

**DEEP LAKES IN EARLY MARS** Dr. Ezat Heydari

**MAKING GEOLOGIC MAPS** Dr. David T. Dockery, RPG, Office of Geology

**TUSCALOOSA MARINE SHALE** USGS Questions?



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# **PRESIDENT'S LETTER**

### Cragin Knox



The Mississippi Geological Society is off to a good year! We had an excellent turn out at our Fall BBQ at the Jackson Yacht Club – and a bit of a breeze allowed us to enjoy the deck. As usual, Chef Thomas Brubeck put out a great meal for us and if anyone went away hungry it was their own fault. Thanks to Dr. Jamie Harris (Millsaps) for getting some sharp young students to attend, and thanks to the membership that hosted them at the various tables. My wife, Cindy, and I certainly enjoyed talking to the two students at our table.

Here is the usual list of suspects that have agreed to manage MGS operations for the 2016 - 2017 program year:

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I breathe a sigh of relief, as it looks like we have speakers committed to all of the meetings for 2016 - 2017. At our meeting on October  $13^{th}$ , our 2014 - 2015 MGS President, Dr. Ezat Heydari, will be out presenter. We look forward to his talk, that always has me fascinated by how our science has evolved since I took my last formal class.

Thanks to Neil Barnes for lining up a trio of speakers from the U. S. Geological Survey for our November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. Paul Hackley, Celest Lohr, and Javin Hatcherian will be visiting the Mississippi Office of Geology core library on the 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>, and have graciously agreed to present their research on the Tuscaloosa Marine Shale.

Tentatively, our speakers for the Spring will be Dr. Greg Easson, University of Mississippi, discussing offshore research activities and the BP oil spill, Alan Tamm, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, discussing flood management activities by the USACE, and Dr. Jamie Harris, Millsaps College, presenting his research on the geology of Scotland.

Thanks for the opportunity to serve a President of the Mississippi Geological Society, and I am looking forward to a great year.

2016-2017 MGS MEETING SCHEDULE				
When	What/Who	Where		
September 8, 2016	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club-5:30pm		
October 13, 2016	Deep Lakes in Early Mars—Ezat Heydari	River Hills – 11:30am		
November 10, 2016	Tuscaloosa Marine Shale Paul Hackley et al. USGS	River Hills – 11:30am		
TBD	MAPL Christmas Party and Dance	TBD		
January 12, 2017	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am		
February 9, 2017	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am		
March 9, 2017	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am		
April 13, 2017	Boland Scholarship Awards	River Hills – 11:30am		
May 11, 2017	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club– 5:30pm		



### **OFFICERS MEETINGS**

September 6, 2015

October 11, 2015

November 8, 2015

January 10, 2016

February 7, 2016

March 7, 2016

April 11, 2016

May 9, 2016



# MGS OCTOBER SPEAKER

### Dr. Ezat Heydari



Dr. Ezat Heydari is a Full Professor at Jackson State University (JSU). He received his Ph.D. degree from Louisiana State University (LSU) in 1990, his Master's Science degree from Penn State University in 1982, and Bacholarte of Science from the University of Tehran, Iran, in 1976. He specializes in Sedimentology, Stratigraphy, Petrography, and low temperature Geochemistry. Prior to joining JSU, he worked as a Research Associate and Research Professor at LSU (1990 - 1999), and as an Administrator with the Mississippi Office of Geology (1999-2001). He entered JSU in 2001 at the rank of Assistant Professor, promoted to Associate Professor in 2006, and to Full Professor in 2012.

Heydari strongly believes in promoting and facilitating Geoscience education for the State of Mississippi. Soon after entering JSU in 2001, he initiated an effort to establish a comprehensive, quality, Geosceince degree program at the University. In the following eight years, he developed courses and prepared a curriculum for a Geoscience degree program there. After clearing University committees, the programs was approved by Mississippi's Institute of Higher Learning in 2008. It is the second such program among 103 Historically Black Colleges and Universities. JSU's Geosceince program began accepting students in 2009.

Heydari is an active researcher. He has a wide range of interests some of which include the study of Gulf Coast strata (particularly the Jurassic section), the global characteristics of Upper Permian and Lower Triassic layers, and aspects of oil and gas reservoirs. His most recent endeavor is the Geology of the planet Mars. He is the author of over 50 published research papers and over 70 conference presentations. He was Associated Editor of the Journal of Sedimentary Research (1997 – 2004), Guest Co-Editor of Special volume of Tectonophysics in 2008, and Guest Co-Editor of a Special Issue in Global and Planetary Change in 2010. He was a reviewer of several texts books including the first edition of the Environmental Geology Today, the third edition of Blue Planet, and the eight edition of Physical Science. He has the honor of being is a member of science team with NASA's Curiosity Rover currently exploring Gale Crater, Mars.



### **MGS OCTOBER SPEAKER**

### Dr. Ezat Heydari

#### Deep Lakes in Early Mars: Evidence from Gale Crater

Dr. Ezat Heydari Jackson State University Jackson, MS E-mail: ezat.heydri@jsums.edu

Co-authors: K. Stack (JPL), F. Calef, (JPL), K. Lewis (Johns Hopkins Univ.), T. Parker (JPL), S. Rowland (U. Hawaii), A. Fairen (Cornell Univ.), B. Hallet (U. Washington)

#### Abstract (From GSA Annual Meeting 2016)

The Curiosity Rover has encountered two lacustrine rock units at Gale crater, Mars. The Striated formation (~1000 m thick) occurs in the central part of the Rover's traverse. It transitions into the Murray formation (~300 m thick) near the margin of Mt. Sharp. Both rock units were deposited during Early Mars, about 4.2 to 3.6 billion years ago.

The Striated formation strikes N65°E with a depositional dip of about 20°SE. It is composed of rhythmic layers, each 1 - 4 m thick. Layers fine upward with thick-bedded to massive conglomerate at the base that grades upward to laminated, fine grained sandstone at the top. The formation shows slump folds, soft sediment deformation, and cross-bedding.

The Murray formation is a sandy mudstone with lenses of cross-bedded sandstones. It is horizontally layered and contains abundant irregularly-shaped nodules that are rich in calcium and magnesium sulfate. It is monotonously laminated but laminae are not continuous and show truncation and scoured surfaces. Mud cracks, ripple marks, rip-up clasts, and other waves or current induced features are absent in the mudstones of the Murray formation.

The observed sedimentological characteristics indicate that the Striated and the Murray formations represent a subaqueous fan in a large lake, estimated to be 1 - 3 km deep. Fining-upward layers of the Striated formation are coarse-grained turbidites deposited on the proximal part of the fan by sediments delivered by floods through the northern rim of the crater. The Murray formation formed on the distal part of the fan and extended into the center of the lake in waters so deep that bottom sediments were unaffected by wave actions, lake-level fluctuations, and storm activities. Discontinuous laminations suggest that laminations formed by traction sedimentation associated with waving turbidity flows.

The rhythmic nature of layering indicates a regulated flow of flood waters into the lake, possibly controlled by changes in climate. The most likely forcing mechanism was variations in obliquity. Floods occurred during hothouse periods when the Martian climate was warmer than Present. The lake became saline at least to gypsum saturation during subsequent cold and/or dry climate of icehouse intervals and precipitated sulfate-rich nodules in the Murray formation.

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### Call for Abstracts: Deadline 11/15/2016



### 81<sup>st</sup> Annual Mississippi Academy of Sciences Meeting

#### February 23-24, 2017

Thad Cochran Center • University of Southern Mississippi •

Hattiesburg, MS

Submission Deadline: November 15, 2016 250-Word Limit

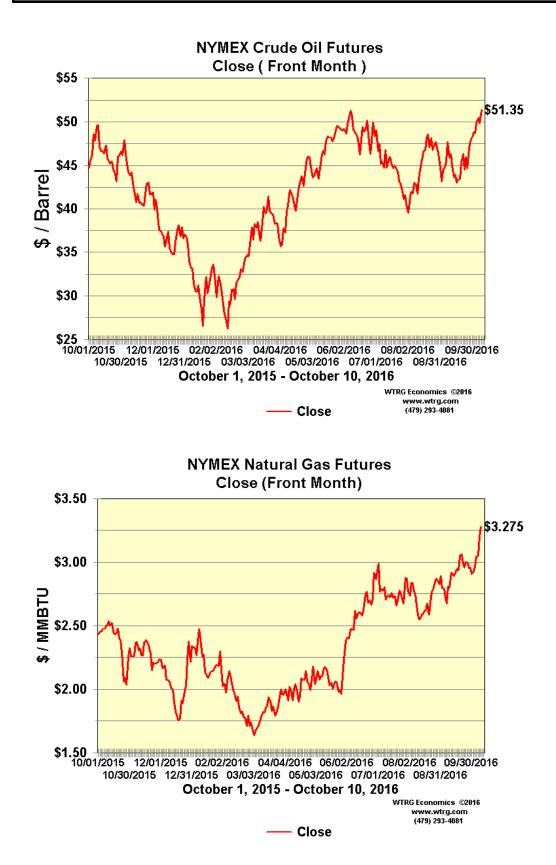
All Sciences and Engineering-related disciplines, including Basic, Applied, Clinical, Translational, and Population sciences welcome.

Submitted abstracts are peer-reviewed. Accepted abstracts are published in a supplement to the annual *Journal of the Mississippi Academy of Sciences*. The annual meeting provides an excellent forum for members to exchange ideas and information. Students will be eligible for awards (see website for more information)

To submit, go to http://msacad.org/submit-an-abstract/submit-on-line



### **CURRENT PRICES**







#### MAKING GEOLOGIC MAPS David T. Dockery III, RPG, MDEQ Office of Geology

In continuation of last month's Mississippi Geological Society Bulletin article explaining the work of Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's Office of Geology Surface Geology Division, it is appropriate to discuss how our geologic maps are made. At one time, once the field geologists' work was done, completion of finished maps was outsourced to Mercury Maps, Inc. of Jackson, Mississippi. Now finished maps are created in house as both digital and paper products. Dan Morse is the GIS Expert/Systems Administrator who has been making this happen over a run of one hundred sixty 7.5-minute quadrangle geologic maps. Mr. Morse came to the Surface Geology Division with an oil and gas pedigree; his father Daniel Wilkinson Morse Sr. was an oil and gas attorney who made and lost lots of money in the industry (and whose name can be seen in oil and gas records around the country). Morse's father's name appears on a 1965 petition by State Geologist Fred Mellen to Governor Paul B. Johnson to build a new and modern core and sample library. Morse's grandfather William Eugene Morse had a brother named Hugh McDonald Morse who became the first State Oil and Gas Supervisor of the Mississippi Oil and Gas Board when it was founded in 1932; he was also an author of the Mississippi Geological Survey bulletin on Jasper County Mineral Resources published in 1963. Perhaps the most amazing thing about Morse is shown if Figure 1, where he and his wife Denise are holding their son Josh. Josh is three months old; his father is 53 years old.



Figure 1. Denise, Josh, and Dan Morse at MDEQ's 700 Building. Josh is three months old; his father is 53 years old. Picture was taken on February 6, 2007.



All 160 geologic quadrangle maps created by Morse are available in PDF format as downloads on MDEQ's Office of Geology website under "List of Publications." They are also available on the USGS MapView website. Figure 2 shows 7.5-minute map coverage on the MapView site as it was when released in May 2013. Thanks to Morse's work with the USGS, Mississippi is shown as one of only three state's east of the Mississippi River to have map coverage.

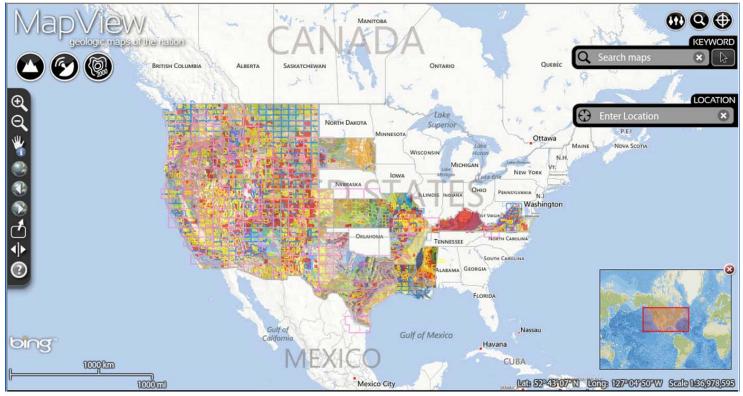


Figure 2. Geologic map coverage of the contiguous 48 United States on the U.S. Geological Survey MapView website as published in May 2013. Most states west of the Mississippi River have map coverage available at this site, but only three states east of the Mississippi River, including Mississippi, have map coverage at this time.



Figure 3 shows map coverage on the MapView site as it is today.

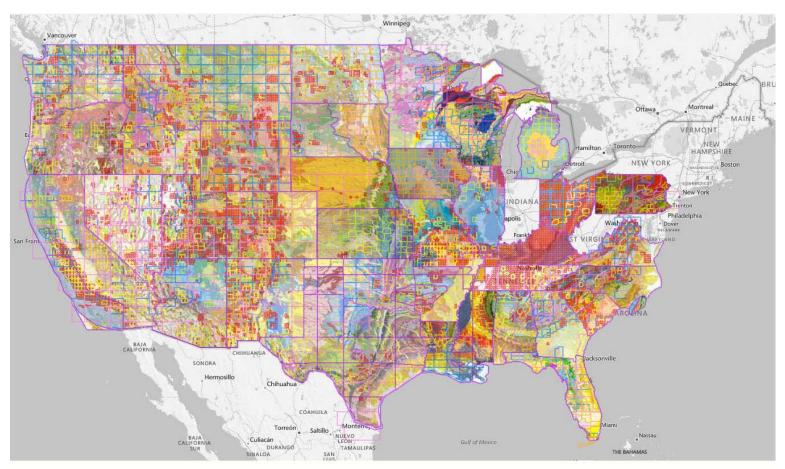


Figure 3. MapView map coverage of the 48 contiguous US states as it is today.



Figure 4 shows MapView's coverage of the Gulf Coastal states.

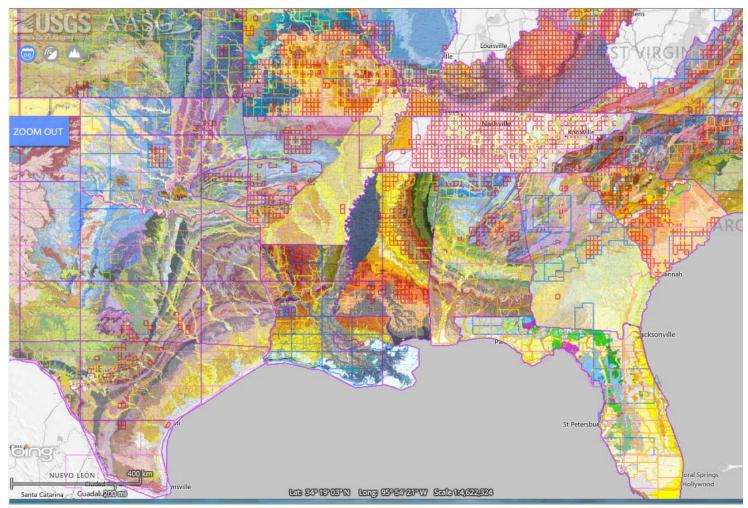


Figure 4. MapView map coverage of the Gulf Coastal States. At this enlargement individual 7.5-minute geologic quadrangle maps appear as red-outlined boxes.



Figure 5 is an enlargement that shows the northeast corner of Simpson County with coverage from the state geologic map at a scale of 1:500,000, and a larger portion of Smith County with coverage from the county geologic map at a scale of 1:126,720. The latter map coverage is partially replaced by the *Geologic Map of the Cohay Quadrangle* at a scale of 1:24,000. A mouse click on this quadrangle gives various options, including Browse and Download. When MDEQ Office of Geology geologic maps were only available as paper copies in our Publication Sales Department, payment was required before the maps could be mailed to recipients. Now our stakeholders can access maps instantly online, which takes care of those customers who need something "today or right now!"

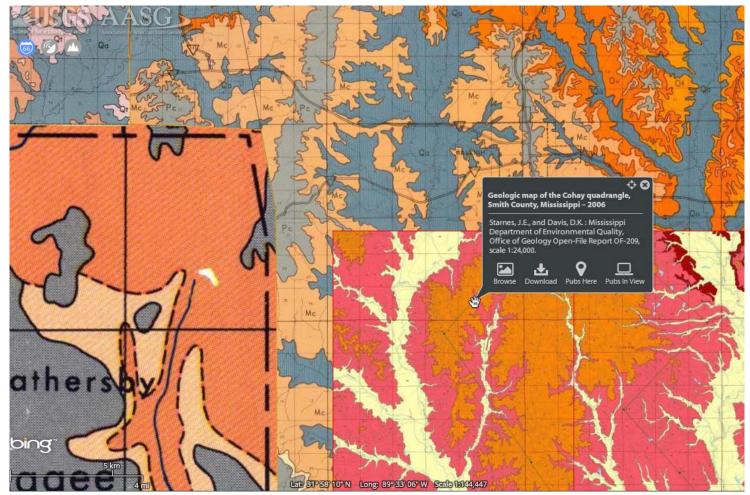


Figure 5. An enlargement of MapView to show portions of Simpson and Smith counties. Simpson County is at a scale of 1:500,000; Smith is at a scale of 1:126,720. The Cohay 7.5-minute geologic map in Smith County is at a scale of 1:24,000.



### **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



### **TUSCALOOSA MARINE SHALE** USGS Questions?

For operators of productive TMS wells specifically what zone they are producing from?

How close to top of Lower Tuscaloosa are they placing the horizontals?

Are they actually targeting a zone with resistivity greater than 5 ohms?

What other parameters are important to successful completions, such as porosity, permeability, etc.?

Is a relationship between fluids produced from TMS versus fluids produced from Lower Tuscaloosa? Do any operators have wells where oil is produced from TMS AND L. Tusc.?

Where gas is produced from both TMS and L. Tusc.?

Or is L. Tusc usually wet when TMS is productive?

Are there any instances where TMS was completed and wet, and operator was able to recomplete in Upper Tuscaloosa successfully? Was oil or gas produced in this case?

If the TMS is a poor oil-prone source rock (low TOC, Type III kerogen) then where is the oil coming from?

Long distance lateral/updip migration? Another local source in the play area?

How does the TMS correlate westward to the Eagle Ford and Austin Chalk?



# **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 2016-2017 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











# **2016-2017 BOLAND FUND DONATIONS**

Maurice Birdwell Joe White Kaci Myers & Family Bob Schneeflock

Thanks for your generous donations to the 2016-2017 Boland Fund

# **GEO LINK POST**

**USGS TAPESTRY OF TIME AND TERRAIN** <u>http://tapestry.usgs.gov</u> 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* <u>http://www.tnris.state.tx.us/digital.htm</u> 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** <u>http://store.usgs.gov/b2c\_usgs/b2c/start/(xcm=r3standardpitrex\_prd)/.do</u> go to this webpage and look on the extreme right side to the box titled TOPO MAPS <u>DOWNLOAD</u> TOPO MAPS FREE.

<u>http://www.geographynetwork.com/</u> 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.

<u>http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/astropix.html</u> 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/galery/default.htm Great satellite images of volcanoes

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

<u>www.ermapper.com</u> 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.

<u>http://terrasrver.com/</u> 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.

<u>http://www.fs.fed.us/gpnf/volcanocams/msh/</u> 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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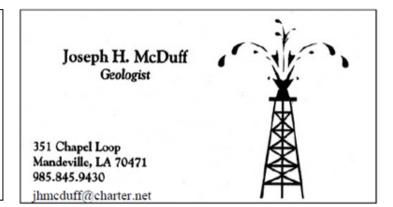
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