President’s Column:
By Bob Tolliver

We’re almost halfway through the year and I’m looking forward to my first summer back on the east coast. It’s also a good time for an update on what GSIS has been doing so far this year.

The GSIS Executive Board has met twice so far this year. The first item of business has been the transition between treasurers this winter. Thank you to Kelly Grove for her volunteer service in this role and to Sharon Tahirikeli for taking over as our new treasurer. I did not realize how much work this was going to take with the bank to make this transition. Fortunately, we finally have that taken care of.

While we are on the topic of money, one of the items the executive board has been discussing is what to do with our money. Now that we are doing our events virtually, including Geoscience Librarianship 101 and our annual meeting sessions, we would like to determine the best way to use our existing and future funds. With this in mind, Elise Gowen, GSIS Vice-President, sent out a call for volunteers for a Task Force on Grants and Programs to look into potential ways to best use our funds. We would very much appreciate input from both new and long-term members of GSIS on this task force. Please contact Elise if you are interested in being on this task force.

We are still working on filling some of our GSIS committee openings and you may have seen a recent request on GEONET for volunteers to fill this position. Please consider joining one of our committees. This would be a big help to our society. I know most of you have probably had more and more areas of responsibility and added skills that you need to be up on in your professional roles. Most of our committees do not have a lot of added work and that work is often concentrated during a few months of the year, such as with our awards committees. You can find information on our committees on the GSIS website. Thank you to everyone who is currently volunteering for our committees.

Summer is almost here. Our awards committees are beginning to do their work to find the best examples of geoscience information and it’s about time to start planning for our society’s fall events. I hope everyone has a great summer.
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This weekend was commencement weekend at Smith College, and it’s always a pleasure to watch another class of students celebrate their achievements and begin their journey out into the world. Several of the graduating students were my student employees who had worked on a project with me all school year inventorying the 200,000 uncataloged geologic and topographic maps in Smith College. This was a fascinating journey through the history of Smith College’s Geoscience department, as well as an opportunity for the students to learn about the process of inventorying and weeding a collection.

I hope the rest of you in the academic library field have made it across the finish line of another academic year, or are within sight of it. With the coming summer months comes the opportunity for vacations, projects, and conferences. It also brings the first of our annual events from GSIS.

Cynthia Prosser has graciously agreed to organize this year’s Common Read again. Cynthia has already sent out an email soliciting suggestions for this year’s book title, but I want to reiterate her request. The Common Read has been a GSIS tradition for years, and originally took place in conjunction with the GSA annual meeting, but as GSIS has moved towards virtual meetings, we have instead shifted the Common Read to the summer, when more members may have more free time to read. In previous years, we have selected titles such as Ice Ages: Their Social and Natural History by Allan Mazur (2023) and The Big Ones by Dr. Lucy Jones (2022) and Science fictions: How Fraud, Bias, Negligence, and Hype Undermine the Search for Truth by Stuart Ritchie (2021).

The titles chosen are meant to reflect the interests of GSIS as an organization. In past years they’ve also sometimes reflected the location of the GSA Annual Meeting or the official themes of the conference, such as the 2019 Phoenix, AZ Annual Meeting selection: The Promise of the Grand Canyon: John Wesley Powell’s perilous journey and his vision for the American West, by John F. Ross. This year the location is Anaheim, California and the meeting has two themes: “Water in Our Changing World” and “Life Along an Active Margin,” which emphasize a changing climate and a shifting tectonic landscape. However, these are not requirements! If there’s any book that you’ve read or want to read relating to either earth science or information topics, please let Cynthia know at cprosser@uga.edu!

The Common Read will be a virtual event open to all on Zoom on July 23 at 2:00 EDT/1:00 CDT/Noon MDT/11:00 PDT. Please add it to your calendar!

After the Common Read, we hope to hold a forum for discussing AI issues in geoscience information, including ethical concerns and the role of machine learning in library workflows. Expect more information on date and time soon.

In addition to new events, we are launching a new task force. The GSIS Task Force on Grants and Programs will explore potential new uses of GSIS’s funds in service of the broader goals of the GSIS. Some possible new uses of funds that the task force will explore include scholarships, grants (travel and other), and awards. This is an excellent opportunity for newer librarians especially to get involved in GSIS in a short-term task force. If you’re interested in being involved, please let me know at egowen@smith.edu.

We look forward to holding more events in the coming year, and as always, if there are particular topics to discuss or events you would like to see, please reach out to me at my email address listed above!

Have a great summer, and hope to see you at one of our virtual events soon!
A brief review of “What Can U.S. Government Information Do for Me?”
by Linda Musser

I found this to be a broadly useful work, well worth review by STEM librarians. The organization-by-theme mirrored many of the questions that I’ve received over the years – from imagery to genealogy to maps to data – and was a good reminder of the many places the United States government collects, stores and publishes information. Compared to Christopher Brown’s 2020 *Mastering United States Government Information: Sources and Services*, I found this book to be more immediately useful since Brown’s book largely follows the organization of the U.S. government rather than adopting a topical focus. While some of the resources will be familiar, there are other sources mentioned that will be useful additions to guides and toolkits.

**What Can U.S. Government Information Do for Me? Librarians Explain the Discovery and Use of Public Data, Documents, Maps and Images**

*Edited by Tom Diamond and Dominique Hallett*

309 p., 39 photos, appendices, bibliography, index. softcover (6 x 9) $75
pISBN: 978-1-4766-8949-4
eISBN: 978-1-4766-4958-0

*Publisher description:* The United States government is one of the world’s largest publishers, printing and distributing a wealth of information including resources on American history, crime and justice data, contextualized government images, census data, genealogy research and much more. To serve patrons, library personnel must remain knowledgeable about U.S. government resources, agencies, departments, and websites. Aimed at librarians and library personnel from all types of libraries, and at researchers, this practical, hands-on volume is a useful resource for learning how to find and apply information from the wealth of U.S. government resources. It aids in answering various types of patron questions, performing community outreach, engaging in civic activities, serving business patrons, and providing classroom instruction. Readers will learn to discover the government’s “hidden” information treasures and how to implement and adapt these resources in any library environment.
GSIS Common Read

By Cynthia Prosser

GSIS will be hosting the Common Read again this year on July 23rd at 2 PM EDT/11 AM PDT via Zoom. Currently, we are soliciting possible titles. Have you heard of an interesting book that would be a possible candidate? It can be tied to the virtual world/life, related to libraries and/or education/connecting with students, or the geosciences or any combination of these. While this is a summer remote event and not happening at this year's GSA in California, if you want to use the GSA meeting location (Anaheim, CA) or its themes of Water in Our Changing World or Life Along an Active Margin, feel free to let those ideas help winnow the list of possible interesting books out there... Please email Cynthia Prosser: cprosser@uga.edu with your suggestions. Afterwards, she will send a survey to GeoNet with the 5 or so most suggested, interesting, and/or intriguing titles and let you all vote on the title to read.

So, please share those interesting books you have come across or heard about or that someone has mentioned that you think would be a good read and discussion. She'll collect titles for the next couple or so of weeks and then send a link for voting.

Nominations sought for Officers of GSIS

The secretary serves for 2 years as a member of the GSIS Executive Board (EB) and is responsible for taking minutes at the annual business meeting and EB meetings. This is a great way to play a more active role in the organization and see how things work from the inside.

The vice president has a three-year term, moving from the vice president role to president to past president, and serves on the GSIS Executive Board. As VP, you do program planning; as president you convene and lead the EB and annual meetings; as past president you serve on the Nominating Committee. In these roles, you play an important part in setting the agenda for the organization, both now and for the future. If you want to gain leadership experience, this is an excellent opportunity!

If interested, please reply to Linda Musser (lindamusser@psu.edu) by June 15 with your name and brief biographical information.
Feel free to contact me, or any other current officer, for more information.
Linda Musser, GSIS Nominating Committee
**Guidebook Committee:**

The Guidebook Committee has had a soft start to the year. The committee member roster has been finalized, and a welcome message sent out to members. A few nominations have come in already, and we plan to distribute the official call for nominations very soon.

**GSIS Membership Committee:**

The membership committee has been meeting at least once a month since January. We are in the process of developing an updated survey, which seeks input from both current GSIS members and non-members about how the benefits of the association and how we can best meet their needs. Watch for the survey on GeoNet in late May or early June.

Current membership stats:

- **70 members**
- 31 academic
- 16 retired
- 13 student
- 5 publisher
- 3 corporate
- 2 government
- **7 new members in 2024**

Committee members:
Jenna Thomson (Chair); Clara McLeod; Phoebe McMellon; Cynthia Prosser; Renee Schofield; Joyce Shaw

**GSIS Best Research or Reference Award:**

We had a successful round of choosing the 2023 Best Research/Reference Award. For those of you who missed it, the winner was Diamond: Genesis Mineralogy and Geochemistry. *Reviews in Mineralogy and Geochemistry (RiMG)*. 2022. Vol. 88. The 2024 committee will convene soon and begin the process of requesting nominations.

In 2023, the committee worked on revising and updating the criteria and score sheet for reviewing the nominations. The committee communicated via email and then gathered via Zoom to review and revise the past criteria for the award. During this process, we redefined each criteria that included definitions for clarity. After the discussions and agreement, three criteria were removed for redundancy, and a new criterion Cost was added. This addition was important because some of the resources were out of budget allowance for some libraries, and impacts access to the resources.
Originally there were ten criteria; now there are eight newly defined criteria: quality of the introduction, cost, organization, uniqueness, comprehensiveness, overall quality, authoritativeness, and image/data/figures quality. Overall, this provides clarity and makes it more straightforward for the committee to review and score the nominated resources.

As the Chair, I am proud of what the committee accomplished with this revision and look forward to reviewing the 2024 nominations.

If you have any questions about the process or if you are interested in joining the committee for 2025, please don’t hesitate to contact me.

Chrissy Klenke – Best Research/Reference Award Committee Chair
Earth Sciences, GIS and Map Librarian
DeLaMare Science & Engineering Library – University of Nevada, Reno
Cklenke@unr.edu

GeoWonders

By Amanda Bielskas

On April 8, 2024 I was lucky to be in Hamilton, TX for the total eclipse of the sun. It was quite amazing and we were very lucky to have clear skies for the first ½ through totality with some clouds rolling in for the 2nd half.

The photos to the left show the corona at totality (which lasted about 4 minutes where I was located) and the picture on the lower right is a partial view shot with a filter.

Below is a shot of eclipse shadows through the leaves of a tree.
Call for Nominations for the 2024 Guidebook Awards

The Guidebooks Committee of the Geoscience Information Society (GSIS) is accepting nominations for the 2024 Best Guidebook Award(s) and Outstanding Geologic Field Trip Guidebook Series award. Geologic field trip guidebooks from any region that were produced from 2022-2024 can be considered for the award, which is awarded in the fall at the annual meeting of the Geoscience Information Society. Via these awards, the GSIS seeks to recognize the value of guidebooks and reward examples of excellence. In addition to being outstanding in content, the nominated titles will be evaluated according to the criteria outlined in the Guidelines for Authors, Editors, and Publishers of Geologic Field Trip Guidebooks published by GSIS. A list of previous winners can be found online. Awards will be given in the following categories:

- **Best Guidebook Award(s)** - The purpose of these awards is to recognize examples of excellence in geologic field trip guidebooks, with awards in popular and professional categories.
- **Outstanding Geologic Field Trip Guidebook Series award** - The purpose of this award is to recognize organizations that have made continued contributions to the geologic field trip genre over time.

Nominations, consisting of the title and bibliographic information (author, publisher, etc.) of the work or series, should be sent to the chair of the Guidebooks Committee. The committee will begin the selection process in July.

Kristen Adams, chair, GSIS Guidebooks Committee
(adamsk3@miamioh.edu; 209 King Library, 151 S. Campus Ave. Oxford, OH 45056)

Also, for your information, the Geologic Guidebooks of North America Database is available for free searching. A collaborative project of the GSIS and the American Geosciences Institute, the goal of the database is to facilitate access to geologic field trip guidebooks and gather information about newly published works.

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connecting earth, science, and people
Call for Nominations for the 2024 GSIS Best Reference/Research Award Nominations

The Best Geoscience Reference or Research Resource Award Committee seeks nominations for the best research or reference resource you've used throughout the year. Which ones were your favorite or used all the time? If there's one or a few, please nominate them for this award.

Award Description: Mary B. Ansari Best Geoscience Reference/Research Award Description

The GSIS Committee seeks nominations for the annual Mary B. Ansari Best Geoscience Research Reference Resource Award for the best geosciences publication. The award recognizes geoscience reference works or works focused on information aspects of the geosciences. Please nominate your favorite new website or research/reference work for this award.

Submissions will be 1st evaluated using the following criteria:
- The work must have been published or produced within 3 years preceding the GSIS annual meeting. The title does not have to strictly be "geoscience," but should be significant to the geoscience information community.
- Local or specialized works can be considered if they are particularly high in quality and could serve as a model for other works.
- Formats other than monographs, such as maps, databases, websites, etc., may be considered.
- Any works nominated should be in a generally useable format (DVD, online, print, etc.), be generally available for purchase by libraries, and, theoretically, have a stable future.
- Although no work is specifically excluded from consideration, textbooks or monographs in geoscience or library/information science would not normally be considered.
- Additional criteria considered will be the quality of the introduction, cost, organization, uniqueness, comprehensiveness, overall quality, authoritativeness, and image/data/figures quality.

Please submit your nominations to the committee chair by Wednesday, July 10th, 2024. Please include citation information and/or links to the resource. Thank you!

Chrissy Klenke – Best Reference/Research Resource Award
Earth Science, GIS & Maps Librarian
DeLaMare Science & Engineering Library - University of Nevada, Reno
cklenke@unr.edu
It’s time to nominate noteworthy publications and exceptional individuals in publishing and editing for the annual Association of Earth Science Editors awards! The deadline for submitting nominations is June 15, 2024 (fast approaching). Winners will be announced in fall 2024.

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

**AESE Award for Outstanding Editorial or Publishing Contribution**
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, and editorial management.

**AESE Lifetime Honor Award**
This award is given in recognition of (1) a career of continuous contributions to Earth Science editing or publishing or (2) contributions to AESE through service in office or on committees. Only current and former members of AESE are eligible for this award.

**AESE Award for Outstanding Publication**
(published between January 1, 2021, through to December 31, 2023)

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:
1. **Book** (printed, PDF file, or print-on-demand; may include a journal)
2. **Map or poster** (printed, PDF file, or print-on-demand; may include a journal)

The competition is open to AESE members and nonmembers alike.

For instructions, entry forms, and more information, please visit http://www.aese.org/shell.html?page=awards&menu=1.
Planning is under way for the 58th annual meeting of the Association of Earth Science Editors in Olympia, Washington. DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel in downtown Olympia has been booked for the AESE technical sessions, and a block of guest rooms has been reserved for those attending. Reservations for the hotel will be made through our personal hotel website. Information on registration will follow shortly. There will be an opening reception the evening of Wednesday, October 2, and technical sessions will take place Thursday and Friday, October 3 and 4. There will be an evening banquet on Friday, October 4 and an optional Field Trip on Saturday, October 5.

We invite AESE members and other interested persons to submit an abstract for a talk based on any earth science-related themes and (or) aspects of publishing such material. Depending on how many abstracts are submitted, talks will be allocated 20-30 minutes, including questions. Longer talks and workshops will also be considered; please notify us in advance.

Possible session topics include:

- **Editing and (or) publishing as a state/federal agency or a nongovernmental organization:** opportunities, challenges, and constraints such as budgets, staffing, and (or) time.
- **Managing the peer-review process:** handling edits from multiple reviewers while working alongside authors.
- **Writing and editing for the public:** publishing for a variety of stakeholders and audiences, especially those who may be unfamiliar with the subject matter.
- **Reaching the masses:** improving outreach efforts through websites, interactive tools, exhibits, and collections.
- **The publication process:** anything from the beginning manuscript to editing through to printing and dissemination of the material.

Suggestions for other topics are welcome. If you would prefer to chair a session or sit on a panel discussion or are interested in presenting a workshop, we’d love to hear from you as well.

**Deadline for abstract submission: August 23, 2024**

Send abstracts and any inquiries to Susan Schnur at aeseolympia2024@gmail.com with “AESE 2024 Abstract” in the subject line. For abstract requirements and more information about this meeting, please visit www.aese.org.