



**CONTENTS**

President’s Column	1	GeoWonders	5
GSIS Annual Meeting & GL101	2	Guidebook Awards Call for Nominees	6
GSIS Common Read	2	GSIS Best Paper Award Call for Nominations	6
Geoscience Information Society 2026 Officers	3	Mary B. Ansari Best Research Award Call for Nominations	7
Vice President’s Column	4	Resources Highlights	8
Member News	4	Upcoming Webinars & Events	10
		ASLI-GSIS Integration Report	11

## President's Column: Jenna Thomson

Spring always feels full of opportunity. Where I am on the west coast of Canada I’ve been watching the season progress from snowdrops through to cherry blossoms and now to poppies and strawberries. Yesterday I walked past one of the largest urban Pacific Great Blue Heron rookeries in the world in Stanley Park, where the sound of heron chicks could be heard from blocks away. The energy of the season is palpable.

The GSIS is also growing. The absorption of ASLI is underway, with a task force of ASLI members developing a series of thoughtful recommendations for honouring ASLI’s past while integrating the organization into GSIS. I am grateful to the hard work done by this group and look forward to working with them to put these recommendations into action. Meanwhile, the GSIS Board is also envisioning a long-term planning process to ensure we are best meeting the needs of the entire community – watch for more in the future.

I recently attended meetings of two of the organizations the GSIS is affiliated with, the Geological Society of America and the American Geoscience Institute. The AGI Member Society Meeting was held on May 5. The meeting included an awards ceremony and financial report, but focused on two developments, the AGI Policy App and the upcoming creation of a Master Directory of Professional Education. The AGI Policy App (<https://policyapp.americangeosciences.org/>) tracks new US and European government policies that intersect with the geosciences. Using AI, the site provides readable, plain-language summaries of the key points of interest to geoscientists. This looks like a great tool for those who work in many sectors, from government to industry to academia. The Master Directory of Professional Education is looking to pull together sources of professional development in the geosciences, especially those which support accreditation. This is an opportunity for cross-society education, which is so important in our multi-disciplinary world. This tool is still under development, and AGI hopes to launch a prototype later this year.

The GSA Associated Societies Meeting, held on May 12, brought together representatives from many of these 91 different associations. There was an in-depth discussion of the types of support associated societies like the GSIS would benefit from, including support for visa applications for those travelling to the United States for conferences. Planning for GSA Connects 2026 is underway and will be held in Denver on October 11-14.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with ideas for GSIS programming and other questions and I hope you all have a wonderful start to the summer.

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## Save the Date! GL 101 & GSIS Annual Meeting

**Geoscience Librarianship 101 will be Tuesday-Wednesday, October 27-28, 2026  
and the Annual Meeting will be Thursday, October 29, 2026.**

## GSIS Common Read - Join us in July

Polling is complete, and the book chosen for this year's common read is: *How the mountains grew: A new geological history of North America* by John Dvorak.

It was a close competition, with the Dvorak title beating out the others by 1 vote. Thank you to all who suggested titles and took the time to vote. Hope to see you on Thursday, July 23 at 2PM EDT / 11 AM PDT. Watch Geonet for the Zoom info.

For anyone interested in all the nominees, here is a link to [that document](#).

## Geoscience Information Society 2026 Officers:

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### President

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

### Vice President (President-Elect)

Phoebe McMellon  
CEO, GeoScience World  
McLean, VA, USA  
e-mail: mcmellon@geoscienceworld.org  
vicepresident@geoinfo.org

### Immediate Past President

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

Tia Colvin  
Director of Scholarly Information  
American Geosciences Institute  
Alexandria, VA, USA  
atc@americangeosciences.org  
treasurer@geoinfo.org

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

Webmaster  
Renee Schofield  
schorenee@gmail.com

### Newsletter Co-Editor(s)

Holly Dean  
University of Alaska Fairbanks,  
Geophysical Institute Library Director  
903 N. Koyukuk Dr. #201  
Fairbanks, AK 99709  
Phone: (907) 474-7503  
e-mail: hmdean@alaska.edu

Matt Hudson  
GeoScienceWorld  
1750 Tysons Boulevard, Suite 1500  
McLean, Virginia 22102 U.S.A.  
Phone: (800) 341-1851  
e-mail: hudson@geoscienceworld.org

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## Vice President Column | by Phoebe McMellon

It has been a busy spring, with lots of geology-themed conferences.

In May I was able to attend the European Geosciences Union conference in Vienna, Austria. Now in its 25<sup>th</sup> year, the meeting had more than 22,000 attendees, rivaling the American Geophysical Union conference in terms of scale. The exhibit hall and presentation rooms were full, and there was a lot of energy and excitement from attendees. It was great to see attendees at all career stages excited about the future of the geosciences.

Not surprisingly, one of the much-discussed topics at the event was artificial intelligence. GeoScienceWorld was there in part to discuss our new AI tool, GeoSapienAI, which will debut later this year. One highlight for me was the Great Debate on “The ethics of using Artificial Intelligence in the Geosciences,” which was a continuation of a similar Great Debate last year. This thought-provoking discussion provided an effective framework for thinking about AI and its potential impact on our field.

While you would expect a lot of European attendees at the EGU meeting, this year’s meeting also had a lot of attendees from China, India, and Korea, among other locations. Climate and environmental concerns were the primary areas of interest for many attendees, with one attendee at our booth noting that hazard and risk management are receiving a lot of European funding right now. Other topics that seemed to be getting a lot of attention were carbon capture, atmospheric research, hydrogeology (my own background area), glaciology, geomorphology, and soil science.

At the GeoScienceWorld booth, questions from authors focused on expected themes: impact factors, journal APCs, and how to get involved as a reviewer or editor.

Looking ahead, I’ll be attending the Geological Society of London’s AI in the Geosciences conference followed by the European Association of Geoscientists and Engineers conference in Aberdeen, both in June. I hope to see some of you at a future event.

## Member News

After over 40 years with the Penn State University Libraries **Linda Musser**, Distinguished Librarian and Head of the Fletcher L. Byrom Earth and Mineral Sciences Library, is retiring. After receiving her B.S. in Civil Engineering, Linda worked in industry before pursuing a Master of Library and Information Science (MLS) degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her original position at Penn State was as the Engineering Reference Librarian / Engineering & Earth and Mineral Sciences Cataloger. In 1990 Linda became the head of the Earth and Mineral Sciences Library. She is a past president of the GSIS, served on many GSIS committees, and was the recipient of the 2018 Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award.

## GeoWonders | Holly Dean

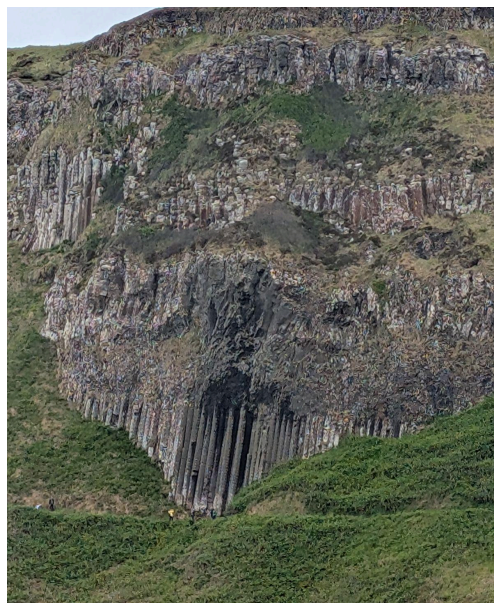
Last spring, 2025, I had the pleasure to visit Scotland and Northern Ireland with my mom. Along our tour we visited the [Giant's Causeway](#), a collection of over 40,000 horizontal polygonal basalt columns formed by volcanic activity over 60 million years ago. This site at the edge of the Antrim plateau provides a spectacular view of the distinctive strata exposed on the cliff faces enabling a deeper understanding of Earth's geologic history.



According to the British Geological Survey, at the beginning of the Paleogene period, the Laurasia continent fractured, leading to the opening of the North Atlantic Ocean. Lava from extreme volcanic activity poured into the area. Once the volcanic activity dissipated, heavy weathering occurred causing chemical changes in the exposed rock, known as the Interbasaltic Formation. Forests eventually covered the landscape until volcanic activity resumed, creating a large lava lake roughly 90 meters deep. As the lava slowly cooled and solidified regular stress fractures formed creating the columns we see today.

Prior to scientific understanding, the Giant's Causeway earned its name through legends of a mythical giant named Finn McCool who created the causeway to challenge a rival giant across the sea in Scotland, but upon discovering his inferior size destroyed the causeway rushing back to Ireland. A large boot-shaped rock was believed to be his fossilized boot.

<https://www.bgs.ac.uk/discovering-geology/maps-and-resources/office-geology/the-giants-causeway-and-causeway-coast/>



## 2026 Guidebook Awards - Call for Nominations

The Guidebooks Committee of the Geoscience Information Society (GSIS) is accepting nominations for the 2026 Best Guidebook Award(s) and Outstanding Geologic Field Trip Guidebook Series award. Geologic field trip guidebooks from any region that were produced from 2024-2026 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)

## 2026 GSIS Best Paper Award - Call for Nominations

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. Thank you.

## 2026 GSIS Mary B. Ansari Best Geoscience Research/Reference Award Call for Nominations

The Best Geoscience Reference or Research Resource Award Committee is now accepting nominations! We want to hear about the geoscience reference or research resources or 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!

### Award Description

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 first 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 usable 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 17th, 2026. Please include citation information and/or links to the resource. Thank you!**

Chrissy Klenke

Chair of the Best Reference/Research Resource Award

Earth Science, GIS & Maps Librarian

DeLaMare Science & Engineering Library - University of Nevada, Reno

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

## Resource Highlights

### Geology Bites Cookbook

In 2002, the Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources generated a geology-themed cookbook as a fundraiser. GSIS member Lisa Dunn recently rediscovered this cookbook when going through some old files, and it has now been [archived on the GSIS website](#).

Compiled by Lee Walkling and Jari Roloff, the cookbook features recipes with geologically themed names, ranging from the more obvious (chocolate strata brownies or rockfish and white corn chowder) to the unexpected (tsunami pizza and gravel pie). Enjoy!

### The Great Dunny Hunt

The Great Dunny Hunt is back for 2026. From 23 March to 15 June, people across Australia can update public toilets on the National Public Toilet Map, helping millions plan their day with confidence.

Last year, 862 dunnies were added, bringing the total to more than 25,000 nationwide, including one at the top of Mount Kosciuszko. The National Public Toilet Map is searched over 3.7 million times a year and is vital for people living with incontinence, people with disability, families, travelers, and emergency services staff. When a public toilet is added the entrant goes into the draw to win a \$1,000 Discovery Holiday Parks voucher.

### AGI Geoscience Policy Map

The American Geosciences Institute (AGI) announces the launch of its new Geoscience PolicyApp, a powerful, free online tool designed to help users easily monitor policy developments across the United States and European Union that impact the geoscience enterprise.

Built for geoscience professionals, policymakers, educators, and industry leaders, the tracker delivers timely, accessible insights into current policy actions that impact the geoscience enterprise. It covers a wide range of activity, including research funding, trade policies affecting resources, land use and access, and emerging areas that may create new opportunities for geoscientists. Users can explore policy activity by date, filter by source, and access concise AI-assisted summaries. The platform highlights both newly published policies and the most recent additions within the past 30 days, making it easier than ever to stay current.

The PolicyApp follows U.S. legislative bills, U.S. federal agency rules and notices, Executive Orders & Presidential Documents, European Union legislation and decisions, and EU judicial rulings that shape policy interpretation. Using curated data feeds and intelligent filtering, the tracker surfaces the most relevant policy actions affecting the geoscience community. Items are organized by publication date and system entry, offering multiple ways to explore and analyze developments.

Stay tuned as new features are added to the PolicyApp in the near future.

The Geoscience PolicyApp is available at <https://policyapp.americangeosciences.org>.

Data and summaries are provided for informational purposes and may leverage AI, so review for accuracy. For questions or attribution inquiries, contact AGI Director of Geoscience Profession and Higher Education Christopher Keane at [keane@americangeosciences.org](mailto:keane@americangeosciences.org).

## **New Research Directions and Workflows for Digitized Historical Cartographic Material**

### **Abstract**

This working paper is an outcome of the first international Open Maps Meeting, organized in November 2024 at the Dutch National Archives and National Library, and funded by Open Science NL, KNAW Humanities Cluster, Stichting Pica and Delft University of Technology. It synthesizes general insights from the Open Maps Meeting in a first introductory overview, intended for a broad scholarly audience interested in methodological cartographic and historical mapping advancements. This working paper is primarily based on presentations and input from the expert sessions during the first day of the Open Maps Meeting.

<https://openmapsmeeting.nl/publications/2025/open-maps>

### **New OER Textbook for Ocean Drilling**

“Inspired by this theme in modern scientific resources and an undergraduate project at Penn State Brandywine by student researchers Cortez Catalano and Niles Williams, the students’ mentor, Laura Guertin, published “Scientific Ocean Drilling: Exploration and Discovery through Time.”

Written by Guertin, a distinguished professor of Earth sciences and 2019 Teaching and Learning with Technology (TLT) Impact Award winner, in collaboration with geology and marine science experts Elizabeth Doyle and Tessa Peixoto, the open educational resource (OER) builds on the students’ findings on how historic oceanographic research vessels are represented in scientific textbooks. The openly available online publication received support from the U.S. National Science Foundation.” Read more [here](#).

### **3D Models Using Old Mine Maps**

Professors and graduate students in Applied Computing at Michigan Tech University created 3D maps of abandoned mining tunnels using algorithms. These tools allowed them to clean up distortions and stitch together images to create seamless visual maps of the tunnels. These 3D maps were quickly adopted by city residents who are interested in utilizing them for archaeological exploration and immersive educational outreach through virtual reality walk-throughs. Read more [here](#).

## Upcoming Webinars and Events

### From GIS to GeoAI: Bridging the Gap in Geospatial Education

Geographic information science has long been characterized by methodological advancements and emerging technologies. The application of new machine learning and deep learning techniques, or GeoAI, represents an exciting research area and an opportunity to chart new courses in geospatial education. This summer, the Research Commons at the University Libraries, Center for Urban and Regional Analysis, and Ohio State's Department of Geography will host a series where presenters will share their experiences teaching GeoAI to the next generation of geospatial professionals and discuss what it means to be "AI fluent" in the context of geographic information science.

- July 24: [Preparing the GeoAI Workforce: Lessons from Research and Teaching](#) (Wenwen Li, Arizona State University)
- August 14: [Ethics and the Guide to GIS Education](#) (Trisalyn Nelson, University of California Santa Barbara)

### Great Lakes Science Boot Camp for Librarians

**July 8–10, 2026 In-Person at Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, USA**

(All times Eastern Daylights Savings Time)

Cost: \$180 for the conference and \$72 per night for on-campus housing (optional)

Register to attend in-person

Contact Jennifer Simms, [simms29@iu.edu](mailto:simms29@iu.edu), or Jennifer Muse, [jelymuse@iu.edu](mailto:jelymuse@iu.edu), if you have any questions.

### Groundwater Modeling and More: From Raindrop to Reservoir

We cordially invite you to join us for [Groundwater Modeling and More 2026: From Raindrop to Reservoir](#). **June 7-10, 2026 at the Princeton University campus in Princeton, New Jersey.**

The new name for 2026 reflects a more inclusive and forward-looking vision for the discipline of groundwater modeling, while preserving the long-established emphasis and traditions of this very special conference. As in previous renditions, this GWM2 conference will provide an open and engaging forum for researchers, developers, practitioners, and regulators in the groundwater modeling community to convene, share experiences, and propagate ideas. At the same time, the organizing committee is working to introduce new formats and opportunities for interaction to foster deeper engagement and help shape the next chapter of the conference series.

## ASLI-GSIS Integration Task Force Report

### ASLI-GSIS Integration Task Force - Initial Report

1 May 2026

Report compiled by Bob Tolliver (chair), Elise Gowen, Ashley Orehek Rossi, Britta Bolzmann, Joyce Shaw, and Naomi Alvarez Everett

The initial report of the ASLI-GSIS Integration Task Force covers our plan for the migration and preservation of ASLI's resources. This includes ASLI's finances, website, listserv, physical and electronic archives, and programming, including Atmospheric Sciences 101 and the ASLI Choice Awards. In developing this plan the task force has collaborated with both societies' treasurers, archivists, and webmasters.

ASLI was founded in 1997 and held its first meeting in conjunction with the Special Libraries Association annual conference that year. Its first international conference occurred in 1998 in conjunction with the American Meteorological Society annual meeting.

This report also addresses the ASLI-AMS relationship. ASLI's relationship with the American Meteorological Society (AMS) began around 1998, shortly after ASLI's founding in 1997. AMS hosted ASLI's annual conference and meeting beginning with AMS's annual meeting in 1998. Up until 2023, AMS regularly incorporated ASLI's annual conference into the AMS's annual meeting - a handshake deal made so ASLI did not incur exorbitant conference hosting fees throughout this period. In preparation for the 2024 annual meeting, a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between ASLI and AMS, changing the dynamic of how ASLI planned their annual conference via AMS. Unfortunately, 2024 was the last time ASLI hosted a conference via AMS, and the last time an annual conference was hosted in general. This was due to various factors, such as the loss of ASLI champions within AMS (Jinny Nathans's death and Keith Seitter's retirement as AMS Executive Director).

Including other outstanding factors, it was decided by ASLI's executive board to dissolve the organization as of 2025. The process of being integrated into GSIS (the closest librarianship and information science discipline-specific organization to ASLI) began shortly thereafter, with the goal of formal completion by December 2026.

Per our charge, the report will include our recommendations for:

- Ensuring that ASLI budget and appropriate financial records are retrieved and preserved
- Developing recommendations for the maintenance, sunsetting, and/or preservation of the ASLI website, ASLI listserv, physical archives, and photo archives
- Determining how, if at all, ASLI programming like Atmospheric Science 101 and ASLI Choice Awards could be maintained or rolled into GSIS programming
- Evaluation and planning for integration and management of other ASLI operations

These points are addressed below.

### **Ensuring that ASLI budget and appropriate financial records are retrieved and preserved**

- All ASLI's outstanding financial commitments have been paid
- ASLI funds have been transferred to GSIS and their account closed
  - Debit cards have been destroyed
- Documents related to ASLI finances will be archived with the physical archives

### **Developing recommendations for the maintenance, sunsetting, and/or preservation of the ASLI internet presence, listserv, physical archives, and photo archives**

- ASLI Website
  - The ASLI website will be sunset at the end of 2026
  - A notice has been added to the website
  - The web domain has been paid through the end of the year
  - Existing content will be migrated to the GSIS website, archived, or dropped
- ASLI Listserv
  - Tentative plan to sunset the ASLI listserv at the end of 2026
- ASLI Facebook Page
  - The ASLI Facebook account will be closed by the end of 2026
- Physical Archives
  - Currently hosted by Brian Voss at NOAA
    - Brian will maintain the physical archives until we have a long-term storage solution
  - We are investigating the following long-term options for the physical archives
    - University of Illinois - currently hosts the GSIS archives
    - American Meteorological Society
    - Linda Hall Library
      - Linda Hall Library has confirmed that they are not equipped to process unpublished archival materials at this time, but are exploring hiring an archivist in the next few years and may be able to take the archives then
- Digital Archives (including website content)
  - Some content will be migrated from the ASLI website to the GSIS website
    - The GSIS executive board will meet with Renee and members of the ASLI-GSIS task force at their June meeting to discuss how best to add this content to the GSIS website
  - Some content will be archived
    - Content that may be relevant to GSIS officers or committees, but not for public access on the GSIS website, will be added to the GSIS Wiki
    - All archival content will be converted to print and added to the physical archives. These include documents that record the historical activity of ASLI (meeting minutes, committee documents, organizational documents, etc.)
  - Photo Archives
    - Add ASLI photos to the GSIS Flickr account, possibly as its own album
    - Develop longer-term preservation plan for ASLI/GSIS photo archives with the GSIS executive board and GSIS webmaster

## **Determining how, if at all, ASLI programming like Atmospheric Science 101 and ASLI Choice Awards could be maintained or rolled into GSIS programming**

- Atmospheric Science 101
  - We plan to integrate some atmospheric science content into this year's Geoscience Librarianship 101
    - Task Force plans to recruit potential contributors from ASLI listserv and peer circles
  - Continuing discussion of scope of ASLI/GSIS ongoing programming
- ASLI Choice Awards
  - No ASLI Choice Award will be presented this year
  - Next step will be to discuss if/how to integrate this into GSIS awards

## **Evaluation and planning for integration and management of other ASLI operations**

- Relationship with the American Meteorological Society (AMS)
  - ASLI meetings were held in conjunction with AMS annual meetings
  - Past ASLI annual meeting recorded presentations and slides are accessible as part of AMS's annual meeting content. This is expected to continue. ASLI presentations are documented at Search Results - Past AMS Meetings and content goes back as early as the 4th annual meeting in 2001.
  - ASLI has no other ongoing connections with AMS

## **Continuing Activities of the Task Force**

The next steps for the task force will include:

- Complete the migration and archiving of existing ASLI content
- Develop recommendations for potential changes to GSIS' scope to be more inclusive of a wider array of earth science disciplines and strive for a further global alignment.

We expect to have our final report and recommendations ready by October 1, 2026.

## **Acknowledgements**

The task force would like to acknowledge input from the following ASLI and GSIS members:

- Tia Colvin, GSIS Treasurer
- Shaun Hardy, GSIS Archivist
- Renee Schofield, GSIS Webmaster
- Jamie Stanfield, ASLI Treasurer
- Brian Voss, ASLI Archivist and Webmaster