU has seen a rise in the number of non-Georgia students entering the program.

“I am very excited to see Valdosta State University’s MLIS degree program achieving national recognition,” said Dr. Linda R. Most, associate professor and interim head of the Department of Library and Information Studies, which is part of the James L. and Dorothy H. Dewar College of Education and Human Services.

“The University System of Georgia’s eTuition model makes our online MLIS degree program very competitive and also very accessible to students in states that do not offer the MLIS degree in their university systems. We are pleased to be able to offer this high quality, affordable degree to as many students as possible.”

VSU welcomed the first nine students into its MLIS program in August of 2001. Today, the program admits roughly 80 to 90 students a year, some during the fall semester and some during the spring.

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VSU MLIS Presenters at GaCOMO-SELA

(MLIS students/alumni in bold)

The posters at this year's GaCOMO conference represented a wide range of research. Two VSU MLIS alumni were poster presenters:

Hyun Chu Kim presented the poster "OpenURL, DOI, KBART, IOTA, and PIE-J: electronic resources Standards and Practices."

Carol Waggoner-Angleton presented the poster "Kids Using Collections: A K-8 Experience in Using Primary Resources."

As for the presentation sessions, our alumni and students once again made us proud! Here is our 2014 hit parade of speakers:

Carolann Curry presented the session "Health Resources for Children and Teens: Incorporating National Library of Medicine K-12 Resources into Library Outreach, Programming, and School Curricula."

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SOLIS

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ALA Spectrum Scholarship

Established in 1997, the Spectrum Scholarship Program is ALA's national diversity and recruitment effort designed to address the specific issue of under-representation of critically needed ethnic librarians within the profession while serving as a model for ways to bring attention to larger diversity issues in the future.

Applications for the Spectrum Scholarship Program are accepted from individuals from the Library and Information Science field's five most underrepresented groups: American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American or African Canadian, Hispanic/Latino and Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander. The scholarship combines financial support with leadership development to fast-track scholars along their careers and professional activities.

Valued at over \$6,500, the scholarship package includes a \$5,000 monetary award for expenses associated with obtaining a master's degree or library media certification from an ALA-accredited program or NCATE-accredited school library media certification program; free student membership in ALA; free travel and lodging to support attendance of the Spectrum Leadership Institute following completion of the first year of study; and free admission to ALA's annual conference.

Applications accepted from mid-October to March 1 each year.

To learn more and apply click [here](#).

Past VSU MLIS recipients of the ALA Spectrum Scholarship:

2012-2013 Amanda Davis
2008-2009 Christine Jennifer Yontz-Orlando
2006-2007 Imani Warrick

SOLIS Financials

SOLIS has an account managed by the VSU Foundation, Inc. Our source of income is from T-shirt sales.

At the close of February 2014, our balance was \$785.95.

The SOLIS executive board (officers and advisory board) voted to allocate \$50 for a Capstone research stipend, and two payments for ALA registration awards (\$110 each, \$220).
Expenditure sub-total: \$270.00

We earned \$140.00 in T-shirt sales at the August new students orientation and \$80.00 in T-shirt sales/donations at GA COMO.

Earnings sub-total: \$220.00

Current balance: \$735.95

Thanks, T-shirt wearers!

ALA Student-to-Staff Profile

Courtney Baron

Courtney Baron was one of 40 students majoring in library and information science from across the United States selected to participate in the Student-to-Staff Program sponsored each year by the American Library Association.

Courtney was nominated by the VSU MLIS faculty for the internship based on her academic standing and proactive involvement and scholarship in the LIS field. She traveled to Las Vegas, June 26-July 1 to assist ALA staff during their 2014 conference. In exchange for working four hours a day, she received free conference registration, housing, and a per diem for meal expenses.

Assignments for the Student-to-Staff interns vary. Last year's VSU-sponsored intern worked at the ALA press booth where he was responsible for greeting several of the conference speakers and well-known authors. Courtney helped to staff the Networking Uncommons. This was a meeting space in the convention center where small groups could schedule topical discussions or just show up and start impromptu activities, where presenters stopped to plug in laptops and polish their PowerPoint slides, and where conference goers with digital gadgets could plug in.



Courtney's favorite part of the conference was the ALA President's Program, which featured author Lois Lowry and actor Jeff Bridges discussing the film rendition of *The Giver*, based on the 1993 novel by Lowry. Courtney also presented a talk titled "Intuition Repositories: Powerful Tools to Preserve MFA Work" at the Image Resources Interest Group meeting. You can read more about Courtney's experience in the Student-to-Staff Program on her blog at <http://hacklibraryschool.com/2014/07/09/ala-student-to-staff/>

Conference Chatter on . . .

GaCOMO by Rosemary Higgins

The VSU breakfast meeting on Friday morning at COMO was filled with food, fellowship, and facts. The food was excellent. I enjoyed the fellowship with alumni, current students and faculty members. I even got to meet one of my classmates who was unable to attend orientation. The facts were presented by Dr. Most as she gave a brief "State of the Program" update. While I appreciate the convenience of our online program, I do feel isolated at times. The breakfast reminded me that I am not alone. I am part of a dynamic community invested in my success.

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GaCOMO MLIS Hit Parade

Presenters

(MLIS students/alumni in bold)

Chris Sharpe and Sandra Barclay presented the session "Drills, Simulations, and Tablets, Oh My! Exercising Your Emergency Plan."

Burr Osoinach and **Julia Huprich** presented the session "Getting out from Behind the Desk: Improving Library Services through Enterprise Deployment of Mobile Technology."

Kimberly Boyd, Deborah Davis, Mary Elizabeth Land, and Karen Viars presented the session "Resume Review Clinic."

Ruth Rowel, and **Kaitlyn Lyles** presented the session "Digital Tools Showcase."

Wendy Wilmoth, Mandi Goodsett, Meg Butler, and Julie Poole presented the session "GLA Academic Presented Papers and SELA New Voices Program (Double Session)."

Brandy Horne presented the session "I Reject Your Reality and Substitute My Own: Information Access and Civil Discourse in the Digital Age."

John Mack Freeman and Amanda Roberts presented the session "Better Services by Leaving People Out: How Segment Marketing Can Increase Access."

Rita Spisak presented the session "Books Are Our Bricks or How a Gift of 100 Bricks Turned into a Multi-Faceted Venture!"

Hyun Chu Kim, **Ariel Turner**, and Sandra Barclay presented the session "Simplifying the URL-checking Process in Voyager."

Wendy S. Wilmoth presented the session "Creating the One-Person, No-Money Library (Yes, It Can Be Done)."

Jennifer Lautzenheiser presented the session "Meeting Youth Where They Are: Virtual Summer Reading Program."

Samantha Paul presented the session "Reaction to Conceptual Changes in the Library Profession: An Analysis of the LIS Literature."

Supervised Fieldwork Requests

If you are nearing the end of your program of study and want to gain experience working in a library, speak with your advisor about enrolling in MLIS 7960, a 120-hour fieldwork assignment that counts as a 3-credit course. Dr. Most is now accepting requests for fieldwork students for the spring 2015 semester. Email your request to her at lrmost@valdosta.edu, and let her know that you have permission from your advisor. She must have your requests by **Monday, Nov. 17th**.

What to include in your fieldwork request:

- >You may request a particular library or a particular library type.
- >If you are in a track, say so and include any track-specific expectations for your fieldwork.
- >You may do fieldwork where you are employed – in which case there are guidelines on how to structure your assignments – they may not duplicate your normal work day tasks.
- >Include how far you are able to commute to a field site and any other preferences.
- >Dr. Most makes the contact with the library. She will send you a confirmation of your placement via email and further instructions.
- >She will enroll you into MLIS 7960 at the start of the spring 2015 semester. You will not be able to register for MLIS 7960 as part of early registration.

Read the Fieldwork Guidelines located on the MLIS website at: <http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and->

In Memoriam

Wendell Stone 1954-2014

Wendell Corbin Stone, age 59, of Carrollton, passed away June 2nd.

Wendell graduated from Vanderbilt University with a BA in English, proceeded to Georgia State University earning an MA in Communications, graduated from Valdosta State University with a MLIS, (he was one of the first group of students to declare the Technology Track), and obtained his Ph.D. in theatre from Louisiana State University. Formerly in social work, he taught college courses in Mass Communications after obtaining his graduate degrees.

Wendell is survived by his brother, Curtis Stone (wife Linda) along with nephews, nieces, grandnieces, grandnephews, and his life long friend, Sharon Whitaker. He was preceded in death by his parents and his two sisters.

Conference Chatter on . . .

GaCOMO by Rebecca Griggs-Taylor

GA COMO was an eye-opening experience in many ways. I was given the opportunity to present twice during a preconference workshop on cataloging music scores, which was exciting and nerve-wracking. I shook during my presentations, but overall the pre-conference was a success. The next two days, I was turned loose to attend whichever sessions I chose. The presentations I chose to attend were mostly targeted towards MLIS students, and emerging librarians or paraprofessionals. The presentations were quite informative, and it was amazing to get the chance to meet professionals and other fellow paraprofessionals. During the GLA Paraprofessional division meeting, I received the opportunity to serve as Secretary. Overall, I would recommend that anyone who gets the chance to go to a conference should seize it.

ALA by Jana Wattereus

The ALA Annual Conference is a very exciting place to be, filled with book buzz and enthusiasm for all things library. While the panels, meetings, and presentations are all wonderful ways to learn more about the field, my absolute favorite part of the conference was spending time with people from all over the world (I learned so much from a librarian from Trinidad and Tobago) who have one thing in common: a love of books and a desire to share that love with others. I received advice from recent MLIS graduates on my schooling, I got tips from seasoned librarians on how to succeed in my career, I heard many stories about librarian life, and I even heard about a few job opportunities. I'm also a book reviewer, so it was wonderful to meet up with the publishers, publicists, and authors I've spent years corresponding with through email. The conference was incredibly rewarding, and I came away with an even greater love of the career I have chosen for myself. Librarians are some of the most wonderful people in the world, and I loved learning and growing with them that weekend.

MLIS Program . . . a “Best Buy”

(continued from page 1)

“National ranking helps bring the program to the attention of more students and so helps us bring more out-of-state students to VSU,” Most explained. “It’s a win-win situation for everyone.”

The MLIS program became one of 439 education programs also evaluated by the experts at GetEducated.com. Of those, 137 were ranked, and VSU came in at No. 31. The only other Georgia-based school on the list was Kennesaw State University, which was ranked No. 132.

Based in Vermont, GetEducated.com was founded in 1989 by psychologist and educator Vicky Phillips. It is a consumer group that strives to educate, advocate for, as well as protect students by publishing online college rankings and online university ratings along the two dimensions that online students say matter most — affordability and credibility. Its mission is to help prospective students make informed choices about a college degree and help them avoid the dark world of online education fraud.

To read the full article written by Jessica Pope, VSU Communications Specialist, go to <http://www.valdosta.edu/about/news/releases/2014/10/mlis-program-ranked-nationally,-named-a-best-buy.php>

More Scholarships

Check out other avenues for obtaining scholarships on the MLIS departmental website at <http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/student-resources/scholarships.php> and on the MLIS Village.

Now Accepting: Graduate Student Applications for Travel Funds

If you plan to present your research (paper, poster or creative performances) at an academic conference in the next few months, there are funds available for graduate student travel funding. The VSU Dean of the Graduate School announced: "I've initially allocated \$5,000 so that we can make at least 10 awards to graduate students, but I'll look to allocate additional funding if we get an enthusiastic response."

The details and the application are posted on the VSU Graduate School Student Resources page at: <http://www.valdosta.edu/academics/graduate-school/student-resources.php>.

To be considered for approval of funding:

- Applications must be received by the Graduate School at least three (3) weeks before travel dates.
- Funds must be encumbered by announced end-of-fiscal-year deadlines (last year’s deadline was April 30).
- Applications must include abstracts (limited to 150 words) and copies of the paper, poster, or creative performance acceptance letters or e-mail confirmations.
- Travel grants are capped at \$500 per student.
- Students can be the primary (lead) presenter or a co-presenter for their paper/poster/creative performance.
- For presentations with multiple students as presenters, a maximum of \$500 can be awarded for a single paper/poster/creative performance.
- No more than one grant per student per fiscal year will be approved.
- To encourage a diversity of student presentations, only 2 - 4 students per conference will be funded (contingent upon available funds).

If approved, each student must complete a Request for Authority to Travel form (<http://services.valdosta.edu/asp/forms/financial/travel.aspx>) AFTER receiving an award e-mail or letter.

MLIS Merit Scholarship

There are funds available for one MLIS Merit Scholarship. Applications are due by Monday, December 1st. The scholarship pays in-state tuition for one course. The qualifications and instructions for submission are spelled out in the guidelines located at http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/documents/scholarship_applications/meritscholarship_guide.pdf

CampusConnect

VSU makes CampusConnect, a website created for student organizations, available to SOLIS. If you want to enroll in the SOLIS CampusConnect site, follow this link: <https://valdosta.collegiatelink.net/organization/MLIS/home/invitation?Token=644cca28-3173-47ae-86b7-09c950aba543>

A prompt asks you to log in. To do so, use the MyVSU link -- the MyVSU link appears on the upper right of all VSU webpages (you do *not* see it inside BlazeVIEW). Click on MyVSU. Use your BlazeVIEW login.

This brings you to a list of applications you can link to. Below the main apps (VSU mail, BlazeVIEW, Banner), you will see a link to CampusConnect. Click it. You are now in CampusConnect. On the homepage is a navigation bar starting with Home followed by Organizations. Click on Organizations. That takes you to a directory. There is a Search box (left). Type in SOLIS. Click on the SOLIS link.

After that, it's like Facebook. You click on an "accept" or "enroll" button to join. There is not much content now, but we have the option to use this as a social media site.

Free MS Office Software

All college and university students are eligible to receive the Microsoft Student Advantage product which allows each student to install Office 2013 (or Office 2011 for Macs) on up to five computers and Office mobile apps on five devices. For steps on downloading Office 2013 or Office mobile apps, view the [Microsoft Student Advantage Guide](#) on the VSU IT webpages.

A second option for free access to Microsoft Office applications is available through Office 365, a cloud-based gateway to Microsoft Office applications. Using this option does not require downloading the software.

The VSU IT staff describe "[What's New](#)" in Office 365 on their website.

One advisory to using these software options has to do with storing your files. These products come with 1 TB of storage for business files and 50 GB of storage for your VSU email account. These files are stored in the cloud. For class assignments, always back up those files to a personal device—your hard drive, jump drive, etc.

SOLIS T-Shirt Campaign!



Support the Student Organization of Library and Information Science (SOLIS) by ordering your own T-shirt with the VSU and MLIS insignias!

The 2014-2015 year marks the 13th anniversary of the MLIS program, and the T-shirt shows our founding date of 2001 as an open entry.

Proceeds from last year's sales funded a Capstone project and two VSU MLIS student registrations to the ALA convention.

An order form is on MLIS Village.

We're on Facebook



Use our QR for quick access . . .

