

Congratulations are in order . . .

Kudos to these recipients of MLIS scholarships:

Merit Scholarship
Nelson Fredsell

H. W. Wilson Scholarship
Andrea Coston

Look for profiles of Shannon Glover, Kimberly Mears, and Chelsea Kovalevski on the **SOLIS Spotlight** page at: <http://www.valdosta.edu/mlis/solis/pages/spotlight.shtml>.

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Plan for Removal of Conditional Status Accepted by ALA!

by **Dr. Koehler**
MLIS Program Director

The VSU MLIS Program is pleased to announce that the ALA Committee on Accreditation (COA) has accepted the VSU MLIS Program’s plan for removal of conditional status. This decision, in part, means that the VSU MLIS Program remains an ALA accredited program.

The decision was made after a review of the Program’s report to the COA outlining its plan for removal of conditional status. The report was presented by a delegation representing the MLIS Program to the ALA COA on April 13, 2012, at ALA headquarters in Chicago. The plan centers upon assessment of the MLIS Program based upon student learning outcomes. It addresses the concerns of systematic Program evaluation expressed by the COA as the basis for the change from regular to conditional status in November 2010.

While ALA COA does not remove conditional status except at its regularly scheduled accreditation reviews, the committee did state in its letter to the MLIS Program dated April 14, 2012: “The progress made in developing a systematic planning process incorporating student measures was notable.” The next scheduled accreditation review for the Program is to occur in fall 2013 with COA action in spring 2014.

The MLIS Program has three additional reports to submit in 2012. In October, it will provide ALA COA with its plan to host the External Review Panel in 2013. This is a standard and scheduled part of the accreditation process. The Program will submit its annual report to COA in December as well as its “ALISE” statistical report. These too are part of the accreditation calendar.

A virtual meeting to apprise the MLIS Advisory Board members of progress towards meeting the goals of the Plan will be held in June. SOLIS President, Eli Arnold, will represent the student body.

University Librarian Appointed

Dr. Alan Bernstein, who has served as the Interim Associate University Librarian at Valdosta State University since the retirement of Dr. George Gaumond, is officially our permanent University Librarian. His appointment and promotion were announced last week. Dr. Bernstein was the second graduate of the MLIS Program in 2002. He went on to earn a Doctor of Education with a major in Leadership from the VSU College of Education. The University Librarian oversees the administration of the Odum Library and acts as the dean for the MLIS Program. Congratulations, Dr. Bernstein!

How I Landed My First Library Job

Part 2

SOLIS asked a group of MLIS graduates to reflect upon their searches for their first professional library positions. In this second installment of a two-part feature, we present responses from five more graduates. Their remarks include advice on identifying professional library openings, tips on preparing for their interviews, and other insights they gained in their quests to land their first jobs.

Leanne Finnigan was one of our students from UGA where she worked as a paraprofessional cataloger in a media collection. She did a short stint as a librarian in a public library before she graduated from the MLIS Program in summer 2009. Shortly after graduation, she was hired by an academic library and, later, as a database management librarian by the Montgomery County Community College in New Jersey.

To identify job openings, Leanne said: “My husband and I knew we probably wanted to leave Georgia, so we identified a few cities we would like to live. I searched for public and academic libraries in those areas and bookmarked their HR sites to check every week or so for postings.

I am actually on my second professional position after graduating, [and was not] actively looking when I saw the posting for the job I have now. I was drawn to my current job because librarians hold faculty status and are tenure-track. It definitely seemed like a step up and now I have “librarian” in my title, which looks much better on a CV.”

Two interview experiences: “First, I’ll describe the interview for my first position after getting the degree, since it provided some valuable lessons. It was in NJ and they didn’t provide any travel stipend or assistance. They offered to let me do a teaching demonstration via Skype, but I wasn’t willing to be considered for a job if I couldn’t actually meet the people and see what it was like there. I think that [attitude] had the effect of making me look committed and serious about the job.” [A face-to-face interview resulted, and a teaching demo demonstrating skill in information literacy was required.] “The interview went well, but I wish I had prepared a plan B. The presentation relied heavily on showing how to search databases and the internet was out the day of my interview. That was terrifying.”

“The interview for my current job was very similar, but instead of an IL demonstration I presented on open source software and library automation. The position is cataloging-heavy, which is where most of my experience was, so I felt much more prepared for the presentation and questions. I learned two important lessons with this interview. First, set your phone to silent. I *always* remember to do this . . . but for some reason this slipped off my radar before the interview started. Second, do a dress rehearsal that includes the dress. I wore a blazer that day to cover a tattoo I have on my forearm, and it turned out to be 95 degrees that day. I wish I had figured out something better to wear.”

Closing remarks: “If you’re offered a job, consider the roles librarians and the library play in the entirety of the institution. Are they valued? Are they faculty or staff? Is professional development a priority? [Continue to] develop your tech skills as you enter the job market. I really wish I had done a programming class or web development as that would have made me stand out more as an applicant. No matter what you do, these skills can help.”

Leanne recommends these two job-search sites: Indeed.com and SimplyHired.com.

Writing Résumés and CVs

From the Georgia Department of Labor

VSU MLIS grad, Katherine Meadows, brought these materials from the Georgia Department of Labor to our attention during her Capstone semester:

Applications

<http://www.dol.state.ga.us/js/replace/chapter06.htm>

Most institutions have a standard application form that everyone must complete. Missing information, misspellings, or hasty answers could cost you the position. Tips on this page highlight do’s and don’t’s.

Résumés and Cover Letters

<http://www.dol.state.ga.us/js/replace/chapter07.htm>

Offers a clear explanation of three ways to organize the data on your resume: chronological order, functional design, or a combination of the two formats.

Learn about Résumé Writing

http://www.dol.state.ga.us/js/resume_writing.htm

Three more . . .

Most of the guides on the Internet are fee-based or loaded with ads. These three sites from the UK are informative and free:

Résumé and CV FAQs and Answers

http://www.fazed.com/careers/cv_faq.html

How to Tailor Your CV/Résumé

http://www.fazed.com/careers/cv_industries.html

Tailoring Your CV for Jobs in Different Countries

http://www.fazed.com/careers/international_cv.html

Résumés versus CVs

What are the differences between a résumé and a Curriculum Vitae (CV)?

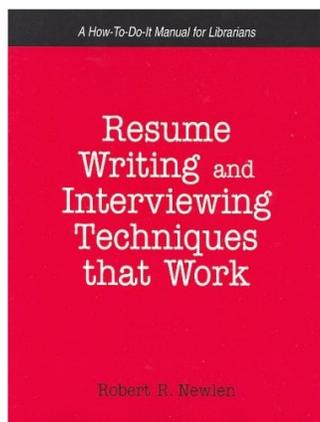
About.com (<http://jobsearch.about.com/cs/curriculumvitae/f/cvresume.htm>) distinguishes a résumé from a CV this way:

The primary differences between a résumé and a Curriculum Vitae (CV) are the length, what is included, and what each is used for. A resume is a one or two page summary of your skills, experience and education. While a résumé is brief and concise - no more than a page or two, a Curriculum Vitae is longer (at least two pages), a more detailed synopsis.

A Curriculum Vitae includes a summary of your educational and academic backgrounds as well as teaching and research experience, publications, presentations, awards, honors, affiliations and other details. In Europe, the Middle East, Africa, or Asia, employers may expect to receive a CV.

In the United States, a Curriculum Vitae is used primarily when applying for academic, education, scientific or research positions. It is also applicable when applying for fellowships or grants.

If you want to invest in a book to help you in your job search, the book by Robert R. Newlen (Neal Schuman, 2006) comes highly recommended.



How I Landed My First Library Job (cont'd)

Shannon Leaper will graduate from the MLIS Program in Summer 2012. She started a job in April 2011 as Research and Instructional Librarian at Northwestern Oklahoma State University.

To identify job openings, Shannon said: "I used an RSS feeder for LISJobs.com and libraryjobpostings.org. The combined feeder for both sites identifies current library positions found on the internet.

Interview advice: "I had two interviews for this position. The first was a web chat interview with two librarians and the library director. It is import to be prepared and professional even during a web chat interview. For example, I dressed for the web chat as if I were interviewing in person. The interviewers could not see anything on the web cam below chest level, but at one point during the interview I did have to stand up to grab something to demonstrate with and how embarrassing would it had been if I was wearing my ducky pajamas under my suit jacket? The second thing I did was to prepare my interview space. I had a printed copy of my resume in front of me during the interview. I was logged onto the library so I could access their data very quickly. I also jotted down answers to several commonly asked interview questions, not to read them off verbatim, but to give me something to casually glance at and not have to come up with an answer off the cuff."

Closing remarks: "My understanding is that most students take the first LIS job they are offered upon graduation, to get their feet in the door and to gain experience. I was able to find a position that will allow me the opportunity to do exactly what I wanted to do upon graduation and from which I will probably retire in 30 years. I was able to do so due to two factors, a willingness to relocate and the reworking of my resume to focus on the training I did have (from my undergraduate degree) versus the training I had yet to gain. I have minimal experience in a library setting and what I do have, I receive through volunteer work and the MLIS program. The library that hired me did so because of my prior experience as an instructor. They are willing to train me as a librarian."

Brittany N. Emge graduated from the MLIS Program in summer 2011. She was hired prior to graduation by the Mill Springs Academy to serve as the k-12 librarian. The school helps students with learning disabilities.

To identify job openings, Brittany said: "Throughout my MLIS I kept a very close eye on many different online job postings, bookmarking RSS feeds like it was my job. I had a good idea of what was opening up in my area, and I made sure to ask everyone I knew if they had heard of anything. You're always told 'it's who you know,' and that proved true for me. A family friend who worked at my current school knew their librarian was retiring (that actually happens? Well, it did for me.). I immediately contacted the librarian and started volunteering, which led to the job."

Interview advice: "My interview for my current position was very casual. I work in an environment where creativity and patience is key, and my personality was a big factor in ensuring the right fit. I am very young and obviously very new to the field, and I've always noticed that people tend to focus on that aspect first. Definitely come prepared with multiple reasons why you fit this job, and don't limit them to what you think matches the job description on paper. This is a field where your interests, personality, and flexibility can be a determining factor in your success, so don't be afraid to include personal elements. We're all different and quirky in our own way; use this to your advantage!"

Closing remarks: "Don't limit yourself. Flexibility is key, especially in the way you search for jobs. Online is great to get a general idea of what's out there...but your job may be found through face to face conversation, or a phone call."

[How I Landed My First Library Job, Part 2, continued on the next page]

How I Landed My First Library Job (cont'd)

Catie Tierney graduated in spring 2010. She was hired within a year after graduation as a reference librarian for the Middle Georgia Regional Library.

To identify job openings, Catie said: “I regularly searched for jobs on the Georgia Public Libraries website. I also checked LISjobs.com for openings. I had a good, solid resume & an online portfolio to present to potential employers. I had also written a general cover letter that I could adapt to fit different job requirements. When I found a job that interested me (where I fit at least 75% of the requirements), I followed the instructions in submitting my application, resume, cover letter, and references. I also kept a list of where and when I applied, any user names/passwords used when filling out applications online, and whether I applied online or sent a packet in the mail. I had applied for about 17 positions, so this list was handy. For some jobs, I sent follow-up e-mails or placed calls with the designated contact person just to help get my name out there. Out of the 17 applications I submitted, I was called for one interview...and I nailed it.”

Interview advice: “For the interview, I was sure to look professional. I wore nice, business attire and covered any visible tattoos. I arrived about 30 minutes early, which gave me time to look around the library and collect myself before the interview. Although I was applying for a reference position, I was interviewed by 6 departments heads, which made me pretty nervous, but I retained my polite, enthusiastic demeanor. A lot of the answers I gave them were from my own personal experience in handling certain library situations, and I was later informed by my supervisor that out of the ‘huge stack’ of applications they received, I was chosen because I was young, technologically savvy, and ‘had all the right answers’ they were looking for.”

Closing remarks: “Don’t limit yourself. Flexibility is key, especially in the way you search for jobs. If you are not already very computer savvy, brush up on your skills. Computer & Internet skills are extremely important in any job market these days, but especially as a librarian. I also keep my online portfolio updated regularly (ctierney.weebly.com); something as simple as self-promotion can put you ahead of your competition in the job market. Potential employers have remarked how impressed they were by my online portfolio, and how they enjoyed getting to know me better by something other than a resume.”

Michael Holt graduated in spring 2010. He, too, was hired within a year by the Odum Library at Valdosta State University as a reference librarian and marketing manager.

To identify job openings, Michael said: “I used ALA joblist and other job listing sites to identify potential jobs, which is what I would strongly recommend to anyone that doesn’t have a specific position they are interested in. However, I learned about the job I now have because I was already working as a staff member in the institution that the position appeared in.”

Interview advice: “The interview process was quite smooth for me. I can’t stress the importance of an impeccable cover letter and resume though. It’s a crowded market out there right now and a single typo can be the difference between you having a position and not having one. If I could offer any advice, it would be to make sure that you do some research on the place you are applying to before the interview. Showing your prospective employers that you know their researchers and their goals can definitely go a long way towards making yourself stand out in a job interview. Finally, be professional and courteous at all times during the interview. Building a rapport with the interviewers is important, but it’s important to not get too casual. I have seen people not get positions because they tried to be ‘cute’ or ‘funny’ during the interview process.”

[continued in upper right this page]

Michael Holt (cont'd)

Closing remarks: “Everyone knows that the job market is crowded, so spend your time in the MLIS program doing things that will make you stand out. Above all else, go volunteer or work in a library in some capacity.

Get all the experience you can in the setting you want to work in and it will pay off. Not only will it give you much needed experience with your chosen career, it will also give you a network of potential employers and references when it comes time to enter the job market.

Don’t get discouraged. The perfect job will often not be waiting for you the moment you graduate, especially in today’s market. Be patient and apply to a lot of places. There is a library out there that would love to have you if you are patient, flexible, and willing to go where you are called “

SOLIS Student Organization of Library and Information Science

Valdosta State University
Master of Library & Information Science
Program
Valdosta, GA 31698-0133

Phone: 229-333-5966
Fax: 229-259-5055
E-mail: mlis@valdosta.edu

SOLIS Faculty Advisor::
Prof. Anita Ondrusek

Production Editor for SOLIS Newsletter:
Vacant - Interested?

Galileo Knowledge Repository

MLIS Content Managers Make It Happen

For the second consecutive year, six students from the VSU MLIS Program will intern as content managers for the GALILEO Knowledge Repository (GKR) project. The GKR initiative is a partnership to build an institutional repository among institutions in the University System of Georgia. It is supported by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). Taking the lead is the Georgia Institute of Technology partnered with the GALILEO team, the University of Georgia, Georgia State University, Georgia Health Sciences University, Georgia Southern University, Valdosta State University, Albany State University, North Georgia College and State University, College of Coastal Georgia, and Kennesaw State University.

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 . . .



Two more job ad spots:

Job openings brought to the attention of the MLIS faculty are posted in the MLIS Village (on the General Announcements discussion board) and on the MLIS RSS feed located on the left sidebar of the MLIS Homepage.

MLIS Village

MAIN MENU

RSS FEED

Dr. Changwoo Yang, Assistant Professor in the VSU MLIS Program, trains and supervises the student interns. The students gain hands-on experience using a modified version of Dublin Core in a digital repository environment.

Summer 2012 Interns: Angela Dixon, Huejung Chen, Laura Rhicard, Jennifer Lautzenheiser, Stephen Houser, and Crystal Vicente.

Summer 2011 Interns: Jamie Addy, Christine Brazill, Cynthia Holmberg, Sara Bryant, Nelson Fredsell, and Kimberly Mears.

Graduate Research Symposium

As a footnote to the GKR Project: Kimberly Mears and Jamie Addy presented their experiences as content managers via a poster in the Graduate Research Symposium, April 20, 2012. Their poster was entitled: *Metadata and Interns: A Brief Analysis of the Galileo Knowledge Repository Initiative*. The Symposium is held each spring on the VSU campus. Attendees talked with Kimberly and Jamie via a virtual conference and webcam connection.

Registration for Summer & Fall Semesters re-opens:

June 4th, 5pm—June 6th, 5pm
Aug 9th, 5pm—Aug 13th, 11:59pm

If you register in summer for fall, you will be billed in the summer.

Contact your advisor -

Only advisors can clear you for registration.

Seeking SOLIS Officers and Editor

Nominations for all four SOLIS offices —President, Vice-president, Secretary-Treasurer, and International Representative—will open in August 2012. The MLIS faculty members wish to thank the 2011-2012 officers: Jonathan (Eli) Arnold, Kimberly Mears, Elizabeth Dill, and Melissa Perez for their service to the Program. If you are interested in running as a candidate on the 2012-2013 slate, contact the SOLIS faculty advisor, Dr. Ondrusek at alondrus@valdosta.edu.

SOLIS is also in need of an editor for the newsletter. The newsletter is produced using a template from Publisher. Editing responsibilities involve minimum skills in desktop publishing.



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 2011-2012 year marks the 10th anniversary of the MLIS program, and the T-shirt shows our founding date of 2001 as an open entry. We hope to spend many more years educating librarians and information specialists! Sporting this T-shirt at public events is a great way to show your support for the program.

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-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 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 :

Dr. Anita Ondrusek
MLIS Program
1500 N. Patterson St.
Valdosta, GA 31698