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President's Column:

By Emily C. Wild

Happy Spring! As a busy semester nears completion and students see graduation on the horizon, I hope you all have a moment to enjoy the outdoors! A few quick notes as we continue to plan for the annual fall meeting and other GSIS activities.

GSIS Annual Meeting 2021:

GSA 2021 Fall Meeting information, at this time it is scheduled to be in-person and in Portland, Oregon : <https://community.geosociety.org/gsa2021/home>

Questions for GSIS members to think about in the next few months:

Are you planning to attend GSA in-person?

Are you interested in attending the GSIS sessions in-person or virtually or both?

Are you interested in attending Geoscience Librarianship 101 in-person or virtually?

GSIS Geologic Time:

to register:

<https://princeton.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEud--sqTwsE9PuGiw70sCQPilftFrPWOC>

GSIS Geologic Time Book Club:

May 24, 2021 – Discussion Lead, Louise Deis

Why Fish Don't Exist:

<https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/Why-Fish-Dont-Exist/Lulu-Miller/9781501160271>

June 2021 – Discussion Lead, Joyce Shaw

A Furious Sky: The Five-Hundred-Year History of America's Hurricanes :

<https://wwnorton.com/books/9781631495274>

July 2021 – Discussion Lead, Cynthia Prosser

A Short History of Nearly Everything :

<https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/20549/a-short-history-of-nearly-everything-special-illustrated-edition-by-bill-bryson/>

August 2021 – Discussion Lead, Emily Wild

Timefulness: How Thinking Like a Geologist Can Help Save the World

<https://press.princeton.edu/books/hardcover/9780691181202/timefulness>

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[Continued from page 1 President's Column]

September 2021 - Discussion Lead, Bob Tolliver

Operation Snowbound: Life behind the Blizzards of 1949 : <https://www.amazon.com/Operation-Snowbound-Life-behind-Blizzards/dp/1946163031>

October 2021 – GSIS & GSA annual meeting – Common Read TBD - Discussion Lead, Cynthia Prosser

November 2021 - Discussion Lead, Lisa Dunn

Beyond Control: The Mississippi River's New Channel to the Gulf of Mexico:
<https://www.upress.state.ms.us/Books/B/Beyond-Control>

December 2021 – Discussion Lead, Zac Painter

Theory of the Earth https://www.sup.org/books/title/?id=33107&local_ref=new

January 2022 – Discussion Leads, Bob Tolliver and Emily Wild

Bone Sharps, Cowboys, and Thunder Lizards: Edward Drinker Cope, Othniel Charles Marsh, and the Guided Age of Paleontology

<https://www.amazon.com/Bone-Sharps-Cowboys-Thunder-Lizards/dp/0966010663>

Note: we are excited to discuss the topic - The Bone Wars - and welcome other books and media as part of the discussion

We need someone to lead:

February 2022 - How to Avoid a Climate Disaster: <https://www.penguinrandomhouse.com/books/633968/how-to-avoid-a-climate-disaster-by-bill-gates/>

Kind regards,
Emily



The GSIS Social Media Committee has re-invigorated the GSIS Facebook page. We have been trying to post some interesting things that might be of interest but that are more casual or would be the type of thing you might say to someone – “Hey, did you see this?”. Please join us and/or watch for a more formal announcement about it on [GeoNet](#).



The Northeastern Section Geological Society of America (GSA) Meeting was held virtually over March 14-15, 2021 and included a dynamic session on the use of technology in geoscience education. The session was co-organized by professors Tarin Weiss of Westfield State and Lori Weeden of University of Massachusetts-Lowell, both specialists in the geoscience education community. The session started with a comprehensive presentation of the kinds of information technology being used by innovative educators, including an array of apps and online resources such as the ROCKD app for accessing geologic maps. In addition, the importance of teaching digital literacy, increased need for computational geoscientists, and the benefits of research data sharing were also highlighted. This was followed by discussion of active learning techniques integrating LMS and online video conferencing honed in response to the pandemic. A similar presentation discussed using short videos for developing course content as well as a method for promoting a geoscience program across campus.

Several presentations focused on the use of geospatial technologies including web mapping and drone technology. Presentations specifically included using ESRI ArcGIS Story Maps and 3D visualization software for creating virtual geology field trips. These methods are in demand and increasingly used since the



Overall, the session was informative and inspiring in its promotion of active learning techniques for undergraduate geoscience courses. A common theme throughout the presentations was innovation to help make virtual learning better, especially in response to the current reliance on it as a primary teaching method. Although these methods may have been sparked as a response to the pandemic, they should have a lasting impact on the future of learning in the geosciences.

Northeast Section Geological Society of America Meeting, March 14-15, 2021
https://www.geosociety.org/GSA/Events/Section_Meetings/GSA/Sections/ne/2021mtg/home.aspx

ROCKD App
<https://rockd.org>

My Geology Books and the University Library During COVID:

By Lisa Dunn

For those who have been home during the pandemic shut-down, taking a break often means eying disorganized closets and overcrowded shelves. It means re-evaluating what's taking up your mental energy and space. That's what I did. The icebreaker was the box containing my geology graduate work. I could finally be merciless—the observational notes, diagrams, thin sections, the data of an entire summer of field work, gone. I kept a few items to remind myself of the experience of walking up steep sections of sandstone in the Sinai, collecting pale cream-colored samples, taking notes while perched on canyon walls and spitting sand. (That, and the camel blanket I picked up in Cairo.)

After that it was easier. My textbooks in mineralogy, sedimentary petrology, physical geography, structure, depositional environments—gone. (The physics, chemistry and calculus books went too.)

I'm not the only one—during COVID, we see the effects of people cleaning out closets and garages and offices. We received numerous queries on donating geology and other STEM

publications to the Library. Some gifts we could review, despite pandemic restrictions and lack of resources. Others were impossible for us to manage or consisted of widely available duplicates (think USGS pubs). For those, all we could do was recommend to the donor possible alternative sites. One person abandoned 10 boxes of books on our dock, hoping for at least some rescue. Another unsuccessfully sought a home for a vast geology collection which literally filled an entire house, amassed by his father during a long career.

At a time when we are prioritizing e-publications to provide better access to our main user population and looking at our print collections with a critical eye towards space use, this prompts me to think about what our collections mean to us, the “balance” between print and e-resources, the barriers that e-pubs present to some users, the resources (staff, space) devoted to physical items, and the emotional attachment people have to their books. And my knee-jerk sense of loss in discarding my Deer, Howie and Zussman.

Member News:

The election for Secretary and VP/Pres. Elect has successfully concluded, and I am happy to share the results. 38 ballots were cast from a membership of 88. Jenna Thomson of Simon Fraser University is our new Secretary. It was a close election between 2 excellent candidates. Monica Pereira is our new VP/President Elect in a landslide.

Welcome Jenna and Monica! I look forward to serving with you. Thank you, Stephanie for your service!

Cynthia L. Prosser
GSIS Immediate Past President

Musings:

By Michael M Noga

Mary B. Ansari:

As noted earlier this year, long-time colleague May B. Ansari died on Dec. 18, 2020. Her obituary can be found at <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/rgi/obituary.aspx?n=mary-blanche-ansari&pid=19733821>

I served on the GIS Executive Board with her 30 years ago. She was an administrator at the University of Nevada Libraries. Before that she was the geosciences librarian and I think that she was also responsible for the map collection. Linda Newman followed her as she moved up in the organization. Unfortunately, I do not have access to my Newsletters or Proceedings from that time period to record more of her accomplishments with GIS/GSIS.

Her main contribution for the Geoscience Information Society, as you know, was her funding for the Distinguished Service and Best Research Resource Awards. Her generosity recognized collaborative achievement through action and communication. We are fortunate to both honor individuals within and without the Society through her gifts.

It has been a long time since I had personal communication with Mary, but I have two memories. She ran an Executive Board meeting from her office as GIS President when there was a fire alarm. We took an unexpected break until the Fire Dept. announced that all was clear and then went back to the meeting. I am not sure whether the minutes recorded the interruption.

Alec Baldwin has an excellent radio interview show called "Here's the Thing." Occasionally he refers to a person as "warm." His pronunciation accentuates the aura of the person's warmth. I think that Mary had this warmth. In my experience, she was very attentive and hospitable to everyone in the Society. She was a wonderful colleague. I am glad she had an active, enjoyable retirement before her illness.

I have read a lot of predictions over the last year with the oft-used phrase that we won't be going back to normal. I have made several predictions myself. The wonder is discovering how wrong you can be. Personally, I think that a lot of bad predictions come from thinking too often that change is linear. Or perhaps the prediction is right, but the time scale is much longer. I am reminded of scientists who make a prediction based on theory and mathematics but must wait a long time until technology or new thinking provides a mechanism to test the prediction. I like to remember my rule to expect surprises.

One of my personal surprises came in February when all adults in my living community acquired COVID-19. I had expected to get the vaccine then, but that had to wait until last month. After going through a tough COVID experience, I would like to extend my concern and condolences to anyone with similar experiences. Stay safe and try to get a vaccine.

GSIS Membership renewal reminder!

A reminder that it's not too late to [renew your GSIS membership](#) for 2021.

Thanks to everyone who has already renewed, and if you can't remember if you've done it feel free to email me and I'll look it up!

Not yet a member? Please consider joining this amazing consortia of geoscience information professionals. GSIS is a great resource, whether you're at the beginning of your career or have years of experience.

What are some of the benefits to GSIS membership?

- Networking with other professionals interested in geoscience information
- Opportunities for presenting and publishing your research (annual meeting and proceedings)
- Opportunities for professional service on GSIS committees and taskforces
- Discount on GSA Annual Meeting registration and exhibits
- Access to GSIS Newsletter for latest geoscience information news
- Free, open access to GEONET-L discussion list

Just a reminder:

- **Personal** memberships are available for \$25.
- **First time** memberships are \$20.
- **Student** memberships are only \$10!! **Membership is free** for students if you attend Geoscience Librarianship 101 at our Annual Meeting.
- **Retired members** are eligible for **free**, lifetime memberships. I just ask that you email me at jennat@sfu.ca to confirm that none of your contact information has changed.
- We no longer offer **institutional memberships**.

Please let me know if you have any questions,

Take care,

Jenna Thomson

jennat@sfu.ca

GSIS Secretary

European Journal of Mineralogy

Website: <https://www.european-journal-of-mineralogy.net/>

Formerly a subscription

journal, *European Journal of*

Mineralogy transitioned to

fully Open Access in January

2020. It is now published by

Copernicus Publications in

conjunction with several

European mineralogical societies. Pre-2020

content remains accessible in

GeoScienceWorld. EJM's scope spans

mineralogy, petrology, geochemistry,

crystallography, and ore deposits. Its APC is 50

Euros per published page, with a discount for

members of sponsoring societies.



SN Applied Sciences

Website:

<https://www.springer.com/journal/42452>

Published since 2019 as a subscription journal,

Springer Nature's *SN Applied*

Sciences transitioned to gold

OA in January 2021. It is a

multidisciplinary journal

publishing original research,

reviews, and short

communications in chemistry,



materials science, physics, engineering, and Earth & environmental sciences. Contributions in physical geography, geology, climate, oceanography, natural hazards, and environmental chemistry are specifically invited. Numerous "collections" provide a focus for specific topical themes. Content is published under a CC BY license. Authors pay an APC of \$1690.

Results in Geophysical Sciences

Website:

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/journal/results-in-geophysical-sciences>

Results in Geophysical Sciences is a

gold OA journal introduced by

Elsevier in December 2020. Its focus

is on "physical properties and process

of Earth's structure and interactions",

including geophysics, geodynamics,

structural geology, geodesy, rock

mechanics, mineral physics, volcanology,

marine geology, hazards, and energy resource

geology. The journal offers a choice of CC BY

and CC BY-NC-ND licenses. APCs range from

\$500-\$1000 depending on article length. A

25% introductory discount is being offered

through April 2022. A dozen articles have been

published so far.



Regional Geoscience Journals:

The following English-language journals focused on regional geoscience research were added recently to the Directory of Open Access Journals.

Geochimica Brasiliensis (Sociedade Brasileira de Geoquímica) – <https://www.geobrasiliensis.org.br>

Geosystems of Transition Zones (Federal State Budgetary Institution Institute of Marine Geology and Geophysics, Far Eastern Branch of Russian Academy of Sciences) – <http://journal.imgg.ru/>

GEUS Bulletin (Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland) – <https://www.geusbulletin.org/>

Iraqi Geological Journal (Union of Iraqi Geologists) – <http://igj-iraq.org/>

Mongolian Geoscientist (Mongolian University of Science and Technology) – <https://www.mongoliajol.info/index.php/MGS>

Russian Journal of Seismology (Russian Academy of Sciences, Geophysical Survey) – <http://www.gsras.ru/rjs/eng/main.html>

Spanish Journal of Palaeontology (*Sociedad Española de Paleontología*) – <https://sepaleontologia.es/spanish-journal-palaeontology/>

Swiss Journal of Geosciences (SpringerOpen) – <https://sjg.springeropen.com/>

Swiss Journal of Palaeontology (SpringerOpen) – <https://sjpp.springeropen.com/>
Vertebrate Anatomy, Morphology, Palaeontology (University of Alberta Library) – <https://journals.library.ualberta.ca/vamp/index.php/VAMP/>

Transformative Agreements

The “California-Elsevier Deal” has been topping the OA news. On March 16, two years after breaking with Elsevier, the University of California announced it had signed a transformative agreement – the largest of its kind in North America – that allows its faculty and students to access articles in nearly all of Elsevier’s 2600+ journals for the next four years. It also enables UC authors to publish OA articles in Elsevier journals by paying discounted APCs (which UC will subsidize). 35% of the 27,000 papers published annually by UC authors are now covered by nine transformative agreements, including one with Springer Nature signed in June 2020. (“California universities and Elsevier make up, ink big open-access deal,” by Jeffrey Brainard, *Science*, March 16, 2021, <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/huge-open-access-journal-deal-inked-university-california-and-springer-nature>)

In April, Cambridge University Press (CUP) announced an “unprecedented expansion” of its OA journals, having signed 129 new read-and-publish agreements with American colleges and universities in 2021. 25% of US-authored content in Cambridge journals and those published by CUP on behalf of societies is now covered by such agreements. Cambridge aims to transition all of its research journals to full OA by 2025. (“CUP launches 'unprecedented' Open Access expansion ...,” by Mark Chandler, *The Bookseller*, April 8, 2021, <https://www.thebookseller.com/news/cup-launches-unprecedented-open-access-expansion-129-us-deals-1252212>)

Nature OA Fees and Pay-for-Review

Springer Nature announced that in 2021 it is finally giving authors an open access option for publishing their work in *Nature*, *Nature Geoscience*, *Nature Materials*, and other Nature core journals ... for 9500 Euros (currently \$11,432) per paper – roughly double what any other journal is currently charging. Previously, the only available OA venues among Nature-branded journals were *Nature Communications* and *Scientific Reports*. The high-priced APC has been scorned by some as a “prestige tax” and labeled an “acceptable price for value” by others. (“Nature journals reveal terms of landmark open-access option,” by Holly Else, *Nature*, November 24, 2020, <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-03324-y>)

A concurrent introduction is Nature’s fee-based “guided open access” option, whereby authors pay a non-refundable fee of 2190 Euros (\$2635) to obtain a detailed “editorial assessment” of their manuscript and and guidance/referral in the peer-review process. If the manuscript is accepted, they can apply the fee toward an adjusted APC for the journal in question. In a letter to *Nature*, researcher Silvo Conticello raised ethical questions about potentially negative consequences of the new scheme – for example, its effect on reviewers’ willingness to continue working for free, and its potential to disadvantage authors from poorer institutions unable to afford the expense. (“Open access pay-for-review option – ethical question”, *Nature*, February 2, 2021, <https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-021-00271-0>)

Commenting on the new *Nature* OA options, AAAS stated it had no plans to convert its own flagship journal *Science* to a gold OA model, as the “likely publication fee would [be] prohibitively expensive for many authors.” Instead, *Science* announced in January its first steps toward green OA by permitting authors of papers funded by Coalition S to comply with funder mandates by depositing “near final, peer-reviewed” versions of their papers in openly-accessible repositories immediately upon publication. The provision does not apply to papers unconnected with Coalition S. (“Science journals to offer select authors open-access publishing for free,” by Jeffrey Brainard, *Science*, January 15, 2021, <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2021/01/science-journals-offer-select-authors-open-access-publishing-free>).



Call for Abstracts

Association of Earth Science Editors 54th Annual Meeting “Effectively Communicating Geoscience in the Public Sphere” Columbus, Ohio, U.S.A.

September 29–October 3, 2021

The 54th annual meeting of the AESE, “Effectively Communicating Geoscience in the Public Sphere,” will take place, in-person, in Columbus, Ohio, on September 29–October 3, 2021, at the Hilton Garden Inn–University. The meeting offers two days of technical sessions, a day-long field trip, and numerous opportunities to network with other editors, publishers, educators, and earth-sciences professionals.

This year’s meeting will be hosted by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, Division of Geological Survey, traditionally referred to as the Ohio Geological Survey. The meeting is open to anyone interested in earth-science editing, publishing, communications, and outreach. The program is in the initial planning stage, but meeting information is now available on the AESE website www.aese.org.

A call for abstracts has just been issued. We invite AESE members and other interested persons to submit an abstract for a talk on earth science editing, communication, publishing, peer review processes or other topics related to earth science. Talks will be allocated 20 minutes. Longer talks will also be considered; please notify us in advance. Please visit AESE’s website for more details.

Deadline for abstract submission is August 1, 2021.

We hope you’ll join us for what promises to be a great meeting.

For more information, please contact host chair Chuck Salmons (Ohio Geological Survey), charles.salmons@dnr.state.oh.us.



Call for AESE Award Nominations

It's time to nominate noteworthy publications and exceptional individuals in publishing for the annual Association of Earth Science Editors awards. The deadline for submitting nominations is May 28, 2021. Winners will be announced in fall 2021.

The awards committee looks forward to receiving nominations for three awards:

- Outstanding Editorial or Publishing Contributions

This award recognizes outstanding contributions and achievements in editing or publishing that stimulate new or greatly improved accomplishments in teaching, research, and applications in earth science. Editorial and publishing contributions can include writing, editing, publishing, or editorial management.

- Lifetime Honor Membership

This award is given in recognition of a career of continuous contributions to earth-science editing or publishing or contributions to AESE through service in office or on committees.

- Outstanding Publication (published January 1, 2018, through December 31, 2020, only)

This award recognizes a recently published earth-science publication that demonstrates outstanding editing, design, illustration, writing, effectiveness of production cost, and overall effectiveness in achieving its publication goal. Awards are given under three publication categories: printed book (or printed journal), map or poster, and electronic material.

For instructions, entry forms, and more information, please visit <http://www.aese.org/shell.html?page=awards&menu=1>.

The AESE awards committee has a few openings for membership this year. If you are interested in this fascinating once-a-year volunteer activity or have questions about the awards, please contact Liz Koozmin, chair, at ekoozmin@gmail.com.