



November-December 2019

VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Volume 10 Issue 4

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Call for Updates

Please share with us your news about recently awarded scholarships, a conference presentation, a paid internship opportunity, or other exciting news on your scholarly and/or professional achievements.

Please send your news items to xren@valdosta.edu as they happen.

We're on 



Issue Editors:

Zachary P. Council & Dr. Ren

VSU MLIS at 2019 GA Libraries Conference

(MLIS students/alumni in bold)

Amie Torok and **Ashely Shull** co-presented “Public Libraries Serving Their Communities through Innovative Programming.”

Ashley Dupuy and **Elizabeth Dill** co-presented “Hiring Managers Tell All! What Job Seekers Really Want to Know.”

Aspasia Luster co-presented “Better Library Outreach through Interdepartmental Collaboration.”

Beth Ratliff co-presented “Building Better Together: Creating Mutually Beneficial Relationships with Your Friends.”

Beth Ratliff presented at the “GLA Georgia Library Trustees, Friends, and Advocates Association Meeting.”

Bokshim Fox presented “Library Computer Literacy Classes for Seniors: Limitations and Benefits.”

Brooke Rose co-presented “Changes in Job Descriptions: Leading Staff to Embrace Change.”

Chris Sharpe presented at the “GLA Academic Library Divisions Business Meeting.”

Christopher Moffat co-presented “Quick Take: From Patrons to Customers: Applying Academic Library Principles in the Public Library.”

Denise Dimsdale presented “My Journey Through the SPARC Open Education Leadership Program.”

Dylitchrous Thompson co-presented “Successful User Experience: Active Listening + Creative Solutions = Building Relationships, Engaging Older Adult Patrons.”

Elizabeth Turner co-presented “A Checkup on Georgia’s Civic Health.”

Emily Crews co-presented “The Great CSU Weed of 2019.”

Fran Weaver presented “Getting Involved with the Georgia Peach Book Award for Teen Readers.”

Jackie Watkins co-presented “It Takes a Campus: Building Inter-Unit Collaborative Relationships to Improve Continuing Resources Workflows.”

Jackie Watkins presented “Weaving in the Ends: Coordinating Database Trials to Build Effective Collections.”

Jamie Addy presented “Quick Take: Common Reader Remix: Centering the Library in Common Reader Programs.”

VSU MLIS at GA Libraries Conference

Jennifer Jacobs co-presented “What Do You Meme? Using Memes to Market Library Resources and Services to a Wider and Younger Audience.”

John Mack Freeman presented “Finding the No: Setting Reasonable Boundaries on Library Service.”

John Mack Freeman presented at the “GLA Intellectual Freedom Interest Group.”

Joshua Beasley presented “Creating a Teen YouTube Channel.”

Karen Manning presented at the “GLA Black Causes Interest Group Meeting.”

Kathryn Wright co-presented “Brick House: Building Stronger Academic Connections for Student Learning Success.”

Kayla Bolton presented “Breakout EDU: Digital Game Creation.”

Kimberly Boyd presented at the “GLA Special Libraries and Information Services Division Meeting.”

Kristi Peavy co-presented “Library in Transition: Building Community One Floor at a Time.”

Lamonica Sanford co-presented “Membership as a Game Changer in Your Professional Career.”

Micki Waldrop and **Kimberly Boyd** co-presented “Ch-Ch-Ch-Changes: Department Upheaval in Three Perspectives.”

Nikita Hines co-presented “Special Libraries Advocating Services and Knowledge Together.”

Rebecca Ballard presented “All-ages Programming: Bringing Generations Together in the Library.”

Robert Taylor co-presented “Are we Building Bridges or Walls? Opportunities and Challenges in Mitigating Bias in Our Library Catalogs.”

Robert Taylor and **Danielle Costello** co-presented “Quick Take: Game On: Three Years of Tabletop Collection and Community.”

Rosemary Humphrey co-presented “Turning Stumbling Blocks into Building Blocks ILL Solves Problems.”

Rosemary Humphrey, Michelle Lee, Chris Morris, and Emily Williams co-presented “More than Just Updating Your Name-tag: Transitioning from Library Staff to Faculty.”

Samantha Paul co-presented “Let’s Get Down to Business: An Academic Library Instagram Experience.”

Sarah Rodgers co-presented “Using Outreach to Doll up the Library.”

Scott Pieper co-presented “Strengthening the School to College Pipeline: Building National History Day Partnerships.”

Shannan Furlow presented “Funding Technology in Georgia Public Libraries.”

Stephanie Irvin presented at the “GLA Public Library Division Business Meeting.”

Tanya Darden co-presented “Augmented Reality (AR) in Your Library.”

Terri Hartfield presented “Quick Take: Nevertheless, She Persisted: Curating an Exhibit on the Recent Women’s Marches: A Collaborative Experience between Special Collections and an Emerging Librarian in Women’s Studies.”

Thomas Weeks co-presented “Building Better Researchers: Partnering with an English Composition Program to Develop Student Information Literacy.”

Virginia Feher presented “Peer Review Articles: Building a Better Submission Together.”

Vivian Bynoe presented “Connect with Your Community: Establishing a Little Free Library.”

Vivian Bynoe and **Amber Moore** co-presented “21st Century Academic Librarianship: Addressing Challenges with Adaptability.”

VSU MLIS at GA Libraries Conference

Wendy Wilmoth presented “Five Years Later: Evolution of a Laptop Lending Program.”

Will Smith presented at the “GLA Library Services for People with Disabilities Interest Group.”

William Brogdon, Kyle Thomas DeBell, and Leslie Drost co-presented at the “Building Best Practices in Reference and Instructions: 8 Lightning Talks.”

Congratulations for Awards and Accomplishments



Georgia Library Association 2019
McJenkin-Rheay Award Recipient
Eli Arnold



Georgia Library Association 2019
Paraprofessional Grants recipient
Michelle Colquitt



Georgia Library Association 2019
Charles Beard Scholarship Recipient
Sarah Rodgers

Student's Accomplishment:

Jessica Hilburn co-presented “The Age Limit Does Not Exist: Combining Youth and Adult Services into Unique Programs” at the Association of Rural and Small Libraries (ARSL) 2019 conference in Burlington, Vermont. In this presentation, they demonstrated the success yielded by departmental collaboration on easy, affordable programs. They explained how to create unique programs, including those dealing with crafts, writing, history, science, technology, and more, that people of all ages will enjoy. They also brainstormed programs that are community-specific and gave ideas regarding how to adapt family programs to various patrons.

ALA Spectrum Scholarship Program

Applications for 2020-2021 academic year **ALA Spectrum Scholarship Program** are currently open with a deadline of **March 7, 2020**. This is an initiative of ALA’s Office for Diversity, Literacy and Outreach Services, provides scholarships to American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian, Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Middle Eastern and North African, and/or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander students to assist them with obtaining a graduate degree and leadership positions within the profession and ALA. You can find out more information about this program here: <http://www.ala.org/advocacy/spectrum>.

Below is a list of previous VSU MLIS Spectrum Scholarship recipients:

2018 MLA/NLM Scholar - Jungwon DeVone

2016 - Yolanda Bergstrom-Lynch

2015 - Lynette Kendrick

2010 Ron Clowney Scholar - Carla-Mae Crookendale

2008 Leo Albert Scholar - Christine Jennifer Yontz-Orlando

Georgia Libraries Conference Reflection: Heather Martz

I was recently able to attend my first GLA Conference in Macon, Georgia. At the conference, I met with the VSU MLIS faculty, my fellow classmates, and several alumni who stopped by the VSU MLIS booth. It was also good to see so many professional librarians stopping by to inquire about interns. Our program's students and graduates have an excellent reputation and are highly sought-after, which was wonderful to witness. If you're thinking about an internship, I would encourage you to start looking around your area and contact your advisor for more information.

There were two sessions at the conference I was especially excited to attend: *Drag Queen Storytime with Miss Terra Cotta Sugarbaker: How to Organize a Diverse and Inclusive Storytime*, and *Public Libraries Serving Their Communities through Innovative Programming*, which featured three different public library programs. I attended the first session with my "conference buddy" assigned to me through the New Member Round Table conference buddy program. My buddy, Rebecca Ballard, who also attended VSU, was very helpful with conference tips and introductions to fellow librarians. I attended the second program with my own library's Adult Services Librarian, Cheres Cadet, another VSU alumni, and we had a great time comparing



Georgia Libraries Conference Reflection: Ashton Hedrick

During October, I had the opportunity to attend the Georgia Libraries Conference in Macon, GA. I was able to attend six sessions, and I learned a great deal of information and strategies that I hope will help me in furthering my career. I attended a session with a



panel of hiring managers, who discussed what they look for in a cover letter, resume, and job application. This was my favorite session, as I have always wanted to know what hiring managers are looking for. I was also able to attend a session on the peer review process for publishing articles in a scholarly journal, and a fun session on using memes in the library to update patrons on programs and other things that are going on.

I met many different people, including the editor of the Georgia Library Quarterly, members of the society for Georgia Archivists, and quite a few VSU students and alumni while covering the VSU MLIS Booth. I was able to recommend our great program to a few librarians who were looking to get their MLIS, and meet some of our wonderful faculty!

All in all, I had a great first conference experience at GLA. I will definitely be going back next year!

Georgia Libraries Conference Reflection: Matt Yohn

This was my first opportunity to attend the GLA Conference and though it was a bit overwhelming at first, I enjoyed it. The conference provided an opportunity to meet some of my classmates like Heather Martz, Ashton Hedrick, and Aspasia Luster, as well as faculty like Dr. Ren, Dr. Choi, and Dr. Most. The VSU meet up of students, faculty, and alumni at The Rookery was fun, as was the New Members Round Table at the Ocmulgee Brewpub.

There were many presentations I wanted to attend but unfortunately some of them conflicted with each other so I was unable to attend all the ones I would've liked. When I was deciding I tried to balance my own professional development with sessions that might be helpful to my institution as a whole. I was interested in learning about the outreach being done by the libraries at Augusta University and Oglethorpe University, presented by Aspasia Luster, Josette Kubicki, Alyssa Kowis & Sarah Rodgers. It got me thinking about similar initiatives might be applied at my own institution. Another session was a panel discussion about making the transition from being library staff in an academic library to faculty, presented by Rosemary Humphrey, LaTiffany Davis, Michelle Lee, Natalie Logue, Chris Morris, and Emily Williams. The experiences of the panelists will be a helpful guide as I get closer to, if I stay in academic libraries, making that transition myself. I also appreciated the learning about the importance of having a multidisciplinary team in a presentation by Holly Croft, Jennifer Goode, and Jeremy Brown, and getting a primer on LC classification and the Shelving Manual, presented by Rebecca Hunnicutt.

I like listening to people who are good at their jobs talk about their work and the process. I feel I got something out of every session

Alumni Spotlight: Jeanna Allums



What were your favorite classes while in the MLIS program?

I truly can't identify a favorite. I enjoyed different classes for different reasons: one course covered a subject I found more thought provoking, another had an intriguing project, one had a great professor, another had great readings, and I learned more in yet another course.

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

Any project that required discussion with another librarian or an analysis of a library. Libraries can be so different! I found it interesting to talk with other librarians, gain some of their wisdom, and see how different facilities operate.

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

My coursework provided the theoretical concepts involved in librarianship. This paired well with my knowledge of practical application I learned through library work experience, and allowed me to obtain an administrative position upon graduation.

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

If you are employed in a library, strive to excel regardless of your current position, even if it is not in the area of librarianship that aligns with your career goals. Supervisors notice dependable employees who surpass expectations and willingly take on new tasks, which can set you apart and help you earn a promotion or have excellent references when applying elsewhere.

When seeking employment, ensure that you are presenting your best self. Check that your application and resume are immaculate. Dress and act professionally for the interview. Do your homework

Jeanna Allums is the Head Librarian for South Georgia Regional Library system where she focuses on system wide policies, hiring, staff member training, community partnerships, public programs and events, and overseeing the main branch. As a member of the library administration, some of Jeanna's recent projects include the construction, relocation, and opening of a new main library and developing a kiosk library as a new

First Annual VSU SOLIS Virtual 5K

This fall, SOLIS would like to invite you to participate in the 1st annual VSU SOLIS Virtual 5k to celebrate the MLIS program's 18th anniversary. The virtual 5k can be completed at any place at any time as long as it is before the end of 2019. There is no registration fee to participate in the race, but we do ask that you make a donation to the Sandra Dunagen Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy (Tax ID number 58-6043972-Georgia College Foundation). Please use your VSU email address when donating, so we can track our progress. All participants in the race will be entered to win a \$25 Amazon Gift Card (3).

The Sandra Dunagen Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy is situated in Milledgeville, Georgia at Georgia College and its mission is "to improve the early language and literacy skills of Georgia's children by providing research-based professional development for organizations working with children from birth through age eight." You can learn more about the Sandra Dunagen Deal Center for Early Language and Literacy by visiting their website at <https://galiteracycenter.org/>.

To participate in the race, please register at <https://forms.gle/R5zaY22D4NGe82ty9> by December 9th. If you have any questions, please feel free to email SOLIS officers or faculty adviser for help.

Sarah Shelton Yawn, President, sashelton@valdosta.edu

Sarah Joseph, Vice President, srjoseph@valdosta.edu

Pate Council, Communications Officer, zpcouncil@valdosta.edu

Regina Aaron, Secretary/ Treasurer, rraaron@valdosta.edu



First Annual VSU SOLIS Virtual 5k

SOLIS welcomes students to celebrate
The 18th Anniversary of the MLIS program

Complete a 3.1 Mile walk, jog, or run
before the end of 2019

All participants will be entered into a drawing for
a \$25 Amazon Giftcard (3)

Sign up: **VSUSOLIS5K**
by Dec 9, 2019 to participate.

Connect with us on Social Media and
share your photos
#VSUSOLIS5k19



Sign Up for MLIS LinkedIn Group and Portfolium!

Check out the SOLIS LinkedIn and Portfolium accounts to upload your resume, create portfolios, and showcase your academic achievements!



LinkedIn allows users to create an account and network with others in the same field and discover new jobs. VSU MLIS has its own group and strives to connect students to professionals in library science and post news about job openings.

This is a great resource for those just getting started and want to find trainings happening within their profession. Go to <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4874360/> to sign up for LinkedIn and join the MLIS group.



Portfolium allows users to build an online folio and post academic success. This is a great tool for showcasing experience for potential employers. Joining is free and this is the link to it: <https://portfolium.com/>.

portfolium.com/.

SOLIS website: <http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/solis/>



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 past have funded ALA conference registrations for several 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, and a 15th anniversary celebration in downtown Valdosta.

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 indicate the quantity for each size:

Small _____ Medium _____ Large _____ X-Large _____

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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