



## About SOLIS

In 2001, the Valdosta State University began accepting students into its newly formed Master of Library and Information Science program. It was during those early days that a student group formed, calling itself SOLIS (Student Organization of Library and Information Science). Today, SOLIS is recognized by VSU as a student association and by the American Library Association as an official student chapter. As an MLIS student, you are automatically a member of SOLIS—no dues or initiation rites. When the MLIS program had face-to-face meetings, the major activity sponsored by SOLIS was to greet new students and distribute welcome bags. With the change to a nearly exclusive online format, building a sense of community has become a challenge. Your new officers are seeking ideas on how to bring students together, both virtually and in person. Don't be shy. Contact them!

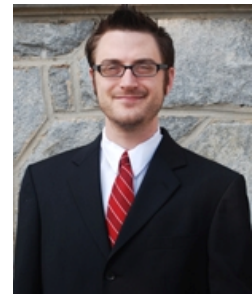
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## Meet Your SOLIS Officers 2011-2012

### President

My name is Eli Arnold, and I live in Atlanta. I graduated from Oglethorpe University with a degree in Archaeology. This fall will be my third semester in the program. I currently work at Oglethorpe in the Office of Admission and hope to transition over to Oglethorpe's Philip Weltner Library once I earn my MLIS. My long-term goal is to work in the University Archives at Oglethorpe. I am very excited about the opportunity to serve as an officer of SOLIS.



Eli Arnold

### Vice President

I entered the MLIS program in fall 2009 and I am now in my penultimate semester. As the previous International Student Representative, I was able to attend ALA in 2010 as the VSU representative. I have interests in open access and the current trends among metadata and institutional repositories in the academic library setting.



Kimberly Mears



**CHECK OUT THE SOLIS DISCUSSION FORUM**

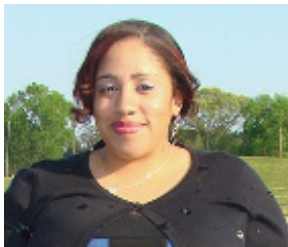
Enter the MLIS Village from your BlazeVIEW menu for advising boards, general discussions, photos, news, job ads, and a SOLIS Forum!!!!



Elizabeth Dill

## Secretary - Treasurer

I have an M.F.A. from the California Institute of the Arts, as well as a B.S.Ed. from the University of Georgia. I worked at Baker & Taylor for a year and a half as a Copy Cataloger prior to receiving acceptance to the M.L.I.S. program. I relocated from Atlanta to Valdosta after obtaining a graduate assistantship in the eLearning Department. I will probably pursue a concentration in library management, and have a 4.0 in my program thus far. I am interested in pursuing a Ph.D. in either public administration or educational technology.



Melissa Perez

## International Student Representative

I started the program last January. I'm currently working at Georgia State University library where I am co-chair of our Personnel Development Committee and serve on the Faculty Governance Committee. I am serving on the Program Planning Committee for this year's Access Services Conference. Last year I received a Georgia State University staff scholarship and the Carolyn L. Robison Award, which is given to library staff pursuing a degree in Library Science. This year I was chosen to represent Valdosta State in ALA's Student-to-Staff program and was able to attend ALA's annual conference in June.

## Meet Your SOLIS Advisory Board Members 2011-2012

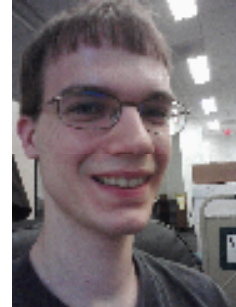
I entered the MLIS Program Fall 2010 and was awarded the Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholarship Spring 2011. I live in the heart of Atlanta and work part-time for MARTA as a bus driver. The Atlanta Fulton Public Library System (AFPLS) accepted me as an intern in April 2011. I am overwhelmed with all of the opportunities in librarianship and plan on becoming a manager of one of the newly built branches opening in 2013 with AFPLS.



ROBBIE HALL

## Meet Your SOLIS Advisory Board (cont'd)

My name is Stuart Temples and I started the MLIS program in Spring 2011. I have decided to pursue the Technology track and my career goal is to work as a Web Services Librarian. I am currently employed as an Assistant Librarian at Georgia State University Library at which I have worked since 2002. There, I currently serve as Co-Chair for our Library Staff Committee. I am also the Staff Representative on the Library Administration Council. I look forward to serving as an advisor to SOLIS!



**STUART TEMPLES**

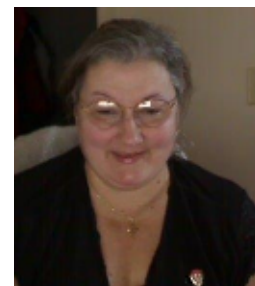
Hello! I am Sarah Middlemast and currently reside in Marietta with my family. I started the MLIS program at VSU during the Spring 2011 semester and anticipate graduating Fall 2012. My undergraduate degree is in Anthropology and I have a graduate degree in History with an emphasis in museum studies and certification in Public History from UWG. As a student at UWG, I worked, volunteered and interned at the Antonio J. Waring Archaeology Lab. In addition to processing and cataloging prehistoric and historic materials, I was presented with the challenge of archiving print and photographic objects and fell in love with archival studies.

My areas of study at VSU are in archives and special collections, but I find myself increasingly interested in all forms of LIS. Since my background is in cultural preservation, I tend to view all types of libraries as informative cultural repositories that can adapt to serve their communities.



**SARAH MIDDLEMAST**

I have worked in the Coastal Plain Regional library system since January 1989. I love computers and computer programs. My hobbies are knitting, quilting, cross-stitch, embroidery and lace. I love reading and books and my littlest patrons are my favorites. I have 4 cats, 3 dogs, 2 grown sons and 4 grandchildren. Since 2006, I have been the Library Manager at Irwin County Library.



**DEBORAH MOORMAN**

## We're on Facebook



Want to stay up-to-date on popular library articles and MLIS events?

Come join the Valdosta State University MLIS Facebook page and meet other students, alumni, faculty and friends of the MLIS program!

Use our QR for quick access . . .



## SOLIS Student Organization of Library and Information Science

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## Impressions of the GA COMO Conference

Each fall thousands of librarians, media specialists, administrators, authors, illustrators, and exhibitors convene for the Georgia Council of Media Organizations (GA COMO) conference. The conference has something for everyone, from seasoned conference-goers to students aspiring to enter the field. The two-day event also provides opportunities for online students from the VSU MLIS Program to meet faculty, alumni, and classmates. Many MLIS students, past and present, are chosen as speakers. Two of our students share their impressions of this year's conference.

### Notes from a Presenter

Michael Law gave a presentation on some of the challenges, and strategies for meeting them, in coordinating branch campus libraries. His advice to future presenters: "The big thing I learned is that COMO is for ALL librarians. I wrote my presentation for an academic librarian audience, but I had public, academic, school, and even private librarians show up. It took some acrobatics to make things relevant for them and answer their questions. COMO is a good way to see a bit beyond the small subsets we often work in."

(Michael Law is the coordinator for UGA's branch campus in Gwinnett and a student in the VSU MLIS Program.)

### COMO First-timer by Robbie Hall

I was a new attendee at the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual COMO Conference in Athens held this October. I participated in a GALILEO Pre-Conference Workshop, attended the Opening General Session and several concurrent sessions, had dinner with other new attendees, and volunteered at the exhibit booth for Valdosta State.

At the Opening General Session, the speaker, Cliff Landis, presented information on the role of emerging technologies in libraries and the co-evolution of humanity and technology. During most of the concurrent sessions, I networked and observed the most popular attended sessions from the rear as they were at capacity. One session where I had front seating, presented information on how to spice it up with tech tools for children's story times.

Stanton Gatewood, Chief Information Security Officer of the Board of Regents, presented a highly informative talk on "Security on Your Mobile Device." His talk caused many arched eyebrows and oohs as he described the security threats and risks associated with smart devices. Tips he suggested were to avoid mobile banking on smart devices, only use state issued smart devices for work, and do

not open up the USG system on personal smart devices.

I enjoyed representing Valdosta's SOLIS Student Organization at our exhibit station. I met Dr. Thiele and Dr. Yang for the first time. I touched base with Dr. Koehler, my advisor, and Dr. Drouillard who updated me on her proposed children's literature course to be offered in the 2012 summer term. Dr. Most gave me suggestions on offering my services for a project that would demonstrate my competency and initiative at the library where I currently intern. I also met Stuart Temples, a SOLIS Advisory Board member, at the conference.

Nearly two dozen people attended the New Attendees Dutch-Treat Dinner and Meeting at a favorite Athens restaurant. The informal meet and greet was friendly and comfortable. The meeting ended with most people proceeding to the Library Movie Night.

(Robbie Hall is a Laura Bush 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholarship recipient and currently serves on the SOLIS Advisory Board.)