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### PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Kay G. Johnson

Rusty Kimball, with help from Lisa Johnston, has come up with terrific themes for the 2011 GSIS Meeting sessions. The GSIS Technical Session is “Printed Past, Digital Future: the Key to Geoscience Information is in Your Library” and the poster session is “Geoscience Information: Preserving Access to the Past is Key to Future Discoveries.” There will also be a joint oral session with the Geoinformatics Division: “Registration and Discovery of Geoscience Information Resources: Metadata, Search, and Catalogs.” I know you have some great ideas for abstracts.

Jan Heagy and I have been talking about doing a board meeting via teleconference or webinar. I will be consulting with the Board about an agenda, but I expect to have a follow-up of the Round Table discussions from the Denver meeting. I am starting to look at committee assignments, something I am behind in.

Janet Dombrowski has been producing

excellent newsletters and web page management, but she is ready to transition off of newsletter editor. If you are interested in the position, please let me know. I’m sure Janet would be happy to consult with you about it.

Angelique Brown’s recent financial report showed income was down for last year, but expenses were down as well. The Geoscience Information Society needs continuing membership for continuing operations. I encourage you to renew your dues. Cynthia Prosser just sent out the dues renewal notice. I find the GSIS to be worthwhile in so many ways, including the website, list, and especially the annual meetings where truly dedicated and friendly members share research and common concerns in all areas of geoscience information and delivery. A big thanks goes to Angelique, Cynthia, Janet, Jan, Rusty, Lisa and the rest of you for your contributions to continuing and enriching the GSIS.

## GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY 2011 OFFICERS

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### Publicity Officer

*vacant*

The digital GSIS Newsletter is published bi-monthly in February, April, June, August, October, 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 April 2011 issue should be received no later than April 20, 2011. Please send submissions by e-mail to [jdombrow@uwyo.edu](mailto:jdombrow@uwyo.edu).

## VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Lisa Johnston

This month has been a busy time for conference planning for the GISIS Annual Meeting taking place in Minneapolis, MN October 9-12, 2011. The meeting theme is "ARCHEAN to Anthropocene – *the past is the key to the future.*"

GISIS events planned for this year's meeting include our popular Geoscience 101 course to kick things off on Saturday, October 8th. Then our regularly scheduled events such as the GISIS business meeting, our ticketed luncheon, and our evening reception and silent auction. These will be supplemented by a Professional Issues Forum that will follow last year's highly successful format of round table discussions. Finally, Rusty Kimball, this year's technical session convener, has put together three exciting presentation opportunities for us to share our research and highlight our services: the GISIS technical session, a joint technical session with the Geoinformatics division, and a GISIS poster session!

What are your thoughts or ideas for this year's meeting? Depending on funding, we might try to include at least one additional session in our program. How about bringing back the Information Resources Forum with a Vendor Update component? Another forum topic could be centered around digital preservation? Other ideas include post-meeting field trip destinations such as the St. Anthony Falls Lab, Bell Natural History Museum, LacCore: National Lacustrine Core Facility, a leisurely Mississippi River Cruise, or a drive to the northern Minnesota Sudan Mine. Please send me your ideas (or volunteer to chair a session)!

Speaking of funding, I am sending out direct e-mails about sponsorship opportunities

for GISIS this year to our publisher and vendor supporters. However, here is a general call for support. If you represent a publisher or GSA vendor, please consider supporting your Geoscience Information Society at our Annual Meeting this year. **SUPPORT IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR SUCCESS!** There are several benefits, such as recognition in this newsletter, the GISIS website, Geonet e-mail list. At the meeting, sponsors receive a verbal acknowledgment at, as well as an invitation to attend, the sponsored session, the GISIS Business Meeting, and the evening GISIS Reception. All sponsorship funds will go toward the increasingly expensive room and AV costs of our concurrent meeting with GSA. Contact me to learn about the variety of ways to sponsor our society.

Lisa Johnston  
([ljohnsto@umn.edu](mailto:ljohnsto@umn.edu))

## CALL FOR PAPERS

It's time to start considering ideas or projects to submit for presentation at this year's **GSA/ GISIS Annual Meeting**, which will be held **October 9 – October 12, 2011** in Minneapolis. This year is special in several respects, as there will be *two* technical sessions—our usual oral session by the Geoscience Information Society (GISIS)—and another *joint* oral session with the GSA Geoinformatics Division! Also, we will have a GISIS poster session, as in the past. Pretty exciting, huh? Our challenge will be to have a sufficient number of submissions to make the quota for *our* GISIS oral session—and still have at least a few for the joint session with the Geoinformatics Division.

OK, here are the session titles:

GISIS Oral Technical Session: "Printed Past, Digital Future: the Key to Geoscience

Information is in Your Library.”  
Geoinformatics/GSIS Oral Technical  
Session: “Registration and Discovery of  
Geoscience Information Resources:  
Metadata, Search, and Catalogs.”

GSIS Poster Session: “Geoscience  
Information: Preserving Access to the Past is  
Key to Future Discoveries.”

Although the deadline for online submission  
of abstracts is not until July 26, please start  
thinking about participating now. In the  
weeks and months to come, as they become  
available, I’ll share more details concerning  
submission, session dates and times, etc. via  
Geonet, the Newsletter, and the website.

If you have questions, please contact Rusty  
Kimball at [rkimball@tamu.edu](mailto:rkimball@tamu.edu).

## CALLS FOR NOMINATIONS

### **Ansari Distinguished Service Award**

It's not too early to start thinking about  
nominations for the Ansari Distinguished  
Service Award, given by GSIS each year to  
recognize outstanding contributions to the  
advancement of geoscience information.

Nominations need to include the person's  
name, position, and contact information,  
along with a statement not to exceed 700  
words indicating why the candidate is  
deserving of this award. Other material such  
as CV, letters of support, a list of publications  
etc. are also helpful. Two or more people  
may wish to collaborate on a single  
nomination. Note that the nominee need not  
be a GSIS member.

The deadline for submitting nominations is  
May 15. Please send nominations to Patricia  
Yocum via e-mail: [pyocum@umich.edu](mailto:pyocum@umich.edu).

### **Best Guidebook Award**

The Best Guidebook Award Subcommittee of  
the GSIS Guidebooks Committee is now  
accepting nominations for the 2011 Best  
Field Trip Guidebook Award. The award is  
presented at the annual combined meeting of  
GSIS and Geological Society of America  
(GSA), and is advertised on a poster in the  
Hall of Fame at the GSA Annual Meeting.

This year the award covers geology field trip  
guidebooks “published” in 2009 or 2010.  
Please consider titles you have found helpful,  
are unique in some way, or that that you feel  
are most deserving of the award. Titles  
should meet the *Guidelines for Authors,  
Editors, and Publishers of Geologic Field  
Trip Guidebooks* published by GSIS at [http://  
www.geoinfo.org/GuidebookGuidelines.pdf](http://www.geoinfo.org/GuidebookGuidelines.pdf).

Please send nominations for this award as  
soon as possible, but no later than May 1,  
2011, to Erin Palmer, chair of the  
subcommittee, via e-mail:  
[erin\\_palmer@gov.nt.ca](mailto:erin_palmer@gov.nt.ca). Submissions must  
include full citations along with details on  
how to obtain copies of the guidebooks.

## MEMBER NEWS

**John Kawula** has published "A Guide to  
Locating Wilderness Area Literature,"  
*Western Geography*, Vol. 17/18/19 (2007,  
2008, 2009), p. 78-96. [http://  
www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag/kawula.pdf](http://www.geog.uvic.ca/dept/wcag/kawula.pdf)

**Lisa Johnston** has just been promoted to the  
newly created role as Research Services  
Librarian and Co-Director of the University  
Digital Conservancy at the University of  
Minnesota - Twin Cities. She will be  
developing the libraries' data management  
program and expanding the data archiving  
potential for the libraries' institutional

repository. In the short term, Lisa will continue to serve as liaison to geology, physics, and astronomy.

## RETIREMENT

**Carolyn Laffoon**, Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Librarian, Purdue University

After 41 years of service, I will be retiring on May 31. **Megan Sapp Nelson**, Associate Professor of Library Sciences, will take over my position in the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Library, on June 1, 2011. She currently serves electrical and civil engineering and related technology disciplines. Her research interests are the data management practices of small scale international research collaborations and data information literacy education of graduate students. She looks forward to learning from all of the GSIS members. Since she will be occupying my office, my contact information listed in the directory will be the same for Megan: Room 2215B, CIVL Bldg., Purdue University, phone: 765-494-0201.

What an honor it has been working with such a dynamic group as GSIS. Joining in 1986, I have seen this society grow and change. Most everything I learned about the latest and upcoming events in geology librarianship, I learned from GSIS. The networking and friendship earned at these meetings are priceless. I cannot thank you all enough!

**Connie Manson** graciously offered to take over my chair duties on the Best Website Awards Committee. **Louise Deis**, from Princeton University, is planning to take over the Geonet List Moderator position. Thanks goes out to these two ladies!

Purdue allows retirees to keep their e-mail address, so please feel free to e-mail me at [carolyn@purdue.edu](mailto:carolyn@purdue.edu). I will miss you all!

*Carolyn J. Laffoon*

## USGS LIBRARIES UPDATE

◆ In October 2008, the USGS Libraries in Reston, VA, Menlo Park, CA, Flagstaff, AZ and Denver, CO were all brought together once again into the USGS Libraries Program. This effort was part of a broader realignment of Senior Management within the USGS which included the elimination of Disciplines and the creation of Mission Areas and Regional Executives. GSIS member Richard Huffine is the new Director of the USGS Libraries Program and the program reports under a new Core Science Systems Mission Area. The Library Branch Managers report directly to the Director of the program and the program also provides support for a number of independent Center Libraries located at various USGS Science Centers.

◆ In an unrelated story, on February 1, 2011 Bob Bier retired from the US Geological Survey Library in Reston, Virginia. Bob worked at the USGS Library for almost 40 years as a Map Librarian and in his last several years as the Manager of Public Services at the Reston library. As a part of the recognition for his service, Bob received a special award, a “challenge coin” on behalf of the Commander of the Army Geospatial Center. A challenge coin is a small coin or medallion (usually military), bearing an organization’s insignia or emblem, and carried by the organization’s members. The gift of a challenge coin to Mr. Bier signifies the great service that Bob has provided to our military colleagues during his years of public service in the Reston Library.

◆ On the evening of April 6, 2011, the US Geological Survey in Reston will host their monthly science lecture. The April 2011 topic, “Treasures of the USGS Library,” is in honor of National Library Month and to share some of the rarest collections in the USGS Library with the community. If you are in the

area and interested in attending, you can see the complete schedule and directions at [http://www.usgs.gov/public\\_lecture\\_series/](http://www.usgs.gov/public_lecture_series/).

There is a lot going on here these days! See you in Minneapolis!

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## **NEWS FROM COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY**

Amanda Bielskas

The Science & Engineering Libraries are pleased to announce that the new Science & Engineering Library at Columbia University opened in the Northwest Corner Building on January 18, 2011. The new library will focus on research support for the fields of chemistry, biology, physics, astronomy, and psychology, as well as providing a collaborative environment supporting rapidly expanding interdisciplinary science and engineering research. The library features seating and study spaces for 345 students and researchers with spectacular views of the Columbia campus and Morningside Heights. URL: <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/indiv/sciencelib/>.

The Digital Science Center in the Science & Engineering Library fulfills the vision of Columbia Libraries to consolidate and redefine library spaces for the 21st century. The Digital Science Center will incorporate state-of-the-art technology, high-end software and research data sets for scientific analysis and visualization, and professional, discipline-specific consulting and support.

Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory became the first program at Columbia University to take on open access, adopting an Open Access Resolution effective March 1. "We applaud the leadership of Lamont-Doherty in advancing open access to research articles. It will serve as a model as the Libraries now work with other Columbia schools, centers, and institutes to expand the commitment and participation," said James G. Neal, Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian. For more information: [http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/news/libraries/2011/20110201.cdrs\\_ideo\\_openaccess.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/lweb/news/libraries/2011/20110201.cdrs_ideo_openaccess.html).

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**March 16, 2011**

**2011 Professional Development Day for Area Science Librarians**

Shrewsbury, MA

<http://libraryguides.umassmed.edu/2011PDD>

**April 6, 2011**

**Third University of Massachusetts and New England Area Librarian E-Science Symposium**

Worcester, MA

[http://library.umassmed.edu/escience11\\_savedate.pdf](http://library.umassmed.edu/escience11_savedate.pdf)

**June 9-10, 2011**

**Science Boot Camp for Librarians**

Worcester Polytechnic Institute, MA

Contact: Maxine Schmidt

Head, Science and Engineering Library

University of Massachusetts

Amherst, MA 01003 413-545-6739

**2010 ANNUAL CONFERENCE  
GSIS FIELD TRIP**

November 3, 2010

Kay Johnson

About a dozen GSIS members participated in the field trip to the Denver Museum of Nature and Science to meet Dr. Logan Ivy, Collections Manager, and take a behind the scenes paleontology tour. Dr. Ivy is not only an expert on paleontology, but also manages metadata and databases used by paleontology researchers. The Museum's current collection management system is ARGUS, and their data is contributed into a shared paleontological database network using the Darwin Core metadata schema. SydneyPLUS has purchased ARGUS and the museum is looking to move to Re:discovery or EMu database software systems.

As you might expect, the museum's dinosaur collection is amazing. Although the public displays were being renovated during our visit, we saw impressive fossils behind the scenes. Our tour started by looking at a huge, disarticulated Apatosaurus skeleton housed on a range of shelving. Dr. Ivy took us into the shelving area to look at fossils from crocodiles and rhinos. We also saw



Dr. Logan Ivy, Collections Manager, Denver Museum of Nature & Science. All photos by Kay Johnson.

invertebrate skeletons, including a sizeable ammonite. The tour ended at a large slab filled with stegosaur pieces. The stegosaur was literally flattened.



Stegosaur fossils in-situ at the Paleontology Lab at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science.



GSIS members, including Louise Deis (L) and Cynthia Prosser (R), listen to Dr. Ivy talk about the Paleontology Collections at the Museum.

Afterwards, we split up and wandered around the museum enjoying the permanent displays including Egyptian Mummies and Expedition Health, and the temporary “Amazon Voyage” exhibition (complete with live bugs and fish, including piranhas). Coors Mineral Hall has impressive displays of rhodochrosite from the Sweet Home Mine in Colorado as well as ore minerals from local mining districts and gems from around the world.

An observation deck at the museum boasts the “Best view of Denver” (photo below).

All of us enjoyed the trip and found the Denver bus system reliable and easy to use.





**GSIS TREASURER'S  
2010 YEAR-END REPORT**

*(Full report on next two pages.)*

The Society's income for 2010 was \$10,809.74. The expenses totaled \$17,905.53. Therefore GSIS had a net loss of \$7,095.79. There was a 2009 invoice of \$2,977.66 for printing Proceedings that carried-over to the 2010 budget, and the 2010 annual conference in Denver was more expensive than anticipated. Taking these factors into consideration, I don't think the Society would've suffered a net loss otherwise. In looking back at previous Treasurer's reports, Denver conferences are far more expensive, so we should keep that in mind for the next Denver conference in 2013.

As of December 31, 2011 the balance in the savings account was \$9,656.50 and the balance in the checking account was \$8,831.33. The Society also has CDs for the GSIS General Funds (\$20,138.97), Ansari Best Reference Work Award (\$5,840.20), and Ansari Distinguished Service Award (\$3,512.07). These assets total \$47,979.07.

It should be noted that, once again, there was very little expense generated by the GSIS Officers and Committee Chairs. Terrific!

Respectfully submitted,  
Angelique Jenks-Brown

**REVIEW**

**Lynda Online Software Training Videos**  
Diane Thompson

The Natural Resources Canada Library in Vancouver, British Columbia, is currently piloting a subscription to Lynda.com. Lynda.com is an online training library with close to 1,000 online video courses and approximately 60,000 video tutorials which are accessible 24/7. For an overview of their services, watch the video at <http://www.lynda.com/home/VideoPlayer.aspx?lpk4=73>.

Courses and tutorials provided by Lynda.com cover an array of subjects such as photography, business, and video. Users can also select specific tutorials covering software such as Adobe, Excel, Drupal, etc. All of the instructors provide very high quality training and each tutorial is generally brief, targeting specific aspects of a software.

This is a great educational tool for your students, staff, and anyone interested in keeping their skills up-to-date.

There are several different types of memberships to fit your budget as well. So far we've had several positive comments and feedback from our staff. For more info: <http://www.lynda.com>.

**GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY 2010 Q4**  
**(by Angeliqe Jenks-Brown 01/2011)**

	<b>Income Budgeted</b>	<b>Income Actual</b>	<b>Expense Budgeted</b>	<b>Expense Actual</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE BOARD</b>				
President			\$400.00	\$0.00
Vice-President			\$375.00	\$0.00
Past-President			\$25.00	\$0.00
Secretary			\$125.00	\$0.00
Treasurer (mailing records)			\$75.00	\$33.85
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$33.85</b>
<b>MEETINGS</b>				
2010 Meeting (rooms, AV, Internet, catering)	\$1,500.00		\$2,500.00	\$8,900.00
2010 Business Meeting refreshments	\$500.00		\$750.00	
2010 Meeting Reception	\$1,000.00	\$87.21	\$2,000.00	
2010 Meeting Exhibit Booth (furniture & drape)			\$1,000.00	\$488.00
2010 lunches			\$80.00	\$0.00
2010 Invited speakers, abstract fees			\$135.00	\$70.00
2010 Speaker Honorarium / Gift			\$300.00	\$0.00
2010 Workshop				\$71.57
2010 Meeting: fieldtrip	\$0.00		\$0.00	
2010 Silent Auction		\$526.00		
2010 Sponsorship		\$750.00		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$3,000.00</b>	<b>\$1363.21</b>	<b>\$6,765.00</b>	<b>\$9,529.57</b>
<b>DUES</b>				
Institutional	\$900.00	\$1,100.00		
Personal	\$5,500.00	\$4,235.00		
First Year (New Personal)	\$225.00	\$405.00		
Sustaining	\$405.00	\$405.00		
Retired	\$260.00	\$100.00		
Student	\$80.00	\$160.00		
Pooled Sponsorship	\$100.00	\$385.00		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$7,470.00</b>	<b>\$6,790.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>PUBLICATIONS</b>				
Publications Manager			\$200.00	\$330.45
Mailing labels	\$150.00			
Newsletter: printing			\$380.00	\$72.82
Newsletter: mailing			\$400.00	\$49.39
Newsletter: subscriptions	\$120.00	\$340.00		
Newsletter: back issues		\$0.00		
Newsletter: cancellation refunds		\$0.00		
Proceedings, v.40 (2009)			\$3,000.00	
Proceedings, v.39 (2008)		\$635.00	\$2,978.00	\$2,977.66
Proceedings, v. 38 (2007)		\$905.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,657.55
Proceedings, v. 37 (2006)	\$900.00	\$275.00		
Proceedings, v.36 (2005)	\$90.00	\$45.00		
Proceedings, prior volumes	\$450.00			
Proceedings, reissued check		\$45.00		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,710.00</b>	<b>\$2,245.00</b>	<b>\$9,958.00</b>	<b>\$6,087.87</b>

**GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY 2010 Q4**  
**(by Angelique Jenks-Brown 01/2011)**

	<b>Income Budgeted</b>	<b>Income Actual</b>	<b>Expense Budgeted</b>	<b>Expense Actual</b>
<b>REPRESENTATIVES/ APPOINTEES</b>				
AGI Member Council rep				
AGI Gov't Affairs Program rep				
Congressional Science Fellow				
CUAC (2 reps @ \$200 each)				
Publicity Officer			\$50.00	
Auditor			\$25.00	
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>COMMITTEES &amp; SERVICE POSITIONS</b>				
Archivist			\$150.00	\$0.00
Award Certificates & Frames (Best Reference Work, Best Paper, Best Guidebook, Distinguished Service)			\$175.00	\$420.02
Best Paper Committee			\$25.00	\$0.00
Best Reference Work Committee			\$25.00	\$0.00
Collection Development Committee			\$25.00	\$0.00
Distinguished Service Award (Committee expenses and gift)			\$75.00	\$110.21
Exhibits			\$50.00	\$0.00
New display case/Repairs			\$0.00	\$0.00
E-Resources			\$25.00	\$0.00
Guidebooks Committee and Subcommittees			\$50.00	\$0.00
International Initiatives	\$500.00		\$75.00	\$0.00
Membership			\$50.00	\$0.00
Membership brochure			\$30.00	\$0.00
Nominating			\$75.00	\$48.69
Preservation			\$25.00	\$0.00
Website Advisory			\$25.00	\$0.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$500.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$880.00</b>	<b>\$578.92</b>
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>				
AGI member society dues			\$270.00	\$270.00
GAP contribution			\$400.00	\$400.00
GSIS International Fellow			\$500.00	
Ansari Best Reference Award			\$500.00	\$500.00
Ansari Distinguished Service Award			\$400.00	\$400.00
Geoscience Librarianship 101	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
Gifts (unrestricted)	\$200.00	\$300.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Gifts- Professional Develop Fund	\$100.00	\$35.00	\$100.00	\$0.00
Gifts - Membership Pool		\$55.00		
Bank charges (checkbook and wire transfer fees)			\$25.00	\$105.32
Interest	\$630.00	\$21.53		
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,430.00</b>	<b>\$411.53</b>	<b>\$2,795.00</b>	<b>\$1,675.32</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$14,110.00</b>	<b>\$10,809.74</b>	<b>\$21,473.00</b>	<b>\$17,905.53</b>