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## PRESIDENT’S COLUMN

Kay G. Johnson

Jan Heagy has recently been helping me recruit GSIS committee members, something that I am way behind in. We will continue to get in touch with people. If you are wondering why you haven't heard from me about your committee, please get in touch with me ([kjohnson497@radford.edu](mailto:kjohnson497@radford.edu); 540-831-5703). I am very grateful to Jan for offering her help. I am leaning heavily on the GSIS Board during a time of unexpected increased job workload, and they have been wonderful. Jan and Lisa Johnston held a teleconference for the Board with a focus on budgeting. Lisa has the Minneapolis Meeting planning well under control as does Rusty Kimball with the Technical Sessions. We are having another teleconference in May where we may start to follow-up on the Round Table notes from the previous GSIS Meeting. Elaine Clement is producing the GSIS Proceedings and is in conversations with the board about producing an optional

electronic version next year. The Board is looking at migrating paper processes to electronic in other ways as well for convenience and cost-savings. Jan is looking at holding an electronic election after conversations begun by Rusty at last year's GSIS Meeting. I hope we will be able to migrate the membership directory to a secure place on the GSIS website. One of the discussions at last year's GSIS Meeting was about providing a place on the GSIS website to list areas of expertise among the GSIS members. This is an area to pursue in discussions with the membership. There are many exciting avenues GSIS could be heading in the next few years.

On a personal note, I hope you and your families and friends have been spared from the powerful tornadoes that devastated parts of Alabama and other states. Glade Spring, Virginia, which is

*(continued on page 3)*

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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 June 2011 issue should be received no later than June 10, 2011. Please send submissions by e-mail to [jdombrow@uwyo.edu](mailto:jdombrow@uwyo.edu).

*(continued from page 1)*

85 miles south of where I live, was hit hard by tornadoes and lives were lost. Within the last month, a tornado destroyed homes and businesses in nearby Pulaski County. These areas are in my backyard and I know them very well. The intensity of the recent tornadoes is almost unheard of in Appalachia. My thoughts are with the injured or those who have lost loved ones or possessions.

## **VICE PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

Lisa Johnston

Conference planning for the 2011 GSA/GSIS meeting in Minneapolis, MN has taken on a nice theme this spring: new friends and new partnerships. To start, the fundraising efforts for this year's conference have attracted many new potential sponsors to help support our meeting activities. And it is not too late for additional vendors and publishers to contact me and pledge their support -- an essential role that allows GSIS members to create our unique programming at GSA.

Next, we are working hard this year to make new friends and attract new members at the GSA annual meeting. This year we are planning to host a joint evening reception with the Geoinformatics Division. Last year many conference goers were invited to attend both receptions by our divisions, so to avoid any time conflicts, we are hoping to schedule an event that both memberships can attend. As the larger membership society, I hope we can create a fun atmosphere by introducing new folks to our reception traditions, such as the silent auction!

Finally, I'm excited to be working with Clara McLeod, our fearless GeoLibrarianship 101 Coordinator, to create a "newcomers"

welcome event on Saturday evening for our new/recent GSIS members and GL101 participants, including non-GSIS members. We hope that by bringing together GSIS members and potential new recruits that we can create a welcoming environment that kicks off the conference in a social way and keeps people coming back!

If you have any suggestions or ideas to help recruit new GSIS members, please contact Kay to volunteer to serve on the Membership Committee and put your great ideas into action!

## **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: GSIS OFFICERS**

The GSIS Nominations Committee invites you to submit names for Vice-President/President Elect and Treasurer. The Nominations Committee is also seeking committee members. This year I hope to hold our elections electronically.

To submit a nomination, or if you have an interest in serving as an officer or as a Nominating Committee member please contact:

Jan Heagy  
Chair, Nominations Committee  
[jan.b.heagy@exxonmobil.com](mailto:jan.b.heagy@exxonmobil.com)

## **HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP FOR 2011?**

It is not too late to join or to renew your GSIS membership for 2011. A blank membership form can be found on the last page. More information about GSIS is available on the GSIS website: <http://www.geoinfo.org/>.

If you have any questions you can contact Cynthia Prosser at [cprosser@uga.edu](mailto:cprosser@uga.edu) or 706-542-0155.

## **AGI SPRING 2011 MEMBER SOCIETY COUNCIL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS**

By Jan Heagy

The American Geological Institute's (AGI) 2011 Spring Member Society Council met on April 11, 2011 in Houston, Texas. The meeting was held in conjunction with the 2011 American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG) annual meeting.

I represented GSIS as an AGI Member Society. Since there was not a quorum present at the meeting, a Member Society e-vote will be conducted.

A few highlights of the meeting follow.

### **2012 AGI Officer Nominations slate:**

AGI President-Elect – Sharon Mosher,  
Jackson School of the Geosciences  
AGI Treasurer – Michael D. Lawless, Draper  
Aden Associates  
AGI Member-at-Large – John G. Parrish,  
California State Geologist

### **AGI Treasurer/Controller's report:**

The bottom line is very healthy, due mainly to three factors:

- ◆ an increase in GeoRef royalty revenue (16% growth for current fiscal year over the same period last year)
- ◆ increased market value on investments
- ◆ increase in contribution revenue

### **Alias of American Geosciences Institute:**

P. Patrick Leahy, AGI Executive Director, introduced a motion to establish American Geosciences Institute as a "Doing Business As" alias for AGI. This nomenclature would be in addition to the current American

Geological Institute. The idea is to expand the acronym to encompass the broader geoscience disciplines.

### **Education and Outreach:**

Ann E. Benbow, Director of Education and Outreach, reviewed the reaction to the Education Summit Final Report, progress, and next steps. AGI is working on nine videos for middle schools. It is anticipated that the videos will be released in October 2011 during Earth Science Week. This year's theme is "Ever-Changing Earth."

**The next AGI Member Society Meeting** will be held on Monday, October 20, 2011 at the Geological Society Annual Meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

### **CALL FOR PAPERS (and POSTERS)**

It's time to start considering ideas or projects for submission to be presented at this year's GSA/GSIS 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 (GSIS) –and another joint oral session with the GSA Geoinformatics Division. Also, we will have a GSIS poster session, as in the past. So, our challenge will be to have a sufficient number of submissions for our GSIS oral session to make the quota -and still have at least a few for the joint session with the Geoinformatics division. I still haven't heard anything on the date and time for these sessions, but I will share these via Geonet as soon as I learn something. Here are the session titles:

GSIS 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."

Submit your abstract online at <http://gsa.confex.com/gsa/2011AM/cfp.epl>.  
More information can be seen at: <http://www.geosociety.org/meetings/2011/sessions/topical.asp>.

Although the deadline for online submission of abstracts is not until July 26, please begin thinking about participating now. If you have more than one topic you'd like to present, this is the year to do it!!

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

### **MEMBER NEWS and CALL FOR NEWSLETTER EDITOR**

Janet Dombrowski

I'll be finishing up my contract here at the University of Wyoming's Brinkerhoff Geology Library in June. I'm considering a career change and, as of today, I do not plan to attend the GSIS/GSA Annual Conference this fall. By attending the past three GSIS conferences I've gotten to know some fine geoscience librarians and I will miss you all greatly.

I hope to get the new GSIS website launched and start editing the Proceedings from the 2010 GSIS Annual Conference before the end of June. I'd like to give up the position of *GSIS Newsletter* Editor. I'd be glad to co-edit the June issue with a new Editor. Once the content is in hand, producing the newsletter is not that difficult or time-consuming. This is a

fine service opportunity and a good way to get to know GSIS members. Interested members, please contact me by e-mail or phone: [janet.dombrowski@gmail.com](mailto:janet.dombrowski@gmail.com) / 307-760-5452.

### **FINDING PRE-ISSUE PUBLICATIONS FROM GSA IN GEOSCIENCE WORLD**

If your access to GSA journals is through GSW, you and your researchers can't get to a Pre-Issue Publication just by clicking on the 'gsapubs' url in the announcement (example below). You have to search for them in GSW by doing a simple author search in 'advanced search' mode (i.e., Griffin).

#### **[Pre-Issue Publication](#)**

*Last updated April 12, 2011*

<http://gsabulletin.gsapubs.org/>

- o W.L. Griffin,
- o G.C. Begg,
- o D. Dunn,
- o Suzanne Y. O'Reilly, ...

#### **Archean lithospheric mantle beneath Arkansas: Continental growth by microcontinent accretion**

*Geological Society of America Bulletin,  
April 12, 2011, first published on April 12,  
2011, doi:10.1130/B30253.1*

- o [Abstract](#)
- o [Full Text \(PDF\)](#)

<http://gsabulletin.gsapubs.org/content/early/2011/04/08/B30253.1.full.pdf+html>

If that doesn't work (and I personally have some trouble with the advanced search in GSW, almost certainly due to my diminished brain capacity as I approach my late 50s) you can search for it using part of the DOI. I'm going to quote Matt Hudson, GSA's Online Publishing Analyst for this info:

The DOI number begins with our prefix (10.1130/) and then the next part is the article's id number, in this case B30253.1. To find the pre-issue article in GSW, add v1 to this article number, such as B30253.1v1, and then add that to the base url of <http://bulletin.geoscienceworld.org/cgi/content/abstract/>. So this article's URL in GSW is <http://bulletin.geoscienceworld.org/cgi/content/abstract/B30253.1v1>.

Highwire is labeling it version 1 of that article. Some publishers have multiple versions of articles but GSA doesn't.

Thanks, Matt!

Jim O'Donnell  
GSIS Representative to the GSA Publications  
Committee

### **CALL FOR NOMINATIONS: 2011 BEST WEBSITE AWARD**

It is that time of year again! On behalf of Connie Manson, 2011 Chair of the Best Website Committee, we are seeking nominations for the Best Website for 2011. Please send your nominations to Connie at: [cjm@thurston.com](mailto:cjm@thurston.com).

Please notify your departmental faculty and encourage them to make their submissions. The Best Website Committee will review the nominations and select a winner, which will be announced next fall. The award will be presented in Minneapolis, MN, at the GSIS/GSA annual meeting.

#### Criteria for Selection of the GSIS Outstanding Website Award

The GSIS Website Advisory Committee will accept nominations for the annual Outstanding Geoscience Website Award. All sites related to the geological sciences are eligible. These include both scholarly sites and those geared toward the general public.

In addition, both free and subscription-based sites will be considered, though preference will be given to sites with significant free content. Sites will be reviewed by the GIS Website Advisory Committee based on the following criteria:

#### Content

- usefulness and quality of content
- originality or uniqueness of components
- authority
- currency
- scope and comprehensiveness

#### Design and Organization

- user friendliness
- intuitive layout and ease of navigation
- graphics
- creativity

#### Technical Considerations

- browser compatibility
- link integrity
- speed and reliability
- effective integration of any advanced features
- accessibility for those using assisted technologies

#### Overall Site Effectiveness

- clear goals and purpose
- appropriateness for audience
- broad appeal
- innovative thinking
- attention to detail
- reason to return

Past winners are posted at

<http://www.geoinfo.org/bestwebsite.html>.

The Criteria are posted at <http://www.geoinfo.org/websitecriteria.html>.

Thank you!

Carolyn Laffoon on behalf of  
Connie Manson, 2011 Best Website Award  
Chair



## SO, WHAT IS THE ANTHROPOCENE?

Janet Dombrowski

Coincident with a recent call for newsletter content, a colleague pointed me to a *New York Times* editorial titled, "The Anthropocene," (Feb. 27, 2011). The op-ed refers to a themed issue of *Philosophical Transactions of The Royal Society A*, "The Anthropocene: a new epoch of geological time?"<sup>1</sup> Realizing that I was not familiar with this epoch and that it's part of the GSIS/GSA annual meeting theme this year, I figured I'd best investigate.

Anthropocene refers to the most recent geological time period, which has been markedly influenced by human activities as based on scientific evidence of human impacts on global change. The origin of the term is generally attributed to Nobel Prize winner Paul Crutzen, who coined the term in 2000<sup>2</sup>. Crutzen estimates the beginning of the Industrial Revolution as the starting point, but defining a distinct time boundary might prove difficult. Crutzen is profiled in the October 14, 2010 issue of *Nature*<sup>3</sup>.

The International Commission on Stratigraphy, which defines units used in the International Geologic Time Scale, has set up a working group to study the matter, but official designation is likely to take many years. Activities of the Anthropocene Working Group are documented at <http://www.quaternary.stratigraphy.org.uk/workinggroups/>.

<sup>1</sup>*Philosophical Transactions of The Royal Society A*, [369 \(1938\) : 835 - 1112](#). (article access requires subscription)

<sup>2</sup>Crutzen, P. J. & Stoermer, E. F. The "Anthropocene," [IGBP Newsletter 41](#) (Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, Stockholm, 2000). (free access)

<sup>3</sup>Anthropocene man: Paul J. Crutzen. *Nature* (467), [S10-S10](#) (13 October 2010) (free access)

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

### Proceedings of the Annual GSIS Meetings (ISSN 0072-1409)

\$45.00 each; standing orders are \$45.00/year.

-v. 40, 2009 [published 2011]. Navigating the Geoscience Information Landscape Pathways to Success; ed. Jody Bales Foote [978-0-934485-43-2] *FORTHCOMING*

-v. 39, 2008 [published 2009], Libraries in Transformation: Exploring Topics of Changing Practices and New Technologies, ed. Lisa Johnston [978-0-934485-67-8]

-v. 38, 2007 [published 2010], Geoscience Information: Making the Earth Sciences Accessible for Everyone; ed. Claudette Cloutier. [978-0-934485-42-5]

-v. 37, 2006 [published 2008], Geoscience Information: Keys to Discovery, ed. P.B. Yocum [978-0-934485-68-5]

-v. 36, 2005, [published 2007], Collaboration for the Dissemination of Geologic Information Among Colleagues, ed. A. Fleming [978-0-934485-38-0]

**GSIS Newsletter** (ISSN 0046-5801) published bi-monthly; calendar year subscriptions only. United States and Canada \$40.00; other countries (via airmail) \$ 45.00

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phone: 617-496-8442  
fax: 617-495-5324  
e-mail: [clement@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:clement@fas.harvard.edu)

Payment must be made in U.S. dollars.

## GEOSCIENCE INFORMATION SOCIETY Renewal Notice 2011

Please return this form with your dues by **March 25, 2011** to insure uninterrupted receipt of the GSIS Newsletter, and your receipt of Proceedings for the Annual Conference for the year of your membership.

Please indicate any changes in your membership information below and return this form with your check to the GSIS Secretary.

<b>1. ENTER PERSONAL INFORMATION:</b>	<b>MEMBERSHIP NUMBER</b>
<b>Name</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
<b>Title</b>	<b>Fax</b>
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<b>Preferred Mailing Address:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> BUSINESS <input type="checkbox"/> HOME	
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<b>Include in directory?</b> Yes    No <b>If "Yes" select preferred:</b> Business                      Home	
<b>Your Professional Interests</b>	

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<input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL (P)		AMOUNT DUE
<input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL (FIRST YEAR) (F)		AMOUNT ENCLOSED
<input type="checkbox"/> STUDENT (S)		\$55
<input type="checkbox"/> RETIRED (R)		\$45
<input type="checkbox"/> INSTITUTIONAL (H)		\$20
<input type="checkbox"/> SUSTAINING (C)		\$20
<b>GIFTS</b>		\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> I WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPONSORED MEMBERSHIP POOL *		\$135
<input type="checkbox"/> I WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM §		
<input type="checkbox"/> I WANT TO MAKE AN UNRESTRICTED GIFT		
<b>TOTAL</b>		

\* **Sponsored Membership Program** aims to enlarge the Society's circle of international, student and new librarian members.

§ **Professional Development Program** supports recruitment of geoscience librarians by funding registration for the GIS annual meeting for a student considering geoscience librarianship.