

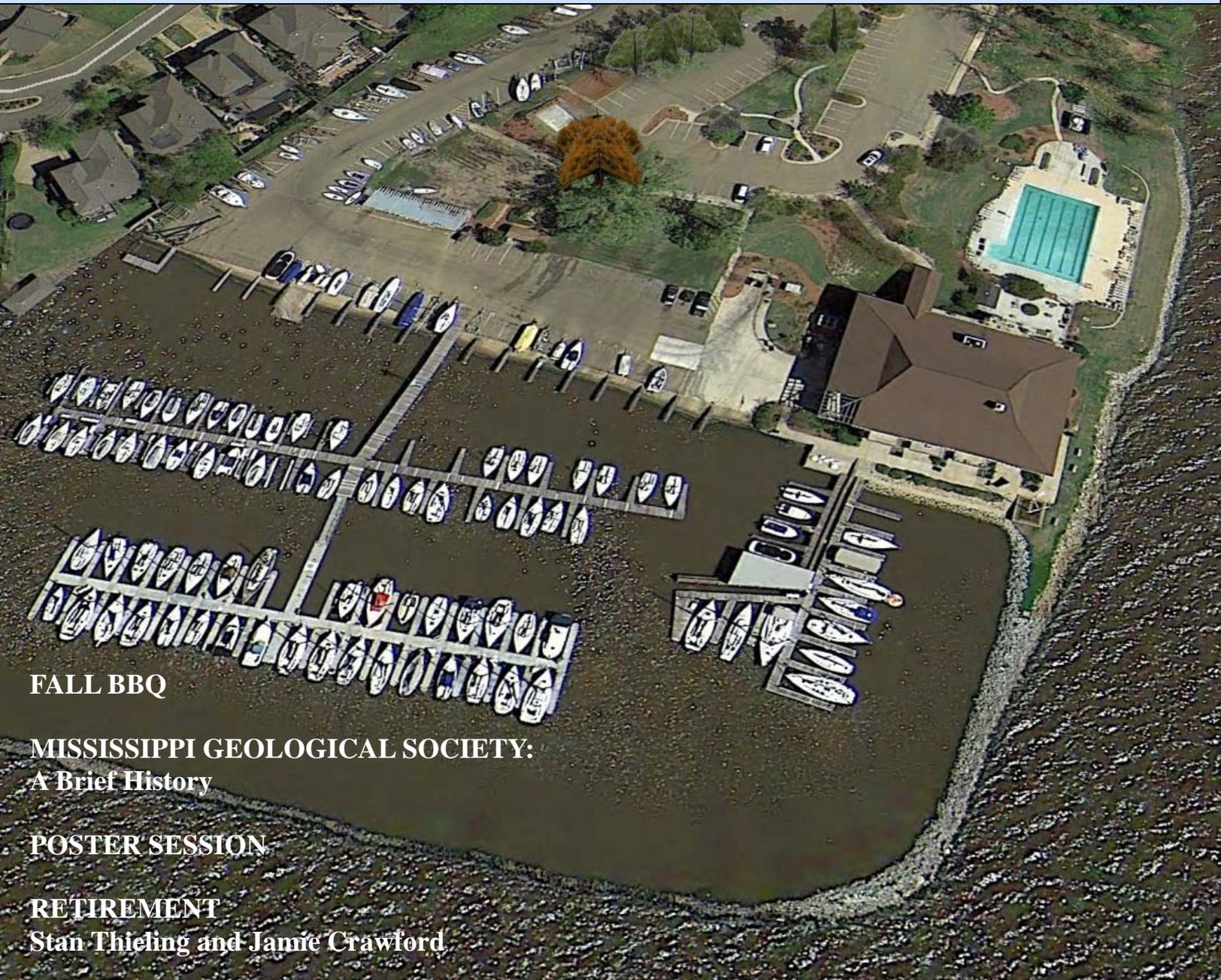
MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

eBULLETIN

Volume 63

No. 1

September 2014



FALL BBQ

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY:
A Brief History

POSTER SESSION

RETIREMENT
Stan Thieling and Jamie Crawford



www.missgeo.com



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Historian	Stanley King	Independent	(601) 842-3539



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Ezat Heydari



Greetings:

It might have been the Spring of 1994 when I first came in contact with MGS and its members. On an invitation from Larry Baria, I drove to Jackson to give a Luncheon talk which was then held at the Petroleum Club. The presentation was on a paper I had just published that advocated a "Middle Smackover Unconformity" in Mississippi, a departure from standard thinking of "once cycle" nature this rock unit. The response was warm and questions direct, as they are today. Little I knew then that one day I make Jackson my home and become closely associated with MGS.

Of course I am delighted for how things worked out and grateful for the opportunity to serve the Society. I must first send my highest appreciation to Neil Barnes for his tireless efforts to broaden the platform of MGS. I agree with this vision and advocate the same effort.

I have learned tremendously from MGS over the past fifteen years that I have taken residence in the State. I have met some of the most wonderful people within the Society. Each can be considered a visionary and great thinker. My interactions with members have been enlightening and filled with new ideas and new approaches. With so many bright minds and so much enthusiasm, I am certain the Society can make an impact on improving the Geological Science in Mississippi.

We have great resources to collaborate with in our academic institutions. The wonderful faculty members at our universities work hard to train the workforce of tomorrow and contribute tremendously to scientific community. Certainly, we also need to work closely with our partners in the State agencies who have the sources and the talent to provide a base for all of us to grow from. The common goal is clear: improving Mississippi's Geological Science activities and its impact on economy of the State.

I like to send my highest appreciation to Jack Moody for accepting to be our first vice president. Jack is responsible for me taking a residence in Mississippi. I know him for as long as I have been here. I am certain of his brilliance in forward thinking approach. We can all benefit from his input into the Society.

Our Society is fortunate to have such a wonderful and hard working members some of whom are serving on the board. People like Joe Johnson who is our second vice president and always searching for our Luncheon speakers. I am grateful to Matt Caton who does a great job as the editor of our Bulletin; to Bill Bagnall who does double duty this year as our treasurer and our secretary; to Steve Walkinshaw for accepting to be our web master and making extensive efforts to make us visible; to James Starnes for being our contact with the Office of Geology; to Larry Baria for accepting to be in charge of special events; to Stanly King for being our historian; to John Ryan for being our contact with environmental community; to Dave Kate for his extensive and enthusiastic efforts with Boland Scholarship and Dustin Johnson Memorial Award; to Rick Erickson and Maurice Birdwell for being our delegates; and of course to all our members who take time from their busy schedule to make trips, give presentations, interview candidates for our awards.

I think we will have wonderful year.

Regards,

Ezat

2013-2014 MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What/Who	Where
September 11, 2014	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club-5:30pm
October 9, 2014	John Allen Thesis - Tuscaloosa Marine Shale	River Hills – 11:30am
November 13, 2014	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
TBD	MAPL Christmas Party and Dance	TBD
January 8, 2015	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
February 12, 2015	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
March 12, 2015	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
April 9, 2015	Boland Scholarship Awards	River Hills – 11:30am
May 14, 2015	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club– 5:30pm



Geologist Cake

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 4, 2014
October 7, 2014
November 11, 2014
January 6, 2015
February 10, 2015
March 10, 2015
April 7, 2015
May 12, 2015



FALL BBQ

Jackson Yacht Club

Come join the Mississippi Geological Society to kick off 2014 at our annual Fall BBQ!!!!!!

Thursday September 11th
at the
Jackson Yacht Club





MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A Brief History



The Mississippi Geological Society was founded on November 28, 1939 by 38 of the 57 petroleum geologists then employed in Jackson, Mississippi. The state had just emerged as a significant oil and gas province following the discovery of large (200+ MMBO) oil reserves in Tinsley Field earlier in the year. The Society was organized with the stated purpose of "the stimulation of interest in geology and related sciences..., the encouragement of scientific research among members..., and the discussion and dissemination of geological information".

From its inception, the Society has pursued the attainment of its goals and stated purpose through the continued sponsorship of field trips, technical presentations, publications, and involvement in community affairs.

Throughout the years, the Society has sponsored twenty field trips, each with an accompanying guidebook. Copies of several of the more popular field trip guidebooks are available via the Society's Publications department. Some of the more recent field trips have been undertaken in conjunction with a seminar covering the subject of the trip.

In April 1941, the Society became affiliated with the American Association Of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG). Ten years later (1951), the Society joined the Gulf Coast Association Of Geological Societies (GCAGS). MGS hosted the AAPG sectional conventions in 1946 and 1949, and GCAGS/GCS-SEPM conventions in 1955, 1960, 1968, 1975, 1983, and 1992.

Involvement in research and technical projects has always been a hallmark of the Society. In 1945, MGS was instrumental in the oversight and assembly of data for the new and revised Geological Map of Mississippi. Similarly, the Society also established the MGS Library in 1945 in order to assist geologists and students in the pursuit of their research. The Student Award Program was instituted by the Society in 1947 to recognize outstanding geologic papers originated by students majoring in geologic disciplines at the state's colleges and universities.

In 1954, the Society embarked upon the first of many financial assistance programs with the establishment of its Student Loan Program, which was designed to provide support to selected college students majoring in geology throughout the state. This was followed in 1955 with the Society's awarding of scholarships to deserving high school winners in the Science Fair that was sponsored by the Mississippi Academy Of Science. More recently, the Lawrence Boland Memorial Scholarship Fund, established by the Society in 1980, has celebrated over twenty years of annual scholarship awards to one student from each of the four colleges and universities in the state that support a significant geology curriculum. Finally, the MGS Student Award Program and the MGS Student Assistance Program continue to recognize and provide assistance to outstanding students in the field of geology throughout the state's educational system.



MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A Brief History

From the early days of the Society to the present, publications have played a major role in the attainment of the purpose of the Society as set forth in its Constitution. Besides the field trip guidebooks already mentioned, other MGS publications include a number of composite and basin type logs, correlation sections, and structural / stratigraphic cross-sections. More importantly, the Society has published a series of field studies since 1952, when it first released a compendium of Wilcox oil fields, including field maps, reservoir information, and production data. The Society followed its Wilcox volume with the release of its original "Redbook" - focusing on producing fields throughout the rest of the state - in 1957. Since that time, the Society has updated its Wilcox volume and released eight successive updates to the popular Redbook, with the last having been released in 1995. In addition, MGS publishes a monthly Bulletin that is distributed to all members during the Society's active months. Finally, this website has been created in order to enable the Society to utilize the internet in distributing relevant news, geologic articles, and other materials of interest to its members and the public at large.

Technical programs and seminars have been sponsored by the Society since its inception. Recent seminars have focused on the Cambro-Ordovician Knox Gas Play in the Black Warrior Basin of Northeast Mississippi, salt tectonics, local sequence stratigraphy and relationship to outcrops, and the Cotton Valley Gas Play within the Mississippi Interior Salt Basin. MGS also hosts monthly luncheon meetings, held from September through May of each year, where a variety of speakers give technical presentations on topics and issues of interest to the Society's members.

Currently, the Society's membership is approximately 250-300. During the late 1970's and early 1980's, when oil and gas exploration and production peaked in the state, membership rose to its highest level with approximately 500 members. The Society has made a special effort in recent years to encourage membership and participation by non-petroleum geologists, and currently counts a significant number of environmental, hydrological, and governmental professionals among its members. Emphasis on water quality and sensitive environmental issues, as well as the preservation of subsurface data throughout the state, have been and will continue to be important focus issues for the Society.

In the summer of 1985, the Society sponsored a field trip of historical significance when Fred Mellen led a group of MGS members on foot to traverse the very hillsides of Yazoo County that he had mapped 47 years previously in his discovery of the large surface anticline that later became the giant Tinsley Field. Four years later, the Society and other petroleum-related organizations in Mississippi sponsored a celebration of the 50-year anniversary of the discovery of Tinsley - the state's first commercial oil field - and the subsequent founding of the Society. Sadly, Fred Mellen is no longer with us, but his legacy - like that of so many other prominent MGS members - will endure.

Today, despite the cyclical nature of the oil and gas business and the continuing evolution of the other equally important geologic professions within the state of Mississippi, the same purpose and vision that originated the Society continues to propel it into the future, due to the strong foundation of a committed membership and adaptation to changing conditions in a remarkably diverse geological field.



FALL BBQ POSTER SESSION

Kayla Calhoun & Michael Brooke

Parent Source Material of Calcium Bentonite in Smith County, Mississippi

Calhoun¹, Kayla; Schmitz², Darrel, Kirkland², Brenda; May², James, *Pickering Firm Inc.*¹, *Mississippi State University*²

Bentonite deposits of the Glendon and Bucatunna formations (Luper, 1972) of the Oligocene Vicksburg Group located in Smith County, Mississippi were examined to determine the depositional environment, diagenetic history and origin of the bentonite. The Mississippi bentonite deposits consist of calcium montmorillonite, a smectite clay with an aluminum silicate and calcium structure. A widely accepted theory is that calcium bentonite deposits formed as a result of weathering of volcanic ash deposits. The hypothesis tested is that the Glendon and Bucatunna formations bentonite deposits are not a result of weathered volcanic ash, but are a result of weathered marl. Core samples were drilled from the Chisholm bentonite mine near Raleigh in Smith County. Samples studied by X-ray diffraction (XRD), scanning electron microscopy (SEM), and the petrographic microscopy revealed zones of poorly sorted angular quartz grains, glauconite, pyrite, organic matter, marine fossils (coccoliths, echinoderm fragments, benthic and planktonic foraminifera), abundant bacteria, micrite, and evidence of extreme diagenesis resulting in significant microporosity (max 24%). Abundant bacteria (filamentous, coccus and bacillus) along with nanometer-scale organic textures are consistently associated with bentonite, illite, and/or smectite. To date, no evidence of volcanic ash has been found. It appears that the clays in the Glendon and Bucatunna formations of Smith County, Mississippi formed from the weathering, including bacterial activity, of glauconite-bearing marl.

Geologic Analysis of the Upper Jurassic Lower Cotton Valley Shale in Jefferson County, Mississippi

BROOKE, JAMES M.. Mississippi State University

While the limestone, sand and shale formations of the Cotton Valley Group have historically been productive in Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas, little is known about production potential of the Lower Cotton Valley Shale in southwest Mississippi. In Jefferson County, Mississippi the Lower Cotton Valley Shale is in excess of 20,000 feet (7000 m) deep and has until recently been viewed as a source rock for shallower formations or as a seal for deeper formations. Using horizontal drilling and multi-stage fracturing techniques, development of hydrocarbon-bearing shale formations such as the Lower Cotton Valley Shale has become economically profitable. This study seeks to gain a more thorough understanding of the nature of the Lower Cotton Valley Shale and compares the Lower Cotton Valley Shale to the Bossier and Haynesville Shale Formations. The Bossier Formation is a time-equivalent (Tithonian age) formation that is productive in regional depocenters in Louisiana. The Haynesville Formation is an older (Kimmeridgian age) formation that is productive in Texas and Louisiana.

The Tithonian age Lower Cotton Valley Shale in Jefferson County, Mississippi is an organic-poor, carbonate-rich mudrock with siliciclastic intervals. Abundant clay minerals consist of illite and smectite. Examination of cuttings by petrographic, metallurgic and scanning electron microscopy revealed abundant microfractures that have been filled by calcite and pore-filling pyrite. Limited porosity exists within and around pyrite framboids, in unfilled fractures and within pelloid grains. Insufficient organic matter is present for the Lower Cotton Valley to be self-sourcing in the study area; Total Organic Carbon (TOC) values are low (0.86-1.1% TOC) compared to productive Haynesville Shale Formations (approx. 2.8% TOC). Porosity of the Lower Cotton Valley Shale is low (2.5-4.2%) compared to productive Haynesville Shale Formations (8-12%). With current technology and gas prices, the Lower Cotton Valley Shale in Jefferson County, Mississippi does not have commercial production potential.

Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies
and Gulf Coast Section of SEPM

64th Annual Convention

October 5–7, 2014—Lafayette, Louisiana

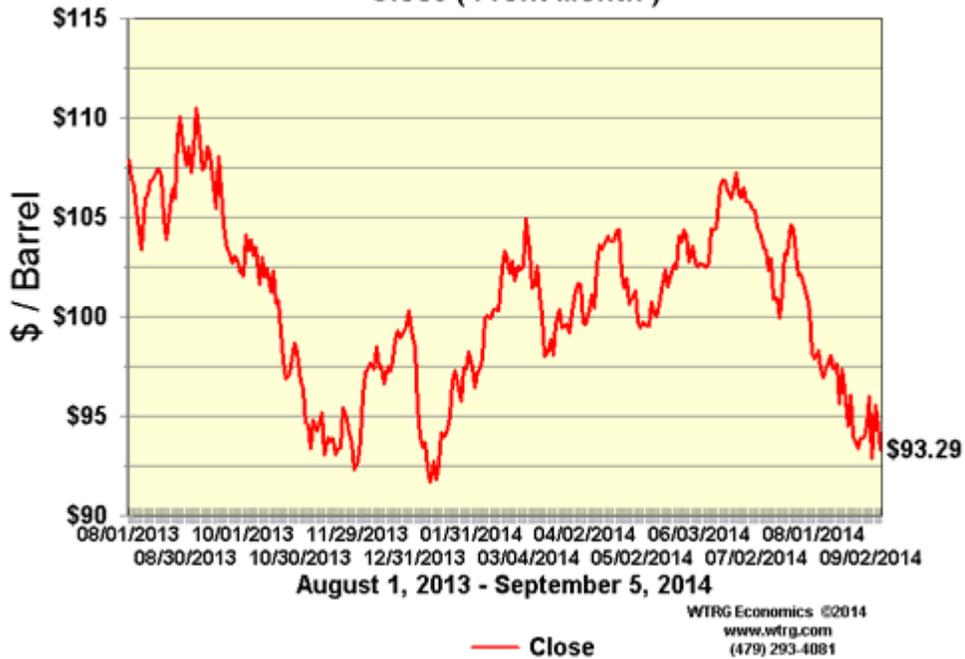
ANNOUNCEMENT





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CALL FOR PAPERS
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To participate in the 2015 GCAGS Convention
Oral and Poster presentations

An abstract of up to 250 words should be submitted no later than **December 13, 2014** to Technical Program Chair, Linda Sternbach (linda.sternbach@gmail.com).

After notification of acceptance on **January 20, 2015**, authors submit extended abstracts (1-2 pages) or full papers up to 12 pages to the GCAGS Transactions by **February 20, 2015** to GCAGS Transactions Editor, Steve Levine.

Full instructions for manuscript submissions will be posted online at www.gcags2015.com.

Publish your work in the upcoming GCAGS Journal !!
(a new peer-reviewed journal of Gulf Coast Geoscience).

Instructions: An extended abstract of at least 600 words, including 1–2 representative figures, Should be submitted by **December 2, 2014** to Journal Editor, Barry Katz (BarryKatz@chevron.com).

After acceptance, a full manuscript must be submitted by **March 24, 2015**.

Full instructions for manuscript submissions will be posted online at www.gcags2015.com.



RETIREMENT RECEPTION

Stan Thieling & Jamie Crawford

David T. Dockery III, RPG
Office of Geology

A Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality retirement reception was held for two MGS members, Stan Thieling of the Office of Geology and Jamie Crawford of the Office of Land and Water Resources, the afternoon of June 25, 2014, at the 700 Building's first floor conference room. State Geologist Michael Bograd spoke of Stan's contributions to the agency at the reception before a crowd of MDEQ employees, past and present, associates, family, and friends and presented Stan with a commendation plaque from the governor acknowledging 22 years of service to the State (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Michael Bograd presents Stan Thieling with a plaque from Governor Byrant acknowledging 22 years of service to the State at a reception held on June 25, 2014.

Stan's geological education included a master's degree in vertebrate paleontology from the University of Iowa, which he had just completed when he got an unexpected job offer from a campus recruiter to work for Texaco as a petroleum exploration geologist. He said yes and left the fascinating field of paleontology to make his mark in the oil and gas industry. In Alan Cockrell's book *Drilling Ahead*, Stan's contribution to the petroleum industry and to the state's economy was noted—Stan and a colleague recognized the likely presence of natural gas in the Eutaw Group in structures where it had been overlooked by other geologists. Drilling proved them right, and, in 1988, gas production in Mississippi reached a second peak at 230 billion cubic feet, a little less than the first peak in 1956.

In 1992, Stan left the oil fields to take a job in the Office of Geology's (OG) Energy and Coastal Division. While employed in this division, Stan and his division chief Jack Moody, wrote a book on *Shallow Mississippi Salt Domes*, published in 1997 as Office of Geology, Bulletin 131 (the last bulletin of the series). Next Stan moved to the Mining and Reclamation Division and then served as director of the Coal Mining Division since the time of its formation. In this position, Stan managed the administration and enforcement (A&E) of Mississippi's coal mining law, and was in charge of locating and reclaiming abandoned lignite mines (the Abandoned Mine Lands (AML) program), all under oversight from the federal Office of Surface Mining. In at least two states, these programs are handled by separate state agencies. On March 24, 2001, Stan led the Mississippi Geological Society on a field trip to the Red Hills Mine and was editor of the Society's Twentieth Field Trip Guidebook for that purpose. He was Governor Bryant's representative to the Interstate Mining Compact Commission (IMCC) and worked closely with others to have Mississippi admitted as an Associate



RETIREMENT RECEPTION

Stan Thieling & Jamie Crawford

Kay Whittington presented Jamie Crawford with a plaque acknowledging 29 years of service to the State (Figure 2).



Figure 2. Kay Whittington presents Jamie Crawford with a plaque from Governor Byrant acknowledging 29 years of service to the State at a reception held on June 25, 2014.

Jamie Crawford studied geology at Millsaps College and, upon graduation, was employed in 1985 by the Office of Land and Water Resources. Figure 3 shows Jamie and Charlotte Bryant-Byrd, retired MDEQ geologist and former Millsaps student, looking over names in geology class rosters for the years 1978-1984. Jamie and Charlotte represent a combination of 54 years of groundwater experience in MDEQ's Office of Land and Water Resources. At the reception, Kay Whittington noted that Jamie served the agency effectively in: (1) his knowledge of hydrogeology, (2) management of permitting, (3) working with people all over the state concerning their water resource issues, (4) deep waste injection, and, (5) on a national level, as president of the Groundwater Protection Council.



BOLAND SCHOLARSHIP WATCH

Faculty & Students,

This is a new year and the Mississippi Geological Society along with the Boland Scholarship Fund would like to remind you that we want to honor the most outstanding overall students for the 2014-2015 year.

Each year, the Boland Scholarship awards 1 student from each institution a check that rewards students for their hard work and dedication to the Geosciences and their community.

We look forward to a great year and hope to see you at our monthly meetings.

Best Regards,

Matt Caton
Editor



THE UNIVERSITY OF
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MISSISSIPPI

MILLSAPS
COLLEGE



GEOLOGY POST

ARTICLES, PAPERS or NEWS?

ATTENTION!!!!!! Industry, Professors and Students:

I am adding a dedicated section that includes more content from the industry and our schools.

Submissions can include anything from professional papers, thesis abstracts, job opportunities to pictures. Anything!!!!

If you have any information or news you would like to share with the Society **PLEASE** email them to the MGS Editor at:

mcaton@tellusoperating.com

Thanks & Regards,

Matt Caton
Editor

GEO LINK POST

USGS TAPESTRY OF TIME AND TERRAIN <http://tapestry.usgs.gov> The CCGS is donating to all of the 5th and 6th grade schools in the Coastal Bend. Check it out—it is a spectacular map. You might want a framed one for your own office. The one in my office has glass and a metal frame, and it cost \$400 and it does not look as good as the ones we are giving to the schools. Call Owen 510-6224 if you want one for your office for \$150. Duncan, Mike, Chris, Dave, Bob Randy, Seb., Kevin, Ken, Craig, Patrick, Robert.

FREE TEXAS TOPO'S <http://www.tnris.state.tx.us/digital.htm> these are TIFF files from your state government that can be downloaded and printed. You can add them to SMT by converting them first in Globalmapper. Other digital data as well.

FREE NATIONAL TOPO'S [http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/b2c/start/\(xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd\)/.do](http://store.usgs.gov/b2c_usgs/b2c/start/(xcm=r3standardpitrex_prd)/.do) go to this webpage and look on the extreme right side to the box titled TOPO MAPS DOWNLOAD TOPO MAPS FREE.

<http://www.geographynetwork.com/> Go here and try their top 5 map services. My favorite is 'USGS Elevation Date.' Zoom in on your favorite places and see great shaded relief images. One of my favorites is the Great Sand Dunes National Park in south central Colorado. Nice Dunes.

<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html> Astronomy picture of the day — awesome. I click this page everyday.

<http://www.spacimaging.com/gallery/ioweek/iow.htm> Amazing satellite images. Check out the gallery.

<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/seg/topo/globegal.shtml> More great maps to share with kids and students.

www.geo.org Don't forget we have our own web page.

<http://micro.magneet.fsu.edu/primer/java/scienceoptiscu/owersof10/>

<http://asterweb.jpl.nasa.gov/gallery/default.htm> Great satellite images of volcanoes

<http://terra.nasa.gov/gallery/> More here

www.ermapper.com They have a great free downloadable viewer for TIFF and other graphic files called ER Viewer.

www.drillinginfo.com This is an incredible (subscription) well and completion data service for independents. Can be demo'ed for free.

<http://terrasrver.com/> Go here to download free aerial photo images that can be plotted under your digital land and well data. Images down to 1 meter resolution, searchable by Lat Long coordinate. Useful for resolving well location questions.

<http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/volcanocams/msh/> This is a live cam of Mt. St. Helens refreshed every 5 minutes. At the bottom are old videos of past eruptions in this cycle. It is worth a watch especially now.



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*** deceased**

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MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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2014-2015

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September 2013 – May 2014

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Full Page Ad (6" x 8")	\$500	\$ _____
1/2 Page Ad (6" x 4")	\$300	\$ _____
1/4 Page Ad (3" x 4")	\$200	\$ _____
Business Card Ad (1 1/2" x 3")	\$100	\$ _____
Professional Listing (1/2" x 3")	\$ 50	\$ _____

II. Web Page Advertisements (www.missgeo.com):

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Professional Listing/Link	\$100	\$ _____

(Note: Please contact Steve Walkinshaw at (601) 607-3227 or mail@visionexploration.com for details concerning placing your ad on the MGS web site.)

Total Remitted \$ _____

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1941-1942	J. Tom McGlothlin	1975-1976	Jerry E. Zoble
1942-1943	Dave C. Harrell	1976-1977	P. David Cate
1943-1944	K. K. "Bob" Spooner	1977-1978	Sarah Childress
1944-1945	L. R. McFarland	1978-1979	Les Aultman
1945-1946	J. B. Story	1979-1980	Philip R. Reeves
1946-1947	Frederic F. Mellen	1980-1981	Marshall Kern
1947-1948	H. Lee Spyres	1981-1982	Stephen Oivanki
	Robert D. Sprague	1982- 1983	James W. "Buddy" Twiner
1948-1949	Robert D. Sprague	1983- 1984	Charles H. Williams
1949-1950	E. T. "'Mike" Monsour	1984- 1985	C. Kip Ferns
1950-1951	J. Tate Clark	1985-1986	Steven S. Walkinshaw
	Charles E. Buck	1986-1987	J. R. "'Bob" White
1951-1952	George W. Field	1987-1988	Harry Spooner
1952-1953	James L. Md11in, Jr.	1988-1989	Stanley King
1953-1954	Wilbur H. Knight	1989-1990	Stan Galicki
1954-1955	A. Ed Blanton	1990-1991	E. James Files, Jr.
1955-1956	Gilbert A. Talley	1991-1992	Stephen L. Ingram, Sr.
1956-1957	Ben Ploch	1992-1993	Michael Noone/Stanley King
1957-1958	Emil Monsour	1993-1994	Brian Sims
1958-1959	Charles Brown	1994-1995	C. W. "Neil" Barnes
1959-1960	M. F. Kirby	1995-1996	Lester Aultman
1960-1961	Rudy Ewing	1996-1997	Jack S. Moody
1961-1962	Xavier M. Franscogna	1997-1998	George B. Vockroth
1962-1963	Robert B. Ross	1998-1999	Rick L. Ericksen
1963-1964	William A. Skees	1999-2000	Stanley King
	Marvin Oxley	2000-2001	John C. Marble
1964-1965	James F. Bollman	2001-2002	Andrew T. Sylte
1965-1966	Sankey L. Blanton	2002-2003	Aaron Lasker
1966-1967	Alan Jackson	2003-2004	John G. Cox
1967-1968	Julius M. Ridgway	2004-2005	James E. Starnes
1968-1969	Edward D. Minihan	2005-2006	Todd Hines
1969-1970	Kevin E. Cahill	2006-2007	Bob Schneeflock
1970-1971	John Lancaster	2007-2008	Tony Stuart
1971-1972	Larry Boland	2008-2009	Lisa Ivshin
1972-1973	Charles Barton	2009-2010	Joe Johnson
		2010-2011	Brian Sims
		2011-2012	Stanley King
		2012-2013	Jim Files
		2013-2014	Neil Barnes