

## SOLIS Officers Nominees

### Nominee for President:

**Bio:** Hello all, my name is *Ashton Hedrick*. I have been in the program for one year. I live in Athens, GA and work in the advising office at the University of Georgia. My hobbies include reading YA novels and novels turned movies, watching CW TV shows, playing with my dog, Henri, and watching Georgia Football (Go Dawgs)!



**Election Statement:** To me, being the leader of SOLIS means more than attending and leading meetings. It means being open to ideas from SOLIS members, strategizing problems and deadlines with officers, actively listening to the advisory board and their suggestions, and remaining in constant contact with faculty members. In addition, I plan to provide assistance and guidance for any and all projects brought forth by SOLIS members and officers. All in all, I want to foster a sense of community within SOLIS for students who are near and far, and remain open and willing to make this organization a successful one. Thank you all for taking the time to consider me as a candidate!

### Nominee for Vice President:

**Bio:** *Heather Martz* is currently in her fourth semester of VSU's MLIS program, Heather works at the Peachtree City Library as a reference specialist. She also serves on the board of directors as chapter librarian for PFLAG Peachtree City.



**Election Statement:** If elected Vice President of SOLIS, I would be honored to represent the MLIS student body. I look forward to the opportunity to meet and serve the members of this vibrant and diverse community.

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## Congratulations!!!

**Rebekah L Craig**

*2018 Blanche E. Woolls Scholarship for School Library*

*Media Service*

**Kimberly Burnette-Dean**

*2018 Roanoke Valley Library Association Scholarship*

Cast your vote here: [https://valdosta.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ai3igxKDsoXY9jX](https://valdosta.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ai3igxKDsoXY9jX)

## SOLIS Advisory Board Member Nominees



**Bio:** *Sarah Shelton Yawn* has been in the MLIS program since fall 2017 and served as a SOLIS Advisory Board Member this past year. Currently, she is working as a Circulation Clerk at the Moultrie-Colquitt County Library System Main Library in Moultrie, Georgia.

**Election Statement:** I really enjoyed serving on the SOLIS Advisory Board this past year. If elected to serve on the SOLIS Advisory Board again, I will continue to strive to represent all students.

**Bio:** Former English instructor and current MLIS student, *Patrice J Williams* is in the last year of the program. She has B.A in English and is currently pursuing the Reference track.



**Election Statement:** If elected to the SOLIS advisory board, I will help cultivate growth between current students and other professionals in the field. It is important that librarians network with each other, not just for the growth of the profession as a whole, but to change the vision and image people have of modern-day librarians. Conversation is key.



**Bio:** *Jessica Varsa* is a first year MLIS student at Valdosta State University who is currently employed in the Collections Department at the Athens-Clarke County Regional Library System. Prior to enrolling in the MLIS program, I worked in local government technical assistance for twelve years.

**Election Statement:** I am running for the position of member of the advisory board so that I can provide support and expertise to the SOLIS Executive Board, MLIS Program and the general student body. When I was a masters student in urban planning, I served as Vice President of the planners organization, and I very much enjoyed the leadership position and implemented several new programs for students.

**Bio:** *Kaitlin Dotson* is in her third semester of the MLIS program, having declared the optional track in library management. She has worked in libraries for four years, and is currently a processing assistant at Hargrett Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Georgia.

**Election Statement:** I want to represent and work with my peers to create a better program for everyone. I will listen to our students in order to understand exactly what kind of changes and activities they want to see in our program. I will provide constructive input to the SOLIS officers on behalf of our students, regarding the MLIS program and departmental decisions.



I have past experience working on committees, including the Library Staff Association, Library Staff Representative Group, and the History Graduate Student Association. On each committee, I acted as a liaison with administration in order to enact positive change for our staff and students.



**Bio:** *Regina Aaron* is a recipient of both the VSU Dorothy Dewar Service Scholarship and the ALA Kino Lorber EDU/VRT Scholarship. Regina completed her BS in Environmental Science from Oregon State University in 2017 and also holds a BA in Geography from UC Berkeley. Her MLIS interests are online learning and tribal/rural libraries.

She has a background in digital media from working at Warner Bros., Kodak and Sony and currently works within the Santa Monica Public Library system in California as a Librarian Assistant with multiple roles - administrative, circulation and reference. While she is interested in many things including comics, oceanography, coding and screenwriting, her desire is to bring library resources to underserved communities.

**Election Statement:** I believe that as VSU's MLIS program grows it needs the input from students who reside outside of Georgia. As a California resident my place on the board would bring to light issues of importance to distance students.

Cast your vote here: [https://valdosta.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_ai3igxKDsoXY9JX](https://valdosta.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ai3igxKDsoXY9JX)

## Conference Chatter : ALA Annual

*Who dat in New Orleans?*

It's VSU MLIS Student and SOLIS Award recipient, Jurée Hall!

I am super excited to send a cheery hello and special thank you to SOLIS for its support of my attendance at the 2018 American Library Association Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

It was truly the most memorable moment of my graduate programs studies by far. My experience at ALA in New Orleans began with the wonderful Opening Session with former First Lady Ms. Michelle Obama. Her message and talk was inspiring. I had the joy of meeting Dr. Carla Hayden, Librarian of Congress, and was overjoyed to see Jim Neal, ALA President, again.

I was also able to attend wonderful sessions and meet librarians and information specialists from all over the world throughout the Convention Center. The speakers were so diverse and the workshops were fantastic.

The highlight of my conference experience was attending the Coretta Scott King Book Awards. This summer I was taking MLIS 7421-Multicultural Youth Literature from Dr. Carruth and Dr. Drouillard. It was really an overwhelming feeling throughout the breakfast to see and hear so many points of reference that we have been studying in class. Since our class engagement provided an understanding of the children's awards – criterion, selection process, cultural relativity and accuracy - seeing and attending the awards breakfast was surreal.

At the CSK Awards Breakfast I was able to meet Renée Watson 2018 Winner for her book *Piecing Me Together*, and I also met other winners author Derrick Barnes and Illustrator Gordon James were recognized for their work, *Crown: An Ode to the Fresh Cut*.

The Exhibit Hall by far was my favorite place to hang out. I met so many authors including Trombone Shorty, the jazz artist who performed the Opening Celebration music for the General Session. I was able to get so many books and information on so many aspects of information centers. I especially was thankful to get LGBTQ children books – materials I would have never ever thought of picking up prior to having taken my MLIS 7421 class.

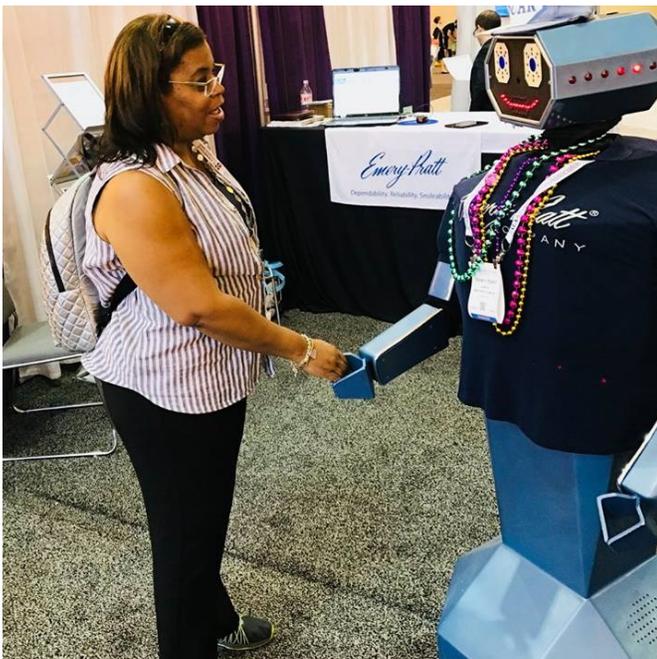
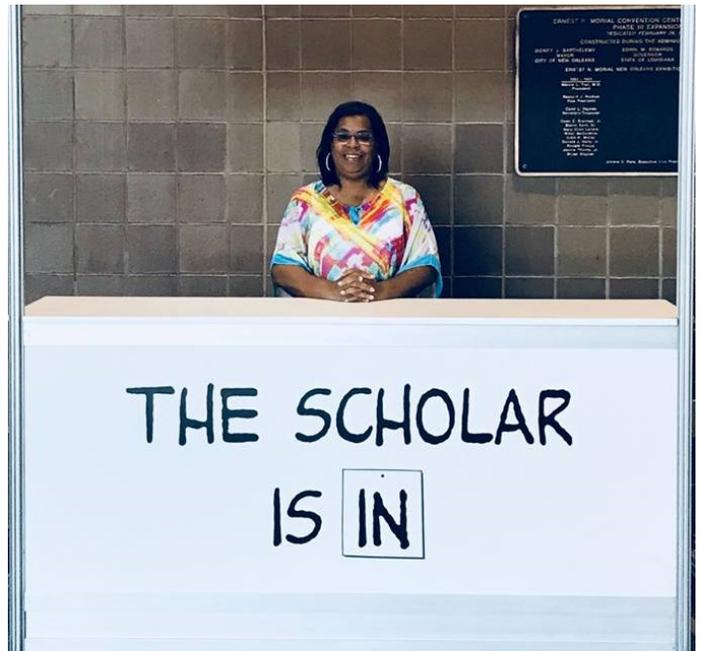
All MLIS students should try to attend an ALA Conference at least once during their time in the program. It ties together all of the program objectives in a way that helps you really understand how vast the world of LIS is. I will forever have a deep heartfelt thanks to my Conference Award and SOLIS support that enabled this wonderful learning experience provided through Valdosta State University's MLIS Graduate Program.

Check out more pictures from the conference on page 4!



*Jurée Hall with Carla Hayden, the Librarian of Congress*

## More Pictures from ALA Annual!



## ALA Student-to-Staff Report

It has been a true honor of mine to attend the American Library Association's (ALA) Annual Conference in New Orleans this year as an ALA Student-to-Staff participant. The ALA Student-to-Staff program provides selected MLIS graduate students from all across the United States and Canada with an opportunity to work behind the scenes at an ALA conference. During the 2018 conference, I was assigned to work in the division of ALA Governance where I primarily assisted with event setup and rehearsals for special events.

During my time working in the ALA Governance division, I had the opportunity to meet fellow ALA staff members, notable ALA leaders, a few authors, and even Carla Hayden, the 14th Librarian of Congress. Dr. Hayden and I had a brief discussion about the importance of library science education. My first day as an ALA Governance assistant involved working as a VIP usher at the Opening General Session featuring Michelle Obama and Carla Hayden. I was fortunate enough to sit in the second row of the event behind ALA president, Jim Neal.

During my second day of work, I assisted with staging and rehearsal at the ALA Awards Presentation. After unpacking boxes and setting up the award station, I served as the stand-in for Jim Neal during the rehearsal. On my last day, I worked at the Schneider Family Book Award Luncheon. This event honored the 2018 Schneider Family Award recipients for their artistic expressions of children with disabilities. Authors Allen Say, Whitney Gardner, and Shari Green were all in attendance.

When I was not working at the conference, I had time to attend a few panels including *The Librarian and the Archivist: A Discussion with Carla Hayden and David Ferriero* and *Transforming the Learning Experience Together: Public Libraries Team Up with the MIT Media Lab*. I also had time to visit the vendors' exhibit hall, attend a resume review session, and watch the documentary film, *Kedi*, in one of the theaters. One of the most memorable moments of the conference for me was when I met Diana Haneski and Yvonne Cech, two survivors of active shooter attacks at Stoneman Douglas High School and Sandy Hook Elementary School. I had the opportunity to hear in person how these two incredibly brave women helped shield children and colleagues from harm during active shooter attacks. It was an emotional moment for everyone in the audience when they each received the same well-deserved award, the Lemony Snicket Prize for Noble Librarians Faced with Adversity.

The ALA Student-to-Staff program is an excellent opportunity for MLIS students to see firsthand the inner workings of a conference from behind the scenes. As a student participant, you will have opportunities to meet notable ALA leaders and possibly meet renowned authors in addition to networking with librarians from all across the United States. Overall, my experience at ALA this year has been enjoyable, educational, and highly rewarding. I hope that my experience as an ALA Student-to-Staff participant will inspire others in our MLIS program to apply for this exciting opportunity in the future.



Rosanne V. Guy is a 2018 Recipient of the Student-to-Staff ALA Award

## Georgia Libraries Conference VSU Meet-up!



Let's meet up at the Georgia Library conference: Wednesday 4:30-6:30 at the Atrium at B Merrell's. <https://www.bmerrells.net/menus/> on Veterans Parkway in Columbus. It will be a self-pay happy hour. Please email Dr. Most to reserve your spot so the venue knows how many are attending. You can also RSVP on our VSU MLIS Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/136986118569/>.

We hope to see you at the conference!



### Join VSU MLIS LinkedIn Group

All current students, alumni, and professors of the Valdosta State University MLIS program are welcome to join this group. This will be a place to connect with our growing network of VSU library and information professionals.

Find out more at:

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4874360>

### SOLIS Calls for News Items

Please share with us your news about a recently awarded scholarship, a conference presentation, or a paid internship opportunity, or other exciting news of your scholarly and professional achievements. Please send your news items to [xren@valdosta.edu](mailto:xren@valdosta.edu) as they happen. Thank you!

Follow Valdosta State University's MLIS program on Facebook for job postings, articles, and discussion related to librarianship. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/136986118569/>

## Alumni Spotlight: John Wallace

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

*My favorite classes were Information Literacy and HR Management. Both areas were both fascinating and practical to my work.*

**What was your favorite project you worked on while an MLIS student?**

*Perhaps not my favorite during, but I was very proud of my capstone paper. The project focused on the intersection of social justice and librarianship. I often discussed portions of the research during job interviews to help explain the development of my own philosophy of librarianship.*

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

*I think attaining the MLIS degree provided a higher level of confidence in my work. Much of librarianship can be learned through on-the-job experiences, however, I have found the underpinning of knowledge really helps you trust your judgement.*

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

*My best advice is to become active in your state level library associations. Volunteer for committees, seek out projects, and find ways to get involved. The Library World is surprisingly small and these connections are crucial for the job search - especially if you don't happen live anywhere near Valdosta (like me).*



John was hired as the Community Engagement Librarian at Piscataway Public Library in May 2017. John is active in the New Jersey Library Association, serving as the Chair for the Public Policy Committee and the Co-Chair of the Committee Internship Program. John was also recently recognized with the NJLA's Rising Star Award.



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 :

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