



Congratulations! Class of 2021



Valerie Fouchey, Katelyn Leonardi, Samantha Godsby, Matt Yohn, Crystal Miller



Samantha Godsby, Matt Yohn, Crystal Miller, Katelyn Leonardi, Valerie Fouchey, and Dr. Most



Dr. Ren, Dr. Most, and Aspasia Luster



Dr. Most, Pate Council, and Dr. Ren

SOLIS Calls for Nominations for 2021-2022

Let's give a big applause to all the SOLIS 2020-2021 officers and advisory board members for coordinating and organizing many great activities and events for MLIS students amid the pandemic under the leadership of SOLIS President Matt Yohn. As SOLIS faculty advisor, I am really impressed by your accomplishment during your term. Thank you for your dedications to MLIS students.

SOLIS is now pleased to announce the call for nominations for the 2021-2022 academic year. We are seeking candidates for **SOLIS President, Vice President, Secretary, Communications Officer**, and 6 members of the **SOLIS advisory board**.

- 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 **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 **Communications Officer** serves as the editor of the SOLIS newsletter and facilitates other media-driven forms of student outreach.

An **advisory board** will consist of no more than six additional members. Together, the officers and 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 2021-2022 academic year should email Dr. Ren at xren@valdosta.edu, and submit the following items by **August 25, 2021**:

1. A short biography (1-2 paragraphs, no more than 50 words)
2. An election statement (The position you wish to run for and why)
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 also reach out to your current SOLIS officers and advisory board members for advice and input.

- *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)

Talk to Dr. Most!

Dr. Most held her Spring 2021 “Talk to Dr. Most” listening session on the evening of April 20, using BlackBoard Collaborate Ultra inside MLIS Village. These live online sessions offer a chance for students to chase down rumors, ask questions, offer suggestions, or simply share their thoughts about the MLIS degree program. They provide both in-state and out-of-state students a chance to talk directly with the department head. This spring six students participated. The session was not recorded to protect the confidentiality of the process.

A key theme of the conversation was established by first and second semester students who wanted to know more details about how different courses work, the difference between students’ LiveText accounts and their ePortfolios, and what to expect in MLIS 7800. Dr. Most explained that LiveText is where the faculty track aggregated program outcomes for accreditation purposes, not individual student performance. The ePortfolios are where the students can document their individual accomplishments, both in their classes and in their jobs.

Another student asked about more general electives as compared to those that are more narrowly focused. Dr. Most said there is a place for both in the curriculum. Dr. Most reminded the students that all MLIS course syllabi are available on the departmental webpages. Go to the Library & Information Studies homepage, then click on “Our Program” in the menu on the right. There you will find a link labeled “Course Info and Syllabi”: <http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/our-program/course-info-and-syllabi/> – all MLIS course syllabi from previous semesters can be found here.

One first semester student asked if there are ever live chat sessions held in scheduled classes (like the Talk to Dr. Most session). A second semester student noted that she really appreciated having been able to use the Collaborate live classroom in two courses in which group projects were assigned. She said that being able to work together inside BlazeView made the group assignments much easier to complete.

The conversation ended at 10:00 after some students had headed off to do homework and others staying to chat about their jobs and libraries in general. The next online town hall meeting will be held in July 2021. Watch MLIS Village in BlazeView for an announcement of the date and time.

Alumni Spotlight

Amanda Roper

**Short professional biography:**

I am the Adult Services Librarian and Library Marketing Coordinator for Chattanooga State Community College. I am active in the American Library Association. I was part of the 2020 Emerging Leaders class, and I was recently elected as an ALA At-Large Councilor. I recently coauthored a book chapter in *Underserved Patrons in University Libraries: Assisting Students Facing Trauma, Abuse, and Discrimination* and an article in *College & Research Libraries News*. My areas of research interest include teaching information literacy using zines and critical information literacy pedagogy.

What were your favorite classes while in the MLIS program?

I really enjoyed library marketing and history of libraries and literacies. Honestly, I adored 70% of my classes.

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

Collection Development! For my project I worked on developing queer-inclusive collections. It was so much fun.

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

I cannot stress enough how much Research Methods has helped me in my career. I hand-coded qualitative data for my Emerging Leaders project and I could not have written the literature review portion of the book chapter without the skills I learned in Research Methods.

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

Get involved in your state library organizations and network. Future academic librarians, the hiring process takes forever; do not freak out if it takes a few months. Lastly, if a union is available, then I urge you to join.

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 Orienta-

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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