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Call for Updates

Please share with us your news about recently awarded scholarships, a conference presentation, a paid internship opportunity, or other exciting news of your scholarly and/or professional achievements.

Please send your news items to xren@valdosta.edu as they happen. Thank you!

We're on

facebook



Issue Editors:

Melissa N. Thompson & Dr. Ren

VSU MLIS at 2020 GA Libraries Conference

(MLIS students/alumni in bold)

Laurie Aycock co-presented "All Hands On Deck: Developing a Job Shadowing Program in Collection Development."

Denise Dimsdale co-presented "Diving Deep into Dissertation Data: Analyzing Graduate Students' Dissertations to Inform Research Data Services."

Shannan Furlow presented "Building the Foundation For Grant Seeking in Public Libraries."

Brandy R. Horne co-presented "A Welcome Cite: Perspectives on Librarian Roles and Writing Center Support for the Successful Adoption of Citation Manual Updates across a Campus."

Kelsey Jordan co-presented "Where Have We Been and Where Should We Be Going? A Needs Assessment Study of Graduate Students' Data Needs."

Kristina S. Lang presented "Staying Grounded In & Out of the Library: Practical Applications of Contemplative Practices for Librarians." - see poster below

Aspasia Luster co-presented "Campus Closures, Viruses, and Virtual Finals Frenzy" and "All Hands on Deck: Incorporating Additional Departments to Expand Online Reference Assistance During Closure,"

Chris Morris presented "Our OpenAthens Journey: Lessons Learned and Looking to the Future."

Samantha Paul co-presented "Distance Librarianship Under Duress: Lessons Learned from the COVID-19 Closures."

Scott Pieper co-presented "Preserving the History of a Consolidated University Instruction as Diversity Outreach: National History Day."

Jennifer Price presented "Equity In Focus: Public Library Business Services Through the Social Justice Lens."

Samantha Reardon, Jennifer Carter, and Matthew Foley co-presented "Everybody In! And We Mean Everybody: Ink and Professionalism in Libraries."

Amy Stalker presented "Everyone In!: Building and maintaining culture on your team."

Robert Taylor presented "Queering the Catalog."

Congratulations!

Congratulations to **Aspasia S Luster** for publishing her History of Libraries paper titled **Female Librarians and the Civil Rights Movement** on the Library History Round Table's blog *Library News & Notes* on May 20th:

<https://lhrtnews.wordpress.com/themes-in-library-history/>

Second Annual VSU SOLIS Virtual 5K

SOLIS invites everyone to participate in this year's Virtual 5K!

A virtual 5K is self-paced marathon! Participants can walk, run, or jog a total of 3.1 miles before the end of 2020 to take part in this event. Everyone is encouraged to pledge an amount to be donated to the charity of their choice. In addition, 3 participants will have a chance to win a \$25 gift card!

To participate in the race, students can register at <https://tinyurl.com/y4fpn3tl> before December 7th. Donations are anonymous and there is an option to specify whether you would like to have your name printed in the next SOLIS newsletter for participating.

Use the hashtag **#VSUSOLIS5K20** to connect with other entrants and post your photos, anecdotes, or a well deserved self-brag for completing the 5k!

Email SOLIS officers if you have any questions.

Matthew Yohn, President, mcyohn@valdosta.edu

Taryn Mirabello, Vice President, tmirabello@valdosta.edu

Melissa Thompson, Communications Officer, melthompson@valdosta.edu

Angelica Chapman, Secretary/Treasurer, aachapman@valdosta.edu

Meet-and-Greet with the BCALA President!

SOLIS hosted a meet-and-greet session with Shauntee Burns-Simpson, President of the Black Caucus of the American Library Association! On November 19, in a virtual meet-and-greet session in Collaborate Ultra, Mrs. Burns-Simpson spoke about BCALA and its activities, as well as a host of projects and initiatives involving the organization. The President took questions at the end and surprised participants with a complimentary membership to BCALA for one year!

To learn more about BCALA and how to get involved, visit their website at <https://www.bcala.org/>.

"I really enjoyed the opportunity to hear from the President of BCALA firsthand, and to connect course lessons concerning diversity in librarianship to the real world." - Jeremy McAninch

"I was excited for BCALA Shauntee Burns-Simpson's presentation! I think everyone who attended got a lot out of it! I was interested in the work they're doing and their plans for the future. They have some big plans for 2021 and some interesting webinars coming up in December." - Matthew Yohn

December 6th: "Working Together: How can Public and School Librarians Support Each Other"

December 14th: "Social Change Book Club: Creating a Brave Space to Discuss Community Issues"

"It was great to hear the different projects and initiatives that BCALA are working towards, and receiving encouragement from President Shauntee Burns-Simpson to volunteer for committees, even as students, was a pleasure." - Mahogany Skillings



Alumni Spotlight: Holly Hampton

Short Professional Biography: Holly Hampton graduated in 2018. She is now the Head of User Services/User Experience Librarian at California State University San Marcos (CSUSM), one of the 23 campuses of the largest four-year public universities in the nation. In this role, she is responsible for providing lead work direction and support for the User Services team as well as investigating, suggesting, and implementing User Experience best practices and theory.

The University Library's User Services unit is responsible for the facilitation and circulation of the library's collections and equipment; providing front-line staffing during all operating hours; listening to, understanding, and responding to the needs of library users; maintaining and circulating faculty/course reserves; collecting fines and fees for late, lost, or damaged materials; and directing users to library and campus resources.

In leading this unit, Holly identifies and implements potential improvements to the department and the unit, identifies potential or existing issues or obstacles and takes the steps necessary to resolve them, takes lead on high-level projects, facilitates meetings, and serves as the representation for many of the staff and faculty that are a part of the User Services unit. As the User Experience Librarian, Holly works to suggest ways in which the library can develop and improve innovative, user-centered library-wide public services, spaces, policies, and procedures. Holly's mission in her position is to keep current with the trends and developments in the field of librarianship to find ways to connect with and hear from library users as well as provide guidance to the User Services unit and the library department to ensure they continue to support the scholarly endeavors of their students, faculty, and staff and ensure a positive work environment for US team members.



What were your favorite classes while in the MLIS program?

My favorite classes were the reference courses and management course. In the reference courses, I had the opportunity to pursue my interest in learning more about how to help users with reference questions and concerns. This allowed me to take on a more active role in assisting with reference services at the library in which I was employed. The skills I learned also allowed me to be more versatile in my work. The reference course I particularly enjoyed was MLIS 7110, Online Searching, where I learned about the methods of information retrieval used in commercial databases and on the World Wide Web.

In the management course, I had the opportunity to work with a manager of a public library as a part of the Management Client Project. This allowed me to learn more about public libraries as well as management while I also helped to research and determine implementation options of a new space for that public library. I was also able to expand my network, my knowledge of library management, and my overall management and library science skills.

What was your favorite course project while receiving your MLIS degree?

I enjoyed working on my capstone project (MLIS 7800) as I was able to research and write about a topic within Library & Information Science that I have an interest in: "Accommodating Students in the 21st Century: Changing Spaces, Programs, and Services in Academic Libraries." I was also able to learn a great deal about the research process; apply what I learned from MLIS 7000 (Foundations of Library and Information Science) as I reviewed the history and development of libraries; learn about the current services, spaces, and practices utilized by libraries; utilize my Sociology skills (I have a minor in Sociology); and discover how libraries can continue to develop. It was also a very rewarding project as I knew that I would be able to continue my research as I continued my professional journey. "The Evolution of the Academic Library: Inside and Out" actually continues to be the overall theme of my research in my current tenure-track journey!

Alumni Spotlight: Holly Hampton (cont'd)

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

The skills and techniques I learned in my reference courses are ones that I was able to apply immediately to my work. I was able to engage in more reference interactions with students and help our librarians. Because of this, I was able to succeed in MLIS 7960, Supervised Fieldwork. For this course, I worked in the Reference Department and had the opportunity to revamp LibGuides, provide reference consultations, teach information literacy one-shot sessions, monitor the reference desk and reference chat, create tutorials, and so much more. Because of this experience, I began to learn about other departments within the library as I saw how this knowledge helped me to launch and develop projects, assist library patrons, and overall, be a successful library employee.

In my current position, I continue to be able to apply these skills directly to my work as I am still able to take on reference interactions; implement projects, such as implementing chat for User Services and building datasets for assessment purposes for both User Services and Teaching & Learning (Reference); take a leadership role in investigating the potential consolidation of our Media, Circulation, and Research Help desks; and overall, gain an understanding of the various library departments so that I am able to successfully perform my job as the Head of User Services/User Experience Librarian.

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

- Use the job description as a guide for your interview. Many of the questions for your interview will come from the job description and application.
- Have a diversity statement ready, and don't just say it – believe it.
- Even if you think you are not “qualified” but believe you are capable of doing the work, apply anyway. At the very least, you will gain practice applying for library positions, and at best, you will earn a great new job!
- Be confident and open-minded. Confidence goes a long way in the interview process and in your everyday worklife, but you must also stay humble, open-minded, and receptive.
- Get involved. Follow SOLIS, join local library associations, join the library associations in the area in which you'd like to work, take leadership roles within these associations and organizations, present at conferences, and do everything else you can to be involved in the profession. As a result, you will expand your network and stay up to date on the expectations of the libraries in which you work and would like to work.
- Don't just dress for the job you want, *do* the job you want. When I was in my role as Evening Circulation Assistant, I took on as many tasks as I could that were being done by the Circulation Supervisor and the Reference Librarians. When I was a Circulation Supervisor, I continued to assist with Reference Librarian work and did what I could with our organization's resources to implement innovative services, programs, and spaces. Now, I'm in this amazing role as Head of User Services/User Experience Librarian at CSUSM and I continue to branch out, learning about the various departments and taking on tasks that allow me to learn more about their work. With that I say: take on projects, join specific divisions or interest groups of library associations, participate in professional development, and ultimately keep learning and growing.



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 face-to-face events such as GLA conferences and previous 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 _____

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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