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President's Column:

By Elise Gowen

As we draw closer to the end of winter, I’m excited to be writing my first column in the role of GSIS president. Planning for the 2025 calendar year here at GSIS is well underway. We’ve made good progress in ensuring that all of our vacant positions are filled. The process is still ongoing, though. In particular, we still need a chair of the Best Paper Award Committee, as well as a couple new members for the Guidebook Award committee. If you’re interested, please send me an email at egowen@smith.edu. Most of the other vacant positions have been filled and our members are ready to start work. We’re pleased to welcome Janelle Hedstrom into the role of GSIS representative to GSA, and Dwight Young into the role of chairing the Publicity Committee. Dwight previously served as our webmaster, but now Renee Schofield will be stepping into that role. She has already developed an excellent proposed refresh to the design of the GSIS website, and we hope to launch it soon. Stay tuned for a new improved look for geoinfo.org!

We’re also happy to welcome back all our returning chairs, liaisons, and committee members. Thank you so much for all you do for GSIS.

The Executive Board met most recently on February 17, where we approved this year’s budget proposal. We have also begun to move forward with plans to clarify and hopefully expand the special offers available to GSIS members.

GSIS also hopes to continue to plan events and webinars throughout the year. Jenn Thompson will be taking the lead on that as our new incoming president. In addition, we have chosen to endorse a new topical session at the upcoming GSA annual meeting in San Antonio, 19-22 October: “Digital twin in Geosciences: Combining real-time monitoring data, AI, modeling and simulation.”

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The GSIS Newsletter is published quarterly, in Winter, Spring, Summer and Fall by the Geoscience Information Society. It is now published Open Access and is supported by GSIS memberships (individual or institutional). All correspondence regarding dues, membership status, and address changes should be directed to the GSIS Secretary. GSIS members are encouraged to contribute content for publication. Please send submissions by e-mail to the Newsletter Co-Editors Amanda Bielskas asb2154@columbia.edu or Michael Noga mnoga@mit.edu.

President's Column Continued | by Elise Gowen

Finally, I want to take a moment to address the current moment. Libraries and scientific agencies are the bedrock of openly available information collected and curated for the public, and is the basis for any society making informed decisions based on sound data. I think it's not controversial to say that we are experiencing a heightened threat to free, accessible scientific information in the United States right now. Seeing this unfold has only served to reaffirm for me, and I hope for many others, the crucial role libraries play in preserving and maintaining access to accurate scientific information, unhindered by government censorship.

The removal of federal data that offends the current US regime, including data regarding environmental justice and climate change, is very concerning. Like many of you, I'm still wrestling with how GSIS can best further its mission in this time, and how the goals and methods of librarians and other information professionals might change in these times. To give just one example, how will librarians who do instruction need to alter their lessons to earth science students if the US government agency websites we typically direct them to start suppressing large amounts of scientific research and data? What can GSIS do to help its members do their jobs in this changing landscape?

I don't have the answers to these questions, but I will continue to think about and discuss what steps, if any, GSIS can and should take in the coming year. If you have any suggestions for how GSIS can best support and offer resources to its members at this time, I am interested in hearing from you.

Thank you, and I hope you all have a safe and productive winter.

Member News

Western Kentucky University, Bowling Green, KY seeks a [Dept Chair of Library Public Services](#). Questions about the opening should be directed to Andrew Adler, search chair (andrew.adler@wku.edu).

Musings

by Michael Noga

I am an observer by nature. Recently I saw two examples of destruction of woods. In one case, woods were destroyed and then construction quickly began. In the second case, trees and brush were removed near a stream, supposedly to make the parcel look like the area around an English Great House, the inspiration for a lot of

American landscaping. Wait until the flooding begins because the vegetation can't absorb some of the flow.

The second example is adjacent to a large parcel that is now just grass. It was originally a large section of woods, once full of wildlife.

Much of this property has never been developed after 30 years of destruction. There appears to be no serious plan for a replacement of the woods.

These examples have reminded me of one of my longstanding concerns: destruction without apparent thought for the future. Perhaps there is an invisible plan that would generate a lot of pushback. Perhaps there is a plan, but in some sense it is half-baked without the pieces that are needed to carry it out.

It seems to me that a lot of destruction is going on these days. I am proud to have served in a profession that has an important role in the preservation of knowledge. Meeting the current needs of our users is integral to the work, but preservation for the long term is also important.

I am reminded of the fate of an excellent program series (Ideas) on CBC Canada. When the long running host retired most of the old content disappeared. Some programs show up in the Internet Archive, but most are missing. Libraries go to great lengths to save this knowledge for future generations. Whos's to say when someone will need to see the original data in that 1983 thesis or that research report from a long-closed government agency on the watershed above Pasadena?

Congratulations on doing your part for your institution and society.

Michael M Noga
MIT (retired)

Vice President Column | by Jenna Thomson

I am excited to start my term as Vice-President/President Elect of the GSIS. Participating in the leadership of this society is not only an honor but also an opportunity to serve the incredible network of geoscience librarians who are at the heart of our profession. After becoming an Earth Science Liaison Librarian in 2010, I first joined the GSIS in 2014 when I attended the GSA conference in Vancouver. Attending GL101 connected with me with others in the field and exposed me to key resources. I acted as Secretary of the GSIS from 2021 to 2024, beginning my active role in the organization, and chaired the Membership Committee in 2024.

Results of the 2024 Membership Survey showed that members value both continuing education and networking opportunities, and as a result my vision for the coming term centers on continuing to build strong connections among our members —fostering an inclusive community of knowledge sharing, mutual support, and innovation. For years, GSIS has been a cornerstone in the professional lives of so many, and I am excited to enhance the value it brings to librarians and information professionals dedicated to geoscience, including those new to the profession. I believe we can strengthen our collective impact by offering more opportunities for members to share their expertise and learn from one another. To this end, I'm planning workshops, panels, and informal discussion forums where members can exchange ideas on current issues such as data management, digital resources, and open access in geoscience libraries. I am very open to suggestions of topics to explore so please don't hesitate to suggest options!

In addition to structured professional development, I envision the GSIS as a dynamic community for peer-to-peer learning and networking. Libraries face many common challenges, from budget constraints to rapidly changing technologies, and it is so valuable for us to be able to draw on each other's insights and experiences. Drawing on tools like Geonet, we can support each other as questions arise.

I am excited to get started and deeply grateful for this opportunity to serve GSIS. With your support, I am eager to continue to build a connected, resource-rich society where geoscience librarians can thrive and make a meaningful impact on the profession.

GeoWonders | by Lisa Dunn

Colorado and other regions that are mountainous or hilly must watch out for rock falls and landslide events adjacent to highways and roads. We have many mountain roads bordered by steep rocky slopes that are important transportation corridors to otherwise remote locations. Our latest from the Wet Mountains in Custer County, southern Colorado is the rockslide that recently closed off Hwy 96 and 165, filmed by bystanders. Here's the link to the site, at:

<https://www.cpr.org/2024/12/30/custer-county-rock-slide-closes-highways-96-165/>

"Guidelines for geologic hazard characterization of transportation corridors," is an upcoming title in the Special Publication Series, Association of Environmental and Engineering Geologists (AEG). This publication, authored by Professor Paul Santi, Colorado School of Mines, is relevant to events such as the Hwy 96 slope failure and will hopefully be openly available in the Mines Repository (<https://repository.mines.edu/home>) in the near future.

Call for New Members – Become more Involved with GSIS!

GSIS is putting out an open call for roughly 2-3 new members of the Best Guidebook Award Committee. The term of office is generally 2-3 years, but we are open to making an exception for a 1 year term. No experience is required, and this can be a great opportunity to get involved in GSIS. Student members are welcome. If you are interested in being involved, please let Elise Gowen know! egowen@smith.edu

GSIS is putting out an open call for a member to step into the role of Best Paper Award Committee Chair. The purpose of this position is to lead the committee that determines the winner of the Best Paper Award. The term of office is generally 2-3 years, but we are open to making an exception for a 1 year term. No experience is required, and this can be a great opportunity to get involved in GSIS if you have been looking for a way to contribute. If you are interested in being involved, please let Elise Gowen know! egowen@smith.edu

Join the Geoscience Librarianship 101 (GL101) Team for 2025.

Please consider becoming a member of the Geoscience Librarianship 101 (GL101) Team.

It's an opportunity to assist with the planning and promotion of the annual seminar and/or sharing your expertise by presenting. Contact Clara McLeod at cpmcleod@wustl.edu or Joyce Shaw at joyce.shaw@usm.edu to join the Team.

Exciting News: Our Website Is Getting a Fresh New Look!

Hello everyone, I'm Renee Schofield, the new GSIS webmaster. I am thrilled to announce that our organization's website will be undergoing a complete makeover to better serve our members and visitors. The new design will offer improved navigation, a more modern aesthetic, and enhanced functionality to make your online experience better.

Please note that during this transition, the website may be temporarily unavailable for about a day while I implement these changes. I anticipate the new design will be up and running by the end of February.

We appreciate your patience during this brief downtime and look forward to unveiling our refreshed website. Stay tuned for the big reveal!

If you need to access any critical information during the maintenance period, please don't hesitate to contact me (schorenee@gmail.com) or a member of the Executive Board.



Renew your GISIS Membership

It's time to renew your membership to the [Geoscience Information Society](#) (GISIS). Not yet a member? Please consider joining this amazing consortia of geoscience information professionals! GISIS is a great resource no matter the stage of your career, from new grads to those who have been in the profession for years.

Some of the benefits to GISIS membership include:

- Networking with other professionals interested in geoscience information
- Opportunities for presenting and publishing your research (annual meeting and proceedings)
- Opportunities for professional service on GISIS committees and taskforces
- Discount on GSA Annual Meeting registration and exhibits
- Access to GISIS Newsletter for latest geoscience information news
- Free, open access to GEONET-L discussion list
- **Visit [Membership Info](#) for all the details and the link to join and pay dues.**

Just a reminder:

- **Personal** memberships are available for \$25.
- **First time** memberships are \$20.
- **Student** memberships are FREE!
- **Retired members** are eligible for **free**, lifetime memberships--we just ask that you continue to update your information each year via our [membership form](#).

More information about GISIS is available at: <https://www.geoinfo.org/>

Please let me know if you have any questions,
Jen Simms, GISIS Secretary

GISIS Student Memberships available now for FREE!

The Geoscience Information Society (GISIS) is your gateway to an exciting career in this dynamic field! Whether you're a student or professional, GISIS offers invaluable benefits including access to:

- Our popular Geoscience Librarianship 101 course
- Interesting and informative webinars to help you stay abreast of important topics, challenges and new innovations that impact our community, and...
- The GISIS newsletter to keep you informed on the latest trends.

GISIS provides platforms to share your knowledge, expertise and research, advance your career through conferences, field trips, and professional development events and build community with a diverse and informed group of information specialists. Connect with a vibrant and active community through networking opportunities, opening doors to potential internships, job opportunities, and mentorship.

Membership is free to students! So join GISIS today to experience high-value continuing education and become part of a supportive community dedicated to excellence in geoscience information services.

More info about GISIS is available on our website: www.geoinfo.org

PS - If you are not a student, you are welcome to join up too!

Association of Earth Science Editors 59th Annual Meeting



Association of Earth Science Editors 59th Annual Meeting
October 1 to 5, 2025 – Bloomington, Indiana

Mark the date! The 59th annual meeting of the Association of Earth Science Editors is set for Bloomington, Indiana, October 1 to 5, 2025. Meeting headquarters will be the Biddle Hotel, 900 E. 7th St., in the Indiana Memorial Union Building at Indiana University. Details are still in the planning stage; follow AESE on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/AESErocks>) for updates. The meeting is open to anyone and offers two days of technical sessions, a day-long field trip to nearby sites of geologic interest, and numerous opportunities to network with other editors, publishers, science communicators, educators, and earth-sciences professionals. Please contact meeting organizer Sara Clifford at sclicffo@iu.edu if you would like more information.

The Bloomington area is renowned worldwide for its dimension limestone, still quarried today. Photo credit: Indiana Geological and Water Survey Digital Collections



Recently published geologic field trip guidebooks | by Linda Musser

1. Geology of the Bristol Region. (Guide no.78) Geologists' Association, 2024.
2. The Southern Pennines. Liverpool University Press, 2024.
3. Columbus, Montana. (Northwest Geology v.53) Tobacco Root Geological Society, 2024.
4. Discovering the Unique Geology of the Bergell Alps. Springer, 2023.
5. Field Trip Guidebook on Chinese Sedimentary Geology. Springer, 2024.
6. The Geology and Geomorphology of the Eastern Pyrenees. Field Trip Guidebook. Mediterranean Geosciences Union, 2024. <https://www.2024.medgu.org/source/files/Pyrenees-Fieldtrip-Guide-MedGU-2024.pdf>
7. Guide to the Geology of Mount Desert Island, Schoodic Peninsula, and Acadia National Park. Worldwide Publicists, 2024.
8. Geology of the Nacimiento Mountains and Rio Puerco Valley. (New Mexico Geological Society Field Conference Guidebook 74). New Mexico Geological Society, 2024.
9. Kennady North Project, Gahcho Kué Mine and Renard Mine Drill Core. 12th IKC Field Trip Guide. (International Kimberlite Conference). https://12ikc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/FT07_Field-Guide_Final-red.pdf
10. Geoheritage of the Beartooth Mountains, Montana-Wyoming. https://serc.carleton.edu/research_education/mt_geoheritage/sites/Beartooth_Mountains.html

The Geology and Geomorphology of the Eastern Pyrenees

