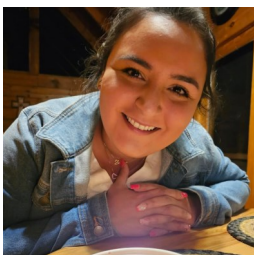




2025-2026 SOLIS Officers

President: Maria J. Alvares



Bio: Maria is a dedicated Youth Services Specialist with over five years of experience in public libraries. She is passionate about connecting underserved communities with meaningful library services and resources. As a bilingual professional, Maria effectively bridges language and cultural gaps, both within the library and throughout the broader community. She played a key role in launching a system-wide mobile library initiative designed to bring library services directly to communities where access is limited. She has collaborated with community members and library leadership on various committees, where she has successfully organized and implemented programs and initiatives. In her free time, you can find her on a hike with her dog or cuddled on a couch reading.

Election Statement: Throughout my library career, I have taken on a variety of leadership roles that have given me firsthand insight into the value of collaboration, advocacy, and inclusive service. These experiences have strengthened my confidence in my ability to serve and support our community effectively. Over the years, I have honed my communication, organizational, and team-building skills through both professional and personal commitments, skills I am eager to bring to the President role. I am deeply committed to creating a supportive and engaged environment for MLIS students. As President, I would work to ensure that our voices are heard on the departmental meetings, provide transparent updates to our community, and help foster meaningful opportunities for both personal connection and professional development within SOLIS.

Vice President: Ivy S. Moe

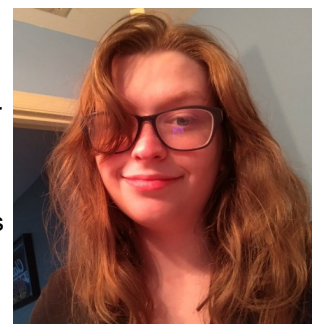


Bio: Ivy is an adult reference services librarian working in Colorado, with a passion for technology assistance and resource navigation. She is approaching the halfway point of her MLIS studies at Valdosta. When not at the library, she's passionate about queer community performance organizations and being in too many book clubs.

Election Statement: I am interested in the vice president role because I have been working in libraries for years and have taken on several leadership positions across systems. I also served on my chorus' council, including two years as president, and on the board of directors for my larger arts organization. I believe I have the knowledge, motivation and skillset to thrive in this role and support my fellow MLIS students.

Communications Officer: Ashley M. Adamian

Bio: Ashley Adamian is a library assistant for a local public library. She entered VSU's MLIS program in Fall 2024 and pursued her undergraduate degree in English with a concentration in professional writing. She enjoys reading, writing, and playing Dungeons and Dragons in her free time.



Election Statement: I am interested in running for the Communications Officer position within SOLIS because I understand the importance of communication and want to become more involved with the student community. I have a strong background in writing, including experience working for a student newspaper, and I believe in promoting professional development. I look forward to working with the community.

2025-2026 SOLIS Officers

Secretary: Jami E. Long

Bio: My name is Jami, I am the assistant director of the Dormann Library in Bath, New York. Prior to holding this position, I was the Programming Coordinator at the same Library. I hold an associate's degree in fine arts and a bachelor's degree in visual arts education, along with the correlating teaching certification. I graduated from my bachelor's program with a 3.97 GPA while working full time. Aside from academic pursuits, I am involved in my community through the local Rotary club and the Alumni Association from my high school. I pride myself on my dedication to community engagement and life-long learning. I am running for the SOLIS Secretary because I want to be involved in this community while I am a part of it and I enjoy using my skills to benefit my colleagues and classmates.



Election Statement: I am running for the advisory board/Secretary, I would like to join and offer my skills in a variety of ways. I handle communication, finances, and problem solving in my role as the assistant director at my local library. I believe all these skills would be crucial and beneficial for a member of this advisory board to possess. If I am elected, it would be my goal to engage students from the MLIS program and help to build a lasting sense of community in the MLIS cohort. I also have experience making exciting promotional materials which I think could aid in this endeavor. I hope that my fellow students can see the strengths I would bring to the table and if given this opportunity, I will look forward to proving my abilities.

2025-2026 SOLIS Advisory Board Members

Bio: Aidan Bliss (they/he) is a library associate at SCAD's Jen Library in Savannah, GA, where they've worked for around five years. They received a dual BA in English and Art from the University of the South in 2018 before earning an MFA in Writing from SCAD in 2022. On track to graduate from Valdosta in 2026, they are currently pursuing an MLIS to elevate their professional grasp of the library world. When they're not completely exhausted by everything, they can be found scrawling in a notebook, typically drafting some absurd fiction.



Election Statement: As an advisory board member, I will leverage my skills as a diplomat and problem solver to help SOLIS better support students in Valdosta's MLIS program. As libraries are increasingly subject to unjust challenges and scrutiny across the country, it is now more important than ever to communicate the immeasurable value they provide to their constituents. At times this can be a daunting mission, and I hope that I can be a pillar to lean on through this process. Through SOLIS, I would love to work on outreach and community building as we strive for information literacy, freedom, and education.

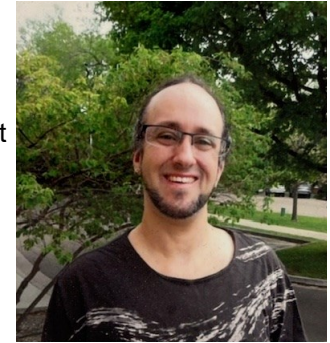
Bio: Annabelle Ho is a current SOLIS Advisory Board Member. She works as the Marketing and Program Specialist at the Dedham Public Library, and as a Substitute Library Assistant at the Wellesley and Westwood Public Libraries in Massachusetts. She has been working in public libraries since 2021, and she is in her second year at VSU. She enjoys playing music, including playing the fiddle and ukulele. Annabelle is also a registered dietitian nutritionist with a M.S. in Food and Nutrition.

Election Statement: I have enjoyed being on the Advisory Board for the past two years, and I would love to be on the SOLIS Advisory Board one more time in my last year at Valdosta State University! Being on the SOLIS Executive Board is a great way to make connections with students in this online program, and I am open to hearing from students about their thoughts, questions, and concerns. By being on the advisory board, I hope to help create a feeling of community, inclusion, support, and fun for students in the MLIS program.



2025-2026 SOLIS Advisory Board Members

Bio: Hi everyone! My name is Kris Stanich. I currently work full-time in the Technical Services department of a library in northern Colorado. My background prior to library work is in marine archaeology and forensic science. In pursuing my MLIS, my eventual hope is to parlay these experiences into an archival career helping to preserve and share maritime history with a broader audience. When not at the library, I enjoy historical sewing and crafting, playing video games, and hiking with my spouse.



Election Statement: As a part of our city's Equity Team as well as a member of our Employee Advisory Group, I've been able to share concerns and implement changes, bridging the gaps between City leadership, City employees, and our broader community. By participating in SOLIS as an Advisory Board member, I look forward to representing and supporting other Valdosta State MLIS students. Especially in a remote program, it's challenging to foster a sense of involvement and belonging, and I want to let students know that their aspirations as well as their concerns are being heard.

Congratulations!!

Congratulations to all our graduates! Keep doing great things, making differences and making us proud!



Alumni Spotlight – Brooke Rose

Brooke Rose graduated from Valdosta State's MLIS program in May 2018. She is currently the Branch Manager of the Sharon Forks Library in the Forsyth County (GA) Public Library system. Before becoming Branch Manager in July 2024, Brooke was an Information Services Supervisor for 6 years for FCPL. Throughout her library career, she has worked in Circulation, Youth, and Adult Services since 2009.



What drew you to the library field and the MLIS?

I have always been fascinated by people and the idea of helping communities. After deciding not to pursue my original career path in Cultural Anthropology, my aunt told me, "I always pictured you working in a library." It was an epiphanal moment for me. After securing a part-time job in a public library, it did not take me long to realize a library is where I need to be. As a librarian, I am able to help individual people and entire communities through books, programming, and other services. And there is never a dull moment working with the public!

What were your favorite classes while in the MLIS program?

I particularly enjoyed Community Building in Libraries (MLIS 7997), Marketing Library Services (MLIS 7240), and Leadership in Libraries and Information Centers (MLIS 7260). Libraries can be an impactful part of a community, so I loved learning creative ways to make an impact and get the word out in the community. Project Management (MLIS 7999) was fun because my brain does not naturally think in that way, so it was helpful to learn tricks for staying organized and on target when completing a large project.

Did you choose an area of interest for your MLIS? If so, what was your interest and why did you choose it?

I elected to follow the Management track because it has always been a goal of mine to become a Branch Manager. I benefited from the classes on Leadership, not only leading staff within the library but also leading a library within the community.

What was your favorite course project while receiving your MLIS degree? Why did you enjoy it, and what did you learn from it?

My favorite course project was the Community Building Plan for a fictional library. The goal of this project was to create a plan for the library to strengthen their connection with the community as well as provide specific suggestions for programs designed to attract new patrons and bring library services to the community beyond the library walls. I enjoyed this project because too many people still don't know what libraries do beyond books, and for public libraries to thrive, it is so important for them to find creative ways to get their services into the communities.

What is your current library position? Have you held other library positions, and if so, what?

I am currently Branch Manager of the Sharon Fork Library in the Forsyth County (GA) Public Library system. Previously at FCPL I was Information Services Supervisor for 6 years. Prior to FCPL, I worked at Sequoyah Regional Library System for 8 years as a Youth Services Coordinator and a Circulation Clerk.

How has what you learned while getting your MLIS degree directly affected or been applied to your work?

The courses I completed in the Management track provided me with the foundation to successfully manage and motivate staff in a branch as well as to lead my library as an engaged and impactful agent in the community. When I started the program, I was not a supervisor yet. The Management courses I took helped me explore different Leadership styles and develop my personal approach. As a Branch Manager, it is not enough that I love my job. I also want my staff to love their jobs, and my leadership directly affects their job satisfaction. These courses helped me prepare for library-related scenarios as well as the importance of soliciting team input and of providing staff the opportunity to use their skills and interests.

Alumni Spotlight – Brooke Rose

Do you have any advice for upcoming graduates on how to navigate the job search and/or the field as a new graduate?

As a student in the MLIS program, you are already learning the foundational knowledge of the mission of libraries to serve everyone. Libraries have evolved over the years and will continue to evolve. Learning does not stop on graduation day. It is so crucial to keep up with trends and keep your approach relevant. Do your research! Keep in mind that every library and every community is different. When you are job hunting, research the library's mission, strategic plan, and community demographics and show that you have specific ideas for how to keep the library relevant to their community. If you do not already have practical library experience, it may be helpful to find some volunteer or internship opportunities to get your foot in the door.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Libraries are still the cornerstone of any community, whether that community is the town you live in or a school campus. I'm excited to see what the next generation of MLIS students will bring to the field and how it will continue to evolve and thrive!

What are some of your favorite parts about your position?

My Deputy Director aptly says a Branch Manager is a unique position because they have one foot in the branch and one foot in administration. In my opinion, this makes it a perfect job because I am in the position to advocate for my community in the branch and to advocate for my branch to administration. Branch Managers have input in the decision-making process and are lucky to be able to see those decisions put into action and the impact they make in the community.

We love to celebrate your achievements. Keep sending your news about recently awarded scholarships, a conference presentation, a paid internship opportunity, or other exciting news of your scholarly and/or professional achievements to xren@valdosta.edu as they happen. Thank you!

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 have funded ALA conference registrations for 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, a 15th anniversary celebration in downtown Valdosta, and many SOLIS activities such as virtual 5k, and t-shirt design contest. The proceeds of sales will be the main funding source for a newly created SOLIS scholarship starting from Fall 2021.

SOLIS T-Shirt Order Form

Yes, I want to support SOLIS! Please send me _____ (number) of shirts.

Please fill in the oval next to your preferred t-shirt design:



Please indicate the quantity for each size:

Small_____ Medium_____ Large_____ X-Large_____ 2X-Large* _____ 3X-Large* _____

*sizes not available for white t-shirt

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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