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No. 1

August 2008

**MISSISSIPPI
GEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY**
eBulletin



missgeo.com

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~ PRESIDENT'S LETTER ~

Lisa Ivshin



Fellow members:

I hope everyone is having a great summer. I personally am getting a little tired of the heat. I did not make it to the petroleum technology work shop on July 31 but it is my understanding it was very informative.

Let me start by saying that we have an excellent Board and we are so very grateful they agreed to serve this year. You will be happy to know that we have three advisors this year: Karl Kaufmann, Bob Schneeflock and Brian Sims. Of course all of them do so much for the society. We all certainly need all the advice we can get.

I know Joe Johnson is working with Dave Cate on the Boland Scholarship already and Alvin Byrd is seriously looking for good speakers. Dave did a super job last year.

Of course David Hancock has served as a Treasurer for the Society before so he is a pro and knows exactly what to do. Steve Walkinshaw is doing a great job with the website. Thank you, Steve. Our thanks also goes to our Honorary Members. Ed Hollingsworth has resigned as our Secretary and Stanley King agreed to serve and was unanimously voted in as society's new secretary at the last officer's meeting.

With a group like this my job will be an easy one.

Just to let you know that GWPC will report to the Board on the progress with our new Risk Base Data Management System (RBDMS) on August 20th and then hopefully we can release it to the public so you can start working with it. We still have a full year to go until the RBDMS program is finished. We will have improvements during next year to the system and will release it to you as they become available.

I look forward to serving as Society's president this coming year. Have a great summer. See all of you at the fall BBQ.

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MGS Membership Application

Members in good standing.

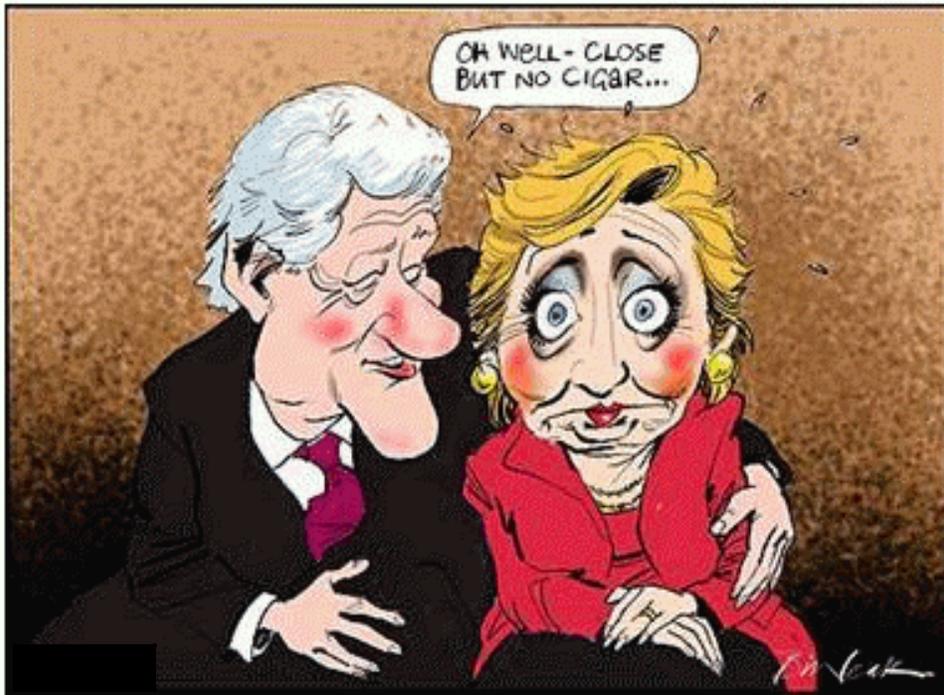
MGS Advertising Notice

*Sincerely,
Lisa*



MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What	Where
September 11, 2008	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club
October 16, 2008	Larry Baria & Ezat Heydari "Shale Layers in the Alabama Smackover Formation and the Implications for Sea Level Change in Regional Correlations"	River Hills
November 13, 2008	Dudley J. Hughes "The Global Warming Debate"	River Hills
December, 2008	MAPL / MGS Christmas Party	Colonial Country Club
January 8, 2009	TBA	River Hills
February 12, 2009	TBA	River Hills
March 12, 2009	Honors Meeting: Boland Scholarships	River Hills
April 9, 2009	TBA	River Hills
May, 2009	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club



**2008 - 2009 MGS Membership dues
and Bulletin Advertisements are due
On September 11, 2008**

OFFICERS MEETINGS

August 5, 2008

September 2, 2008

October 2, 2008

November 4, 2008

December 2, 2008

January 6, 2009

February 3, 2009

March 3, 2009

April 7, 2009

May 5, 2009



Jackson Yacht Club

2008 MGS Fall B'bque

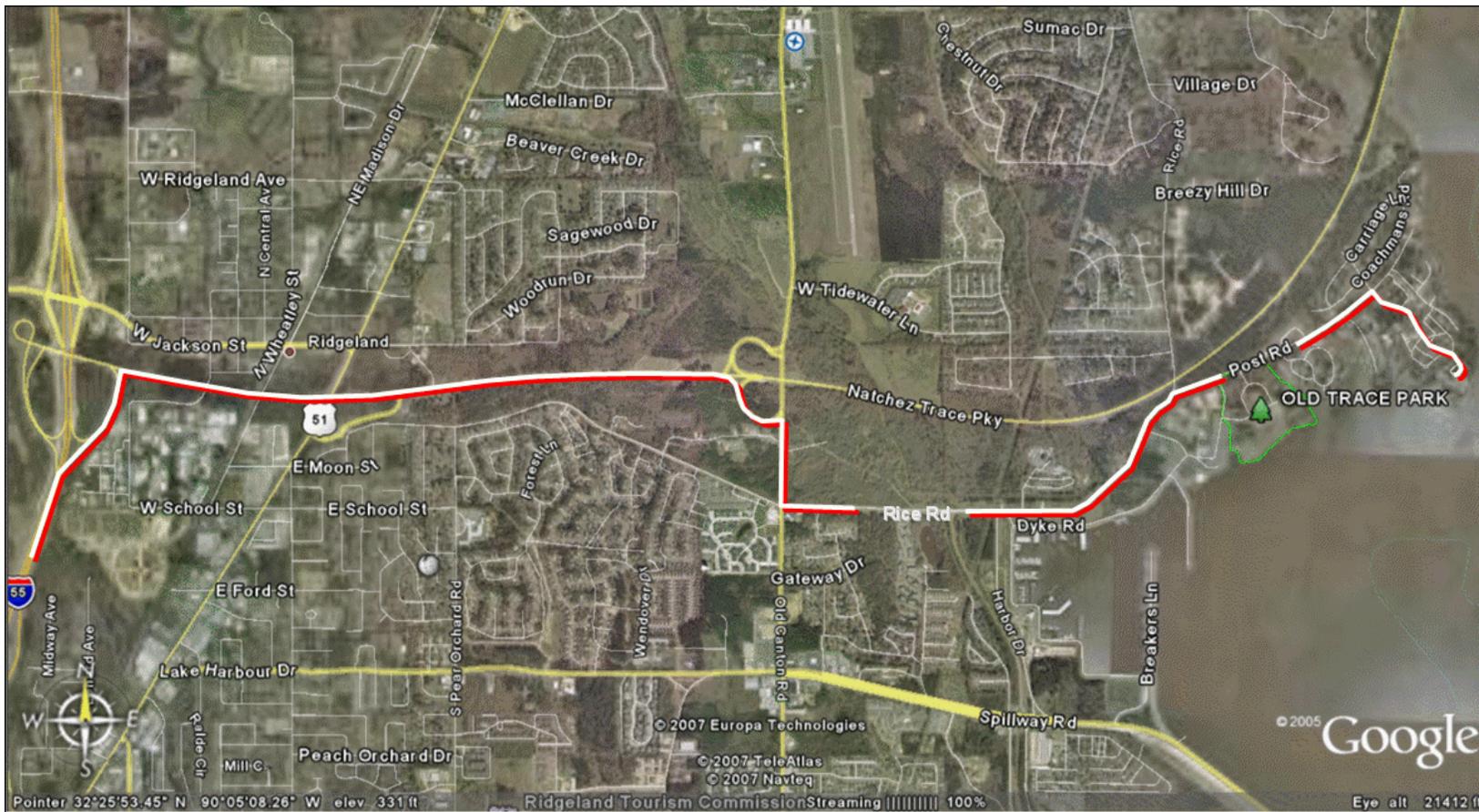
Thursday, September 11th

5:30 PM – 8:30pm

B'bque & Trimmings Keg & Cash Bar

\$15 per person (Students \$5)

Join Us



Driving North or South on I-55:
Exit I-55 at Natchez Trace Parkway (exit #105A) and continue to stop sign, turn onto Parkway at stop sign to Tupelo (east), continue to Madison/Ridgeland/Ross Barnett Reservoir exit (2.0 miles), exit right and continue to stop sign, turn right (south) at stop sign onto Old Canton Road, continue to traffic light (0.2 mile), turn left (east) at traffic light on Rice Road, continue (1.3 miles) to Post Road (3 way stop), turn right (east) at 3 way stop sign and continue to Yacht Club Road (0.7 mile), turn right (south) on Yacht Club Road and continue to end of road. Jackson YC is located on the southwest shore of Ross Barnett Reservoir in Madison County Mississippi.



Joint Annual Meeting
5-9 October 2008
George R. Brown Convention Center
Houston, Texas, USA
www.acsmeetings.org

Dear Colleague:

The first-ever joint annual meeting of The Geological Society of America (GSA), Soil Science Society of America (SSSA), American Society of Agronomy (ASA), Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), and the Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies with the Gulf Coast Section of SEPM (GCAGS), hosted by the Houston Geological Society (HGS), will highlight and stimulate discussions in areas of common interest across the diversity of disciplines and organizations represented by our members.

Scientific Program

We are proud of the quality and scope of the ten plenary sessions (invited speakers) built around challenging issues set forth by the International Year of Planet Earth agenda. These sessions are designed to engage attendees across all disciplines. View the full list of Joint Plenary Sessions, presenters, and abstracts at www.acsmeetings.org/programs/#plenary.

A rich program of 31 joint technical sessions will address environmental challenges, biofuels production, climate change, soil and water contaminants, wetland management, digital mapping, and more. View the joint sessions at: www.geosociety.org/meetings/2008/sessions/joint.asp.

All this, in addition to the information-packed regular topical and discipline sessions specific to each Society, and we think you will agree that this joint technical program promises to be a professional highlight of 2008. Take advantage of the unparalleled opportunity to expand your knowledge base, connect with colleagues, and broaden your perspectives. Search the Joint Annual Meeting Program online at <https://www.acsmeetings.org/programs/>.

Sign up for a workshop or a field trip to enhance your experience. Be sure to visit the Exhibit Hall—where more than 400 booths will feature demonstrations and displays of the latest in instrumentation, equipment, geoscience products, and services.

Register today and be a part of this historic scientific exchange. Save money by registering before Standard Registration ends at 11:59 p.m. EDT, 2 September 2008. Register online at <https://www.acsmeetings.org/registrations/>.

Hotel Reservations

Housing is going fast, so be sure to make your reservation today at <https://www.acsmeetings.org/housing-and-travel/housing/>.

QUESTIONS FOR T. BOONE PICKENS

In TheAir

The oil tycoon talks about his plan to solve America's energy crisis, why he's not running for the presidency (this time) and why he'll never vote for a Democrat.

As a Texas oilman and major contributor to the Republican Party, you've just launched yourself, at 80, into green stardom by devising an energy plan that relies mainly on wind power. How does it feel to be in the company of Al Gore, Nancy Pelosi and other leading Democrats? **If they're on my side, that's good. We're working on a nonpolitical venture here.**

Why do you think your energy plan is superior to others' plans? **My dad once said to me, "Son, a fool with a plan can beat a genius with no plan." I've used that here in this plan that I have -I'm the only one with a plan. Nobody else has a plan.**

What about President Bush's plan? Just last month he lifted the executive ban on drilling for oil in offshore areas. **Yeah, but that's not going to fix our problem. I don't call that a plan. You've got to cut the imports, because if you're importing 70 percent of your oil, you have a security problem. Can you imagine how crippled the country would be if you had it cut off?**

Your plan calls for harnessing the breezes in the wind corridor that runs from West Texas up to Canada. What about the two coasts? **People don't generally want it on the coast.**

Because the wind turbines are massive eyesores? **Yes, that's what they believe.**

And the rotor blades of the turbines chop up birds that fly into them? **That's a myth. The windows in your office right there are killing more birds than a turbine will.**

Is this all about money, ultimately? **Well, that's kind of a silly statement. I'm worth \$4 billion, and I don't need to make any more money. But I'm not going to invest money if I don't expect to make money. Here, I feel like I'm putting my money where my mouth is.**

You helped re-elect Bush in '04 when you gave \$3 million to the Swift Boat campaign to discredit John Kerry's Vietnam service. Do you regret your involvement? **Why would I?**

Because it's such an ugly chapter in American political history. **Oh, I see. Well, it was true. Everything that went into those ads was the truth.**

Really? I thought it was all invented. **I never did anything dishonest.**

Will you have any involvement in the McCain campaign? **No, definitely not. I couldn't sell this energy plan if I did. I'd be suspect. This way I am not suspect.**

Are you tired of politics? **I'm just out of it for this race. If this works, I may run in the next race.**

You plan to run for president at age 84? **I can see now you're prejudiced against my age.**

If not the Swift Boats, what do you regret? **There are deals I wish I hadn't made that I didn't make money on; I lost. I've been married four times, so you can imagine.**

Why do Texans get married so much? **Well, I'm real old. I've been married over 50 years of my life. And I am not going to give you that information without you paying for it.**

Is it true your current wife, for a birthday gift, had your childhood home in Holdenville, Okla., moved to your ranch in Texas? **Yes. The ranch is 300 miles west of Holdenville. We're putting the house back to what it was like when I was a little boy.**

In your forthcoming book, "The First Billion Is the Hardest," you give some pithy career advice. **I say, you work eight hours, and you sleep eight hours – be sure they're not the same eight hours.**

What do you think of Barack Obama? **There's no question he has run a hell of a campaign.**

Would you ever vote for a Democratic candidate? **No. I wouldn't. I'm a Republican. I don't want to go to heaven and have to face my family up there and tell them I voted for a Democrat.**

**INTERVIEW CONDUCTED. CONDENSED AND EDITED
BY DEBORAH SOLOMON**

MGS BOLAND SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Society's L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund is open to donations (tax deductible) year round. Your contribution will help the Society recognize and reward outstanding earth science students at its annual Honors Day meeting on March 12, 2009.

Since inception in 1980, the Society has honored 112 students with the Boland Award.

If you would like to contribute, please contact Dave Cate at 601-718-9397 or mail your check (L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund) to him at 217 W. Capitol St., Jackson, MS 39201.

The MGS gratefully acknowledges last years contributors to the L. F. Boland Scholarship Fund and looks forward to the support of the MGS membership for the 2008-2009 year.

MGS Honorary Members

Esther Applin*	Paul Applin*	Lawrence F. Boland*
Verne Culbertson	H. Leroy Francis*	David C. Harrell
Oleta R. Harrell*	Ralph Hines	Dudley J. Hughes
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Baxter Smith*	Harry V. Spooner	Henry Toler*
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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION / RENEWAL FORM

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 422, JACKSON, MISSISSIPPI 39205-0422

2008-2009

Membership year is June through May

New Membership (\$20/yr)_____ Renewal (\$20/yr)_____ Student (\$5/yr)_____ Associate (\$20/yr)_____

Boland Scholarship Fund Donation \$_____ Total Amount Enclosed \$_____

Last Name:_____ First:_____ MI:_____

Mailing Address:_____

Office Phone:_____ Home Phone:_____ FAX:_____

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Degree(s) Obtained and Year(s) Awarded: _____

Professional Associations, Certifications, & Licenses: _____

**Reminder: MGS Membership Renewals
are now due for 2008-2009.**

Paid members for this year listed on next page.

The following members have paid their '08-'09 dues

John Allen
Claude Baker
John Becker
Mike Bilberry
Maurice Birdwell (o)
Bruce Blake
Alvin Byrd
Roger Chapman
John Cox
Verne Culbertson (H)
Jak Douglas
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(O) = Officer

MGS ADVERTISING ORDER FORM

September 2007 – May 2008

I. Bulletin Advertisements:

<u>Size</u>	<u>Rate/Year</u>	<u>Amt. Remitted</u>
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):

<u>Type of Web Page Ad</u>	<u>Rate/Year</u>	<u>Amt. Remitted</u>
Front Page Sponsor (Banner Ad – limit of 5)	\$500	\$ _____
Second Page Banner Ad	\$250	\$ _____
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 \$ _____

Please make checks payable to the Mississippi Geological Society. If you have any questions, contact Maurice Birdwell at (601) 936-6939 or mnbirdwell@comcast.net

**Reminder: MGS Advertising Renewals
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Geologist

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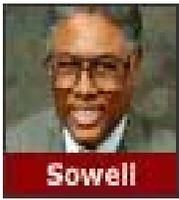


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At OMNI, We've Got the Answers.





Thomas Sowell was born in North Carolina and grew up in Harlem . As with many others in his neighborhood, he left home early and did not finish high school. The next few years were difficult ones, but eventually he joined the Marine Corps and became a photographer in the Korean War. After leaving the service, Sowell entered Harvard University , worked a part-time job as a photographer and studied the science that would become his passion and profession: economics.

After graduating magna cum laude from Harvard University (1958), he went on to receive his master's in economics from Columbia University (1959) and a doctorate in economics from the University of Chicago (1968).

In the early '60s, Sowell held jobs as an economist with the Department of Labor and AT&T. But his real interest was in teaching and scholarship. In 1965, at Cornell University , he began the first of many professorships. His other teaching assignments include Rutgers University , Amherst University , Brandeis University and the University of California at Los Angeles , where he taught in the early '70s and also from 1984 to 1989.

Sowell has published a large volume of writing. His dozen books, as well as numerous articles and essays, cover a wide range of topics, from classic economic theory to judicial activism, from civil rights to choosing the right college. Moreover, much of his writing is considered ground-breaking -- work that will outlive the great majority of scholarship done today.

Though Sowell had been a regular contributor to newspapers in the late '70s and early '80s, he did not begin his career as a newspaper columnist until 1984. George F. Will's writing, says Sowell, proved to him that someone could say something of substance in so short a space (750 words). And besides, writing for the general public enables him to address the heart of issues without the smoke and mirrors that so often accompany academic writing.

In 1990, he won the prestigious Francis Boyer Award, presented by The American Enterprise Institute. Currently Sowell is a senior fellow at the Hoover Institute in Stanford , Calif.

Obama and McCain

Thomas Sowell

Thursday, June 05, 2008

Now that the two parties have finally selected their presidential candidates, it is time for a sober-- if not grim-- assessment of where we are. Not since 1972 have we been presented with two such painfully inadequate candidates. When election day came that year, I could not bring myself to vote for either George McGovern or Richard Nixon. I stayed home.

This year, none of us has that luxury. While all sorts of gushing is going on in the media, and posturing is going on in politics, the biggest national sponsor of terrorism in the world-- Iran-- is moving step by step toward building a nuclear bomb.

The point when they get that bomb will be the point of no return. Iran 's nuclear bomb will be the terrorists' nuclear bomb-- and they can make 9/11 look like child's play.

All the options that are on the table right now will be swept off the table forever. Our choices will be to give in to whatever the terrorists demand-- however outrageous those demands might be-- or to risk seeing American cities start disappearing in radioactive mushroom clouds.

All the things we are preoccupied with today, from the price of gasoline to health care to global warming, will suddenly no longer matter.

Just as the Nazis did not find it enough to simply kill people in their concentration camps, but had to humiliate and dehumanize them first, so we can expect terrorists with nuclear weapons to both humiliate us and force us to humiliate ourselves, before they finally start killing us.

They have already telegraphed their punches with their sadistic beheadings of innocent civilians, and with the popularity of videotapes of those beheadings in the Middle East .

They have already telegraphed their intention to dictate to us with such things as Osama bin Laden's threats to target those places in America that did not vote the way he prescribed in the 2004 elections. He could not back up those threats then but he may be able to in a very few years.

The terrorists have given us as clear a picture of what they are all about as Adolf Hitler and the Nazis did during the 1930s-- and our 'leaders' and intelligentsia have ignored the warning signs as resolutely as the 'leaders' and intelligentsia of the 1930s downplayed the dangers of Hitler.

We are much like people drifting down the Niagara River , oblivious to the waterfalls up ahead. Once we go over those falls, we cannot come back up again.

What does this have to do with today's presidential candidates? It has everything to do with them.

One of these candidates will determine what we are going to do to stop Iran from going nuclear-- or whether we are going to do anything other than talk, as Western leaders talked in the 1930s.

There is one big difference between now and the 1930s. Although the West's lack of military preparedness and its political irresolution led to three solid years of devastating losses to Nazi Germany and imperial Japan , nevertheless when all the West's industrial and military forces were finally mobilized, the democracies were able to turn the tide and win decisively.

But you cannot lose a nuclear war for three years and then come back. You cannot even sustain the will to resist for three years when you are first broken down morally by threats and then devastated by nuclear bombs.

Our one window of opportunity to prevent this will occur within the term of whoever becomes President of the United States next January.

At a time like this, we do not have the luxury of waiting for our ideal candidate or of indulging our emotions by voting for some third party candidate to show our displeasure-- at the cost of putting someone in the White House who is not up to the job.

Senator John McCain has been criticized in this column many times. But, when all is said and done, Senator McCain has not spent decades aiding and abetting people who hate America .

On the contrary, he has paid a huge price for resisting our enemies, even when they held him prisoner and tortured him. The choice between him and Barack Obama should be a no-brainer.

MGS
P. O. Box 422
Jackson, MS 39205

