



Award and Scholarship Recipients

Lynette Kendrick
ALA Spectrum Scholarship

Kathleen Hall
Rosalie Norris Scholarship

Rebecca Ballard
GLA Hubbard Scholarship

Karen Manning
GLA Charles Beard Scholarship

For profiles and photos of Rebecca and Karen, see the [GLA Blog](#)

John Wallace
George Aiello
SOLIS grant for ALA Registration

Six VSU Grads in the
PINNACLE Class of 2015-2016
(details on page 3)

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500@14 (Going on 15)

In fall 2001, about a dozen students aspiring to become librarians enrolled in a new master’s program at Valdosta State University. The program was spearheaded by Dr. George Gaumond, VSU’s University Librarian, initially assisted by two professors. Students met one weekend a month at Macon State College (now Middle Georgia State College) to fulfill the requirements for their Foundations course. Other courses were completed online.

When the 2014-2015 academic year drew to a close this past July, the VSU Department of Library and Information Studies could claim a grand total of 500 graduates—yes, exactly 500. Moving into our 14th (going on 15th) year of educating librarians, our current 250 students come from Georgia and well beyond its borders.

Here are some lyrics (you can sing along if you know the Rogers and Hammerstein tune) to kick off this 14th year as an LIS school.

*We are 14 going on 15
As proud as we can be
Of our reputation / Across the nation
With students from sea to sea.*

*We are 14 going on 15
Baby, it’s time to brag -
500 grads / According to stats
And many more in the bag.*

*Totally unprepared were we to be a “Best Buy” school.
Now that we’ve earned that claim to fame,
We think it’s pretty cool.*

*At 14, we’re older and wiser
And we know what to do:
Shout our thanks to those who stick with us.
We depend on you.*

Let’s keep the spirit growing . . . Buy a T-shirt . . . See p. 4.

SOLIS Election Sep 9-16 . . . Please Vote!!

It’s time to elect new officers to lead your student organization. Turn to page 3 to meet the candidates. We need students to vote in order to comply with student organization regulations. Follow this link to cast your votes:
https://valdosta.col.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_55yN8RyQ7iLAyTH



ALA Student-to-Staff Reflections

By Lily Kosmicki

It was my great honor and pleasure to attend the 2015 American Library Association Annual Conference in San Francisco, California. I had the opportunity to attend thanks to the wonderful Student-to-Staff Program (S2S).

The program gives students involved in the ALA Student Chapters a chance to attend the conference and work behind-the-scenes. In exchange for 16 hours of work the student gets free registration, housing, a per diem, and gets to attend conference programs and events in their free time. There are forty slots available, one for each participating MLIS student chapter program.

The conference was overwhelming, but exciting! I attended sessions on everything from intellectual freedom and copyright issues to international librarianship and untraditional librarians. There were many practical sessions, including how to make a case for library relevance, how to effectively measure the success of programs, and the future of programming in libraries. There were fun and inspiring parts too, like meeting the creators of the popular podcast “Welcome to Nightvale” and seeing renowned feminist Gloria Steinem speak about how libraries save internal lives. There were exciting and inspiring talks about the future, including a presentation by the [Long Now Foundation](#) who are creating a digital library of all human languages,

microetching thousands of texts as part of a Manual for Human Civilization on nickel (as well as lodging a physical collection in San Francisco), and trying to bring mammoths back! Not something you may expect to be covered at a library conference, but ALA is full of surprises!

I also learned about engaging particular populations in library services. The big focus this year was on Latino Americans and people experiencing homelessness. I was assigned to write a blogpost for ALA’s Public Programming Office and their website [ProgramingLibrarian.org](#). The session I reported on was called “They’re Our Customers, Too: Engaging the Homeless at Your Library.” Coincidentally, the City Librarian of my employer, Denver Public Library, was presenting! I felt extra inspired and connected to this session and you can read my blogpost [here](#)! This was certainly the most rewarding and engaging part of attending ALA for me: the inspiring and exciting work I got to do for the conference!

A close second was the inspiring atmosphere of being around people who share your profession and passion. I found it very encouraging that everyone I met was kind, engaging, and interesting, which made me feel like I chose the right profession! Meeting and working with my fellow Student2Staff interns was also incredibly fun! We made the rounds at game nights, happy hours, and the exhibit halls. The exhibit halls are incredible—people get so many advanced reading copies and schwag there is a post office set up inside the halls just so they can mail it all home! There are so many free tote bags for the taking! Penguin Random House even provided fancy snacks and champagne upon opening! The experience was invaluable and would certainly be helpful to a librarian at any point in their career: whether you are looking for a job; looking for the latest and greatest in what the library vendor world has to offer; trying to broaden professional horizons and network; need some inspiration or practical solutions for library functions; or just want to have some professional fun while learning, ALA is indeed a meaningful experience.

Conference Chatter by John Wallace

It’s difficult to describe my first ALA Annual Conference experience in brief. It was incredible, an altogether surreal combination of exhilaration, enlightenment, and exhaustion. Just imagine, tens of thousands of library enthusiasts descending upon the same city at the same time—it created a truly unique atmosphere. But thanks to a special confluence of events, this particular time and place held an even greater significance than normal.

The conference happened to coincide with San Francisco’s Pride Week, the U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in *Obergefell v. Hodges* that recognized same-sex marriage as lawful, and an Opening Session speech from Roberta Kaplan, the attorney responsible for the defeat of the Defense of Marriage Act. As I listened to Ms. Kaplan’s remarks, the moment reminded me the vital role that libraries can play in maintaining a healthy democracy by ensuring open access to information free from discrimination, promoting intellectual freedom, and curtailing censorship.

By far, the most valuable conference takeaway for me was personal connections. I met incredible people and received superb advice. Every corner and every queue represented a chance to interact with someone new (and most likely amazing). Sometimes, the business of daily life can isolate and remove us from the core ideals that brought us to study librarianship in the first place. Conferences are an empowering opportunity to reconnect with our highest professional aspirations and find other like-minded people who also strive to put them into practice.

I thank SOLIS for the support to help make it happen. I highly recommend it for all MLIS students!

SOLIS Candidates



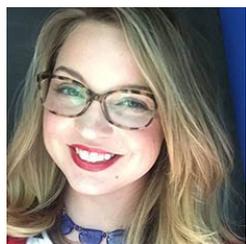
President Nominee

Jeanna Allums
Branch manager at South Georgia Regional Library. This is Jeanna’s 9th year in public library work.



Vice President Nominee

Stacey Wright
Archives assistant in the Odum Library Archives, Valdosta State University.



Secretary Nominee

Haley Sheehy
Family Library assistant at Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta, Scottish Rite, and is seeking her MLIS in order to fulfill her goal of becoming a medical librarian.

Communications Officer Nominee

Danielle Costello
Currently on staff in the VSU Dept. of Philosophy & Religious Studies—her LIS interests are archives and research.

New Faces amongst Advisory Board Member candidates:

Jherusha Lambert

John Wallace *

Mary Yeary



*John hails from New Jersey and is our first out-of-state board member. He will act as the liaison for other out-of-state students.

These 2014-2015 members have agreed to serve until December 2015. Immediate Past President, Katresa Gardner; Immediate Past VP, Douglas Carlson; Immediate Past Board member, Amy Winfrey.

Scholarship Recipient



As Kathleen Hall completed her second semester of MLIS studies in spring 2015, she received a pleasant surprise. The Scholarship Committee of the New Hampshire Library Association selected her as the recipient of its Rosalie Norris Scholarship.

So, Kathleen started the fall 2015 semester with a \$1000 scholarship to help with her tuition. Congratulations, Kathleen!

The Scholarship is listed among the “25 Great Scholarships for Library Science Majors” at <http://www.topdegreesonline.org/scholarships/library-science/>

PINNACLE Class of 2015-2016

Georgia Public Library Service (GPLS) will reprise its institute last offered in 2007-2008. Called PINNACLE (Public Library Institute for New and Creative Leadership Education), the curriculum will guide 20 delegates selected from Georgia public libraries through leadership training which includes a self-directed learning project.

These six VSU graduates are among those selected for the PINNACLE class of 2015-2016:

- ◆ Pauline Abbide (Dougherty County, Director)
- ◆ Jennifer Lautzenheiser (Middle Georgia Regional, Director)
- ◆ Miguel Vicente (South Georgia Regional, Director)
- ◆ Stephan Houser (Twin Lakes Regional, Director)
- ◆ Kristin Eberhart (Augusta-Richmond, Outreach Manager)
- ◆ Micah Newsome (Greater Clarks-Hill, YA Librarian)

For more on the PINNACLE institute, go to:

<http://www.georgialibraries.org/news/pdf/current.pdf>



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 2015-2016 year marks the 14th anniversary of the MLIS program, and the T-shirt shows our founding date of 2001 as an open entry. Order a shirt now 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 . 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 :

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