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Valdosta State MLIS program receives full ALA accreditation

The Master of Library and Information Science Program at Valdosta State University was accredited by the Committee on Accreditation of the American Library Association at its meeting on June 24. The VSU MLIS now becomes the only ALA-accredited library and information science program in Georgia.

As part of its dedication to bringing graduate library and information science education to Georgia, the VSU MLIS Program will offer its Foundations course for the first time in Atlanta in spring 2008.

The Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia authorized VSU to start an MLIS program in 1999. The program formally began in fall 2001 after hiring faculty members and admitting the first class of students. The ALA-accreditation process takes a minimum of five years. VSU was granted permission to begin in 2001 and successfully advanced through each phase, including a site visit this past February. Based on an evaluation of all evidence and all reports, the Committee on Accreditation granted initial accreditation to the VSU MLIS Program for the full term of seven years. The program's next comprehensive review is scheduled for spring 2014.

The focus of the MLIS Program is to educate librarians for academic, public and special libraries in Georgia. The program is primarily distance education using Internet instruction with brief periods of face-to-face classes at central locations, normally selected weekends in Macon and Atlanta. The program is designed for students who cannot leave jobs and families to return to a single campus for extended periods of time.

For more information, call the MLIS Program at 229-333-5860. Additionally, see the MLIS Program Web site (<http://www.valdosta.edu/mlis/>) and the VSU Graduate School Web site (<http://www.valdosta.edu/gradschool/>). ▶▶

Five new staff members join Georgia Southwestern State

The James Earl Carter Library on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University has five new staff members.

Gretchen Smith is the new collection development librarian/assistant professor; she will be working with the

GSW community to purchase books, serials and other materials for the library. She received a bachelor's degree in history from Rhodes College and a Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of Alabama. She relocated here from Mobile, Ala., where she was a public services librarian at the University of Mobile.

Valarie Anthony joined the Library's staff in April. As senior technology/access services assistant, Valarie will provide technical support to the library's staff and patrons and assist in access services duties. She was born in Leslie,



Front (from left): Ru Story-Huffman and Valarie Anthony. Back: Gretchen Smith, Kristi Peavy and John Wilson.

Ga., and received her B.B.A. in management from Georgia Southwestern State University.

John Wilson joined the library's staff as the interlibrary loan assistant in July. As the ILL assistant, John will assist faculty, staff and students with any of their requests from other libraries. John was born and raised in Americus, Ga. He received a B.A. in English from Georgia

Southwestern State University and plans to pursue a master's degree in Library Science. John previously worked as managing editor of *The Cordele Dispatch*.

Mary "Ru" L. Story-Huffman joined the library's staff as the reference librarian/government information coordinator/assistant professor. She will assist the library's patrons with all of their reference needs. Ru received her B.A. in English literature from Buena Vista College in Iowa and her MLS from Emporia State University in Kansas. She has completed coursework for Nova University's Ph.D. program in information science. For the past 12 years, Ru served as the public services librarian at the University of the Cumberland in Kentucky.

On May 4, our access services supervisor, Claudia Black, retired after working for the James Earl Carter Library for 13 years. Taking over that position is Kristina Peavy. Kristi joined the library staff in January 2006 as the ILL Assistant. She has a B.S. in history with European certification. She is currently pursuing her MLIS from Valdosta State University. ▶▶