



**GEOSCIENCE
INFORMATION
SOCIETY**

newsletter

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by

Lisa G. Dunn

In my last actions as GSIS President, I have been looking back over the Society's progress during this year.

Review of the Society's Operations

Michael Noga, in his own last column as President in 2002, called for a review of the activities of the Society to better balance its resources with its goals and activities. This call for a review was timely--the nature of geoscience information and of the GSIS membership itself have changed over time to affect the way that the Society operates.

We have started this review process; hopefully, we will end with a stronger Society. The description of our activities to date is in my annual report in this issue. Please read it over and get your feedback to me or other members of the Executive Board for the upcoming Society meeting in Seattle.

USGS Coalition

GSIS became a charter member of the newly-formed USGS Coalition this spring. The USGS Coalition was formed to support the USGS and has over 40 organizational members. The immediate goal of the Coalition is to demonstrate the breadth of the Survey's constituency and to lobby on its behalf. I have been unable to attend the Coalition's meetings as a GSIS representative so far but they have action items ready to go. If anybody would like to be our Society's rep, the Coalition has been meeting regularly at the AGU headquarters in Washington DC. For information on their activities and volunteer needs, see <http://www.usgscoalition.org>.

In conclusion, I would like to say that working with the members of GSIS has made it a pleasure to serve as President. I have always found GSIS to be a rich source of information, peer contacts, advice, and professional growth opportunities. The same applied exponentially during my term as a member of the Executive Board. I encourage all members to become involved in the Society as a committee member or representative. I would like to specifically and enthusiastically encourage you to consider a GSIS officer position in the future. Sure, it can be a lot of hard work, but the professional and personal benefits are worth it!

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Editor's note: You might notice that this issue has a different look. That is out of necessity, not style. Your editor is in transition and so, for the moment, the *Newsletter* is, too.

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GSIS members are encouraged to contribute materials for publication. Material for the December, 2003 issue should be received no later than November 21, 2003. If possible, please send materials by e-mail.

VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Lura Joseph

It is nearly time for the GSA/GSIS annual meeting! This year's GSIS Topical Session, "Geoscience Information Horizons: Challenges, Choices, & Decisions" includes 14 talks covering a wide range of timely topics related to collections and use of collections. Topics include efforts to save geology libraries, debate about the value of various segments of the collections, collection development/analysis tools such as book reviews and publishing patterns, information access and information literacy, and physical versus virtual libraries, including the status of an aggregation of geoscience electronic journals, linking to full text, and implementing open archival information systems. There will also be a poster session, and a separate discipline session moderated by AESE.

We can also anticipate a lively and interesting series of forums which include a combined GeoRef Users Group/Digital Forum, Collection Development Issues Forum, and Preservation Forum. As always, the Professional Issues Forum and Meeting Wrap-up will provide opportunity to discuss current concerns, interests, and experiences, and may help focus and direct topics for next year's meeting.

Please also plan to attend the GSIS Luncheon and Awards Ceremony, the Business meeting, and the Reception

sponsored by Elsevier. And who would want to miss the GSIS field trip which includes a ferry ride and talk by an expert in local geology, and a tour of Seattle Underground?

The Topical Session schedule and abstracts can be found in the previous issue of the *Newsletter*, and on the GSIS Website: <<http://www.geoinfo.org/>>. The GSIS Meeting schedule can also be found on the Website, and is reproduced below. Please check the Web site prior to the meeting for possible last minute room changes. In order to minimize expenses, refreshments will not be provided at the meetings. It is generally possible to find beverages and snacks nearby.

The GSIS International Initiatives Committee will be holding a silent auction again this year, so be prepared to join in the fun! The auction will be open at the GSIS Luncheon and the Evening Reception.

Don't forget to preregister for the meeting, <<http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2003/>>, and to purchase luncheon and field trip tickets!! I think this will be a meeting that you will not want to miss!

Finally, thanks to all of the many individuals who are working to make this meeting a great success, and to Elsevier Science for supporting the Reception.

Other meetings of interest:

T33 Beyond Google: Strategies for Developing Information-Literate Geoscience Students (Posters) (Geoscience Educators)
Tuesday, 11/4, 8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m..

T45I Geological and Geophysical Databases: What We Have and What We Need. I. Tuesday, 11/4, 8:00-12:00.

T45II Geological and Geophysical Databases: What We Have and What We Need.II Tuesday, 11/4, 1:30-5:30.

T47 Design & Development of XML-based, Discipline-Specific, Geological Markup Languages, and Development of Applications. Tuesday, 11/4, 8:00 a.m.-12:00.

GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

Seattle, WA, November 2-6, 2003

Annual Meeting Schedule

Note: GSIS Committees--Meet separately as arranged by committee chairs

Sunday, November 2

8:00 a.m.-11:50 p.m. Geoscience Information/Communication Discipline Oral Session (AESE): Challenges in Geoscience Publishing; Perspectives of Communicating Geoscience to Scientists and to the General Public Washington State Convention and Trade Center 204

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Geoscience Information/Communication Posters, Washington State Convention and Trade Center Hall 4-F

12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. GSIS Board Meeting, Sheraton Cedar

4:00 p.m.-6:00 p.m. GSA Presidential Address& Awards Ceremony, Washington State Convention and Trade Center

6:00 p.m.-8:30 p.m. GSA Welcoming Party & Exhibit Hall Opening, Washington State Convention and Trade Center

Monday, November 3

8:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. GSIS Topical Session T48: Geoscience Information Horizons: Challenges, Choices, and Decisions, Washington State Convention and Trade Center 3B
2:00 p.m.- 4:30 p.m. Collection Development Issues Forum, Sheraton Aspen
5:30 pm.- 7:30 pm. GSA Alumni Night

Tuesday, November 4

8:30 a.m.-11:30 a.m. GeoRef/Digital Forum, Sheraton Aspen
12:00 p.m.- 1:30 p.m. GSIS Luncheon & Awards, Sheraton West , Ballroom B
1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m. GSIS Business Meeting, Sheraton Aspen
7:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. GSIS Reception (Sponsored by Elsevier), Sheraton Aspen

Wednesday, November 5

8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Preservation Forum, Sheraton Aspen
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Professional Issues Forum & Wrap-up, Sheraton East Ballroom

Thursday, November 6 Field Trip

8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Part 1: Glacial Geology & Seismic Hazards of the Puget Sound (Ferry)
11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. Part 2: Lunch (on your own) Pioneer Square
1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Part 3: Seattle Underground Tour Downtown Seattle

Note: The field trip will start at the Coleman Ferry Dock which is 8 to 12 blocks from most of the hotels, all downhill. Participants can arrange to walk to the ferry, or share cabs. It would be advisable to get there at least 15 min. before sailing. Departure time will likely be 9 a.m., however listen for announcements at the meeting in case of scheduling changes. Thanks to Connie Manson for organizing the field trip!

See below for more information and the sign-up form.

Field Trip: Seismic In Seattle!

The trip is in three parts so folks can participate in any part(s) they'd like and leave when they need to.

Part 1: "The Glacial Geology and Seismic Hazards of the Puget Lowland," led by geologist Tim Walsh (head of the Environmental Geology section of the Washington Division of Geology and Earth Resources). Take the Seattle to Bremerton ferry, over the Seattle fault, past Restoration Pt. (site of uplift from the 1100 ybp earthquake on the Seattle fault), past the glacially-deposited, landslide-prone shores of Puget Sound. 8:30 to 11:30; fee \$15.

Part 2: Lunch in historic Pioneer Square (on your own) 11:30 to 1:00

Part 3: The Seattle Underground Tour-Visit the spooky city that lies beneath Seattle's present street level. The subterranean walkways are dry, but the history is not. Learn about Seattle's colorful past; how the Founding Fathers' squabbling led to Seattle's complicated street system, and how the solutions to our unique plumbing problems affected the town's elevation. (This is one of Seattle's most popular attractions-- and A Real Hoot!) 1:30 to 3:30; fee \$10.

There is no limit to the number who can attend: the ferry holds quite a few people, there are plenty of restaurants in Pioneer Square, and the Underground Tour can accommodate just about any number. If we have at least 10 people, we can get a private tour and pick our own hour.

Sign Up Now!

Name: _____

e-mail address: _____

Ferry tour only: \$15; Underground tour only: \$10; Both:\$25

Please mail this form and your check to: Connie Manson, 2525 Sleater Kinney Road N.E., Olympia, WA 98506

ANNUAL REPORTS

Officers

President

This year I have worked with the Executive Board and committee chairs to start a review of GIS activities to address the changes in geoscience information and in the resources of the Society itself.

First, it was time to take a hard look at the Society's finances. With a stable membership base of about 200 for the past number of years and a lack of profit-generating activities, our income has not increased significantly and is not expected to do so under present circumstances. As with many other things, organizational and conference costs (a major annual expense) have continued to rise. GIS has received generous donations to help support the annual meeting in both money and time from its members, and we have scaled back our plans for the meeting and will probably continue to do so. Other actions, such as offering the *Newsletter* in electronic format, resulted in savings as well. Even so, as the costs of doing business as a Society continue to rise, the membership must look at increasing income over time to continue to thrive.

Second, we have been reviewing membership participation, demographics, and resources. One change made at the 2002 Business Meeting was to change our signature initials from GIS to GIS while leaving the name "Geoscience Information Society" unchanged to better communicate our purpose.

With our stable membership of ~200, the Society supports 15 committees. While a credit to our active goals and the members we attract, this reflects a lot of committee work and some duplication of effort as committees' focuses change to reflect new developments in geoscience information. The committees have been asked to review and update their operational guidelines; this process is ongoing. We will be looking at changes in committee status; this process is also ongoing.

Third, there are areas where the Society can grow--should we? And if so, how? Areas include membership, participation in information policy-making, cooperative efforts with other professional organizations, and contribution to the field of geoscience information in the form of products or resources. Growth is related to the review of our membership resources--we need members who have time and energy to contribute, and we need to make sure that we ask members to participate in the most effective and efficient ways. The Executive Board needs feedback from the membership on where the Society should concentrate its resources. What are our priorities?

The membership of GIS should consider these issues and provide comments to the Executive Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa G. Dunn

Vice President

The GSA/GSIS annual meeting is progressing well. The theme for the GIS topical session, "Geoscience Information Horizons: Challenges, Choices, & Decisions," was submitted and accepted by GSA. We received and accepted 14 very strong abstracts, and the topical session should be extremely interesting. Four abstracts were accepted for the separate Poster Session. I completed my tasks as a member of the GSA Joint Technical Program Committee. The forum schedule, room requests, and AV/Catering requests have been submitted, and extra luncheon tickets for awardees have been ordered. Most of the meeting preparation was accomplished via the Web and e-mail, with a few phone calls for clarification.

It is possible that GSA will only charge us once for a room if we use it for the entire day, rather than charging us per meeting. If that turns out to be the case, future VPs may find it more cost effective to retain one room size and floor plan for an entire day, rather than selecting a smaller room size for one meeting in an attempt to save money.

All possible efforts were made to minimize meeting expenses. For example, no refreshments were ordered for the forum sessions (only for the business meeting). (Coffee and tea typically cost \$380 per session). Expenses will also be reduced this year because the Digital session will not be using a projector/computer hookup. (The digital expenses typically are \$700 to \$1,000). The preliminary meeting budget has been submitted to the Executive Board.

Elsevier has again generously committed to supporting the Reception in the amount of \$1,000. Springer-Verlag is contributing \$380 for beverages at the business meeting. I have made initial contacts with five other earth science publishers; so far only Springer-Verlag and one other have responded.

The VP Handbook will be updated soon after the annual meeting. One previously undocumented procedure causes some confusion during the JTPC process: Abstracts can be submitted either directly to the topical session, or to the discipline section. For the last several years, GIS has shared a discipline section with AESE. If a topical session does not receive enough abstracts, either moderator can draw from the discipline "pot". If an abstract does not fit the topical session, it can be transferred to the discipline "pot". It is also the joint responsibility of the GIS VP and the AESE representative, as members of the JPTC, to transfer out any abstracts that don't fit the discipline, and to find a session for any that are left in the "pot". This requires a lot of good communication between the GIS VP and the AESE representative. In the past, most of the abstracts in the discipline section went to either the GIS topical session or the AESE topical session, and therefore there was not a separate discipline session. This year, GIS had enough abstracts submit-

ted to the topical session that none of the discipline abstracts were needed. Since AESE did not have enough abstracts submitted for a topical session, AESE took over the discipline session and will moderate it. It is possible that both GSIS and AESE could have enough abstracts that there would also be enough submitted to the discipline to constitute a separate third session. If this ever happens, and if neither a GSIS nor an AESE representative is able to moderate the session, the JTPC maintains a list of individuals who are willing to moderate a session. All of this can be complex and it is imperative to communicate with AESE even before the JTPC process starts so that the two societies are not working at cross purposes. The same individual has been handling the process for AESE for a number of years.

I would like to document another point relative to the VP responsibilities: Regrettably, due to our very vigorous schedule, it is nearly impossible to avoid scheduling over other societies' topical sessions and meetings of possible interest to GSIS members. Even a second (discipline) session would be difficult to incorporate into the schedule. There have been requests to cosponsor a topical session with another society. For this to be possible, planning would need to begin immediately after the annual meeting for the next annual meeting. Some of the points to work out with the other society, in addition to scheduling, would include what to do about inclusion of papers in the GSIS Proceedings. A cosponsored poster session would be less problematic, but the question of inclusion in the Proceedings would still need to be settled.

I have posted meeting information on a Web page, and Jim O'Donnell, the GSIS webmaster, has linked to it from the society Web page.

My thanks to all the GSIS members who have helped me, including those who submitted abstracts, those who are organizing and participating in the GSIS forums, those who are organizing and working at the exhibit booth, the awards chairs, Joni Lerud-Heck for agreeing to co moderate the topical session, and Lisa Dunn and the other officers who have provided excellent council. Thanks also to GSA for cheerfully answering a multitude of questions, and again, thanks to Elsevier for agreeing to sponsor our reception and to Springer-Verlag for sponsoring our business meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Lura Joseph

Secretary

As of Friday, September 19, 2003, we have 176 paid members. There are 28 folks who haven't renewed yet, and I'm turning them over to the Membership Committee within the hour. Our newest members are:

Carol A. Collier, Map Cataloger
University of Wyoming
Coe Library, PO Box 3334
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Home 1360 North 19th Street
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Email ebadams@library.ucla.edu
Home 11360 Matteson Avenue
Los Angeles, CA 90066
Home Phone 310-390-5495

Respectfully submitted,
Jim O'Donnell

Treasurer

Two reports for 2003 have been issued to date: 1) the 2003 budget proposed in Denver and subsequently approved by the Executive Board and 2) a midyear report which appeared in the August *Newsletter*. The final report for 2002 will appear shortly.

In 2003 several important operating procedures changed. Email renewal notices proved very successful with no negative impact on the treasurer's functions. The secretary and the treasurer refined procedures to track and aggregate special contributions such as those to Professional Development, Member Sponsorships, and Unrestricted Gifts. Similarly, a separate tracking for funds raised for Interna-

tional Initiatives was begun. Reports on each of these funds will be made in Seattle. GSIS now has its own business credit card, with the President and Secretary the authorized signers. The card was successfully used for the first time to pay initial expenses for the Seattle meeting. The plan is to use the card for convenience and to pay the balance due upon receipt of the billing statement.

The four certificates of deposit purchased in May 2002 remained intact, with interest earned re-invested in each one. Two of the four mature in May 2004. Of the \$5600+ yield expected, approximately \$4600 will be available for reinvestment, with the remaining \$1000 removed to fund two Mary B. Ansari Awards (2004, 2005). All CD's earn interest higher than that paid by the business savings accounts which formerly held the money.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia B. Yocum

Geonet Listserv Editor

The Geonet Listserv subscriptions increased slightly this year to 283, up from 278 last year. The number of spams has dramatically increased to at least a dozen per day. So far, the self-post system has been very successful, so we will continue with this method.

The chart listed below compares 2003 to 2002:

| | 2003 | % | 2002 | % |
|------------------|------------|-------------|------------|-------------|
| .edu | 147 | 52% | 143 | 51% |
| .gov | 24 | 8% | 27 | 10% |
| .com and .net | 30 | 10% | 34 | 12% |
| .org | 8 | 3% | 7 | 3% |
| academic foreign | 3 | 1% | 20 | 7% |
| other foreign | 71 | 25% | 39 | 14% |
| other | 4 | 1% | 8 | 3% |
| totals | 287 | 100% | 278 | 100% |

The most dramatic changes are:

- 1) major drop in academic foreign subscribers over 2002
 - 2) major increase in other foreign subscribers over 2002
- The membership committee requested the geonet subscribers list for the purpose of soliciting new GSIS members.

Respectfully submitted,
Carolyn J. Laffoon

Newsletter Editor

The *Newsletter* continues to report the Society's activities to the Society's members. Since the 2002 annual report, six issues have been prepared and distributed, both in print and as PDF files.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie J. Manson

Representatives

American Geological Institute Member Society Council

Representatives from the American Geological Institute's member societies met in Salt Lake City May 12. The summary of that meeting was published in the June, 2003 *Newsletter*. The Council will meet again at the GSA meeting in Seattle. Highlights of that session will be reported at the Seattle meeting and in the *Newsletter*.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie J. Manson

Cartographic Users Advisory Council

The CUAC Annual Meeting was held May 1-2, 2003, in Washington, D.C. The federal agency host was the U. S. Government Printing Office. The business meeting was held from 9:00 - 12:00 p.m. on May 1, 2003. Agency presentations began that afternoon and continued Friday, May 2, 2003. At the business meeting, CUAC co-chairs (Mike Furlough and Dan Seldin) welcomed the group, introducing the four new members: Wangyal Shawa, Paige Andrew, David Decklebaum and Mary McInroy. The minutes of the last business meeting were corrected and approved. Presentations were given by 8 agencies as reported in the minutes that were distributed on Geonet (July 30, 2003) and in the *GSIS Newsletter*, no. 203, August 2003, pages 12-23.

Linda Zeller and Wangyal Shawa are now representing CUAC on the Homeland Security Working Group. The Group will work to: (A) develop principles and guidelines that can be used to evaluate the need to reduce or eliminate public access to geospatial information for reasons of Homeland Security, (B) clarify the implications of publicly accessible geospatial information, and the implications of reduced access to data that has, until now, been publicly available and (C) develop criteria to evaluate the sensitivity of data and identify ways that organizations can balance security concerns and public information access.

Federal agency assignments were reviewed and the agencies assigned to CUAC members follow: U.S. Geological Survey, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Army Corps of Engineers - Linda Zellmer; Central Intelligence Agency, Natural Resources Conservation Service - Clara McLeod.

The next annual meeting will be held in Washington, April 30-May 1, 2004.

Respectfully submitted,
Clara P. McLeod and Linda Zellmer

Committees

Archives

The Geoscience Information Society Archives are housed in the University Archives at the University of Illinois. The GISIS archives contains historical documentation of the Society, files and reports of past GIS officers and committee chairs, and GIS publications.

Materials received by the committee are reviewed and forwarded to the University Archives. Additional materials should be sent to: Mary Krick, ISGS, 615 E. Peabody Dr., Champaign IL 61820.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Krick, chair

Best Paper

The Best Paper Committee completed its rankings of nominated papers in July. The winner for this year is Charlotte R.M. Derksen. Her paper, "USGS publications: current access via the Web and via catalogs", is found in *Proceedings of the 36th Meeting of the Geoscience Information Society: Geoscience Information: A Dynamic Odyssey*, p. 107-116. Derksen's study contrasts access to key USGS series via web page searches and Marcive catalog records. Challenges in identifying web-based publications and linking to them from online catalogs are ubiquitous and are well documented in this case study. The importance of the U.S. Geological Survey as a publisher of geoscience literature makes this paper relevant to nearly all geoscience information professionals.

The six members of the committee nominated and evaluated a total of twenty-one papers this year. Several other worthy papers were identified during the evaluation process. Some committee members have offered to write short descriptions of these papers for publication in future issues of the *GISIS Newsletter*.

Respectfully submitted,
Thelma Thompson, chair

Exhibit Committee

The GISIS booth at GSA in Seattle this year will be #736. Our theme is Digitization in GeoScience Libraries. If you have a project on digitization, please write a short paragraph and include a photograph and/or a web site and we will use these in the booth. We also welcome recommendations of other projects you know about. We again need volunteers willing to staff the booth. Please send ideas and resources to Dona Dirlam at ddirlam@gia.edu

Respectfully submitted,
Dona Dirlam, chair

GeoRef Advisory

The GeoRef Advisory Committee met at AGI headquarters in Alexandria, VA on June 23. The Committee assists GeoRef director Sharon Tahirkheli and the AGI Executive

Committee by providing recommendations on the GeoRef Information System and developing ideas for information products and services for the geoscience community. The Committee consists of: Harvey A. Cohen (S.S. Papadopoulos & Associates); Charlotte Derksen (Stanford University, chair); Shaun Hardy (Carnegie Institution of Washington, GISIS representative); Suzanne Larsen (University of Colorado); John Steinmetz (Indiana Geological Survey); and Dennis Trombatore (University of Texas at Austin).

The Committee reviewed budget and subscription data for recent years. GeoRef subscriptions have been holding nearly constant, though subscriptions to the print *Bibliography and Index of Geology* continue to slide. Alternative publishing arrangements for BIG (such as migrating to CD-ROM or reducing the frequency of print issues) were discussed as possible cost-saving measures. A status report was given on *GeoScience World* -- the joint online publishing initiative being launched by several earth science societies. GeoRef searching and linking capabilities are part of the plan, but exactly how they will be integrated (and priced) in the new aggregate is yet to be determined.

The Committee revisited the topic of coverage of theses and dissertations in GeoRef. GeoRef staff use Dissertation Abstracts for current awareness of doctoral dissertations; however, some universities (e.g., University of Texas) have now dropped the requirement that students deposit copies of their dissertations with UMI, so direct reporting by departments will be even more crucial. Inclusion of Master's and Bachelor's honors theses remains problematic; statistics for the past decade collected at Stanford show that significant gaps in coverage remain. Sharon T. indicated that staff will investigate. Rather than trying to select individual titles based on subject content, the Committee recommended that *all* theses and dissertations granted by U.S. geoscience departments be indexed in GeoRef, as well as *all* publications from the USGS and state surveys. Capturing bibliographies published by museums and state surveys is another area of concern. GeoRef now advises that such lists be sent directly to AGI to insure their inclusion in the database.

Web links for digital versions of existing print documents are being added to GeoRef records on an ongoing basis, but users will see these enhancements only when their vendor reloads the database -- which, in some cases, is only every two years. Implementing geographic and geochronologic search capabilities is a major goal on GeoRef's 5-year strategic plan. However, a GIS-based interface is still considered impractical at this point by most of the Committee given the sheer size of the database. Other announcements and topics of discussion included the following:

- The Groundwater and Soil Contamination Database is now available through the AGI website on a subscription basis. (For several years it has been issued on CD-ROM.) The search engine is the same as that used for GeoRef Previews

- GeoRef has been funded by NSF for the next three years to provide cataloging services (metadata) for Phase III of the Digital Library for Earth System Education (DLESE).
- Easier, more reliable downloading of GeoRef records into bibliographic software packages such as EndNote and ProCite is highly desirable. Staff are investigating how this might be facilitated, e.g., through restructuring of certain data elements in the record. The ODP/DSDP Citation Database, which is produced by AGI, currently supports the export of records in tagged-field format, suitable for loading into reference managers.
- GeoRef's contract for compiling the U.S. Geological Survey Publications Database is up for renewal at the end of the year.
- GeoRef has traditionally indexed publications dealing with planetary surfaces, but will now include planetary interiors as well -- but only *solid* planets. Coverage overlap with the NASA Astrophysics Data System will be investigated.

The Committee next meets at the GSA annual meeting in November. Your questions, concerns, and suggestions about GeoRef are welcome, so please feel free to get in touch with me at hardy@dtm.ciw.edu.

Respectfully submitted,
Shaun J. Hardy, chair

International Initiatives

The committee will meet at the annual meeting.

Member Shaun Hardy conferred with the Membership Committee to clarify the relationship and responsibilities of the International Initiatives Committee and the Membership Committee concerning new and continuing international sponsored members. Advertising for the sponsored memberships is being planned.

Member Judie Triplehorn is planning the Silent Auction to be held at the GSIS Reception. The goal of the silent auction is to raise funds for the International Fellowship. We hope that all GSIS members will participate by bringing items to the meeting and participating in the auction. (See page 12 in this issue of the *Newsletter* and watch for news on Geonet-L.)

Respectfully submitted,
Claren Kidd, chair

Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work

The GSIS Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Committee nominated and evaluated 18 reference works including: *Astronomy Encyclopedia*; *Cambridge Encyclopedia of Meteorites*; *The Oryx Resource Guide to El Niño and La Niña*; *Earth Science* (Salem Press: 2001); *Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Environmental Change*; *Encyclopedia of At-*

mospheric Sciences; *Encyclopedia of Astronomy and Astrophysics*; *Encyclopedia of Biodiversity*; *Encyclopedia of Global Change: Environmental Change and Human Society*; *Encyclopedia of Ocean Sciences*; *Encyclopedia of Soil Science*; *Handbook of Mineralogy*; *International Handbook of Earthquake and Engineering Seismology*; *Manual of Geospatial Science and Technology*; *Manual of Mineral Science*; *Minerals of the World*; *Salton Sea Atlas*; and, *World Atlas of the Oceans*.

The 2003 Ansari Committee Members include: Lisa Fish (Columbia University), Linda Newman (University of Nevada-Reno), Janice Norris, Chair (Texas A&M University), Jim O'Donnell (Caltech), Sally Scott (University of Wyoming), and Charles W. "Wil" Weston (University of New Orleans).

The Committee selected the four-volume set published by the Institute of Physics Publishing, the *Encyclopedia of Astronomy and Astrophysics* (2001) edited by Paul Murdin, as the recipient of the Mary B. Ansari Best Reference Work Award.

Respectfully submitted,
Janice Norris, chair

Nominating

The Nominating Committee submitted a call for nominations, contacted several prospective candidates, and sent out a ballot with Linda R. Musser for Vice President/President Elect and Jane Ingalls for Treasurer. We encourage the membership to consider serving the Society at some point in their career by running for office.

Respectfully submitted,
Michael Noga, Chair; Clara McLeod and Angela Gooden, members

Membership

The Membership Committee includes Miriam Kennard, Sally Scott, Lee Walkling, and Connie Manson, chair. I regret that this committee has not been as active as intended, due to the chair's distraction.

Respectfully submitted,
Connie J. Manson, chair

Preservation

The Preservation Committee is wrapping up work on several projects. As mentioned in the mid-year report, the current committee members are Kristi Jensen (co-chair), Mary Scott (co-chair), Diane Baclawski, Pauline MacDonald, Susan Skinner, and Thelma Thompson. The Preservation Committee web site is almost ready to be re-released. Changes include a new look and feel to match the overall GSIS pages, updates to the online resources including the addition of descriptive abstracts, and an update of the bibliography of preservation literature. Future additions to the

site will include links to other online Preservation Bibliographies and links to free online abstracts/indexes containing preservation literature.

Finally, the committee is working on plans for the Preservation Forum in Seattle. Suggestions for discussion topics from members are always welcome.

More detailed announcements regarding the Preservation Committee web site and the Preservation Forum will appear on Geonet in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristi Jensen, co-chair

Task Force on the Citation of Geoscience Data

The Task Force developed a Web page which outlines ways to cite geoscience data and provides background on the purpose of the group. Linda Musser will make a presentation on the work of the task force to the Association of Earth Science Editors at the GSA Annual meeting, and has been asked to prepare an article for the magazine "Science Editor." The focus of next year's activities will be on outreach to earth science editors and others.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Musser, chair

Union List of Field Trip Guidebooks

The Committee membership consists of Charlotte Derksen, Angela Gooden, Dorothy McGarry, Carol Messick, Jim O'Donnell, Lin Rose, and Louise Zipp (Chair). This committee works in collaboration with the American Geological Institute (AGI), through Sharon Tahirkheli. AGI maintains and hosts the database, titled "Geologic Guidebooks of North America Database." In an effort to bring the database up-to-date, AGI has been processing a backlog of guidebook entries that postdate the last print edition but were released before 1999. Guidebook descriptions from that date forward are being held temporarily in the "Waiting List" (<http://door.library.uiuc.edu/gex/gis/GuidebookWL.html>), a web file that is being hosted by Lura Joseph at Illinois.

1989 to 1998 Guidebook entries: In a recent e-mail message, Sharon Tahirkheli stated that AGI has completed work on 443 guidebooks from the 1990s, leaving 26 in process, and 62 to be borrowed for processing. Guidebook data ("surrogates") were received this summer from a former committee member. Work on this material has not been started, but it should overlap somewhat with other 1990s submissions. Sharon speculated that the material could contain up to 200 unique entries for 1990s materials.

Carol Messick reported that she has been sending over to AGI pre-searched guidebook entries for guidebooks released earlier than 2001. Carol also has retained an older box of "surrogates" from the 1990s and earlier dates collected by USGS librarians. Contents of that box have not been searched or submitted for processing.

1999+ guidebook entries: Sharon reported that 24 guidebook entries were processed and removed from the Waiting List. Another 23 items are being processed and, according to Sharon, 53 items are awaiting attention. AGI does not delete a guidebook from the Waiting List until it is loaded into GeoRef.

Lura Joseph reported that the Waiting List has grown by 60 entries between September 12, 2002 and September 3, 2003. The present total is 94 items. She noted that 8 items had been removed by AGI after their processing was completed.

Bringing the UL up-to-date is still a goal for the future. Most of the work is being done by AGI. The Committee's role has been very passive and mostly limited to submission of data to the Waiting List. This collaboration needs some adjustment to enable the UL to become updated in a reasonable amount of time. To that end, Sharon has posed some procedural questions to the Committee and requested assistance in searching the batch of surrogates she received over the summer. She has also offered to have the UL sorted regionally so that Committee members can identify geographic gaps in coverage. Earlier this summer the Committee members were polled about taking specific regional responsibilities, and most members who responded did not wish to be committed to this approach.

Goals for 2004 include:

- Regional evaluation of UL coverage, and, perhaps, expanding the Committee to meet the need for geographic coverage;
- Responding to Sharon's procedural questions;
- Moving the Waiting List to the Chair's institution;
- Clarifying the procedures and responsibilities for removing entries from the Waiting List;
- Discussing with AGI the possibility of opening the processing to all dates soon or creating a different mechanism for submission of guidebook information that would speed up the processing.

In other work, a set of operational guidelines for the Committee was created.

Respectfully submitted,
Louise S. Zipp, chair

JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

Science Librarians (two positions), University of Minnesota Libraries, Minneapolis, MN

The University of Minnesota Libraries (<http://www.lib.umn.edu/>) seeks two innovative and energetic Science Librarians to join a staff of seven librarians in the Science and Engineering Library (<http://sciweb.lib.umn.edu/>). The library supports the research and instructional needs of undergraduate and graduate students, faculty, and staff in the physical sciences (astronomy, chemistry, geology, physics), history of science and technology, and engineering (computing, aerospace, biomedical, civil, electrical, mechanical). In addition to assuming core responsibilities for collection development, reference services, and instruction, successful candidates will develop collaborative relationships with academic departments and establish new programs and initiatives that respond to trends in scientific research. Successful candidates will also contribute to the profession as they work toward continuous appointment.

The University of Minnesota (<http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/>) is located in the center of the beautiful Twin Cities metropolitan area. The Twin Cities are known for their cultural amenities, such as the Guthrie Theater and Walker Art Center, and for their extensive park and recreational systems.

Responsibilities

- Select library materials in all formats for assigned disciplines. One of the open positions will cover chemistry and chemical engineering. Subject coverage for the other position depends on background and experience and may include physics/astronomy, geology/geophysics, history of science & technology, or computer science/computer engineering.
- Develop strong connections with faculty and students to determine and address collection and service needs. Seek opportunities for partnerships with assigned departments, including the development of digital content and services.
- Promote science information literacy through program development and instructional support.
- Provide general and research assistance to library users during scheduled hours at the Science & Engineering Reference Desk in Walter Library, including weekend shifts. In addition, develop programs

- and services outside the Library, for example, in departments, dormitories, the student union, etc.
- Contribute to the development of the Libraries digital reference services (for example, <http://infopoint.lib.umn.edu/>) and online learning resources and tools (<http://www.lib.umn.edu/research/>); maintain and develop assigned subject Web pages on SciWeb (<http://sciweb.lib.umn.edu/general/inetres.html>).
- Analyze trends in the teaching and research programs of assigned disciplines, keep current with scholarship in the disciplines themselves, and apply observations to collection, instruction and reference services.

Qualifications. Required: ALA-accredited MLS, or foreign equivalent; excellent communication and interpersonal skills; demonstrated creativity, initiative and self-direction; ability to respond effectively to changing needs and priorities; ability to work both independently and in cooperation with colleagues and library users in a service-oriented, collaborative environment. **Preferred:** Undergraduate or graduate science degree, or significant discipline-specific experience in an academic library; experience in collection development, reference, or instruction in a large college or university library; experience in developing working partnerships with academic departments and other campus communities; experience in developing digital library projects; experience in grant writing and managing funded projects; demonstrated involvement in professional activities.

Salary and Benefits: These are full-time, 12-month, continuous-appointment track, academic/professional positions with probationary appointments at Assistant Librarian rank. The Libraries offers a competitive salary commensurate with experience. Excellent benefits and substantial moving allowance.

To apply: Positions available immediately. Applications will be accepted until filled. Send letter of application, resume, and the names, addresses, telephone numbers, and e-mail addresses of three current professional references to: Human Resources, 499 Wilson Library, University of Minnesota, 309 19th Ave. So. Mpls., MN 55455. Please identify the application with UL # 168.

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A Dedy Ward Painting Will Be In The Silent Auction

Our own Dederick (Dedy) Ward, geologist/librarian/artist is donating one of his paintings for the GSIS Silent Auction. This abstract oil is 12 inch tall by 9 inch wide.

Dedy was a founding member of GIS and one of the people instrumental in the initiation of international meetings of geoscience information specialists (GEOINFO). He served as GIS Secretary, Vice President and President. Among his publications are two editions of *Geologic Reference Sources*, published by Scarecrow Press.

Dedy's oils are impressionistic landscapes painted in the field on boards. He has had shows at Seattle's Friesen Gallery and in other galleries in the northwest. In Jan/Feb, 2003 he participated in a show with Philip Morsherger, formerly the Ruskin Master of Drawing at Oxford University. To see his biography, thumbnail images, and a list of galleries in which he has had solo exhibitions, go to www.friesengallery.com/artists/bio/s_ward_bio.html Other images can be seen at www.scottmilo.com/html/dederick_ward.html

If you can't attend the meeting but would like to fax a bid, please use the form below.

GSIS Silent Auction Bid Sheet (for members not attending the annual GSIS annual meeting)

To bid on Dedy Ward's painting, please complete the following and fax it to Judy Triplehorn at (907) 474-7290 before October 29, 2003.

Name _____

Postal address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Beginning bid _____

Maximum bid _____



GEOSCIENCE
INFORMATION
SOCIETY

newsletter

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