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Contents

President's Column.....	1	Vice-President's Column.....	3
2008 GSIS Topical Session.....	4	Call for Nominations.....	4
Book Review.....	7		

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Suzanne T. Larsen

The Nature Geoscience Dilemma

I think I can safely say that we are all in a materials budget crisis. This is especially true of serials. At the University of Colorado we cancelled about a quarter of our serials (by cost, not number) in 2000. We have been in a zero sum situation ever since. If we want a new serial we must cancel titles equal to that subscription price. We do have some creative "work arounds" which involve a lot of time, negotiation, and co-operation that make new titles possible. I'd like to share with you my experience with Nature Geoscience.

About a month ago, I was reading the morning paper with my coffee before work. I was surprised and pleased to see an article describing research being done by one of the young faculty members in our Department of Geological Sciences on the front page. While reading the newspaper article my pleasure turned to dismay as I discovered that this research was published in Nature Geoscience. Oh no! The University of Colorado Libraries do not subscribe to Nature Geoscience. I could see this as a problem.

I will say up front that I am not a fan of the proliferation of new (and expensive) titles by the Nature Publishing Group and was in the mode

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GSIS members are encouraged to contribute materials for publication. Material for the June, 2008 issue should be received no later than May 30, 2008. Please send materials by e-mail to afleming@unlnotes.unl.edu

of “just say no”. When I got to work I visited with the faculty member. I let him know that we didn’t subscribe to the journal because it was new and that it was very expensive. I said I was curious as to why he chose that journal for publication of his research. He explained that since his research is in environmental geosciences he needed a more interdisciplinary venue. Also he wanted to get the research out in a more timely manner than many of the other geosciences journals allow. He also said that the chances of a geosciences paper being published in Nature were very slim. His research had not only attracted the interest of the local newspaper, but the Denver Post, the local public radio station and National Public Radio! I also found that we had several other faculty published in the inaugural issue of the journal, including the cover photograph. Then the emails from students and faculty started coming... I could see that I was fighting a losing battle. I had been through the same situation with Nature Physics and Nature Photonics.

What to do? I contacted my collection development librarian (and also forwarded all the emails to her). She confirmed that we did not have subscription money available for the full subscription. However, for a little more, we could get a subscription for the University of Colorado System, four libraries in total. I had little hope that she could convince the others to contribute. To my surprise the others agreed to do so and we were able to subscribe.

How do I feel about this? A little bit like I sold my soul to the devil. I still have major concerns about the proliferation of new Nature titles and their high cost. How do my constituents feel about this? They feel it is a quality journal where many of them will publish, not so much because of the Nature name (they tell me) but because it fills a need in the geosciences.

I think next time I’ll write on the Open Access issue, maybe that will make me feel better.

VICE PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

by

Rusty Kimball

As Vice President, my GISIS service responsibility is planning and arrangements for our annual meeting this October in Houston, Texas. As a lifelong Texas resident, the city of Houston is familiar to me, now being a mere two-hour drive away from my library. This year’s GSA meeting will celebrate the International Year of Planet Earth, and will be a special joint meeting between The Geological Society of America (GSA), Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies with the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM (GCAGS), hosted by the Houston Geological Society (HGS) (<https://www.acsmeetings.org/>). GSA has announced that this year’s meeting will be held at the George R. Brown Convention Center in downtown Houston. There are at least 15 downtown hotels nearby, although

GSA will not post their list of sponsored hotels with reduced rates for online booking until June 3rd, so mark your calendars. Attractions in the immediate downtown area include the Shops at Houston Center and the Downtown Aquarium. The taxi fare downtown is a flat \$6 with no surcharges, and is applicable to multiple riders. (See <https://www.acsmeetings.org/housing-and-travel/houston-info/>)

Concerning GSIS annual meeting activities, look for Geoscience Librarianship 101 to kick things off on Saturday, October 4th ---once again organized the team led by Andrea Twiss-Brooks. Our usual key activities will include the Business Meeting, Collection Development Forum, Technical Session, Alumni Receptions, E-Resources Forum, Luncheon, Reception and Silent Auction, Poster Session, Executive Board Meetings, and a Field Trip on Thursday, October 9th. Some significant changes for this year will be that the Awards presentations will take place at the Reception and Silent Auction event, and the Luncheon will include a guest speaker. I'm sure that we can expect a larger attendance at the expanded Reception event, so I will be planning accordingly. I am presently in the midst of making arrangements for the guest speaker. This month I will begin soliciting sponsorships for our events. Jan Heagy has graciously offered to organize this year's Houston area Field Trip, and she's got some exciting prospects in the works. Stay tuned!!

008 GSIS – GSA Topical Session

Call for Papers:

The GSIS technical session of this year's GSA meeting (Houston, Texas October 5-9, 2008) is shaping up to be an exciting one. Don't miss your chance to present a presentation and/or a poster as we celebrate the International Year of Planet Earth (<https://www.acsmeetings.org/2008/>).

2008 Oral Session Theme:

“Libraries in Transformation: Exploring Topics of Changing Practices and New Technologies”

2008 Posters Session Theme:

“Moving Mountains: Data Mining and Digital Repositories in the Geosciences”

June 3, 2008 is the deadline for abstracts (oral, poster, or both) and they can be submitted online at <http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2008AM/index.epl>. If you would like more information feel to email the technical program convener, Lisa Johnston (ljohnsto@umn.edu).

Call for Nominations

Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award



The Geoscience Information Society is pleased to announce and issue a call for nominations for the 2008 Mary B. Ansari Distinguished Service Award.

The award recognizes a person who has made significant contributions to the profession of geoscience information. The nominee need not be a member of the Geoscience Information Society.

To nominate someone 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 from other individuals are welcome along with the nomination.

Please send all material to the Committee Chair, Patricia B. Yocum, pyocum@umich.edu by May 1, 2008. Digital submission much preferred. Contact the chair for further information.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Yocum, Chair; Claren Kidd, Michael Noga, Janice Sorensen

Nominating Committee

The GSIS Nominating Committee cordially invites nominations for Vice President / President Elect and Secretary. The term for the Vice President is three years including the final year as Past President. The office of Secretary has a two year term. Descriptions of the duties for both offices are available on the GSIS website, <http://www.geoinfo.org/> Click on **Governance & Historical Info**, then on **Bylaws**. Scroll down to Article III.

Please send nominations to the Committee Chair by May 1. We aim for an early election this year to accommodate the earlier date of our annual conference, scheduled for October 5-9, 2008.

Patricia Yocum, Chair;
Clara McLeod
April Love

Guidebooks Committee:

1) First of all, please note the 2nd Call for Nominations for the Best Guidebook Award:

The Best Guidebook Award Subcommittee of the GSIS Guidebooks Committee needs your input. Last year's award covered 2005 and 2006, while this year's award will cover guidebooks published in 2006 and 2007. The overlap allows previously unknown 2006 guidebooks to be included for consideration.

Please send us citations for the geologic guidebooks that you have found most helpful or that you think are most deserving of the honor **and that best meet the guidelines** for geologic guidebooks as prepared by GSIS <http://www.geoinfo.org/GuidebookGuidelines.pdf>. The committee will review all nominations received before May 1st, providing we can access a copy.

The work of this subcommittee is intended to help improve the quality of geologic field trip guidebooks, which are very important sources of geologic

information, by advertising the standards via the award. The award is presented at the annual combined meeting of GSIS and Geological Society of America (GSA), and is also advertised on a poster in the hall of awards at the GSA annual meeting. Please take the opportunity to highlight this important source of geological information.

Please reply before May 1 to Jody Foote jbfoote@ou.edu, chair of the subcommittee, and copy Lura Joseph luraj@uiuc.edu.

2) If you are continuing to add guidebooks to your collection, please remember to send information about the titles to Lura Joseph. The titles will be added to the Waiting List and then borrowed by GeoRef to be indexed in GeoRef and added to the free online database of guidebooks (<http://www.agiweb.org/georef/onlinedb/gnaintro.html>). You can either e-mail the information luraj@uiuc.edu, use the online form <http://www.library.uiuc.edu/gex/gis/GuidebkForm.html>, or snail-mail a copy of the title pages to Lura Joseph. The needed information consists of: Series (if applicable), title, volume number (if applicable), publication year, and your name, e-mail address, and affiliation so that GeoRef can borrow the material.

We really need your help in this important effort to index and preserve field trip guidebooks. Presently only three or four individuals are regularly submitting information.

3) If you value field trip guidebooks and would like to volunteer to

work on the Guidebooks Committee, please contact the chair, Lura Joseph. Possible tasks include helping select the winner of the Best Guidebook Award; contacting field trip leaders and geological societies to make them aware of our standards and other resources such as the free guidebooks database; and/or helping fill in the guidebooks titles missing from GeoRef and the free online database.

4) My sabbatical has been granted for September 2008 through February 2009. My goal is to identify as many missing guidebooks titles as possible during that time, and then to write a number of articles targeting specific geologic audiences to solicit help in preserving and indexing field trip guidebooks. I am also planning to create a web page listing active guidebook series, along with information for obtaining copies of titles.

If you have guidebook series in your collection that are not analyzed, please contact me; it may be worthwhile for me to travel to your library to collect information about the individual titles.

In summary, if you are adding guidebooks to your collection, please send us the information. If you are interested in working on this committee, please let me know so that I can notify the GSIS President, and if you are aware of a guidebook deserving of the award, please submit a nomination.

Sincerely,
Lura Joseph
Chair, Guidebooks Committee

Book Review

Eyles, N., and Miall, A., 2007, *Canada rocks; The geologic journey*: Markham, Ontario, Canada; Fitzhenry and Whiteside Limited, 512 p. ISBN: 10: 1550418602. ~\$50.

I sincerely wish that *Canada Rocks; The Geologic Journey* had been available when I took Geology One. However, even with an advanced degree in geology, it is a great read. The organization of the book is around the central theme of plate tectonics; therefore, even though the focus is on Canadian geology, the setting includes the entire world, from the Big Bang to present.

The organization of the book is consistently logical. Beginning with "A Hellish Beginning" as the opening chapter, the book progresses with a chapter explaining the fundamentals of how the Earth works, and on to a chapter summarizing how the various parts of Canada were assembled over the last 4 billion years, while relating those events to other parts of the world. The next five chapters deal with the geology of each region of Canada, again, centered on the theme of global plate tectonics. Subsequently, chapter 9 covers the ice ages, chapter 10 discusses natural resources, chapter 11 deals with geology

relative to public issues, and chapter 12 summarizes with a consideration of how geology has helped create "a unique Canadian identity".

A wide variety of geological concepts such as deep time, sequence stratigraphy, stress and strain, magnetic declination, and Bowen's reaction series are introduced within the flow of the geological story; simply, clearly and in a "need to know" context. Truly, this is a delightful way to learn. The

writing style is clear, entertaining, and interspersed with dry humor and wit. An example is a photo of "Queen Elizabeth II in camouflage in a hallway of Tyndall Limestone" (p. 141, fig. 5.18E).

Both of the authors are authorities of Canadian geology, and both are widely traveled geologists specializing in field work. In addition to their previous experience, they made five special trips in preparation for writing the book, resulting in a book rich in relevant color photographs, as well as color tables, graphs, paintings, and other figures. In fact, the many interesting color photographs trigger a nearly irresistible urge to jump in the car and go see these sites first hand, were it not for the price of gas.



My only complaint about the book is partly due to the richness of illustrations: it is often necessary to hunt forward or back in the book to find the figure referenced by the text, and some photographs are not accompanied by a figure number. The book is soft bound, and could suffer from frequent use.

Altogether, this is a delightful, entertaining, and educational book. In

addition to offering a painless way to learn geology, experienced geologists will enjoy reviewing the geology of Canada in the context of global plate tectonics.

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