

# COLLABORATIVE SCIENCE & LEADERSHIP

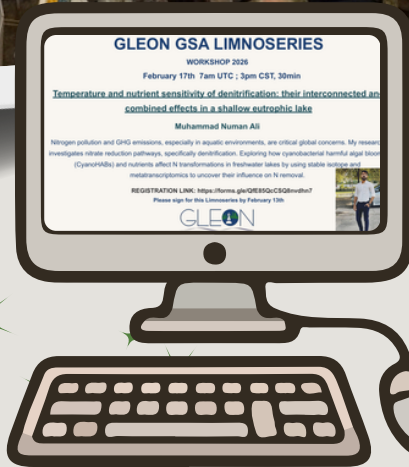
Collaborative science is a core value of GLEON's mission. As stated by Gesa Weyhenmeyer, the network fosters "moments of exploration, curiosity, and camaraderie blended with science to create a truly unique global community."

Many "GLEONites" also note that our organization acts as a catalyst for developing leadership skills and shaping strong scientists.

“SAFE AND COMPASSIONATE PLACE FOR IDEAS, DEBATE, AND INNOVATION



“PUSHING THE ADVANCEMENT OF LAKE SCIENCE AND APPLICATION, TRAINING SKILLED SCIENTISTS, MANAGERS, AND COLLABORATIVE LEADERS TO ADDRESS THE WORLD'S COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS



“Going to my first GLEON meeting and meeting the GLEONites was a turning point in my career. I started a project as a champion without fully realizing what I was getting myself into, and it ended up changing my professional path in the best possible way.”

- Veronica Nava



# COMMUNITY

"GLEON has given me a community of passionate limnologists to work with that I wouldn't have otherwise gotten to know. The meetings foster strong professional and personal relationships and I feel so fortunate to have found GLEON early in my graduate student experience. My PhD journey was made so much sweeter by joining and becoming involved with GLEON!" - Jenna Robinson

GLEONITE MEET-UP AT THE ASLO  
2023 MEETING IN MAJORCA, SPAIN



"A very special place in science. Without pressure and so much room to grow. There is nothing comparable, where PhD students are such a center of the spotlight."

- Jonas Mauch



"Beyond the science, what really stands out are the people. GLEON isn't just a network; it's a community. I found collaborators, mentors, friends, and a whole group of incredibly supportive humans who make science feel exciting (and fun!)."

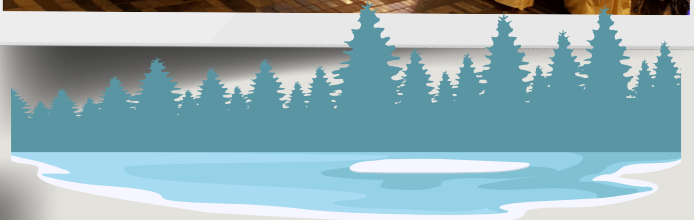


"FLASH MOB IN DINOSAUR COSTUMES DANCING TO MICHAEL JACKSON'S THRILLER ON HALLOWEEN AT THE GLEON MEETING IN LAKE GEORGE, NY! PEOPLE DRESSED IN HALLOWEEN COSTUMES RELATED TO LIMNOLOGY. PEOPLE ALSO BROUGHT CANDY FROM THEIR HOME COUNTRIES!"

# CULTURAL IMMERSION



“BY INTRODUCING ME TO AMAZING PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD, GLEON HAS GIFTED FRIENDS, DIVERSITY, AND A HUNDRED DIFFERENT LENSES THROUGH WHICH I CAN VIEW THE WORLD.” - PAUL HANSON



“One of my favorite GLEON memories isn’t tied to a single place, but to the sense of shared adventure that followed us around the world. After more than ten GLEON meetings, I still vividly remember canoeing across quiet Canadian lakes (in a canoe for 12 people!), sitting on the floor while eating in South Korea, and even standing at the border to North Korea while being watched by armed guards—an experience both surreal and unforgettable.” - Gesa Weyhenmeyer



“THERE ARE SO MANY! BUT I WILL PICK THE PARTY AT GLEON2023 IN POLAND AFTER THE GALA DINNER, WITH PEOPLE FROM ALL GENERATIONS SHARING THE DANCE FLOOR AND THEN GOING TO THE LAKE TO HAVE A SWIM. WE HAVE HAD SO MANY MOMENTS LIKE THIS AT GLEON MEETINGS, BUT THE ATMOSPHERE WAS SOMEHOW SPECIAL THAT EVENING.”



# VIRTUAL MEETINGS

While GLEONites have the most fun at in-person meetings, virtual meetings keep the community connected between the gatherings. They are unique due to GatherTown, an interactive virtual space that keeps the collaborative spirit and has recreated some of the spontaneous conversations and social interactions that make in-person meetings so special.

CHASE RAKOWSKI SAID "I THOUGHT I HATED VIRTUAL CONFERENCES UNTIL I ATTENDED A VIRTUAL GLEON!"



WITH LIMNOSERIES THE COMMUNITY LEARNS TOGETHER ALMOST ALL YEAR LONG



Virtual meetings have become an important part of the network by making participation more accessible and inclusive. Members who are unable to travel because of financial, personal, geographic or logistical constraints can still engage in working groups, committee meetings, workshops and informal discussions with fellow GLEONites. By connecting across continents and timezones, they sustain research collaborations, facilitate the exchange of ideas and strengthen relationships formed during in-person gatherings.



# NATURE

GLEON meetings have been held in beautiful places around the globe, always near a lake. Outdoor excursions are often part of the meeting agenda for participants to get to know the local area. Check out these photos submitted from beautiful past GLEON meeting venues around the globe.



EVELYN GAISER SHARED A STORY FROM THE 2009 MEETING IN HAMILTON, NEW ZEALAND: "MANY OF US HAD TRAVELED 30+ HOURS AND ARRIVED IN THE EARLY MORNING OF THE DAY BEFORE THE MEETING WAS SET TO BEGIN. WE WERE PICKED UP FROM THE AIRPORT BY GLEONITES AND, BECAUSE WE COULDN'T YET CHECK INTO OUR ROOMS, WE WERE TAKEN TO A MOUNTAIN TO A HIKE TO A GLOW-WORM CAVE. I RECALL HIKING ON NO-HOURS SLEEP UP SOME STEEP TERRAIN AND THEN EMBARKING ON A BOAT INTO A RIVER THROUGH A DARK CAVE FULL OF GLOW WORMS. WE HAD SO MUCH FUN, EVERYONE WAS SO SLEEPY AND FELT TO BE HALLUCINATING, BUT IT WAS JUST A WONDERFUL EXPERIENCE. I THINK THAT NIGHT WE SAT AROUND AT AN OUTDOOR BAR AND SANG ALL KINDS OF SONGS."



ANNA SCHMIDT SHARED ANOTHER MEMORY FROM THE GLEON2025 MEETING IN INDONESIA: "A GROUP OF US DID A SUNRISE HIKE TO AN OVERLOOK OVER LAKE TOBA. THE SUN RISING OVER THE LAKE AND ILLUMINATING THE SURROUNDING LANDSCAPE WAS ONE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL SIGHTS I HAVE EVER SEEN!"



# AS WE REFLECT ON THE FIRST 20 YEARS OF GLEON, WE ASKED GLEONITES FOR THEIR VISION FOR THE NEXT 20 YEARS:

Hopefully, to continue to foster strong relationships at a global scale. While I was a GLEON student, student funding was possible for those who needed it. I hope that we can continue to find new ways to help students from underrepresented regions attend in-person GLEON meetings!

GLEON evolves so fast that predicting 20 years ahead feels a bit risky! But that's actually its superpower.

GLEON adapts, grows, and keeps up with the challenges of the (scientific) world.

I hope that GLEON can keep the spirit of the early days and remains as stimulating as it was for my own science and working ethics.

GLEON is uniquely positioned to justify the use of public funds for science, an increasingly important need today. More broadly, GLEON can encourage members to look for ways to translate the results into tangible benefits to society through citizens and local governments.

That we keep the network going. I feel it just has started to play a fundamental role in global lake research.

Growth, especially to include more scientists based in developing nations.

Continued collaboration and interesting science

I hope that the coming years can bring even broader international representation in the GLEON network, with more students and scientists from the Global South able to attend in-person meetings through future funding initiatives.

To embrace (or re-embrace) GEDSI principles and move forward with a greater emphasis on contributing to the network rather than being extractive

Themes of international scientific collaboration are critical, especially in the current political climate in my country and many others around the world. Kindness and collaboration and progress needs to win out - GLEON is emblematic of this approach and must continue to lead into the future.

I want to see GLEON continue to thrive - pushing the advancement of lake science and application, training skilled scientists, managers, and collaborative leaders, and addressing the world's complex environmental problems - and to continue fostering life-long global friendships.

I think GLEON must stand as the counter-cultural organization that puts people and collaboration first.

My hope is that GLEON continues to morph to the needs of our global community and continues to be a safe and compassionate place for ideas and debate and innovation. My vision isn't really mine -- it's the hope that new generations of scientists will believe that they, too, can help realize their vision in this amazing international community.