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VALDOSTA STATE UNIVERSITY

Congratulations . . .

**Yolanda M. Bergstrom-Lynch**  
*ALA Spectrum Scholarship*

**Katie Mitchell**  
*C. S. Hubbard Scholarship*  
Georgia Library Association

**Sergio Gonzalez**  
*Ronald G. Bohley Scholarship*  
Missouri Library Association

## SOLIS Officers Coming and Going

There is a quote from the poem, "Success," often used in leadership training that says people achieve success when they "ha[ve] left the world better than [they] found it."

-Bessie Stanley, 1905  
(<http://allpoetry.com/poem/8601717-Success-by-Bessie-Anderson-Stanley>).

Our SOLIS leaders for the 2015-2016 academic year certainly lived up to that definition. They are leaving the MLIS student organization in good stead both in terms of activities which they initiated, goals they achieved, and financial stability.

A huge note of appreciation goes out to our departing officers: Jeanna Al-lums (President – she will remain on the Advisory Board), Haley Sheehy (Secretary), and Danielle Costello (Communications Officer).

Stacey Wright (Vice President) has agreed to run for President and John Wallace (former Advisory Board member) is on the ballot for Communications Officer. Jennifer Putnam (another Board member) is running for Secretary.

Biographies and personal statements for all candidates appear on pages 3-4-5 of this SOLIS issue.

Many thanks to the four departed Advisory Board members: Douglas Carlson and Jherusha Lambert (both graduated in May 2016), Mary Yeary, and Denise Farley.

### ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS & ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

The SOLIS Election will be held August 25-September 2. Use the ballot located at this link to cast your vote! Please vote in the upcoming election.

[https://valdosta.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV\\_eDITzceQIK5VaOF](https://valdosta.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eDITzceQIK5VaOF)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Accolades	1
Features	1
ALA Student-to-Staff	2
Scholarship Awards	2
SOLIS Candidates	3-4-5
My First ALA	5
Meetup Photo Montage	6
T-shirt Order Form	7

## ALA Student-to-Staff Reflections

By Jeanna Allums

Attending the ALA Annual Conference & Exhibition in Orlando in the Student-to-Staff program was a wonderful experience!

I was assigned to the Library Leadership and Management Association (LLAMA) division. LLAMA strives to encourage and enhance leadership and management practices for current and future librarians.

Reporting to Fred Reuland, the Program Officer for Continuing Education, my responsibilities were designed to assist Reuland in evaluation of the many LLAMA programs and sessions throughout the conference.

I attended LLA-MA sponsored events to evaluate speakers and topics to determine which presenters would be compatible for webinar format, if the topics presented were in demand, the suitability for immediate webinar transmission, and made suggestions as to what changes, if any, were needed to present an ideal webinar.



Along with the ability to attend the conference, the Student-to-Staff program proved an excellent opportunity to network with ALA division leaders, to understand the functions of the division offices, and observe a behind the scenes look at the inner-workings of the conference.

## Scholarship Recipient

Sergio Gonzalez entered the VSU MLIS program in 2014.

He was awarded the Ronald G. Bohley Scholarship from the Missouri Library Association, and started his fall 2016 semester with a \$1000 scholarship.

Congratulations, Sergio!



For more information on the Ronald G. Bohley Scholarship, go to: <http://molib.org/awards/scholarships/ronald-g-bohley-scholarship>

## Professor Ren to Advise SOLIS

Dear SOLIS community, it is my honor to serve as the new SOLIS faculty advisor.

I am more than happy to devote my time and energy to assist the SOLIS officers by acting as your resource and representing you in MLIS faculty meetings.



I am looking forward to seeing the continuous success of SOLIS in connecting the student community with the MLIS department and engaging students with meaningful activities.

## Meet the Nominees for SOLIS Officers, 2016-2017



### **President Nominee**

Stacey Wright

Archives assistant in the Odum Library Archives, Valdosta State University. SOLIS Vice President last term.

Personal Statement: If elected, I hope to expand opportunities for students to attend regional/national conferences at little to no cost. I would also like to get students involved in local/national volunteer events to create a greater sense of community within the organization.



### **Vice President Nominee**

Kailyn Middleton

Currently in her third semester in VSU's MLIS program. She is a graduate writing tutor at VSU's Student Success Center.

Personal Statement: If elected as Vice President of SOLIS, I look forward to actively representing the MLIS student body to the best of my abilities.

### **Communications Officer Nominee**

John Wallace



John served last year as a SOLIS Advisory Board member. He works as a part-time Reference and Instruction Librarian at Atlantic Cape Community College and as a part-time Reference Librarian at Ocean City Free Public Library.

Personal Statement: As Communication Officer, I plan to accomplish two things. First, I want to help foster greater inclusion of our out-of-state students in SOLIS activities. Second, I want to help create a more vibrant alumni network of Valdosta MLIS graduates. Both of these projects would enhance our student organization and our post-VSU careers.



### **Secretary Nominee**

Jennifer Putnam

In her third semester of the MLIS program and currently works at Augusta University (formerly Georgia Regents and Augusta State University) in Reese Library as a reference assistant.

Personal Statement: I hope that by being involved in SOLIS, I will be able to increase efforts in building a closer community of current students and alumni from around the country.

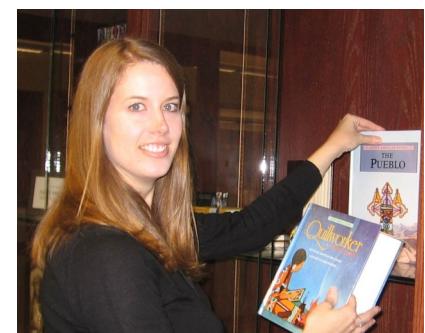
## 5 Candidates for the SOLIS Advisory Board, 2016-2017

Jeanna will complete her final semester in the MLIS program this fall. She will graduate with a focus on the management track.

She has worked for ten years at South Georgia Regional Library system and is currently a Library Manager in a branch where she is responsible for daily operations, collection development, and programming for children, teens, and adults.

Personal Statement: Last year I served as President of SOLIS and as an Advisory Board member the year before that. I would love to remain involved in SOLIS as an Advisory Board Member during my last semester!

### **Jeanna Allums**



## Advisory Board Nominee Profiles (cont'd)

### First-time Candidates

#### Jessica Perlove

Originally from Miami, FL, Jessica now lives in Atlanta. She once taught middle school but has worked in the Emory Library since 2006. She is a graduate of Florida International University. Over the years she has been active in local politics, her homeowners association, and advocacy groups at Emory.



Personal Statement: I just finished a term as Chair of our Library Employee Advocacy Forum. I've represented the library on Employee Council, which is the university's staff advocacy group, and I'm been President of Employee Council. I also served on the Class & Labor Committee, part of Emory's University Senate group. So I'm honored to be considered for this opportunity and I'll do my best to serve my fellow students.



#### Meghan Crews

Meghan is from Hoboken, Ga. She graduated from Valdosta State University with a Bachelor's degree in History, and is currently starting her second year of VSU's MLIS program. She has worked in VSU's Archives & Special Collections for two years as a student assistant, and for the past year as the graduate assistant. This summer, she and Meghan and Vice President candidate Kailyn Middleton completed the 2016 Junior Fellows Summer Intern Program at the Library of Congress (<http://www.loc.gov/hr/jrfellows/>).

Personal Statement: If elected to the SOLIS advisory board I pledge to represent the interests of all of our very busy students, while also trying to foster more connections between students.

#### Yolanda Bergstrom-Lynch

She has a previous M.A. in Sociology from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She has taught sociology to undergraduates at Manchester Community College in Connecticut since 2009. At VSU, she is pursuing the reference track and expects to graduate in the summer of 2017. She was selected to be a 2016-2017 American Library Association Spectrum Scholar.



Personal Statement: As library professionals we understand the need for opportunities to network with each other and to create support systems. If elected to SOLIS, I would work to grow our opportunities for out-of-state students in particular to build regional communities of current students and alumni.



We're on Facebook



# My First ALA

By Mary Garrett

It is nearly impossible to describe my first experience at the ALA Annual Conference. There was just so much to see and do and learn and experience!

I initially decided to attend because, as the sole certified librarian at my school, I often feel isolated and cut off from fellow library professionals. Also, as a student, I wanted to see what opportunities are out there in the library world! It was incredibly inspiring to be among such a diverse group of passionate individuals! Students, librarians, authors, publishers, vendors, advocates, and professors- each with a unique perspective and drive, but all with a shared passion to advocate for libraries and literature. Even though I was surrounded by people with different motives and concentrations, I was inspired by their enthusiasm and able to apply it to my own focus. It was really a cool feeling!



My biggest takeaway is that there *truly* was something for everyone in the library world at the conference. Even among the professional organizations I experienced, like the AASL, YALSA, and ALSC- I met school and public librarians, administrators, lobbyists, authors, and fellow students! Each organization, each panel, each workshop was welcoming and inviting- offering helpful tips, opportunities, and networking.

I had many inspirational conversations with all types of attendees who offered fresh perspectives and excellent advice! At first, I was afraid I wouldn't fit in or find anyone with shared interests. It's easy to go to a few panels and sit back and observe, and you'll get so much out of that- but when I started getting out of my comfort zone and engaging was when I really felt like a part of the action.

I would recommend the conference to anyone- students, professionals, or professional students like me! It was inspiring to engage, first-hand, in the active library community. My biggest piece of advice is this: pace yourself! It's easy to overschedule, especially when there are so many unique panels and exciting opportunities for engagement! Take your time and be open to those around you. Some of the most rewarding conversations and connections for me took place in the lobby, in the hallway, or while waiting for a panel to start. If your first day or panel or meet-and-greet doesn't hit home for you- give it time! Something will, I promise!

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## First-time Candidates for Advisory Board (cont'd)

### Mary "Rose" Garrett

Mary "Rose" Garrett is also a first-time candidate for a SOLIS position. Her photo appears in the article above.

She is a librarian at a K-8 school in Atlanta. She is her second year at VSU and she is excited to build upon her B.A. in Communications and her M.Ed. in Learning Design and Technology.

"Though currently a school librarian, I am interested in many facets of library science including archiving, cataloging, and academic librarianship."

My motto is: "Read well, eat well, and travel often."

Personal Statement: I believe in community involvement and activism. If elected, I will seek to fairly represent my fellow MLIS students while serving on the SOLIS advisory board. I will strive to fulfill the mission of SOLIS while empowering my peers in the pursuit of their professional and educational goals.

## Meetup Montage



Dr. Bernstein, Deborah Davis, and Dr. Most at the downtown Valdosta meetup attended by about 20 students, grads, and faculty on June 6th.



PLA in Denver Meetup: Kennedy Penn-O'Toole, Amie Torok and Brianna Austin



Atlanta Meetup: Kat Greer, Rosemary Humphrey, Ashley Renfo Day



Dr. Most, KSU Associate Dean Dr. Linda Golian-Liu, and Dr. Yontz!



SOLIS Past President Katresa Gardner (now working in Florida as a public librarian,) remains the VSU MLIS poster model for recruiting brochures.

She and Dr. O. happened to meetup at the ALA exhibits this summer.



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

The 2016-2017 year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the MLIS program!

Proceeds sales in years past 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 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-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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