



GEOSCIENCE  
INFORMATION  
SOCIETY

# newsletter

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## CONTENTS

President's Column	1,3	Call for Guidebook Award	7
Geoscience Information Society 2025 Officers	2	Renew GSIS Membership	8
Member News & GSIS Audit	3	GSIS Student Memberships	8
Vice President's Column	4	AESE Meeting Announcement	9
Call for Common Read Nominations	5	AESE Call for Award Nominations	10
Call for Best Paper	5	Upcoming Video Club	11
Call for Best Reference/Research Award	6		

## President's Column:

By Elise Gowen

As spring turns to summer, many of us within GSIS continue to grapple with the challenges and changes brought by the new US administration, including the takedown of government geoscience data. GSIS, headed by Incoming President Jenna Thomson, is planning more programming around this topic which we hope to announce soon.

GSIS also recently received updates from two of the major umbrella organizations we belong to, Geological Society of America and the American Geoscience Institute. On May 7, the GSA Spring Associated Societies Virtual Meeting met virtually to discuss what GSA membership means today. They highlighted what they consider the four primary benefits of GSA membership for professional organizations:

- Mutual promotion of programs
- Participation in section meetings
- Joint creation of tailored programs with associated societies (such as GSIS)
- Facilitation of relationships between associated societies and GSA divisions

In addition, GSA will continue to offer us discounts for GSA meetings. Unlike previous years, though, the procedure will change, from giving discounts to anyone who selects GSIS from a dropdown list of associated societies, to those who have a registration code that will be distributed from GSA to GSIS, and from GSIS to our members. Please let us know if you have questions about this process.

GSA is also soliciting suggestions for how they can respond to the moment in ways that are helpful to their member organizations. Suggestions at the meeting included fully hybrid meetings for international members who don't wish to enter the US, and more program offerings focused on geoscience ethics. GSA is open to doing work on both of these. If anyone has other things they'd like to see from GSA, please reach out to me, and I will pass this along to them. ...continues on page 3

## Geoscience Information Society 2024 Officers:

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### **President**

Elise Gowen  
Science Librarian  
Smith College Libraries  
009G Neilson Library  
7 Neilson Drive, Northampton, MA 01063  
Phone: (413) 585-3042  
egowen@smith.edu

### **Vice President (President-Elect)**

Jenna Thomson  
A.C. Bennett Library  
Simon Fraser University  
8888 University Drive  
Burnaby, BC V5A 1S6  
Phone: (778) 782-6865  
e-mail: jennat@sfu.ca

### **Immediate Past President**

Robert Tolliver  
Foundational Sciences Librarian  
Morris Library  
University of Delaware  
181 S. College Avenue  
Newark, DE 19717-5267  
Phone: (302) 831-2177  
btoll@udel.edu

### **Secretary**

Jennifer Simms  
Geosciences Librarian  
Indiana University, Bloomington  
Phone: (812) 855-5609  
simms29@iu.edu

### **E-mail List Moderator:**

<https://lists.princeton.edu/cgi-bin/wa?A0=Geonet>  
Moderator: Emily Wild e-mail:  
ewild@princeton.edu

### **Treasurer**

Sharon Tahirkheli (retired)  
Fairfax, VA, USA  
Phone: (703) 481-6554  
sharontahir@gmail.com

### **Web Site:** <http://www.geoinfo.org/>

Webmaster  
Renee Schofield  
schorenee@gmail.com

### **Newsletter Co-Editor(s)**

Amanda Bielskas  
Columbia University Libraries  
401 Northwest Corner Building  
550 West 120th Street  
New York, NY 10027  
Phone: (212) 854-6767  
e-mail: asb2154@columbia.edu

Michael Noga  
MIT Libraries (retired)  
e-mail: mnoga@mit.edu

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## President's Column Continued | by Elise Gowen

After that meeting, it was time for the annual AGI Member Society Meeting. AGI has been developing advocacy initiatives intended to appeal to the current government's priorities and assure continued funding. Critical Needs 2.0 is an example focused on advocating for and communicating the value of the work AGI and its member institutions do. To target that messaging, they have been talking to lawmakers about how they can support national policy issues.

The theme of this year's Earth Science week will be "Energy Sources for the Future." In line with that, the Earth Day Theme will be "Our Power, Our Future." Finally, the next AGI meeting will be on June 10, 2025, with the theme of "Generative AI and Geoscience Societies." We will share more information about this AGI meeting when it becomes available.

As always, please feel free to reach out to me if there are things you would like to see from GSIS and our programming as we face the coming challenges.

## Member News

### **Ashley M. Orehek and Linda Musser published an article:**

Orehek, A. M., & Musser, L. (2025). Surveying the Award Landscape for STEM Books. *Science & Technology Libraries*, 1-8. <https://doi.org/10.1080/0194262X.2025.2467675>

### **ABSTRACT:**

Books awards are popular with authors, publishers, readers and librarians yet there are relatively few book awards for STEM books. This research explores the extent of STEM book awards and examines which organizations support them. Findings indicate that professional societies are the most common source for book awards, though only about two percent actually offer them, and that independent book publishing organizations are creating the newest awards. Awards for diversity-focused STEM books are rare but are slowly increasing. Librarians can raise awareness of STEM book awards by including that information in their catalog records so that the information is more discoverable, and by sharing information about new awards with approval plan vendors who support awards profiles.

## GSIS Audit

### **GSIS Audit:**

Cynthia Prosser reviewed the Society's financial records for 2024 and found them to be complete and in order.

## Vice President Column | by Jenna Thomson

As graduation season arrives on campus, I've been reflecting on the rhythm of the academic year and the sense of renewal that comes with it. Whether you're working directly with students or supporting research behind the scenes, this time of year offers a chance to celebrate accomplishments and think about what's next. It's also a reminder of why we do what we do—as geoscience information professionals, we play a vital role in shaping the academic journeys of students and scholars alike. As GSIS Vice President, I'm inspired by the work our members do every day and excited about what lies ahead for our community.

In this role, professional development is always at the top of my mind. The landscape of libraries and information services continues to shift rapidly, and it's essential that GSIS provides resources that help members stay current. Right now I'm working on a handful of professional development opportunities, including webinars and a video "book club", covering topics including access to, and preservation of, US government information. Additionally, Cynthia Prosser is working on the 2025 GSIS Common Read, which will run at the end of July.

Even though I'm Canadian, I'm deeply concerned about recent changes and uncertainties in US science policy, especially reductions in federal support for scientific research. This kind of instability threatens not just research but also the broader ecosystem of education, information access, and public trust in science around the world. I'm grateful that organizations like the GSA have stepped up to advocate for science-based decision-making and sustained research investment. As a society closely aligned with the scientific community, GSIS has an important role to play in reinforcing these efforts and amplifying the value of geoscience information.

On a related note, I'm currently serving on the planning committee for this year's Joint Technical Program at the GSA Annual Meeting. This participation allows the GSIS to shape conference content and ensure our work is well represented in the broader geoscience dialogue. I won't be attending this year's GSA conference in San Antonio, but please let me know if you are!

Thank you all for your continued commitment to GSIS. I look forward to the months ahead.

## Call for 2025 Common Read Nominations | Cynthia Prosser

It is time to start planning this year's Common Read. At this point we are trying to pick a title that will have lots of appeal to folks. So, have you heard of an interesting book that would be a possible candidate? It can be tied to the virtual world/life, related to libraries and/ or education/connecting with students, STEM, or the geosciences, or any combination of these. Please email me directly ([cprosser@uga.edu](mailto:cprosser@uga.edu)) with your suggestions so everyone's email doesn't get filled up. Afterwards, I will send a survey with the 5 or so most interesting titles and let you all vote on the title for us to read.

The Common Read is scheduled for Thursday July 31 at 2 PM EDT/11 AM PDT via Zoom. Those details will be forthcoming.

So, please share those interesting books you have come across or heard about or that someone has mentioned that you think would be a good read and discussion- they can be recent or older. I'll collect titles for the next couple of weeks and then send a link for voting.

Previous Titles have included:

*Fen, Bog, and Swamp* by Proloux,

*Ice Ages: Their Social and Natural history* by Mazur

*The Big Ones: How Natural Disasters Have Shaped Us and What we Can Do about Them* by Jones

*Science Pictions: How Fraud, Bias, Incompetence and Hype Undermine the Search for Truth* by Ritchie

## Call for 2025 GSIS Best Paper | Cynthia Prosser

Nominations are being accepted for the GSIS Best Paper

The Best Paper Award has been presented annually since 1986, given to the best paper published in the field of geoscience information during the previous year.

The Best Paper Award Committee of the Geoscience Information Society (GSIS) is accepting nominations for the Best Paper Award. The committee is looking for original, significant and scholarly papers published in the field of geoscience information. The papers must demonstrate effective professional communication and appeal to the broader geoscience information community.

Send nominations to the chair of the committee, Cynthia Prosser: [cprosser@uga.edu](mailto:cprosser@uga.edu). The nomination should include a detailed citation, and, if available, a link to the paper.

## Call for 2025 GSIS Mary B. Ansari Best Geoscience Research/Reference Award

The Best Geoscience Reference or Research Resource Award Committee is now accepting nominations! We want to hear about the geoscience reference or research tools you've relied on most this year—whether it's a go-to database, an indispensable handbook, or a standout digital resource. If there's a resource you've found particularly valuable or used often, we encourage you to nominate it for this year's award. Help us recognize the tools supporting and advancing geoscience research and learning!

The GSIS Committee seeks nominations for the annual Mary B. Ansari Best Geoscience Research Reference Resource Award for the best geosciences publication. The award recognizes geoscience reference works or works focused on information aspects of the geosciences. Please nominate your favorite new website or research/ reference work for this award.

Submissions will be 1st evaluated using the following criteria:

- The work must have been published or produced within 3 years preceding the GSIS annual meeting. The title does not have to be "geoscience strictly," but should be significant to the geoscience information community.
- Local or specialized works can be considered if they are particularly high in quality and could serve as a model for other works.
- Formats other than monographs, such as maps, databases, websites, etc., may be considered.
- Any works nominated should be in a generally useable format (DVD, online, print, etc.), be generally available for purchase by libraries, and, theoretically, have a stable future.
- Although no work is specifically excluded from consideration, textbooks or monographs in geoscience or library/information science would not normally be considered.
- Additional criteria considered will be the quality of the introduction, cost, organization, uniqueness, comprehensiveness, overall quality, authoritativeness, and image/data/figures quality.

Link to the Best Research Resource Award Information and past awardees.

Please submit your nominations to the committee chair by Friday, July 18th, 2025. Please include citation information and/or links to the resource. Thank you!

Chrissy Klenke : [cklenke@unr.edu](mailto:cklenke@unr.edu)

## Call for 2025 GSIS Guidebook Award | Kristen Adams

### Call for Nominations for the 2025 Guidebook Awards

The Guidebooks Committee of the Geoscience Information Society (GSIS) is accepting nominations for the 2025 Best Guidebook Award(s) and Outstanding Geologic Field Trip Guidebook Series award. Geologic field trip guidebooks from any region that were produced from 2023-2025 can be considered for the award, which is awarded in the fall at the annual meeting of the Geoscience Information Society. Via these awards, the GSIS seeks to recognize the value of guidebooks and reward examples of excellence. In addition to being outstanding in content, the nominated titles will be evaluated according to the criteria outlined in the Guidelines for Authors, Editors, and Publishers of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks published by GSIS. A list of previous winners can be found online. Awards will be given in the following categories:

- Best Guidebook Award(s) - The purpose of these awards is to recognize examples of excellence in geologic field trip guidebooks, with awards in popular and professional categories.
- Outstanding Geologic Field Trip Guidebook Series award - The purpose of this award is to recognize organizations that have made continued contributions to the geologic field trip genre over time.

Nominations, consisting of the title and bibliographic information (author, publisher, etc.) of the work or series, should be sent to the chair of the Guidebooks Committee. The committee will begin the selection process in July.

Kristen Adams, chair, GSIS Guidebooks Committee

[adamsk3@miamioh.edu](mailto:adamsk3@miamioh.edu)

209 King Library, 151 S. Campus Ave. Oxford, OH 45056

## Renew your GSIS Membership

It's time to renew your membership to the [Geoscience Information Society](#) (GSIS).

Not yet a member? Please consider joining this amazing consortia of geoscience information professionals! GSIS 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 GSIS 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 GSIS committees and taskforces
- Discount on GSA Annual Meeting registration and exhibits
- Access to GSIS 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 GSIS is available at: <https://www.geoinfo.org/>

Please let me know if you have any questions,

Jen Simms, GSIS Secretary

## GSIS Student Memberships available now for FREE!

The Geoscience Information Society (GSIS) is your gateway to an exciting career in this dynamic field! Whether you're a student or professional, GSIS 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 GSIS newsletter to keep you informed on the latest trends.

GSIS 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 GSIS today to experience high-value continuing education and become part of a supportive community dedicated to excellence in geoscience information services.

More info about GSIS is available on our website: [www.geoinfo.org](http://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 59<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting October 1 to 5, 2025 – Bloomington, Indiana

Mark the date! The next annual meeting is set for Bloomington, Indiana, October 1 to 5, 2025. Featured in the 1979 movie [\*“Breaking Away,”\*](#) Bloomington and Monroe County are internationally known for the quarrying (“cutting”) of Salem Limestone, used in hundreds of government buildings and landmarks around the country. Meeting headquarters will be the Biddle Hotel, 900 E. 7<sup>th</sup> St., in the Indiana Memorial Union Building at Indiana University.

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. Visit our new website, <https://www.earthscieditors.org/annual-meeting.html>, for more information.



Sample Gates serves as an entryway into Indiana University's 1,860-acre campus. Edson Sample funded construction of the gates in 1987; constructed of Indiana limestone, they stand as two welcoming pillars at the edge of Old Crescent, the historic site of IU's first campus buildings built between 1884 and 1908.

## AESE Call for Award Nominations



### Association of Earth Science Editors Call for AESE Award Nominations

<https://www.earthscieditors.org/awards.html>

The deadline for submitting nominations has been extended to **June 30, 2025**. Please reach out to us to nominate noteworthy publications and exceptional individuals in publishing and editing for the annual Association of Earth Science Editors awards! Winners will be announced in fall 2025.

The awards committee looks forward to receiving nominations for four awards:

#### **AESE Award for Outstanding Editorial or Publishing Contribution**

This award recognizes outstanding contributions and achievements in editing or publishing that stimulate new or greatly improved accomplishments in teaching, research, and applications in Earth Science. Editorial and publishing contributions can include writing, editing, publishing, and editorial management.

#### **AESE Lifetime Honor Award**

This award is given in recognition of (1) a career of continuous contributions to Earth Science editing or publishing or (2) contributions to AESE through service in office or on committees. Only current and former members of AESE are eligible for this award.

#### **AESE Award for Outstanding Publication**

(published between January 1, 2022, through to December 31, 2024)

This award recognizes a recently published earth science publication that demonstrates outstanding editing, design, illustration, writing, effectiveness of production cost, and overall effectiveness in achieving its publication goal. Awards are given under three publication categories:

1. **Book** (printed, PDF file, or print-on-demand; may include a journal)
2. **Map or poster** (printed, PDF file, or print-on-demand; may include a journal)
3. **Electronic/digital media** (websites and webpages, web-based publication, interactive online product, e-book).

#### **NEW FOR THIS YEAR!**

#### **AESE Award for Outstanding Education and Outreach Materials**

(published between January 1, 2000, through to December 31, 2024)

This award is given in recognition of a recently published earth science educational product (or series of products) that demonstrates a high level of educational value, creativity, scientific accuracy, and fun. A single award will be given. Entries may be either traditional print (e.g., books, maps, posters, etc.) or electronic/digital (e.g., websites/pages, interactive products, e-books) in nature.

The competition is open to AESE members and nonmembers alike.

For instructions, entry forms, and more information, please visit our new AESE website:

## Upcoming Video (Journal) Club | by Jenna Thomson

I'm excited to invite you to an upcoming Video (Journal) Club discussion. We'll be watching "From the Ground Up: Grassroots Efforts for Public Access to U.S. Government Information in 2025" — a presentation made by Shari Laster, Deborah Yun Caldwell, James R Jacobs and Lynda Kellam at [GovInfo Days](#) on April 24, 2025 on our own, then meeting to discuss.

**Abstract:** Over the past two decades, many organizations and initiatives have been formed in recognition of challenges around long term public access to digital government information. One of those is the Preservation of Electronic Government Information (PEGI) Project. Formed in 2017, the PEGI Project works to address national concerns regarding the preservation of electronic government information by cultural memory organizations for long term use by the public. Another initiative, the End of Term Archive, has endeavored since 2008 to harvest the federal .gov domain at the end of each presidential term. Finally, recent events have revived grassroots-driven programs, including the Data Rescue Project, to archive federally produced datasets.

In this panel, we will bring together representatives of the PEGI Project, the End of Term Archive, and the newly formed Data Rescue Project to share how these projects started, how they are going, and what may lie ahead. We will also invite discussion that imagines a world where government information is preserved and accessible for an engaged public and equitable democracy.



### Watch on your own time

then join us for a group discussion! Video is available here: <https://osf.io/67mks>



**Discussion Date:** June 12, 2025



**Time:** 10am Pacific (1pm Eastern)



**Location:** <https://sfu.zoom.us/j/85169749603?pwd=s8z88A315baT7Oa8uj6qIDQC0oM51G.1>

### Possible discussion questions:

- What role do grassroots movements play in archiving public information?
- Which strategies highlighted in the video seem most impactful or replicable?
- What challenges remain in achieving truly open and accessible government information?
- What role can we as earth science information professionals play in this area?

Please join us!

Best,

Jenna Thomson

GSIS Vice President/President-Elect