

MISSISSIPPI GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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No. 3

November 2017

**ENERGY & POWER: GLOBAL INFLUENCES ON
SUPPLY AND DEMAND**

Todd Keifer

MISSISSIPPI ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

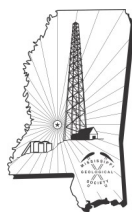
Last Call for ABSTRACTS

LYELL IN MISSISSIPPI, VICKSBURG & JACKSON

Dr. David T. Dockery III, RPG, Office of Geology

Book Review

Laura Sorey



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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

David Hancock



For a change, industry conditions appear to be on the upswing. Oil prices are in the mid 50's and maybe with a little cold weather natural gas will follow oil's lead. While we are on the subject, we will have Ike Keifer speaking to us the next meeting. As you'll recall he spoke to us a couple of years ago and has tremendous insight into global energy matters. Captain Keifer is the retired director of government relations for East Mississippi Power Association and president of North Lauderdale Water Association. He has degrees in physics, strategy and military history and has been deployed to the Middle East eight times. In order to schedule him we have had to change our usual meeting date to Tuesday, November 7th. We will still meet at River Hills. This will be a fascinating discussion.

Thank you Ezat for your presentation "The Last Delta on Mars" at our October meeting. We were fortunate to get a preview of his paper that will be presented at a national convention later this year. On a personal note, I would like to thank Ezat for always stepping in when we need a speaker. He is a good friend to the Society and his access to the Mars Rover has been rewarding for everyone. Thanks for sharing your always interesting insights.

In closing, I would like to encourage your attendance at our meetings. They're always more fun for the membership and speakers when we have a full house. Your Board is also in the process of planning to honor one of our retiring members. We are all familiar with this individual. More on that next month.

I look forward to seeing you November 7th!

2017-2018 MGS MEETING SCHEDULE

When	What/Who	Where
September 14, 2017	Fall BBQ	Jackson Yacht Club-5:30pm
October 12, 2017	EZAT HEYDARI The Last Delta on Mars	River Hills – 11:30am
November 7, 2017	Todd Kiefer Update: Energy & Power: Global Influences	River Hills – 11:30am
TBD	TBD	TBD
January 11, 2018	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
February 8, 2018	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
March 8, 2018	TBD	River Hills – 11:30am
April 12, 2018	Boland Scholarship Awards	River Hills – 11:30am
May 10, 2017	Spring Fling	Jackson Yacht Club– 5:30pm



Figure 3. *Venericor apodensata* Gardner and Bowles, 1939, left valve, length 40.0 mm, height 36.5 mm, Moodys Branch Formation, MGS 1. Figured in Dockery, 1977, pl. 24, fig. 15. MGS figured specimen 2238.

OFFICERS MEETINGS

September 12, 2017
October 10, 2017
November 6, 2017
January 9, 2018
February 6, 2018
March 6, 2018
April 10, 2018
May 8, 2018



MGS NOVEMBER SPEAKER

Todd Keifer



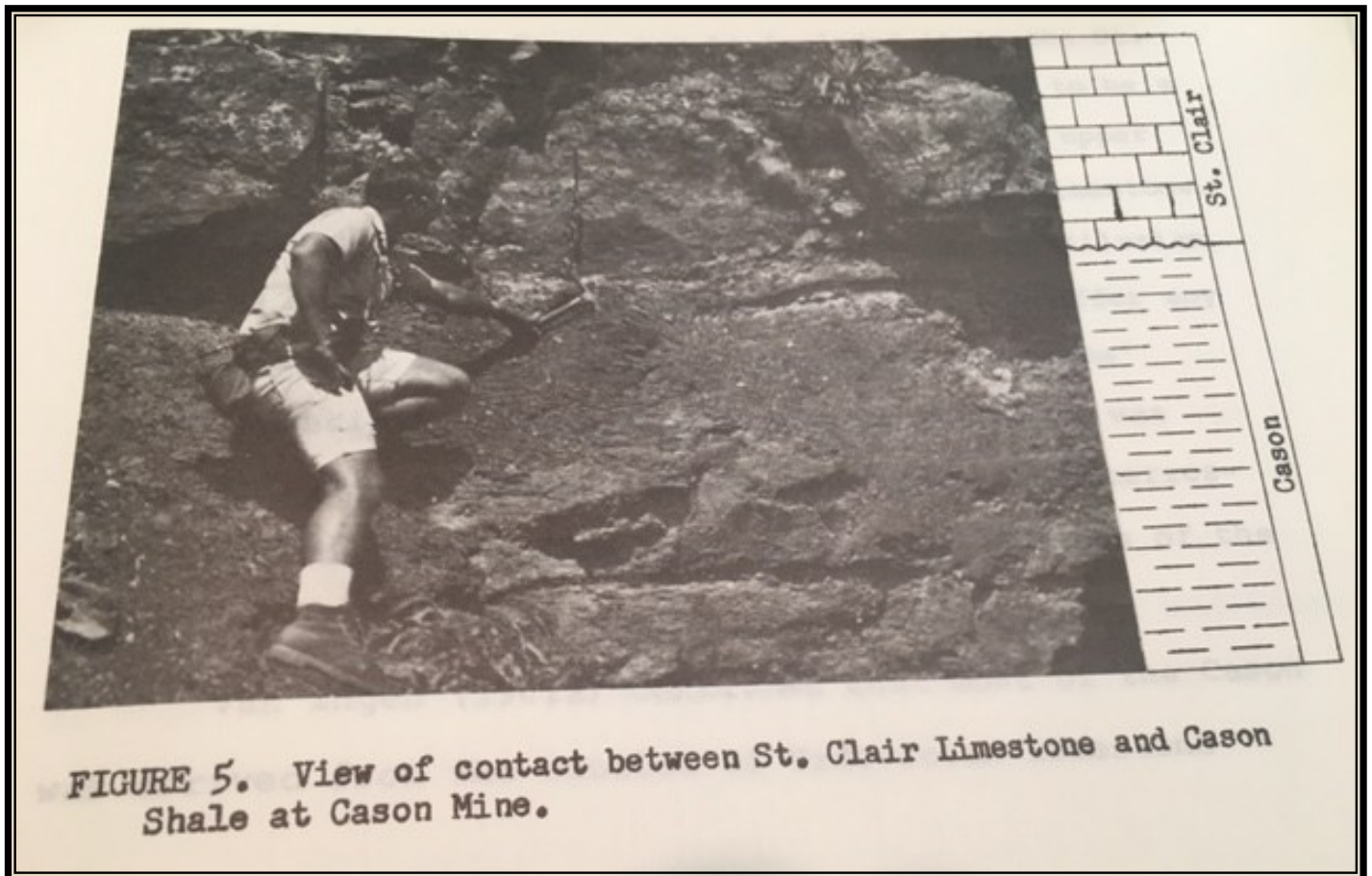
Todd Kiefer is a 25-year military officer, Naval aviator, EA-6B Prowler pilot. 8 times deployed to Middle East and Southwest Asia. 22 months on the ground in Iraq. 3 years as pentagon strategic planner on Joint Staff. 3 years as faculty instructor of warfighting and strategy and CJCS Chair at the Air War College. Degrees in physics, strategy, and history. Operational experience in military command, electronic and information warfare, military strategy and war planning, operational testing of software and avionics, aviation training, crash investigation, contract management. Published papers on energy security and biofuels. Literature research focused on primary energy, alternative energy, photosynthesis, electrification and economic development, international relations theory and geopolitics, demographic trends, climate and environment, water and resource scarcity, biophysical economics, EROI. Currently managing a local power company and a rural water association.



MGS QUIZ

Who is this prominent MGS member?

Hint* Photo is from a Master's Thesis, taken in Independence Co., Arkansas in 1968.





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Questions? Contact Tyler Berry tberry@mdeq.ms.gov or Andy O'Reilly aoreilly@olemiss.edu



MONTHLY POST

Dr. David T. Dockery III RPG

LYELL IN MISSISSIPPI, VICKSBURG AND JACKSON

David T. Dockery III, RPG, MDEQ Office of Geology

The following is a sequel to Lyell's travels published in the May 2017 MGS Bulletin and as taken from *Lyell in America* by Leonard G. Wilson, 1998. On the evening of March 19, 1946, Charles and his wife Mary Lyell boarded the steamboat *Magnolia* and traveled to Vicksburg, Mississippi. Charles Lyell noted that the loess bluffs at Vicksburg were like those he had seen at Natchez and in the Rhine Valley of Europe. Beneath the loess were beds of sandstone and below that were strata of "Eocene" marls and limestone containing abundant shells and corals. Lyell spent the morning of March 20 collecting fossils, many of which he had seen in the Town of Washington in the collections of B. L. C. Wailes, the writer of the first book on the geology of Mississippi. That afternoon Lyell left his wife in Vicksburg and took a trail to Jackson, some 52 miles inland.

Lyell arrived in Jackson late in the afternoon of March 20. Knowing no one, he followed his custom while travelling the villages of France and called on the local pharmacy where there might be a person interest in science and geology. The pharmacist introduced him to Dr. Gist, who lived above the pharmacy. Dr. Gist was not only interested in geology by had read Lyell's book on the *Principles of Geology* and had made a collection of rocks and fossil from the surrounding countryside. Within ten minutes of his arrival at Jackson, Lyell and Dr. Gist were collecting fossil in the bed of a small stream (Town Creek) where there was an abundance of fossils. Many of the Jackson fossils were similar to those that Lyell had collected at Claiborne Bluff on the Alabama River in Alabama. From this, Lyell determined that the Jackson beds were older than the beds at Vicksburg, which lacked certain Eocene-age fossils found at the other sites. At this time, Lyell had only named the Eocene, Miocene, Pliocene and Pleistocene as epochs in the Tertiary Period. German paleontologist Heinrich Ernst Beyrich named the Oligocene Epoch for fossiliferous exposures in Germany and Belgium in 1854. Lyell correctly correlated strata at Jackson as dipped to the west below those at Vicksburg (figures 1-2), thus establishing the succession of strata in central Mississippi and the correct order of the Claiborne, Jackson, and Vicksburg groups.



Figure 1. Lyell's (1847) 50-mile-long cross section from Vicksburg to west of Jackson, Mississippi, showing the Jackson and Vicksburg "Eocene" layers both labelled #4.



MONTHLY POST

Dr. David T. Dockery III RPG

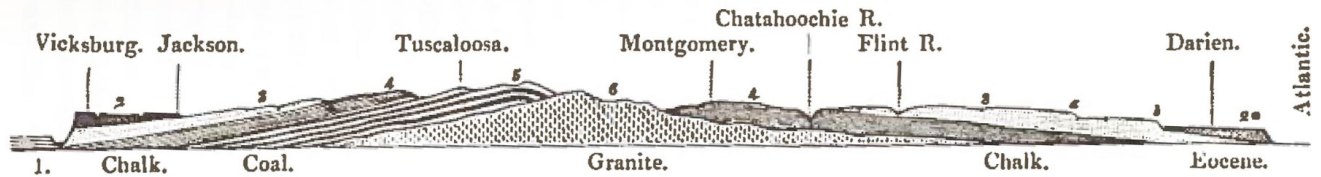


Figure 2. Lyell's (1849) 550-mile-long east-west cross section from the Mississippi River at Vicksburg to the Atlantic Ocean, crossing the states of Mississippi, Alabama, and Georgia.

In Lyell's overnight stay at a Jackson Hotel, the landlord introduced him to several lawyers. Lyell made a light-hearted complaint about inaccessible and inconvenient location of their capitol. The Mississippians took the ribbing well and explained that the railroad had opened up fertile cropland in the area, and the city was flourishing. Lyell found the conversation engaging and "realized how much he enjoyed the social ease and freedom of America." The next day he asked various men why Mississippi repudiated its debts in 1841. He found that many freely condemned the faults of the State in that matter. One lawyer told Lyell, "the only way he could explain the universal condemnation of repudiation, or reconcile it with the large majorities in favor of it, was that selfishness took advantage of the ballot box to oppose their professions." In 1837, the State of Mississippi spent half a million dollars on new buildings and repudiated the debt in 1841 by voting against the taxes required to pay the debt, a debt still owed today. On March 22, Lyell returned to Vicksburg where he and Mary took the steamboat *Andrew Jackson* to continue their travels up river.



Figure 3. *Venericor apodensata* Gardner and Bowles, 1939, left valve, length 40.0 mm, height 36.5 mm, Moodys Branch Formation, MGS 1. Figured in Dockery, 1977, pl. 24, fig. 15. MGS figured specimen 2238.

Figure 3 is a specimen of *Venericor apodensata* from the Town Creek locality of the Moodys Branch Formation, which Lyell visited in 1846. At the time of Lyell's travels in America, shells resembling this species were named *Venericardia planicosta*, a guide fossil to Lyell's Eocene Epoch worldwide. The fact that *V. planicosta* occurred at both Jackson and Claiborne Bluff in Alabama indicated that both of these localities were of Eocene age. This guide fossil does not occur at Vicksburg even though the fossil mollusks there are both diverse and abundant. Lyell thus realized that the Vicksburg strata were of a younger age.



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MONTHLY BOOK REVIEW

By: Laura Sorey

To Engineer is Human: The Role of Failure in Successful Design

By: Henry Petroski

251 pages. Vintage Books. \$14

To Engineer is Human.....and to Err Every Now and Then is also Engineer

By: Laura Sorey

As far as boring books go, one could assume (and quite fairly, I might say) that a written discourse on the failures and successes of engineering through a humanist lens would take the cake for dullest and most tedious tome. However, Henry Petroski's 1985 book, *To Engineer is Human: The Role of Failure in Successful Design*, defies this simplistic expectation by engaging in a sophisticated yet accessible analysis of the paradoxes and challenges of modern engineering that only briefly strays into the esoteric. Petroski initially frames the arc of his narrative around well-known engineering failures like the catastrophic failure of the walkways at the Kansas City Hyatt Regency in 1981 and the collapse of the bucking roadbeds on the Tacoma Narrows Bridge in 1940. However, rather than merely devolving into a case study of these two incidents, Petroski's account leads off with several chapters on the philosophy and human component behind engineering as a profession and as an everyday activity for each of us. Though many geologists would undoubtedly scoff at accusations of secretly being an engineer, Petroski speaks more to the system of thought that enables us to unconsciously assess risk, consequences, and the limits of structural design around us.

For example, it doesn't take an PE to see a fraying rope swing dangling over exposed cypress knees alongside the Vermillion River at low-water conditions and recognize the limits of design (an old rope exposed to elements isn't meant to hold up under the rotational force of drunk Cajuns), risk (falling from said rope onto the cypress knees), and consequences (injury and possible death of said Cajuns). The author's example employs Goldilocks, but the point stands. Petroski's choices for case studies and examples throughout the book are always relevant and generally instructive as to his larger theme. Though the discussion on the relationship between metallurgy, brittle fracture, and fatigue cracks in nuclear reactor piping (thankfully limited to only one chapter) stands out as a particularly challenging and dry interlude in what is largely an engaging look at the nature of design failure in a variety of environments.



MONTHLY BOOK REVIEW

By: Laura Sorey

In his examination of specific instances of failures and successes in engineering, Petroski makes the argument that the design process of structural engineering is as much a human endeavor as a scientific one. Firstly, engineers must honor a paradox of sufficiently fortifying their designs against failure in a certain lifespan under a range of conditions without risking overdesign that can inflate costs, interfere with operation, and damper innovation. Secondly, failures often result from relatively simple oversights that seem apparent in retrospect and ostensibly could have been prevented had every possible route to design failure been investigated. These form the central component of Petroski's observation that while structural success induces daring innovation as well as overconfidence in existing designs, while structural failure, whether human or mechanical, informs the conceptual framework for the next successful design and pathway for innovation. It is much to Petroski's credit that he can directly address the need for analysis of lessons learned from these often tragic failures without seeming cold or detached from the frequent impact on human life. Engineering tempered with empathy, as it were.

The paradoxical relationship between failure and success in engineering and the need for open discourse on that paradox is perhaps best captured by Petroski's citation of Barry LaPatner's argument made before a Congressional subcommittee regarding the release of technical records related to structural failures.

"Good judgement is usually the result of experience. And experience is frequently the result of bad judgment. But to learn from the experience of others requires those who have the experience to share the knowledge with those who follow."

To Engineer is Human: The Role of Failure in Successful Design

By Henry Petroski

251 pages. Vintage Books. \$14.



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 2017-2018 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



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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



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Thanks for your generous donations to the 2017-2018 Boland Fund

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.

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<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/galery/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/gpnl/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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