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VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

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SOLIS Calls for Nominations for 2019-2020

SOLIS is pleased to announce the call for nominations for the 2019-2020 academic year. We are seeking candidates for SOLIS President, Vice President, Secretary, Communications Officer, and six members of the SOLIS advisory board. MLIS students who are interested in serving on SOLIS in the 2019-2020 academic year should email SOLIS Faculty Advisor Dr. Ren at xren@valdosta.edu, and submit the following items by August 25, 2019:

1. A short biography (1-2 paragraphs, no more than 50 words)
2. An election statement (The position you wish to run for, why you want to run for this position, and what qualifies you for this position)
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 their advice and input. Here are some reflections from your current SOLIS officers and advisory board members. Big thanks to them for their excellent services in the 2018-2019 academic year!

- ◆ *The president sits in on MLIS faculty meetings once per month and provides faculty with SOLIS activities and officer feedback. Remains in constant communication with officers and advisory board via e-mail. Leads the charge in coordinating and organizing SOLIS events, providing information for the SOLIS newsletter, and listening to officer and advisory board reports. Coordinates and leads the SOLIS meeting each semester. (SOLIS 2018-2019 President Ashton B. Hedrick)*
- ◆ *As SOLIS vice president, I attended the SOLIS meetings to discuss and plan activities each semester. I also attended the MLIS curriculum committee meetings to learn more about the work our professors are doing to continually improve our class experiences and prepare us for work in our field. I reported on these meetings to the SOLIS officers and board. It was a unique way to be more involved in the department and with my fellow students, even though I am a distance student. (SOLIS 2018-2019 Vice President Heather A. Martz)*
- ◆ *Working as a SOLIS officer has been nothing short of fulfilling. Despite distance-education being extremely difficult to engage with all students, the officers have enthusiastically worked on all the events and discussions. I am grateful for having had the chance to get to work with our SOLIS officers and Dr. Ren this year. I now graduate, but will never forget the time I had at VSU. (SOLIS 2018-2019 Secretary Jungwon C. Devone)*
- ◆ *SOLIS Advisory Board members participate in SOLIS officer meetings (one per semester), advises the SOLIS leadership, and participates in discussions regarding ideas for semester activities. (SOLIS 2018-2019 Advisory Board member Jessica Varsa)*
- ◆ *As a SOLIS Advisory board member, I was allowed to participate in SOLIS officer meetings, brainstorm and assist with semester activities, assist and advice SOLIS leadership, and assist with the SOLIS Newsletter. For the SOLIS Newsletter, I was able to serve as a co-editor once and also was able to put the "Alumni Spotlight" article together. Serving as a SOLIS Advisory Board member is a great way to get involved and has given me the opportunity to do things that I normally would not be able to do. (SOLIS 2018-2019 Advisory Board member Sarah Shelton Yawn)*

Congratulations to Our Graduates!

Dear graduates, we are proud of all of you and feel really happy for you! We are especially glad to see those of you who came to campus to attend the graduation ceremony! Congratulations to all our graduates! We wish you all the best for your future endeavors! Keep making us proud!



MLIS Students at VSU 2019 Graduate Research Symposium

MLIS current student Pate Council and MLIS graduate Christopher A. Evans presented at the VSU 2019 Graduate Student Research Symposium on Friday, April 19, in the University Center Magnolia Room. Christopher's poster is titled: *Librarian Perceptions of the Effectiveness of Public Library Marketing and Promotion Techniques: An Exploratory Quantitative Study*. Pate's poster title is: *Destruction of Archives and Libraries in World War II*.

Congratulations to you both for your academic accomplishments!



(left to right: SOLIS advisor Dr. Ren, MLIS student Pate Council, Dr. Alemanne, MLIS graduate Christopher A. Evans, and Dr. Most)

A Reflection on Scholarship Application Experiences

As we all know, graduate school is expensive and trying to pay for it is no easy task. We have to decide between either taking out school loans or saving enough money to pay for it out of pocket. I have tried to fund myself through the latter and it definitely has not been easy. However, there are a lot of scholarships available to us, and sometimes it just takes talking to colleagues to find out about them.

A few months ago I was talking to a coworker about a scholarship that I was getting ready to apply for through the American Association of Law Libraries (AALL). I work in a law library and AALL offers a lot of different scholarships, including ones for MLIS students that do not have a law degree. My coworker encouraged me to apply for another scholarship offered by the Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries (SEAALL) instead since she was a member of that organization. When I first looked over the requirements of this scholarship, I did not think I would qualify since I do not have a J.D. However, after contacting the scholarship committee I found out J. D. was recommended for applicants to have one, but not a requirement. They also mentioned I would only need to rely on my past work experiences and educational experiences in my application to show that I could contribute to the law librarian field.

Long story short, I won this scholarship and that it pays for more than an entire semester's tuition. It also comes with a membership to SEAALL for 2020. If I had not had this conversation with my coworker, I would never have applied for this scholarship and would be trying to find ways to pay for the summer semester myself. Because of this exchange, I have reached out to other coworkers to see if they know of any other scholarships that may not be as obvious or as well known. I encourage other students in this program to do this as well. You may have some luck finding out about a scholarship that you didn't know existed and win it! Librarians are great resources of information, but they are also great at helping us succeed to become librarians ourselves.

Information about the AALL scholarships can be [found here](#), and the SEAALL scholarship can be [found here](#). (Ashli T. Wells)

Presenting at TLA and the H.W. Wilson Scholarship

In April 2019, I was able to present at the Tennessee Library Association's Annual Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee. My current library does not have funding available for support staff, and with thanks to the H.W. Wilson Scholarship offered at Valdosta State University, I was able to offset the financial costs of this trip. My presentation was with a former co-worker on a crowdsourcing project that allowed us to raise money to repurpose a room in the library at my previous institution. We presented on this project and discussed what worked, obstacles we had during the project, and the things that we would do differently if we could. It was a great experience and allowed me to provide information to other library professionals that may not have traditional fundraising means available for library projects.

Attending any library conference is a good way to learn from others in the field and make connections with other librarians. I am always amazed at what other libraries are doing, and this conference allowed me the opportunity to learn from their experiences. I attended sessions that ranged from topics on copyright to data privacy for patrons to experiences of the state's leading library leaders to defending first amendment rights when a library hosts a drag queen story time. A lot of the sessions pertained to my job in an academic library. However, some of them did not, but I still learned something from those sessions through the experiences of other library workers in the state. I encourage anyone to attend the annual conference of their state's library association. If you do not have funding available from your library to attend, many of them have grants available for MLIS students to attend in exchange for working a few hours at the conference. If you are presenting at a conference, I would encourage you to apply for the H.W. Wilson Scholarship that is available like I did. I am incredibly grateful to the scholarship committee and the H.W. Wilson Company for allowing me the opportunity to travel and present at this conference. The experience was invaluable, and it also helped relieve the financial strain of attending this conference so that it could go to other things, like tuition.

If you would like to see our PowerPoint presentation, you can do so by [clicking here](#). If you would like information on how to apply for the H.W. Wilson Scholarship, you can find that information [on this page](#). (*Ashli T. Wells*)

SOLIS Looking for Students Input

SOLIS is extending an opportunity for you to weigh in on the Peer Advising Process that is currently offered as part of new student orientation during the Foundations course. For those of you who have participated in that process in the past, we would value your feedback on your experience so that we can continue to offer Peer Advising in a manner that best serves incoming students. For those of you who did not have an opportunity to participate when you were an incoming student (or chose not to), we would also like to hear from you so that we can improve the Peer Advising offerings. Thank you in advance for your participation. We look forward to hearing from you! Link to SOLIS peer advising survey: https://valdosta.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b9rzO8hN5kq8bwV

New Scholarship Opportunity!!!

The Department is excited to announce two new \$1,000 Merryll Penson Scholarships Opportunity. Merryll Penson is the retired Executive Director of Library Services in the Office of Instructional and Information Technology in the University System of Georgia. These scholarships are made possible by many generous donations made in honor of Merryll Penson on the occasion of her retirement from the University System of Georgia. To apply, please check out: https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/documents/scholarship_applications/merryll-penson-scholarship-instructions.pdf

SOLIS Calls for News Items

Please share with us your news about a recently awarded scholarship, a conference presentation, or a paid internship opportunity, or other exciting news of your scholarly and professional achievements. Please send your news items to solis@valdosta.edu as they happen. Thank you!

Congratulations!!!

Heather A Martz
*ALA Student-to-Staff Recipient
Summer 2019*

Ashli T. Wells
Southeastern Chapter of the American Association of Law Libraries Scholarship Recipient

**Ashli T. Wells
Chelsea Gentry**
Merryll Penson Scholarship Recipients



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 events such as GA COMO conferences.

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 _____ XX-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 :

Dr. Xiaoi Ren
 Department of Library and Information Studies
 Valdosta State University
 Valdosta, GA 31698