



## Congratulations . . .

Kudos to these recipients of scholarships and internships:

**Charles Beard Scholarship**  
**Linda Cooks**

**CNN Internship**  
**Cynthia Barton**

Two recent graduates who received fellowships:

**Emory Libraries Fellow**  
**Bethany Nash**

**Farold W. McGraw Fellow**  
*Children's Librarian*  
*Darien Library, CT*  
**Krishna Grady**

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Meet Us in Macon!	1
Stakeholders Meeting at COMO	1
Student-to-Staff Program	2-3
Scholarship Opp's	2-3
Welcome 2012-13 Officers	4
Registration/Advising Week	4
SOLIS T-Shirt Campaign	4
Facebook QR & SOLIS URL	4

## Meet Us in Macon!

For the first time in many years, the Georgia Council of Media Organizations (GaCOMO) and the Southeastern Library Association (SELA) will unite to sponsor a joint conference. The COMO conference, in itself, is a cooperative venture among members of three Georgia organizations: Georgia Library Association (GLA), Georgia Association for Instructional Technology (GAIT), and Georgia Library Media Association (GLMA). SELA membership stretches across the region that encompasses southern states along the Mississippi River east to Virginia, down into Florida, and all the states in-between those areas.

The theme of the joint conference is Macon It Happen @ Your Library: GaCOMO & SELA. The conference kicks off Wednesday, October 3, with pre-conference workshops. The main events take place Thursday and Friday, October 4-5. Conference information, including speakers, schedules, and registration forms are on the GaCOMO website at: <http://www.georgiacomo.org/>. All conference activities will take place in the Macon Marriot City Center. There is still time to register!

As always, the Valdosta State University's MLIS Program is actively involved in supporting the conference on many levels. Look for the VSU MLIS booth in the exhibitor's hall. This is a central place to congregate and meet your professors. T-shirts will be on sale (see page 4 for details). Alumni, students, and faculty of the VSU MLIS Program are slated to give talks, and a number of our graduates serve on GLA and GaCOMO committees. Plan to socialize with your VSU colleagues and friends of the Program at a reception-reunion on Thursday, 5:30-7:30, Room 309 in the Marriot. In addition, the VSU MLIS Program will convene a town hall style stakeholders meeting open to its constituents using the conference hotel as its site on Friday afternoon (for details, see Stakeholders Meeting below).

## Stakeholders Meeting at GaCOMO

Stakeholder n. — *those who affect, or can be affected by, an organization's actions.*

The faculty and administration of the VSU MLIS Program extend an invitation to all stakeholders of the VSU MLIS Program to join us in a public conversation on the plan that is currently in progress to remove the conditional accreditation status. The meeting will be held on Friday, October 5, immediately after the GaCOMO auction ends in Room 309 in the Macon Marriot City Center. Those conference goers who want to participate in the discussion have the convenience of remaining in the conference center. However, attendance at the conference is not required to join the stakeholder meeting. Students, alumni, and any supporters or benefactors of the MLIS Program who are within driving distance of Macon who wish to participate are welcome. There is ample parking surrounding the hotel.

## ALA Student-to-Staff Program

by Chelsea Kovalevskiy



*Author's note: I spent weeks procrastinating over this article, because it seems impossible to sum up such an incredible experience into a finite amount of words on a page. The ALA annual conference: We've all heard about it, most of us have dreamed of going. But is it really worth it? YES! A thousand times YES! At least, I thought so. Here's what I learned.*

### Learning Opportunities

One of the neatest tools I used during my Anaheim adventure was the new ALA scheduling app. The app allowed me to search for events based on their type/time. If the librarian stereotype is anything to go by, I'm not the only one who used the app to plan every minute of my time at the conference. In fact, I double-booked most of my time...just in case the program I started out at wasn't what I expected it to be.

As one might assume, there's a little something for everybody at these conferences, regardless of which branch of librarianship you've adopted as your own. For myself, I split my seminars up between YALSA, ALSC and PLA hosted events. One of the neatest programs I attended was a demonstration of how iPads can be used in Children's programming in small and large libraries. I know that some people choose to only go to events put together by one organization—but to me this negates the purpose of the Annual Conference, which brings all branches together. So when you go, I encourage you to attend at least one seminar outside of your "comfort zone." You might be surprised at what you bring away from it.

*Tip: Just because you plan to go somewhere doesn't mean you have to. You WILL need to relax at some point, even though you don't want to. Also, wear comfortable shoes.*

### Networking

I had no idea how small the library world is. There are a TON of networking opportunities at Annual Conference. Each branch of ALA usually hosts a Happy Hour. At the YALSA Happy Hour I spent about an hour speaking to upcoming Young Adult author, Melissa Buell. At a Librarian Fashion Walk-Off, I met a well-known Information Tech from New York who just happened to be good friends with Jay Turner, head of Adult Education at GPLS. Everybody seems to know everybody and it can be overwhelming. But it's also made me realize that if I want to be someone in this profession, I need to GET INVOLVED. Pick a branch of ALA and join a committee. ALA is always looking for volunteers for their committees. It can be expensive, because for most positions you must attend both Annual and Mid-Winter conferences. But if you want to be a leader in this profession, it is necessary.

Here's a quick story for those of you who have not yet secured a library position: As one of the ALSC volunteers, I was invited to the Newbery/Caldecott banquet. At the event, I sat next to a young lady who had won a ticket in a seminar called ALSC 101. I learned that even though she had gotten a librarian's guide to Manga published, she had been unable to secure a position in a library.

## Scholarship Opportunities

This column identifies scholarships that have been received by VSU MLIS students.

### ALA Student-to-Staff Program

<http://www.ala.org/groups/affiliates/chapters/student/resources/studenttostaffprogram>

Well . . . not exactly a scholarship - more like an opportunity to attend the ALA annual conference and work shoulder-to-shoulder with people who make it happen. ALA foots the bill for registration, housing, and per diem for meals. The MLIS program pays for travel. Your MLIS program must have a student chapter recognized by ALA to qualify applicants for Student-to-Staff. Thanks to SOLIS and funding from the MLIS Foundation, students from the VSU MLIS Program were selected for four consecutive years. (Read all about Chelsea Kovalevskiy's experience at the 2012 ALA conference in the article to the left.)

### VSU MLIS Merit Scholarship

[http://www.valdosta.edu/mlis/documents/meritscholarship\\_guide.pdf](http://www.valdosta.edu/mlis/documents/meritscholarship_guide.pdf)

Pays for tuition for one course. Funded by individual donations to the VSU MLIS Foundation. One fall and one spring award per year when funds are available.

### H. W. Wilson Scholarship

[http://www.valdosta.edu/mlis/documents/wilsonscholarship\\_guide.pdf](http://www.valdosta.edu/mlis/documents/wilsonscholarship_guide.pdf)

Pays for tuition for one course. Funded by the H. W. Wilson scholarship foundation. One to three awards per year if funding continues.

### Beard Scholarship (\$1000)

### Hubbard Scholarship (\$3000)

<http://gla.georgialibraries.org/scholarship.htm>

Georgia Library Association funds both scholarships. Applications accepted each spring. Recipients honored at the GaCOMO conference.

Scholarship Opp's continues on p. 3 with descriptions of the ALA Spectrum and the Reforma scholarships and paid internships.

## Scholarship Opp's

(cont'd)

### ALA Spectrum Scholarships

<http://www.ala.org/offices/diversity/spectrum>

Provides up to 50 students from racial and ethnic underrepresented groups with a \$5000 tuition scholarship and \$1500 in professional development funds.

### Reforma Scholarship

<http://www.reforma.org/content.asp?pl=7&sl=47&contentid=47>

A scholarship bestowed annually on LIS graduate students who are Spanish-speakers or interested in serving Latinos or the Spanish-speaking. Number of awards and amount of scholarship varies per year—this year's award is \$1500.

**Sponsors of other paid internships and fellowships** that VSU MLIS students have procured include:

*CNN*

*Emory University*

*J P Morgan Chase*

*Lynda Crumley Memorial Internship*

*Smithsonian Archives of American Art*

*Ringling Museum of Art Internship*

For award winners, see: <http://www.valdosta.edu/mlis/solis/pages/scholarships.shtml>

## SOLIS

### Student Organization of Library and Information Science

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Production Editor for SOLIS Newsletter:  
Vacant - Interested?

## Student-to-Staff Program (cont'd)

She had graduated almost a year before, but nobody in the Oregon area wanted to hire someone with a Masters and no experience. (Don't worry the story gets better.) As such, she decided that going to Annual would be a great way to network. Even though she really didn't have the money, she scrounged it up, begged and borrowed. At the banquet table was an ALSC past-president and ex-members of the Newberry/Caldecott committee. One of the women, from New York or thereabouts, heard our girl's story, heard her story, found out where she was from, and then immediately introduced her to the director of the largest library system in the Oregon area, minutes away from where our girl lives. They set up a job interview for when she returned. It was a pretty incredible thing to witness, especially knowing how far apart these librarians lived. But because they were so involved in ALA, they saw each other twice a year and had developed a friendship.

*Tip: Bring plenty of Business Cards. But don't hand them out unless you really make a connection with someone. Otherwise they'll go from pocket to trashcan before you can say Mickey Mouse.*

### The Extras

Annual Conference has something that is called "The Exhibition." It was described to me as a carnival for librarians, and that's just about the most apt description there is. Free books, Galleys, author signings—I met a dozen authors and brought home an entire suitcase of free goodies for my library. Some advice: if you go, don't buy too much at the beginning. Besides the fact that there are a ton of free gifts (so why buy?) almost all of the publishers will cut their prices completely or partly on the final day of conference.

Also vying for your time, are several speakers, concerts and local tourist activities. In Anaheim, this meant discount tickets to Disneyland as well as tours to the beach. For \$25 I was able to get front row seats to see the Rock Bottom Reminders perform for the final time ever. I ran into Stephen King and Dave Barry twice as they rode around before the event. Yes, we even made eye contact. I know, I can't believe it either

### Conclusion

There's so much I didn't say, but I'll sum it up like this. When I applied to go to ALA, I argued that this would be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. My library system is small and poor and there is no way that we would EVER be able to send someone to a conference like this, even though we would like to. But I learned so much and met so many people, that I have talked my Director and Assistant Director to driving up to next year's ALA conference in Chicago. It's about a 10 hour drive for us, and we'll have to pay for expenses out of our own pockets, because the library sure doesn't have it. But to me, it is worth it. I hope I see you there.

Press release on Chelsea provided by ALA:

<http://www.valdosta.edu/news/releases/kovalevskiy.020912>

## Welcome, 2012-13 SOLIS Officers



Stuart Temples  
President



Jennifer Lautzenheiser  
Vice President



Andrea Coston  
International Rep



Dorothy Watkins  
Secretary-Treasurer

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## Spring 2013 Registration

### Get Ready during Advising Week

If you plan to register early for spring 2013 courses, here is the timeline that you follow:

October 22-26: Advising Week  
(contact your advisor and get courses approved)

October 29: Early registration opens  
(you will be billed before the end of semester)

November 16: Early registration ends

January 3: Registration resumes at 5:00 pm



## SOLIS T-Shirt Campaign!

Support the Student Organization of Library and Information Science (SOLIS) by purchasing your own T-shirt with the VSU and MLIS insignias!

Shirts will be on super-sale at \$10 per shirt at the VSU MLIS booth at GaCOMO, Macon Marriot, Oct. 4-5.

The proceeds from the shirt sales will go towards funding projects such as scholarships.

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## We're on Facebook



Use our QR for quick access . . .

