

Congratulations! Class of 2020



Rufus Freeman



Stacey Brucale



Shannon Meyer



Alexander Thomerson



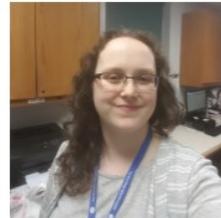
Lauren Jones



Briyantán Ganaganayagam



Kimberly Burnette-Dean



Elizabeth Carroll



SOLIS

STUDENT ORGANIZATION OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SCIENCE

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PAGE 2

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Mary Beth Temples



Destiny Barber



Jennifer Sullivan



NOT PICTURED

Arroyo, Jeovany
Croom, Tobias
Ferguson, Alexis
Hall, Juree
Herman, Kyle
Jacobs, Ariel
Johnson, Alexandra
Johnson, Amanda
Lee, Michelle
Maldonado, Jose
Metzger, Michael

Olson, Vickie
Pariser, Kristen
Presley, Laine
Schultz, Taylor
Shaw, Amy
Skelley, Robin
Szvetecz, Amy
Tolman, Allison
Van Atta, Stephanie
Williames, Sylvia

Check out the congratulations video put together by Niq Tognoni: <https://youtu.be/tQcBNpcSLnI>

SOLIS Calls for Nominations for 2020-2021

Thank you to SOLIS 2019-2020 officers and advisory board members for coordinating and organizing many great activities and events for MLIS students under the leadership of SOLIS President Sarah Yawn. As SOLIS faculty advisor, I am really proud of you for your dedications to MLIS students.

SOLIS is now pleased to announce the call for nominations for the 2020-2021 academic year. We are seeking candidates for SOLIS **President, Vice President, Secretary, Communications Officer**, and **six members of the SOLIS advisory board**. MLIS students who are interested in serving on SOLIS in the 2020-2021 academic year should email Dr. Ren at xren@valdosta.edu, and submit the following items by **August 25, 2020**:

1. A short biography (1-2 paragraphs, no more than 50 words)
2. An election statement (The position you wish to run for and why)
3. A photo of yourself – head and shoulders only

Please visit the SOLIS webpage at: <https://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-informationscience/solis/> for more information. You may also reach out to your current SOLIS officers and advisory board members for advice and input. Here are some reflections from the current SOLIS officers and advisory board members:

- *As SOLIS President, I attended monthly faculty meetings via conference call, led one SOLIS meeting a semester, kept in constant communication with our faculty advisor and with the other officers and advisory board members, and was responsible for helping with SOLIS events. Being a SOLIS leader is a fantastic way to get involved, while receiving your MLIS degree at VSU and it also allows you to work with wonderful classmates and strengthen your leadership skills. If you are thinking about running for president, do it! I was a tad nervous about running and I am so glad I did-I promise it is fun and not near as scary as it sounds. (SOLIS 2019-2020 President Sarah Yawn)*
- *Serving with SOLIS allowed me to meet and get to know other students within the MLIS program. When an entire program is online, this can be a difficult task and I was thankful for the opportunity this gave us to meet and interact, even if we were so far away. The leaders are really great and care about the students they serve. We had to find creative ways to get students to participate in SOLIS activities and to maintain a social media presence. I believe it is a great way for MLIS students to seek out leadership opportunities if they want to serve their fellow students. (SOLIS 2019-2020 Communication Officer Pate Council)*
- *Serving as a SOLIS advisory board member as a distance learner helped me feel connected to my peers and to VSU as a whole. In addition to meeting with the other board members and staff advisor, I enjoyed working on the semester activities, especially our virtual graduation celebration. I'm grateful to all those who served alongside me, and look forward to what other SOLIS board members will do in the future for VSU. (SOLIS 2019-2020 Advisory Board Member Niq Tognoni)*
- *As a member of the SOLIS Advisory board I attended the SOLIS Board Meetings where we discussed the activities for that semester and other issues. I was also fortunate enough to be able to attend GLA conference in Macon, GA and helped out a little at our MLIS booth in the vendor area. Serving on the Advisory Board has helped me feel a deeper connection to the school and I'm thankful for the opportunity! (SOLIS 2019-2020 Advisory Board member Matt Yohn)*

Congratulations to Sinead Tanner for winning the 2020 Virginia Library Association Scholarship.

Talk to Dr. Most!

Dr. Most held her Spring 2020 “Talk to Dr. Most” listening session on the evening of April 23, 2020 using Blackboard Collaborate Ultra inside MLIS Village. These online listening sessions offer a chance for students to chase down rumors, ask questions, offer suggestions, or simply share their thoughts about the MLIS degree program. These listening sessions allow both in-state and out-of-state students a chance to talk directly with the department head.

This spring seven students participated. The session was not recorded to protect the confidentiality of the process. Questions about department policies and resources were answered.

A key theme of the conversation this spring was the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on library services in general, on people’s jobs, and on students’ friends and families. Students thanked their professors for the flexibility they’ve been offered in meeting deadlines and submitting their work. There were questions about how the university is responding to the Covid-19 crisis and Dr. Most responded by sharing some of the changes the university has made in its operating plan for the summer. These changes will mostly not affect the MLIS program or courses as the MLIS program is designed to be delivered online. The most heavily impacted programs are the undergraduate campus-based face to face degree programs.

Several students asked for more details about the contents of different courses, especially about MLIS 7700 and MLIS 7800 and Dr. Most reminded participants that all MLIS course syllabi are available on the departmental webpages. Go to the Library & Information Studies homepage, then click on “Our Program” in the menu on the right. There you will find a link labeled “Course Info and Syllabi”: <http://www.valdosta.edu/colleges/education/master-of-library-and-information-science/our-program/course-info-and-syllabi/> -- all MLIS course syllabi from previous semesters can be found here. One first semester student asked if there are ever live chat sessions held in scheduled classes (like the Talk to Dr. Most session). Dr. Most responded that live chats using Blackboard Collaborate Ultra are an option for the faculty but not required.

The conversation ended with expressions of appreciation for the flexibility the faculty have allowed during the second half of the semester.

The next online town hall meeting will be held in July 2020. Watch MLIS Village in BlazeVIEW for an announcement of the date and time.

SOLIS Survey Report

Earlier this year, SOLIS asked for your input on ideas and thoughts for activities and events through this survey: https://valdosta.col.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6VRMAcfqcnu4nDT. Big thanks to those who responded. Your input is greatly appreciated! Below is a summary of the survey findings:

- **Please tell us what you liked about the activity or event, and what could have been done better:**
 - ◆ *I liked that it could be done by distance learners.*
 - ◆ *It was nice to meet my classmates and professors. The room felt kind of small and crowded in Macon, GA.*
 - ◆ *The meet up in Macon was a great chance to meet my classmates and professors. The room we were in felt a little small for the size of the event.*
- **What was the main reason that prevented you from participating in the activities or events?**
 - ◆ *Distance*
 - ◆ *Time constraints*
 - ◆ *Didn't know about it*
- **What type of events would you like to see SOLIS do in the future?**
 - ◆ *Fundraising events (virtual 5k, Relay for life, heart walk, book drive...)*
- **How would you prefer to receive future SOLIS notifications?**
 - ◆ *VSU Email >> MLIS Village > Facebook group*

Alumni Spotlight: Kimberly Walsh

What were your favorite classes you took while in the MLIS program?

My favorite classes while in the MLIS program were those related to instructional support and reference. Courses that encouraged artistic expression were special favorites. I enjoyed seeing how peers applied differing creative approaches. The classes listed below connected theory to actual practice. Student presentations, for instance, offered relief from dry textbook reading. Dr. Ren's assignments requiring practice in high precision searches were always welcome. Moreover, the reference-oriented courses turned me into a search geek!

MLIS 7430 Information Literacy Instruction
 MLIS 7140 Advanced Reference
 MLIS 7100 Information Sources and Services
 MLIS 7150 Social Science Information Services



Kim graduated in 2018. She is the Reference and Instruction Librarian at University of South Carolina Beaufort Library.

What was the favorite project you worked on while in the MLIS program?

My favorite project was the capstone e-portfolio. I enjoyed the graphic design component where the visual communicates the message. The project sparked my creative spirit. Culling projects was also a nice walk down memory lane. I rediscovered a Dr. Seuss LibGuide crafted for an advanced reference course, a PowerPoint on media literacy, an annotated bibliography on medicinal marijuana, and a subpar research paper that I trashed.

How have you applied what you learned in the MLIS program to your current work?

Lessons learned while in the MLIS program apply to current service. As a reference and instruction librarian at an academic library, I am tasked with assisting students, faculty, and the community at large. As the university converts to online studies, lessons learned in information literacy are applied to remote learning. Prior coursework in asynchronous instruction eases the transition to embedded librarianship. Reference duties also draw upon lessons learned. Coursework in mediated searches offered insight into real world reference behavior. Helping students configure search strategies to meet an information need comprises a major portion of my day. The academic literature reports that online reference duties require a more nuanced understanding of the reference transaction than in-person sessions. I agree. The in-person dance is not easily replicated in the online arena. In the end, whatever the service platform, the service expectation is the same.

Do you have any advice for upcoming graduates on job searches and life as a new graduate?

The Covid-19 crisis is front and center with traditional pathways to employment blocked. In-person networking? Nope. In-person interviews? Not happening. This is uncharted territory. Moving outside of traditional pathways is the way to employment. The nonlinear Internet arena, fortunately, offers endless access points. As information specialists, you are uniquely positioned to find these access points. Dig deep into the social media scene. If, like me, your personality leans toward that of an introvert, you might find online networking preferable to in-person networking. Despite locked doors, institutional media accounts remain active. Someone, somewhere, is checking the postings. Review known organizations. If interested in a specific institution, follow it on social media. Search for the unknown and non-traditional organizations too. Facebook hosts hundreds of remote work groups (e.g., Female Digital Nomads). As with anything online, exercise due diligence. Remote work demonstrates a needed digital skillset. Upon graduation, a stint as a virtual reference librarian helped me secure work as a full time librarian. Consider contractual service in online ESL instruction. The point is to demonstrate digital proficiency. You got this!



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

Proceeds of sales in years past have funded ALA conference registrations for several students, travel reimbursements for SOLIS officers representing SOLIS at GLA conferences, a reception for the travelling rare books exhibit on loan from the Remnant Trust, and a 15th anniversary celebration in downtown Valdosta.

Shirts are sold at \$10 each at events such as GA COMO conferences.

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 _____

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 . 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 :

Dr. Xiaoi Ren
 Department of Library and Information Studies
 Valdosta State University
 Valdosta, GA 31698