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News - Valdosta State University

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Valdosta State University

Jessica Lee has joined the faculty of Valdosta State University (VSU) Odum Library, Valdosta, GA as an Assistant Professor of Library Science and Electronic Resources/Serials Librarian. Jessica received her Master of Science in Library and Information Studies from Florida State University in 2011.

Scott Piepenburg has joined the faculty of Valdosta State University Odum Library, Valdosta, GA as Associate Professor of Library Science and Head of Cataloging and Metadata Services. Scott began his new position on February 1, 2014. His prior experience includes the position of Cataloging Coordinator at the University of Wisconsin - Stevens Point and District Cataloger/System Administrator for the Dallas Independent School District, where he was instrumental in bringing up the initial DALLINK project, the first large-urban union catalog in the United



States. Scott is the author of the popular *Easy MARC* series as well as articles on the future of library automation, the history of disc-based recording technology and the role of cataloging AV materials for school

and public libraries. He has lectured around the United States on the topics of cataloging in general and authority control in particular and considers himself an “authority control junkie.”

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VSU's MLIS Program Earns Reaccreditation

There is only one American Library Association-accredited Master of Library and Information Science program in Georgia and it is located at



Valdosta State University. The ALA Committee on Accreditation granted continued accreditation status to the Valdosta State University Master of Library and Information Science Program at its January 26, 2014 meeting. The ALA first awarded

accreditation to VSU's MLIS program in 2007, and the next comprehensive review visit is scheduled for fall 2020.

Dr. George Gaumont, former university librarian, wrote a proposal to the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia seeking to have VSU selected as the host site for an online library school after Emory University closed its library school in the mid-1990s. Clark Atlanta University had a library education program until 2005.

VSU welcomed the first nine students into its MLIS program in August 2001. Today, the program admits roughly eighty to ninety students a year. Enrollment numbers climbed

once the program was initially accredited in 2007. Most of the program's students are older, working, married, and raising families. They come to the program from as close as the local community and as far away as Korea, Uganda, and China. A typical student takes two courses a semester, graduating in six or seven semesters.

The VSU MLIS Program is committed to offering a quality publicly supported online education for generalists and specialists in the library and information science fields. The program's primary focus continues to be to educate librarians for academic, public, and special libraries in Georgia.

The mission of VSU's MLIS program is "to prepare professionals who will exercise leadership in planning, promoting, implementing, and administering the preservation, organization, dissemination, and

effective use of society's recorded information." The seven-member faculty teaches a curriculum that "reflects the role of library and information services in a rapidly changing technological and global society."

Dr. Linda R. Most, associate professor and assistant director of the VSU MLIS Program, communicated that "the MLIS program faculty and leadership would like to thank the program's students, stakeholders, and our professional colleagues across the university and in the wider LIS community for their support, advice, and encouragement through the reaccreditation process. We couldn't have done it without you."

To learn more about the VSU MLIS Program, contact the MLIS Program office at 229-333-5966 or mlis@valdosta.edu or visit www.valdosta.edu/mlis.