

ASLI News – March 2009

Welcome to the inaugural ASLI news column where I hope to provide quarterly updates about ASLI activities and report on items of interest to ASLI members. Members may share their thoughts and suggestions as well by sending materials to me, the 2009 ASLI Chair, at Lrm4@psu.edu.

The 12th annual ASLI conference was held in Phoenix in January, with approximately 25 attendees. Many presentations will be available via the ASLI website in the near future. Immediately prior to the annual conference, the first Atmospheric Science 101 session was held. Given the positive responses received by the attendees, another 101 session is planned for the Atlanta meeting in January 2010. In addition to the ASLI Choice awards, several other awards were given during the annual ASLI dinner. Maria Latyszewskyj and Doria Grimes received awards thanking them for their many years of service to ASLI and Judi Triplehorn received the Founders Award honoring her long standing support and commitment to ASLI as well as being a founding member of the organization. Judi and Doria both announced their retirements in 2009 but hope to remain active in ASLI in the future.

The ASLI strategic plan is in its second year and will shortly be available on the website for your comment. One of the stated goals of the plan is to “Showcase ASLI members’ expertise”. To that end, I am **calling for volunteers** among ASLI members to share their expertise by writing about their favorite tool or resource. The editor of BAMS is interested in materials for publication, as always, and some columns by ASLI members would be most welcome. In particular, there is interest in the topic of information quality – or evaluation of information in the age of the Internet. During the annual conference, there were presentations by Dr. Cutler Cleveland on creating a trusted information resource on the Web (i.e., The Encyclopedia of the Earth) and discussions with the AMS’s Keith Seitter on quality issues relating to preprints. Clearly, this is a highly relevant issue for librarians as well as meteorologists and it is an opportunity for ASLI members to share their expertise with the meteorological community. **If you are interested in writing a piece about information evaluation, please let me know.**

Did you know that 2009 has been designated as the Year of Science? At the annual conference, Dr. Robert Tolliver gave a paper describing possible library activities related to the Year of Science. I would suggest that ASLI can capitalize on that theme as well by providing columns for BAMS related to the monthly themes of the Year of Science. June’s theme is “Oceans and Water” – would anyone like to provide a column on the best resources related to that theme? How about the August theme of “Weather and Climate”? Let’s get creative and share our expertise!