President's Column

By Lisa Johnston

The start of spring has been a busy time sending out committee appointments. The preliminary draft is summarized below and see our website for more details at http://www.geoinfo.org-committees.html.

Also, despite the amazing numbers of you who volunteered on the sign-up sheets at GSA last fall, there are a few open positions that I’d like to promote and seek more volunteers. If you are interested in lending a hand in any of these areas, please let me or the committee chair know.

Committees in need of volunteers:
Archives Committee
Preservation Committee (expand to Digital preservation?)

Open Positions:
Publications Manager (Mentorship opportunity!)
GSIS Newsletter Reviews Editor

Open GSIS Representative Roles:
National Science Digital Library
North East Map Organization (NEMO)
Special Libraries Association (SLA)
Western Association of Map Libraries (WAML)
Others?

And now, here are the preliminary appointments. Please contact the chairs/representatives for more information:

2012 Committee Appointments

Archives
Purpose: To collect and preserve the history of the Society.
Volunteer or request more information

Best Paper Award
Purpose: Determine winner of Best Paper Award
Carol La Russa, Chair, 2011-2013
Michael Noga, 2012-2014
Cynthia Prosser, 2012-2014
John Hunter, 2012-2014
Nancy Sprague, 2012-2014
Lisa Adamo, 2012-2014

Best Reference Work Award
Purpose: Determine winner of the Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award.
Michael Noga, 2012-2014
John Kawula, 2012-2014
Diane Taylor Harding, 2012-2014

Continued on page 3.
GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY 2012 Officers

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Beginning in 2012, the digital GSIS Newsletter will be published quarterly, in March, June, September, and December by the Geoscience Information Society. Subscription is free to GSIS members. The annual non-member subscription rate is $40. Please contact the GSIS Publications Manager for paper copy subscription prices. 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. Material for the June issue should be received no later than June 1, 2012. Please send submissions by e-mail to Bonnie Swoger, swoger@geneseo.edu.
Distinguished Service Award  
*Purpose: Select the winner of the Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award.*

- Patricia Yocum, Chair, 2012-2013
- Michael Noga, 2012-2013
- Sharon Tahirkheli, 2012-2013

Exhibits  
*Purpose: Plan, design and arrange for GSIS exhibits and maintain booth materials.*

- Darin Buri, 2011-2013
- Dona Dirlam, co-chair, 2011-2013
- Kay Johnson, 2012
- April Love, co-chair, 2011-2013

Guidebooks  
*Purpose: Update and maintain the Geologic Guidebooks of North America database Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks Committee Portal to Information*

- Lura Joseph, 2011-2013
- Erin Palmer, chair, 2012-2014
- Jody Foote, 2011-2013
- Thelma Thompson, 2010-2012
- Linda Musser, 2012-2014
- Louise Zipp, 2012-2014
- April Love, 2012-2014
- Amanda Bielskas, 2012-2014

Information Resources  
*Purpose: Plan, design, and arrange the Information Resources Forum*

- Richard Huffine, 2012-2014
- John Hunter, 2012-2014
- Michael Noga, 2012-2014
- Sharon Tahirkheli, 2012-2014
- Diane Taylor Harding, 2012-2014

International Initiatives  
*Purpose: Investigate, report on, and recommend internationally-focused activities for GSIS.*

- Dena Hanson, 2011-2013
- Dorothy McGarry, 2012-2014
- Megan Sapp Nelson, 2012-2014
- Chari Folkner, 2012-2014
- Maxine Schmidt, 2012-2012

Membership  
*Purpose: Review/revise brochure; solicit new members; contact members who have not renewed and welcome back members who renewed late.*

- Dorothy McGarry, 2012-2014
- Cynthia Prosser, 2012-2014
- Lisa Adamo, 2012-2014
- Louise Deis, 2012-2014
- Themla Thompson, 2012-2014
- Diane Taylor Harding, 2012-2014
- John Hunter, 2012-2014

Nominating  
*Purpose: Nominate candidates for elective offices; prepare, mail, and count ballots and report results.*

- Jan Heagy, 2012
- Kay Johnson, Chair, 2012
- Dena Hanson, 2012

Preservation  
*Purpose: Recommend GSIS's role in preservation activities and develop preservation guidelines for the geoscience community*

- Marie Dvorzak, 2012-2014
- Linda Musser, 2012-2014
- Chair and members needed -- volunteer or request more information

Website  
*Purpose: Advise on the content and organization of the GSIS Website; determine winner of the Outstanding Website Award.*

- Connie Manson, 2011-2013
- John Kawula, 2011-2013
- Bob Tolliver, Chair, 2012-2014
- Bonnie Swoger, 2012-2014
2012 Appointments

Auditor, Miriam Kennard, 2012-2014
Geonet Moderator, Louise Deis, 2011-2014
GSIS Newsletter Editor, Bonnie Swoger, 2012-2014
GSIS Newsletter Reviews Editor, volunteer or request more information
Publications Manager, Ellie Clement, 2012-2014
Publicity Officer, Adonna Flemming, 2011-2013
Webmaster, Courtney Hoffner, 2012 - 2014
GSA Topical Session Convener and Proceedings Editor, Bob Tolliver, 2012-2013
Geoscience Librarianship 101, Clara McLeod, 2009-2012

2012 Representatives

AGI Environmental Geoscience Advisory Committee, Louise Deis, 2011-2014
AGI GeoRef Advisory Committee, Richard Huffine, 2011-2014
AGI Government Affairs Program, Marie Dvorzak, 2011-2014
AGI Member Society Council, Suzanne Larsen, 2011-2014
American Libraries Association (ALA), John Hunter
Atmospheric Sciences Librarians International (ASLI), Linda Zellmer
National Science Digital Library, vacant
North East Map Organization (NEMO), vacant
Special Libraries Association (SLA), vacant
Western Association of Map Libraries (WAML), vacant

Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award Call for Nominations

The Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award recognizes a person who has made significant contributions to the profession of geoscience information. The Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award Committee invites nominations for the 2012 award.

To nominate someone please send the nominee's name, title, contact information, resume or curriculum vita, and a statement not to exceed 700 words indicating why the candidate is deserving of this award.

Additional letters of support are welcome and very helpful. Two or more people may wish to collaborate on a single nomination. Note that the nominee need not be a GSIS member.

Send all materials to the Committee Chair Patricia B. Yocum, pyocum@umich.edu by May 15, 2012. Electronic submission is preferred.

Nominations and supporting material in paper form can be sent to the Chair at:

Patricia B. Yocum
3720 Lamplighter Dr.
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
Vice President’s Column
By Linda Zellmer, Western Illinois University

Plans are underway for the annual Geoscience Information Society meeting, which will be held November 4-7, 2012 in Charlotte, North Carolina in conjunction with the Geological Society of America meeting. The Geoinformatics Division has proposed holding a joint reception again. I mentioned that GSIS usually held a silent auction at the reception; they have responded that they would not object. If you are planning to attend the meeting this fall, you might want to start collecting items for the Silent Auction. It is also time to start developing ideas for presentations about your research and other activities.

Several people have volunteered to help teach Geoscience Librarianship 101 this fall, so we will be offering the workshop before the Annual Meeting. Many thanks to Adonna Fleming, who organized the original workshop in Salt Lake City, Utah and taught sessions for several years as well as Lisa Dunn, who taught about collection development, and Lura Joseph, who taught about reference. The new instructors will be Megan Sapp, Purdue University (Instruction), Amanda Bielskas (Collection Development) and Hannah Winkler, Stanford University (Reference). I will continue to teach about maps and GIS. I look forward to working on the workshop with the new instructors.

Katie Lage, (University of Colorado at Boulder) shared information about a new bill that has been introduced in Congress to establish a single U.S. Government mapping agency within the U.S. Geological Survey, which would be responsible for the development of the “National Geospatial Database.” The bill would allow acquisition of data from commercial sources, which could impact the ability of Federal agencies to share data with libraries and other government agencies. The full bill information, including information on Congressional actions and status, can be found in the Library of Congress’ THOMAS database: http://hdl.loc.gov/loc.uscongress/legislation.112hr4233.

Call For Nominations: GSIS Officers

The GSIS Nominating Committee invites you to submit names for Vice-President/President Elect and Secretary. Elections will be held electronically. The major duties of the offices are as follows:

- **Vice-President/President Elect** – Three-year term. The GSIS Vice-President recruits sponsors and is in charge of making arrangements for the annual conference. The GSIS President appoints committees, sets the agendas and presides over Executive Board and Membership Meetings. As Past-President, he/she is the chair of the GSIS Nominating Committee.

- **Secretary** – Two-year term. The GSIS Secretary maintains membership records and handles renewals. He/she records and distributes the minutes of GSIS Executive Board and annual business meetings.

All nominees must be current members of the Geoscience Information Society. Self-nominations are encouraged! This is a great opportunity to get to know your fellow-GSIS members better while serving the society. A nicer, more dedicated group of people is hard to find. If you have any questions or want more information about the offices, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Please send all nominations by April 30, 2012 to me at the e-mail address below.

Thank-you for your nominations!

Kay G. Johnson
Chair, GSIS Nominating Committee
kjohnson497@radford.edu
Jim O’Donnell – A Remembrance
By Michael M. Noga, with contributions from friends and colleagues

We celebrate the life and contributions of Jim O’Donnell, who passed away on February 20, 2012. Jim was a member of the Geoscience Information Society for over 30 years. He ran for President once, but was relieved when he lost because he had agreed to run for the President of the ALA Map and Geography Roundtable at the same time. He would have made an excellent leader of either group. Instead he served GIS/GSIS in many different ways.

At the Annual Business Meeting, he was our parliamentarian and sage – the voice of clarity and reason. In the mid-1980s, Jim had worked with a group to update the bylaws. He was our expert on procedure and provided advice to the Executive Board on what was possible with or without a vote. He posed pointed questions at the meetings and made thoughtful comments that propelled the discussion forward. Jim proposed the Society’s current logo, which was designed by a friend.

New attendees at the Annual Meeting were often truly welcomed into the Society by Jim. He was very affirming and supportive. Jim made new members feel comfortable to speak up and contribute at meeting sessions.

He was a co-founder and early President of the Pacific Section. There was concern that members of the Section would spend more time on the Section’s projects than the work of the main Society. It turned out that after two years, the main activity was a lunch at the Annual Meeting. This eventually evolved into a relaxed social occasion where members from any region could meet and learn from each other.

Jim had a strong interest in GeoRef. He served on the American Geosciences Institute’s GeoRef Advisory Committee for several years.

Jim had a strong commitment to resource sharing. He set up an informal agreement to fax papers between the UCLA and Caltech geoscience libraries. At the 1992 meeting, he and other California librarians over dinner at the Rookwood Restaurant formed the Rookwood Accord to share materials between our libraries. They added other institutions to the group with the Lake Merced amendments at the WAML meeting at San Francisco State University. Less formally, Jim could always be counted on to respond to frantic, late Friday afternoon pleas on Geonet from East Coast librarians, desperate for ILLs after the usual lenders had closed for the weekend.

In both GIS/GSIS and the Western Association of Map Libraries, Jim was involved in publications production and distribution. He made many helpful changes as Publications Manager. He was involved in the publication of the Proceedings and the physical awards. Jim suggested changes in the stock of publications and ways to streamline distribution. All this work helped when he became GSIS Secretary for 2003 and 2004.

Jim was our Webmaster (1999-2007) and the Chair of the Society’s Website Advisory Committee from 1998 to 2004. He helped choose and presented the Best Website Award. Jim also served on the Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Committee (2002-2004).

Jim’s papers at GSA/GSIS Annual Meetings focused on hot topics, electronic information, faculty
behavior, copyright, and GeoRef use. He and Charlotte Derksen presented a paper on CD-ROM and floppy-disk databases at the 1989 meeting and one on evaluating net resources in 1995. In 1999, he presented a talk on copyright for geoscientists. In 2001, Jim presented an analysis of faculty citation behavior to see how much of the work that they cited was available online. In his copyright talk, he put up a slide that just had the word “duh” to make a point. The point was made.

Though Caltech’s map collection is not very large, Jim had an active interest in map librarianship. He served on the Cartographic Users Advisory Council from 1993 to 1995. He was an active member of the Western Association of Map Libraries and hosted some memorable meetings at Caltech.

Once at a WAML meeting in San Diego, he looked around and commented that we were mostly ex-hippies. He drove to a lot of the WAML meetings in the West, and the journeys with him were memorable, particularly a stop at a curious café in Panguitch, Utah that had cow salt shakers. On the way back from a Thai restaurant on Oahu at the WAML 1992 meeting, the group started singing old classics. It was an opportunity to hear Jim’s wonderful voice, which kept the tunes going.

Attending professional meetings with Jim was always a culinary treat. He would identify interesting local restaurants. Three cities come to mind. At the 1986 San Antonio meeting, he took a small group to two Mexican restaurants that he had known when he worked at Trinity University. He liked Rosario’s a lot and held a special fondness for La Fogata. At the meeting, his description of the dinner at Rosario’s was so good that he took two groups there.

At the 1995 New Orleans meeting, Jim was good company at meals at the Gumbo Shop, Mulate’s Cajun restaurant, Galatoire’s, Antoine’s, Emeril’s New Orleans, and even the Waffle House. The whole conference felt like a tasting.

Jim fell and injured his arm at the 1993 ALA Annual Meeting in New Orleans. He went to two hospitals, got a cast, and then attended meetings as usual. Jim was tough.

At GeoInfo IV, our best culinary experience was a nondescript Canadian-Middle Eastern restaurant near the downtown mall. The menu had a chef’s platter. Jim, Rich Spohn, and Michael Noga agreed to try it. The owner was so pleased they had ordered the platter that they kept receiving a supply of flavorful Middle Eastern dishes.

Several times the GSA Annual Meeting was held in Denver. One of the most memorable was the 2007 meeting. Neither Jim nor Michael Noga could check in to the Adams Mark Hotel until late Saturday afternoon. They were told that the room had been taken, probably by Boston Red Sox fans who paid more to see the World Series. Instead they were given the Executive Suite at a very good price. There were no beds, but a large kitchen for entertaining and a nice big meeting table. Jim thought it was so funny that he invited other GSIS members to tour the room.

Jim’s last contribution to geoscience librarianship was his service on the Geological Society of America Publications Committee. He really enjoyed being on the Committee and working with its members.

We missed Jim’s presence at the Minneapolis meeting. We miss Jim for his intelligence, his wit, his steady service to our Society and the profession, and most of all for being a life spirit at every GIS/GSIS meeting we had the fortune of attending with him.
Tell Ertl Oil Shale Repository
by Julie Carmen, Colorado School of Mines

The Tell Ertl Oil Shale Repository (TEOSR), http://library.mines.edu/Tell_Ertl, is located in Arthur Lakes Library, Colorado School of Mines, Golden, Colorado. This unique repository has over 36,000 items about the oil shale industry. Oil shale is an organic-rich sedimentary rock containing kerogen and found in geological locations such as the Green River Formation and the Piceance Creek Basin. The Tell Ertl database (http://tellert.coalliance.org/) provides access to the repository’s materials.

In 2006, the Center for Oil Shale Technology and Research (COSTAR) was established at CSM to focus on uniting oil shale research worldwide. COSTAR collaborated with Arthur Lakes Library to process the special collections within the oil shale repository. Information about each of the first 23 collections can be found on the Tell Ertl web site. Unprocessed gifts have been listed on the Tell Ertl web site under Inventories of Unprocessed Gifts.

The COSTAR web site (http://www.costar-mines.org/) was developed as a portal for current oil shale news and other resources. Linked on this web site are the Tell Ertl database, as well as the Tell Ertl and Arthur Lakes Library web sites.

To date, thousands of architectural drawings and maps have been processed. These uncataloged items are being inventoried and listed on the Tell Ertl web site under Architectural Drawings and Maps.

The repository has year-round projects which include accessioning and archiving new donations, cataloging, digitization and metadata creation, locating copyright holders and obtaining digitization permissions, re-housing physical items for preservation, inventory, and educational outreach. Educational outreach includes exhibits and tours of the repository, open hours for reference questions, and poster presentations at the annual Oil Shale Symposium, hosted by COSTAR at Mines (news at http://www.costar-mines.org/oil_shale_symposia.html).

Recent news-worthy events for the repository:

Educational Display: Shale Tech International has funded an educational display for the oil shale repository, which is scheduled to be completed in March, 2012. This display will show 16 artistic drawings of the oil shale industry from 1949-1950. Joseph B. Burnett was commissioned by the United States Bureau of Mines to do the drawings and completed the works in 1950.

Russell Book Digitized: The TEOSR is excited to make available the digital version of Oil Shales of the World by Paul L. Russell, with permission from his heirs. This full text document can be found in the Tell Ertl database or directly in the Colorado School of Mines Digital Repository at http://minesdr.coalliance.org/fedora/repository/cog:4022.

For more information, contact Julie Carmen by email, jcarmen@mines.edu, or phone, 303-834-2316.

GSIS Slogan: Send us your suggestions

The GSIS Executive Board is looking for suggestions regarding a slogan or catchphrase for our illustrious organization. Do you have a suggestion to help us concisely explain who we are and what we do? Let us know.

Email slogan/catchphrase suggestions to Rusty Kimball, rkimball@library.tamu.edu.

GSIS Newsletter Number 253, March 2012 8
Member updates

Retiring: Miriam Kennard
Miriam Kennard is retiring from her position as Geological Sciences Librarian effective April 1, 2012 after 32 years of service. Miriam was head of the Geological Sciences Library at the University of North Carolina for more than 31 years until it closed in July, 2011. Since then she has been working in the combined science libraries at UNC. Miriam has been a member of the Geoscience Information Society since 1980, served as secretary from 1986-1988, and served on many GSIS committees over the years, including chairing the Membership Committee for several terms.

Miriam states, “My affiliation with the Geoscience Information Society has been a significant part of my professional career. I have learned so much and have benefitted from the connections I have made with geoscience information professionals, all of whom have been so willing to give of their time and expertise. Most especially, I value the wonderful friendships I have formed with GSIS members over the years.”

New member: Jody L. Smale
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania - Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
jlsmale@aol.com

Publications
Linda Zellmer recently published a book chapter:


Natural Hazards Images
By Heather L. McCullough, NOAA National Geophysical Data Center

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Geophysical Data Center (NGDC) recently released an improved Natural Hazards Image site (http://ngdc.noaa.gov/hazardimages) that provides a dynamic user interface for discovery of and access to over 9,000 images of natural disaster impacts. The site now provides geographic context (georeferencing) to the images and events, and can be incorporated into 3D visual browsers, such as Google Earth. Descriptive tags, or keywords, have been applied, enabling easier navigation and discovery. Integrating natural hazards data, such as tsunami, earthquake and volcanic eruption events, socio-economic information, and tsunami deposits and runups along with images and photographs improves user understanding of the location, frequency, and impact of these natural hazards. NGDC's global historical databases consolidate these data, providing the user with easy access to a network of information.

GSA Annual Meeting: Call for Abstracts

It’s time to start considering ideas or projects to present at this year’s GSA/GSIS Annual Meeting, which will be held November 4 – November 7, 2012 in Charlotte, North Carolina. This year we are planning to have a GSIS oral technical session and a poster session. This year’s session titles are:

GSIS Oral Technical Session: "Geoscience Information: Investing in the Future"

GSIS Poster Session: "Don’t be a Dinosaur: Geoscience Information in the 21st Century"

Abstracts are due August 14, so please start thinking about participating now. I will share more details as they become available.

If you have questions, please contact Bob Tolliver at rlt17@psu.edu.
Free Seismology and Earth Structure Posters
By Linda Zellmer, Western Illinois University

The Incorporated Research Institutions for Seismology (IRIS) has several posters related to seismology and Earth structure available. What's even better is their cost -- They're Free!

The posters available include:

• Earthquakes... like ripples on water?
• A Century of Earthquakes
• Sumatra - Andaman Island Earthquake
• Exploring the Earth Using Seismology
• Global Seismographic Network (temporarily out of stock)
• History of Seismology

Information on how to request the posters is available from: http://www.iris.edu/hq/publications/posters.

Water Damage at the University of Colorado Earth Science and Map Library
By Katie Lage, University of Colorado

In February of 2011, a pipe burst in the southwest corner of the main floor of the Jerry Crail Johnson Earth Sciences & Map Library at the University of Colorado Boulder. Although the water was turned off quickly, water ran over the floor and through the ceiling, damaging collections and facilities. The University Libraries’ emergency coordinator said that this was the worst emergency he’d seen in the Libraries in 20 years! The Library collections fared better than the facility. Only about 50 books and 5 maps were damaged irreparably. An additional 1700 books and maps required preservation to make them usable again.

The Library was closed for two months and access to the book stacks was limited even after we reopened. Library patrons were very patient as staff took requests and paged books in the stacks for their use. Most of the damage to the facilities was fixed very quickly, but it was only in January 2012 that the movable book stacks were replaced and ready for public use. One benefit from this disaster was that, with additional funding from the Libraries, we were able to recarpet the entire library and remove some un-used shelving. The new carpet gives the Library a bright and updated look and we have grand plans for installations for the newly available wall space.

Understanding Physical Science Researchers
By Linda Musser, Pennsylvannia State University

The UK Research Information Network (RIN) has released "Collaborative yet Independent: Information Practices in the Physical Sciences", the third in its series of reports covering information practices in scholarly disciplines (earlier reports have covered life sciences and humanities). The earth sciences was one of the disciplines studied. Some of the results include information sources used and sources of new research information. For example, while Google Scholar was heavily used by earth scientists, all browsed online journals but only 36% reported using library materials online (wonder who they think pays for them?).

The report is available at: http://www.rin.ac.uk/our-work/using-and-accessing-information-resources/physical-sciences-case-studies-use-and-discovery-
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Proceedings of the Annual GSIS Meetings (ISSN 0072-1409)
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