



Award and Scholarship Recipients

Amanda Davis
MLIS Merit Scholarship

Asele Mack
H. W. Wilson Scholarship

Kelly Strickland
First SOLIS Student Research Grant

Two SOLIS grants available to pay for
ALA Conference Registration
(see SOLIS Scholarships, p. 2)

Dena Vassey
(Graduating Class 2009)
Inducted into Phi Kappa Phi

John “Mack” Freeman
(Graduating Class 2013)
Gordon M. Conable Conference
Scholarship from the
Freedom to Read Foundation

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MLIS Program Moves to the College of Education

This article is reprinted from a press release authored by VSU MLIS Assistant Program Director, Dr. Linda Most.

On July 1, 2014, the Master of Library and Information Science Program will become the Department of Library and Information Studies. In addition to the name change, the Department will become a part of the Dewar College of Education and Human Services.

This will be an administrative shift from the Dean of the Library. The Department Head will answer to Interim Dean of Education and Human Services Brian Gerber. Departmental Offices will remain on the fourth floor of Odum Library. All telephone numbers and email addresses will also not change.

The degree program will not change nor will the degree name: Master of Library and Information Science. It is expected that students will not experience any changes in the curriculum. The application, advising, and teaching processes are to remain unchanged.

The administrative shift resulted from the continuing self-study the MLIS faculty has undertaken. The CoEHS possesses program assessment and other evaluative resources not held by the Library. The Department of Library and Information Studies will draw upon those resources as it continues on-going accreditation work. These resources should provide a sounder basis for continuing growth of the department.

Dr. Koehler’s Retirement

The Program Director and Professor Wallace Koehler announced his intention to retire from Valdosta State University on July 31, 2014. He joined the VSU faculty in 2001 when he was one of three faculty members to welcome the first class of nine students into the MLIS Program. Dr. Koehler received his MS in Information Science from the University of Tennessee in 1997 and his PhD in Government from Cornell University in 1977.

Message from the President

Greetings fellow MLIS students! I hope this finds you well after a long semester. I have been incredibly busy as well. One thing I have been doing this semester has never been done before. I've been involved with the weekly faculty meetings. One of the issues the Committee on Accreditation found with our program was that there was not enough student involvement with the governance of the program. Upon hearing this the professors invited me to sit in on the faculty meetings and give a voice to the student body.

These meetings have given me an interesting look at what the professors do beyond just teaching us the skills we will need to become experts in our field. They do many things to ensure our success. Right now they are sending out surveys to graduates and their employers to determine if the program has prepared the librarians for their jobs. They are going to take this data and amend the program appropriately. I am incredibly humbled by the fact that I was invited to be a part of these meetings. The professors care about our success and are trying to the best things possible to make us great librarians.

In addition to sitting on the faculty meetings, Your SOLIS leadership has met and discussed the possibility of a reorganization of the SOLIS advisory board for next year. We are going to have student representation on various faculty committees, such as curriculum. I highly encourage you to run for one of these positions or even President next year. We need highly energetic, motivated people to help make SOLIS the best it can be.

This has been a great year. I am proud to have served as the president of this fantastic organization. Hopefully the changes we have implemented will make SOLIS even better for next year and serve the students more effectively. Thank you for your confidence and for a wonderful year!

-Benjamin T. Mullis

Joint ALA/GLA Membership

Library school students are eligible to join both ALA and the Georgia Library Association at one low price of **\$35.00** a year. Join both state and national library associations and get connected to your future. Joint student members are full members of both associations, and receive all the benefits accorded to student members in each association.



SOLIS Scholarships

Are you planning to attend ALA in Las Vegas? If so, you are eligible for reimbursement for your registration fee (\$135) through SOLIS.

At the SOLIS spring semester business meeting online on April 8th, the SOLIS officers and board voted unanimously to set aside funds to reimburse two MLIS students for ALA Conference registration (\$135 each) this year. **Apply by sending an email to Dr. Ondrusek by Friday, May 30th.** If we receive more than two applications, we will have a drawing.

The SOLIS officers and board also approved a request from Kelly Strickland, current student, for \$50 to provide coupons as rewards to the 10 participants in her Capstone study. (For more on Kelly's study, see "Capstone Study . . . Gets a Boost" on p. 3.)

For a complete copy of the April SOLIS Business Meeting Minutes, see the SOLIS folder in the BlazeVIEW MLIS Village site.

Registration Reminders

Registration Re-opens for May through August

- ◆ Maymester: May 13–May 14
- ◆ Summer II: June 9–June 10
- ◆ Fall Registration: July 7– July 8
- ◆ Fall Registration: Aug. 14– Aug. 18

Semester Dates

- ◆ Maymester: May 15 – June 5
- ◆ Core Course 11-Week Term: May 15–July 31
- ◆ Summer II: June 11– July 31
- ◆ Fall begins: Aug. 18

Capstone Study on Folksonomic Classification Gets a Boost from SOLIS

This article describes the Capstone study partially funded by an award from SOLIS. It was submitted by MLIS Capstone student investigator, Kelly Strickland.

“I would like to thank the board members of SOLIS for their generous contribution to the pilot study I conducted for my Capstone project, "User-Centered Classification of Items in an Academic Library.” With the \$50 from SOLIS, I was able to reward the 10 participants from VSU’s main campus who completed the study with \$5 gift certificates.

This research tested a tool for observing how select user groups created folksonomic classifications, tags, for academic materials. This tool was an exercise, wherein participants were given the publisher summaries and bibliographic information for four books for which they then created tags. The primary objective of this pilot study was to test the effectiveness of this methodology before it is implemented on a large scale.

The participants received an electronic version of the exercise hosted by Survey Monkey. The instructions they were given only stipulated that each participant assign at least three tags per book and to separate tags using a comma.

Interestingly, most participants applied more than the minimum number of tags for at least one book, averaging out to 15 tags per student (3.75 per book) and 17.3 tags per professor (4.3 per book). Professor participants were especially liberal in their application of tags. After categorizing the tags, I was able to compare the folksonomic classifications from the participants to Library of Congress subject headings. Some clear categories of tags emerged in this comparison; and I found differences in the vocabulary each user group supplied, with the professors’ tags being markedly more similar to LCSH headings.

Ultimately this is just a pilot study, the foundation for a much larger, much more in-depth investigation into the effectiveness of folksonomies and how to replicate that in more traditional systems. The eventual potential for this research, after an expanded study has been designed and conducted, is to identify central elements of tag systems and of a communal tag creation method. Thanks to the involvement of SOLIS this study was a success and so we are another step closer to fulfilling that potential.” K.S.

Earn Credit for Fieldwork

Supervised Fieldwork

See the MLIS April Advising Bulletin for the procedure for applying for fieldwork for credit. Dr. Most will assign fall interns; the deadline for fall fieldwork requests is July 7.

If you secure an internship in the commercial or private sector, ask about counting it for credit. Fall and Spring positions work best. Here are two venues where VSU MLIS students have interned for pay:

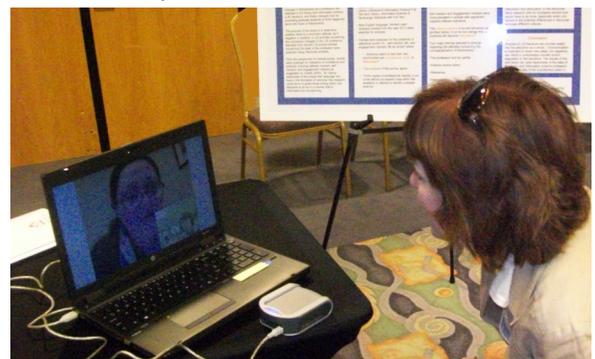
CNN Turner Broadcasting in Atlanta offers paid internships and usually has a spot for LIS or archive students. The 2014 summer position is filled, but the fall position will be posted in May. Watch the CNN job website at <http://jobsatturner.com>.

The Ringling Art Museum in Sarasota, FL, is another source for internships, both paid and academic non-paying positions. Keep your eye on this page: <http://www.ringling.org/internships>

Graduate Research Symposium

Two poster entries represented the research efforts of the MLIS program in this year’s 6th Annual Graduate Research Symposium held on the VSU campus on April 25th. Samantha Paul (graduating May 2014) presented her Capstone research project entitled “Reaction to Conceptual Changes in the Library Profession: An Analysis of the LIS Literature” and recent graduate Mack Freeman presented his 2013 Capstone entitled "How Targeted Marketing Impacts Access Ideals: An Analysis of John Cotton Dana Award Winners from 2009 to 2013."

Dr. Sherri Gravett, Asst. VP of Academic Affairs, talks virtually with Samantha Paul.





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 2013-2014 year marks the 12th anniversary of the MLIS program, and the T-shirt shows our founding date of 2001 as an open entry. Order a shirt now to celebrate our successful reaccreditation and to show your solidarity.

Shirts are sold at \$10 each at events such as GA COMO conferences and 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 _____ XX-Large _____ **XXX-SOLD OUT**

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 and write **Account Number 10248** on the memo line.

Allow two to four weeks to receive your t-shirt(s).

Your shipping address:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone: _____

Please mail this form with your check to :

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