November 2023 Volume 64 No. 5



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Near an area of the German-Czech border is a perfect lookout over the Elbe Sandstone Mountains called the Bastei Bridge. Originally a wooden bridge for tourists to access the beautiful scenery, in 1851 it was replaced by the sandstone bridge that stands today.

The Elbe Sandstone Mountains were formed when the area was once a Cretaceous sea. Over time, the area was uplifted and the Elbe River eroded into the sandstone until it reached the level it is today. It's definitely worth a visit from Prague or Dresden!



A few geology classmates and I on holiday at the Bastei Bridge in 2017.

Image Source (Cover)

Cover photographed by Bernd Thaller

### From the Editor...

Greetings Everyone,

This past month NOGS had some really exciting events going on, including Super Saurus Saturday, Girl Scouts Believe in Girls, and the PLANO/NOGS golf tournament at City Park. We've included pictures of all three events in this month's Log for your enjoyment. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and contributed to the events.

Dear members, I need your help - we are at the end of our archive for the "Pictures from the Past" feature. If you have any pictures from past NOGS events, ceremonies, etc, please email to me. I would greatly appreciate it!

As always, if you have any suggestions about content or would like to contribute to the Log, please reach out to me at editor@nog.org!

Brittany



Brittany George 2023/2024 NOGS Log Editor

## A MESSAGE FROM THE 2023/2024 NOGS PRESIDENT

MARK WOJNA

As president of NOGS, I recently had the privilege of representing NOGS on the semi-annual Gulf Coast Association of Geological Societies (GCAGS) Board Meeting conference call. GCAGS serves as the Gulf Coast section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists (AAPG). GCAGS consists of 13 Gulf Coast area geological societies located in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. The key event for GCAGS is the annual convention hosted by the various geological member societies. Papers presented at the annual convention are published in the annual Transactions of the Association. These Transactions form a valuable resource of Gulf Coast geology. The annual convention has been rebranded as the GeoGulf Convention.

NOGS holds the honor of hosting the inaugural GCAGS convention in New Orleans in 1951. NOGS has hosted eight subsequent GCAGS conventions with the most recent being held in 2013. We should all be very proud of the role our professional society has played in researching and documenting Gulf Coast geology for all future geologists to reference. I'd like to thank and acknowledge all of the current NOGS members and those that are no longer with us who volunteered their time and helped organize these previous nine conventions.

The most recent GeoGulf2023 Convention was held in Houston earlier this year. It was considered a major success based on attendance with over 400 attendees. The conference was also financially profitable, something that was an issue for recent conferences. GeoGulf2024 will be hosted by the South Texas Geological Society. It will be held in San Antonio, Texas on April 10-12, 2024. Informational flyers for GeoGulf2024 are included in this month's NOGS LOG. As we've experienced with NOGS, many of the Gulf Coast geological societies have shrunk in size and resources. A new trend has developed for the GeoGulf2025 convention. The East Texas Geological Society and the Shreveport Geological Society have pooled their resources to hold a jointly sponsored convention in Nacogdoches, Texas on April 6-9, 2025. In order to address costs and include academia, the convention will be held on the campus of Stephen F. Austin University at the university convention center.

Please join us for the November 8th NOGS luncheon meeting at Dab's Bistro in Metairie. Finding a suitable restaurant that can accommodate our south shore NOGS meetings and is convenient and economical has been a challenge. Holding the meeting on a Wednesday gives us more choices since many restaurants that can accommodate a meeting are closed on Mondays. The NOGS Memorial Foundation will be handing out scholarship checks to the 2023 Scholarship Recipients from the University of New Orleans, Tulane University and LSU. I hope you can attend the meeting to celebrate the next generation of geologists. As the end of year approaches please consider making a donation to the NOGS Memorial Foundation to support this worthy cause.

This month's Louisiana GeoNews column features a fellow NOGS member, Dr. Akinbobola Akintomide who works for the Louisiana Geological Survey (LGS). Bobola talks about an LGS project he's working on jointly with surrounding states titled "West Gulf Coastal Plain Stratigraphic Reconciliation Initiative". I would encourage all NOGS members that have worked the subsurface of South Louisiana to consider helping Bobola with this worthy project by providing any information that you feel would be helpful.

# **NOGS NOVEMBER MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT**

Applying Source-to-Sink Geologic Concepts to Develop Regional Coastal Management Strategies *Mike Miner, P.G., Ph.D.* Director of Applied Geosciences

The Water Institute





**NEW LOCATION** DAB'S BISTRO - METAIRIE

WEDNESDAY, November 8, 2023 11:30 am - Networking 12:00 noon - Meeting & Lunch Members \$30 Guests \$35

# DRILL BITS



#### OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES

#### BY AL BAKER

During September 2023, the **Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)** approved 82 Gulf of Mexico (GoM) drilling permits. Thirteen of the permits were for shelf wells, and the remaining 69 permits were for deepwater wells. There were 5 new well permits issued in deepwater.

The deepwater new well permits were for 3 exploration wells and 2 development wells. **Shell Offshore** received an exploratory well permit for their Mississippi Canyon 391 #AW-3 well. **Murphy Exploration & Production Company** obtained an exploratory well permit for their Mississippi Canyon 255 #3 well. **Hess Corporation** was granted an exploratory well permit for their Green Canyon 468 #BP-1 well in Pony Field. **BP Exploration & Production** received a development well permit for their Mississippi Canyon 777 #10 well in Thunder Horse Field. **LLOG Exploration Offshore** was given a development well permit for their Mississippi Canyon 502 #4 well in Longhorn Field.

On September 29th, **S&P Global Petrodata** indicated that the GoM mobile offshore rig supply stood at 49, which is the same as last month. The marketed rig supply consisted of 36 rigs, of which 30 were under contract. The marketed rig supply and the contracted rig supply numbers are also the same as last month. The marketed contracted versus total rig supply utilization rate stood at 73.5%, and the marketed contracted versus marketed supply utilization rate stood at 83.3%. By comparison, the September 2022 total fleet utilization rate stood at 73.9%, with 34 rigs under contract out of the 46 rigs in the fleet.

On September 29th, **Baker Hughes** reported that there are 18 active mobile offshore rigs in the GoM, which is 3 more than last month and 60% of the rigs under contract mentioned above. Currently, 3 rigs are drilling on the shelf, and 15 rigs are drilling in deepwater. The shelf rigs include 2 rigs in the South Timbalier Area and 1 rig in the Vermilion Area. The deepwater rigs include 5 rigs in the Mississippi Canyon Area, 3 rigs in the Keathley Canyon Area, 2 rigs in the Green Canyon Area, 2 rigs in the Alaminos Canyon Area and 1 rig each in the Garden Banks, Ewing Bank and Walker Ridge Areas.

On September 29th, the **Baker Hughes** total U.S. rig count stood at 623 rigs, which is 9 less than reported at the end of August 2023. Of the 623 rigs, 502 (80.6%) are oil rigs and 116 (18.6%) are gas rigs. Five rigs are listed as miscellaneous. A year ago, there were 765 rigs working in the U.S. inferring that the current rig figure represents an 18.6% decrease in rigs year over year. Presently, Texas continues to have the largest number of rigs with 304, which is 48.9% of the total number of rigs in the U.S. Louisiana currently has a total of 43 rigs, which is 1 more than last month. Louisiana ranks third behind New Mexico, which has 102 rigs.

On September 26th, the **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)** announced that it is postponing OCS Sale 261 that was scheduled for September 27, 2023. As a result of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruling on September 25, 2023, the BOEM now plans to hold OCS Sale 261 no later than November 8, 2023 to comply with the Appeals Court ruling. The BOEM will include in the sale the lease blocks that were previously excluded due to concerns regarding potential impacts on the Rice's whale distribution in the GoM.

On September 29th, the **Department of the Interior** released a proposed final version of its next 5-year offshore leasing program with a maximum of three GoM lease sales and no sale for offshore Alaska. The Interior Department said it would hold one sale in each of the years 2025, 2027 and 2029. This will be a sharp drop from the last 5-year program, which included 11 lease sales, two per year over 5 years in the GoM and one in Alaska's Cook Inlet.

# **DRILL BITS**



#### NEW WELL PERMITS OFFSHORE GULF OF MEXICO SHELF AND DEEPWATER ACTIVITIES MAP BY KEVIN TROSCLAIR







We are sad to report that Jacquie CLassen, beloved wife of Jim Classen, passed away in Boise, Idaho on August 31, 2023, at the age of 86. Jacquie and Jim lived in New Orleans on two occasions, 1964-68 and 1970-76, where Jim was well known in the oil and gas business and Jacquie was an active member of the NOGS Auxiliary. She will be fondly remembered as a beautiful lady, kind, soft spoken and intelligent, who was loved and admired by all of us who knew her.

Jacquie is survived by Jim, her husband of 64 years, their three children and spouses, four grandchildren and spouses, and four great grandchildren.

# NOGS/PLANO/SPWLA CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT October 2, 2023









## **ORGANIZED BY:**

























# Have you renewed your NOGS Membership?

Thank you for your continued support as a member of NOGS! We greatly appreciate your dedication to our organization and the valuable contributions you have made to our community.

Your membership renewal plays a vital role in sustaining the work we do at NOGS. It enables us to organize events, provide educational resources, and promote the field of geology to a wider audience. By renewing your membership, you continue to be a part of our vibrant community and support our mission of advancing geological knowledge and fostering professional growth.

Alongside your membership renewal, we would like to invite you to consider making a donation to the NOGS Memorial Foundation. This foundation plays a crucial role in supporting the education of Geology and Earth Science students attending LSU, UNO, and Tulane Universities. Your generous donations directly contribute to the scholarships we provide to these students, helping them pursue their dreams and achieve academic success.

#### To make your donation, please click here

Every contribution, no matter the size, makes a meaningful difference and helps us continue this important work. Your support ensures that future generations of geologists and Earth scientists have the resources they need to succeed.

We deeply appreciate your commitment to NOGS and your dedication to the advancement of geology. Thank you for considering membership renewal and making a donation to the NOGS Memorial Foundation. Together, we can make a lasting impact on the geology community and the future of our field.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us - admin@nogs.org

Thank you once again for your continued support and for being an invaluable part of NOGS.

## Recent Energy Headlines October 2023 Recap

**10/24/2023 - It's Very Difficult for USA to Reload Strategic Petroleum Reserve** - The U.S. would probably happily re-load its Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR), but it is very difficult to do so while the global oil market is running a deficit. That's what Bjarne Schieldrop, Chief Commodities Analyst at Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken AB (SEB), said in a report sent to Rigzone on Monday, adding that the country has drawn down its SPR over the latest years to "only 50 percent of capacity". <u>Read Full Article</u>

**10/23/203 - Chevron to buy Hess for \$53 billion in latest oil mega-merger -** Chevron has agreed to buy Hess for \$53 billion in stock to gain a bigger U.S. oil footprint and a stake in rival Exxon Mobil's massive Guyana discoveries, the latest in a series of blockbuster U.S. oil combinations. The Chevron deal announced on Monday and a \$60 billion acquisition by Exxon earlier this month will add years of oil and gas production to the two top U.S. producers' portfolios, much of it from U.S. shale. And the deals will leave European oil rivals that had shifted their focus to renewable energy further behind in fossil fuels. <u>Read Full Article</u>

**10/19/2023 - Seatrium delivers floating production unit for Shell's Gulf of Mexico project** - Seatrium Limited (Seatrium) announced the successful delivery of the Floating Production Unit (FPU), Whale, for deployment in the Gulf of Mexico, in accordance with the contract secured in November 2019 with Shell Offshore Inc. The completed Whale FPU, which comprises a topside module and a four-column semisubmersible floating hull (of over 22,000 tonnes) delivered on-time and within budget, underscores Seatrium's strong track record and leadership as a global player with deep engineering expertise. Enabled by Seatrium's game-changing Goliath twin cranes with a combined 30,000-tonne lifting capacity and a 100-metre hook height, the integration of the Whale FPU topside and hull in one single lift is a major milestone achievement for Seatrium, resulting in greater productivity and safety for the assembly of such mega-blocks before integration. <u>Read Full Article</u>

**10/16/2023 - Exxon Becomes World's First Megamajor** - ExxonMobil's purchase of Pioneer Natural Resources is the largest upstream deal, in nominal terms, since Shell acquired BG for \$82 billion in 2015 and makes ExxonMobil the world's first megamajor. That's according to Wood Mackenzie's Senior Vice President of Corporate Research, Tom Ellacott, who added, in a statement sent to Rigzone, that "the company will now be in a peer group of one". In the statement, Wood Mackenzie noted that, with its deal, Exxon gains over 700,000 barrels of oil equivalent of Midland Basin production, adds \$5 billion of annual free cash flow, establishes a Permian resource base of over 16 billion barrels of oil equivalent, and creates the world's largest tight oil player, "leapfrogging the leadership Chevron gained when it added PDC". <u>Read Full Article</u>

**10/11/2023 - Kosmos Energy Announces Oil Discovery in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico** - Kosmos Energy announced today an oil discovery in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico at the Tiberius exploration well. Kosmos is operator of the well and has a 33.34% working interest alongside Occidental and Equinor ASA (both 33.33%). The Tiberius exploration well tested a four-way structural trap in the outboard Wilcox trend, located in Keathley Canyon Block 964. <u>Read Full Article</u>

## Calling for donations for the upcoming AAPG Caughey-Zimmermann Energy Library

LSU AAPG is developing a library that will provide a **wealth of valuable resources** to students. Our goal is to foster a **collaborative environment** where students can **explore** topics in petroleum geology, **empowering** them to **pursue careers** in the energy sector... **BUT WE NEED YOUR** <u>HELP</u>!















# Super Saurus Saturday

October 7, 2023 New Orleans Children's Museum Photo Recap





## Super Saurus Saturday

Photo Recap













# PICTURE FROM THE PAST

PONY BROWN

always smile!

NOGS Officers 1987-88

Front Row (seated left to right): Bob Douglass, President; Paul Jurik, Vice President Back Row (standing left to right): Carlo Christina, President-Elect; Mike Gallagher, Secretary; Sammy Miciotto, Treasurer; Charley Corona, Director; Carl Grieshaber, Director (O.R. Carer, Director absent)



Do you have any pictures from past NOGS events that you wouldn't mind sharing in our NOGS "Pictures from the Past" feature? Please email them to us at editor@nogs.com.

Submitted by Christy Himel, NOGS Administrator

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#### **NOGS EVENTS**

# Girl Scouts Believe In Girls Celebrates 10 Years

On September 23rd, Southern University of New Orleans was the host to 450 girls from southeastern Louisiana girl scout troops.

The girls ranged from 7-17 and came from 23 Parishes in Southeastern Louisiana.



#### **TOM BERGERON**

CONTRIBUTOR

NOGS was joined by 35 other STEM organization for the 10th annual Believe in Girls event. NASA, Audubon Zoo, Robotics, Entergy and Tulane Engineering were just a few of the groups showing girls' careers in science.

NOGS, along with our partner Southeastern Geophysical Society, presented our "How an Oil Field Forms" set of stations. The girls learned about the properties of oil, porosity, reservoir/seal pairs and where the structure would form a trap. These junior explorationists then tried their hand at creating three-component seismic waves. Major thanks go out to all our great volunteers: Lisa Kennedy, Jennifer Connolly, Grace Stone, Will Morrison, Bernie Regel and Doug Bradford. The girls kept us busy with all of their questions and received a nice exposure to finding an oil field.

If you would like to learn more about Girl Scouts Louisiana East you can go to their <u>Facebook page</u>.

Special thanks go to Kevin Shipp, the Girl Scout BIG organizer.

## Girl Scouts Believe In Girls 2023

















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## West Gulf Coastal Plain Stratigraphic Reconciliation Initiative

In the 19th and 20th centuries. geologists who worked on the Gulf Coast's stratigraphy gave names to various rocks. There were instances in which geologists gave different names to the same formation. Variation in the formation name is just one of the numerous problems associated with the stratigraphy of the Gulf Coast. Problems such as lack of type section or undefined stratigraphy equivalency between states have posed problems for geologists who engage in prospecting for groundwater, regional mapping, subsurface modeling, and exploration of oil and natural gas. Therefore. we need to address stratigraphy correlation issues to see the big picture: the lateral and temporal extent of rock units, evaluate natural resources, and understand the geologic history of the Gulf Coast.

The Louisiana Geological Survey is working on a joint project with the Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, the Mississippi Office of Geology, the Arkansas Office of the State Geologist, and the Geological Survey of Alabama to address correlation issues associated with Gulf Coast stratigraphy. The "West by Bobola Akintomide

Gulf Coastal Plain *Stratigraphic* Reconciliation Initiative" project aims to consistent develop regional а stratigraphic nomenclature framework by resolving the differences in the names of similar stratigraphy units across state boundaries and other stratigraphy issues. The goals and objectives of this project are:

- Identify stratigraphic correlation problems, i.e., the use of different names for the same formation. Identify the type section, locality, or log for geologic members and formation.
- Trace temporal changes in the name of each geologic unit.
- Identify nomenclature and equivalent issues between states.
- Identify uncertainty in hydrostratigraphic units between states.

#### Benefits of stratigraphy reconciliation

There are benefits to having a unified regional stratigraphy. One such benefit is an updated stratigraphy chart that shows members, formations, and

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groups in each state and their equivalents in neighboring states. Another benefit is that the regional stratigraphy will aid in the subsurface mapping of rocks across states for a better interpretation of the bigger picture.

#### Examples of stratigraphy issues

There are several challenges associated with regional stratigraphy in the Gulf Coast. One such challenge is the lack of a clear type section or type log for some geologic members and formations. Another problem is the variation in the top of some formations on geophysical well logs, leading to difficulties during well-log correlation and subsurface mapping. The downdip equivalent of some updip rocks outcrops is unclear. Also, some subsurface formations have different names in neighboring states. Some specific stratigraphy problems that geologists have sent to me are:

• Catahoula Formation: Variation in correlation of the formation along the .Texas-Louisiana state line led to state-line fault. See the а of introduction and Figure 2 Albright, L. B., 1996, Insectivores, rodents, and carnivores of the Toledo Bend Local Fauna: an Arikareean (Earliest Miocene) blage from the Texas coastal plain: Journal of Vertebrate Paleontology, v. 16, no. 3, p. 458-473.

- **•The Cook Mountain:** The lack of a type log for the Cook Mountain Formation has resulted in the challenge of identifying the top of Cook Mountain in the subsurface and difficulty correlating the formation as discussed in Ewing, T. E., 1994, The Cook Mountain
- Carrizo Sandstone: To resolve the position of the Carrizon Sandstone on the stratigraphy chart. The Carrizo Sandstone was deposited in а transgressive environment, whereas the Wilcox is a regressive sequence. Based on the difference in depositional environment. the Carrizo Sandstone cannot be the uppermost sandstone in the Wilcox Group. Instead, it should be the base of the Claiborne Group.

#### Request for information on stratigraphy issues

I am interested in the stratigraphy correlation problems for Mesozoic and Cenozoic stratigraphy. Kindly send me:

- Correlation issues on Gulf Coast stratigraphy.
- The type section, type locality, and type logs of formations.

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- Well name and depth interval where a formation was defined.
- Publications that defined type section, type locality, and type logs of for-mations.
- Changes in the names of specific geo-logic members and formations.

Although I am open to correlation issues for Cenozoic and Mesozoic stratigraphy, I plan to focus more on the Cenozoic stratigraphy because the Louisiana Geological Survey has already published the type logs and type sections for the Mesozoic and Paleozoic stratigraphy in:

• Anderson, E., 1979, Basic Mesozoic study in Louisiana: The northern coastal region and the Gulf Basin Province, Department of Natural Resources, Louisiana Geological Survey, v. Folio Series No. 3.

#### Outcome

I plan to discuss the stratigraphy issues raised and resolve them with the geological surveys of neighboring states. Also, I plan to update the stratigraphy chart for Louisiana and collaborate with other geological surveys to develop a regional stratigraphy chart for the West Gulf Coast. We, the geological surveys, plan to submit the revised formation names and descriptions to Geolex.

Kindly send all information to my email: **aakintomide@lsu.edu**.

COS

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#### **TERTIARY STRATIGRAPHIC CHART**

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MESOZOIC STRATIGRAPHIC CHART

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## SCHOOL OF ROCK EXPERT GEOSCIENCE WITH A SOUNDTRACK

#### YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT LOCAL GEOLOGICAL COMMUNITIES

Our "School of ROCK, Expert Geoscience with a Soundtrack" themed conference will be one of the most relevant conferences in the Gulf Coast. "GEOGULF 2024" will be the 73<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of the Gulf Coast Association of Geologic Societies and the Annual Gulf Coast AAPG Section Meeting. We will continue advancing subsurface exploration and research by expert professionals, young professionals and outstanding students. The technical program and vendor exhibits will encompass all subjects necessary for a prosperous future. Potential sessions include petroleum exploration (onshore, offshore, conventional and unconventional), critical minerals, AI/Data, hydrology, environmental/engineering and subsurface storage. The audience includes multinational corporations, small companies and independents. We anticipate meeting with 300-500 attendees. We are also planning unique events that should provide extra opportunities to be recognized. Publicity for Sponsors will be on our website, at the venue and via an unprecedented media presence.

#### POTENTIAL TECHNICAL SESSIONS

- Petroleum Exploration with Case Studies of Fields, Plays and Basins along the Gulf Coast
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  - Offshore
  - Conventional
  - Unconventional
  - · Caribbean, Mexico
- Critical Minerals
- AI/Data Science and its Future with Geosciences
- Environmental Geology and Engineering
- Carbon Capture and Sequestration
- Seismic Imaging and Data Analytics
- Hydrology
- Geothermal

#### **CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS**

- Geologic Field Trips
- Short Courses
- Technical Sessions
- Networking Events

Please consider supporting this non-profit event that supports local geological communities! Sponsorship information below.

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#### www.geogulf2024.org

in https://www.linkedin.com/in/south-texas-geological-society-7a3656218/

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#### NORRIS CONFERENCE CENTER

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The New Orleans Geological Society was organized on October 3, 1941, as a nonprofit organization for the purpose of facilitating the development of the profession and science of Geology, with specific emphasis to exploration and production of petroleum and natural gas. Secondary related objectives include the dissemination of pertinent geological and environmental technological data, and the maintenance of a high standard of professional conduct of its members. The full history of the Society can be found at nogs.org.

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2023 Scholarship Recipients

#### Cirus Kalugana

Cirus Kalugana is a first-year PhD student and teacher's assistant at Tulane University. He grew up surrounded by the volcanic mountains of Eastern Uganda, where geologic hazards such as landslides, flooding and volcanic eruptions constantly disrupted his and his family's lives. He became interested in the Earth Sciences so he could better understand these types of natural disasters. Cirus is currently working with Professor Cynthia Ebinger to understand the dynamics and evolution of the Kivu rift, part of the East African rift system, using observational seismology.

Cirus's hobbies include learning new techniques in Python and MATLAB, as well as reading history and fiction books. Once he graduates, his plans are to become a prominent seismologist. He aspires to work with educational and research organizations to develop new and advanced techniques for studying the Earth's subsurface. In the long run, he would like to study with other related fields to assess the impacts of these Earth processes on human life.

#### Kayla Willis

Kayla Willis is a junior and research assistant at Tulane University. She grew up in Missouri, where she began collecting rocks at a young age. This and a fascination with rock formations led her to take AP Environmental Science in high school and join the Outdoor Youth Corps. Her main research interest is carbon sequestration in coastal Louisiana.

Kayla's hobbies include gardening, attending rock and mineral conventions, reading, hiking, and baking. Her plans following graduation include modeling and studying the response of Louisiana's coast to climate change and anthropogenic impacts such as from levees and sediment diversions. She also plans to use her coordinate major in computer science to better understand the modeling programs to assist her in graduate school, with the ultimate goal of becoming a research assistant.



#### **Emily Kraus**

Emily Kraus is an environmental earth science senior at Tulane University while minoring in marine biology. Emily grew up just outside of New Orleans, where coastal land loss was a constant theme throughout her life. She became motivated to study geology and environmental studies after witnessing her family's personal impacts of climate change on Louisiana's coast, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Ida. Her current focus at Tulane is preserving and restoring the place she calls home, the coast of Louisiana.

Emily enjoys hiking, swimming, and yoga with friends and family. She also enjoys cooking and watching television programs like "Chopped" and "Planet Earth." After graduation, she plans on pursuing a PhD in Oceanography. Her future research interests include coastal science, erosional and depositional processes, methods of wetland reconstruction, and natural and anthropogenic subsidence processes.

#### Mikey Sison

Mike Sison is a senior and research assistant at Tulane University studying environmental science and computer science. He grew up in Cleveland, Ohio, where he first became interested in geology while playing football with his father when he tripped over a rock, picked it up and discovered the beauty that it displayed on the side that was unexposed to the elements. Since then, he has been an avid rock collector. Mike's educational interests include machine learning and modeling for environmental systems. He is a member of Tulane's Earth and Environmental Science Club, Chess Club, and Theta Tau Professional Engineering Fraternity.

During his free time, Mike enjoys fishing, surfing, chess, hiking and camping. Once he gets his degree, his future plans are to either join ESRI or another remote sensing company where his unique talents in computer science will mesh well with an environmentally-focused group, or explore entrepreneurship in New Orleans in a potential startup focused on carbon sequestration and rewilding.



2023 Scholarship Recipients

#### Mary (Mae) Roach

Mary Roach is a senior geology major at Louisiana State University. She grew up in New Orleans and has always been a curious person, especially about science. As a child, she always liked rocks, fossils, and especially minerals. Her favorite subject growing up was earth science, followed by chemistry later in life. She enjoys conducting research, with primary interests in mineralogy, geochemistry, and petrology. She is currently president of LSU's Geology Club.

During her free time, Mary enjoys reading, writing, hiking, and rock climbing. When she graduates from LSU, she wants to go into academia and conduct her own research, ultimately achieving a master's degree and/or PhD.

#### Mustuque Munim

Mustuque Munim is a second-year Geology and Geophyics PhD student at Louisiana State University. Originally from Bangladesh, he views geologists as detectives of the earth, much like the detectives he read about in books as a child. According to him, it is the role of geologists to unravel the mysteries of planetary bodies from their present condition. At LSU, he currently has two research projects – one is unraveling climate variability and evolution of Asian monsoons using isotope geochemistry, molecular biomarkers, climate dynamics, and times series analysis of sediment core from South China Sea. The other is molecular and mineralogic perspectives on the paleolimnology, paleohydrology, and paleotemperature of the latest Eocene Florissant Formation at Clare's Quarry, Colorado, USA. He is currently a member of GSA, AGU, AAPG, and Society for Sedimentary Geology.

Mustuque enjoys reading papers, experimenting in the lab, playing with his son, watching documentaries, and trekking across hilly terrains to collect rocks and fossils. After graduation, he plans on working for a national lab to develop paleo and future oceanographic models of Earth or Mars while continuing his studies and providing research opportunities for younger generations.



#### Michael Barnard

Michael Barnard is a graduate student at Louisiana State University. He is from Houston, Texas and became interested in geology after realizing his original plans of pursuing a chemistry degree involved too much math. He finds rocks fascinating and likes to be outside, so he decided it was the right choice for him. At LSU, he studies tournalinites and their environments of formation with Dr. Barbara Dutrow. He is also a member of AAPG, GSA, the Mineralogical Society of America, and LSU's Geology Club.

Michael is also interested in cooking a variety of dishes, including homemade pasta and tomato sauce, and studying the Early Modern Period of human history. After graduation, he would like to work in the mining industry exploring new rare earth element resources.

#### Rorisang Kgoadi

Rorisang Kgoadi is a rising junior at Louisiana State University. He became interested in geology when he took a geology class and participated in research during his freshmen year and fell in love with the subject. His particular points of interest include rift systems and how the surrounding environment changes as a result of the evolution of the tectonic setting. He currently belongs to Research Ambassadors and LSU's Geology Club.

Besides staring at rocks all day, Rorisang is an avid lover of cooking a mean gumbo, baking delicious brownies, and beating anyone at Mario Kart. He also enjoys reading, biking, board games, and practicing music. Once he receives his undergraduate degree, he plans on enrolling in graduate school, most likely leading him into a PhD program that he will use to pursue a career at an educational institute.



# THE UNIVERSITY of **NEW ORLEANS** 2023 Scholarship Recipients



Emily Mailhos is a senior in Earth and Environmental Science at the University of New Orleans. She first became interested in geology during her freshman year of college after taking a few geology classes. From there, she fell in love with everything the UNO department had to offer. Her primary research interest is coastal sciences, including studing the effects of Mardi Gras beads on freshwater mussels. She is a member of the Society for Earth and Environmental Sciences (SEES) and president of Zeta Tau Alpha Soroity.

In her free time, Emily volunteers with Fisher Middle and High School as a cheer coach. She will be graduating from UNO in December, and she plans on pursuing a masters degree at UNO. From there, she hopes to work for an oil and gas plant.

#### Katelyn Merrill

Katelyn Merrill is a junior at the University of New Orleans. Originally from New England, she first became interested in geology as she traveled the U.S. while living out of her car and sleeping in a hammock in national forests. She was particularly fascinated by the rock formations in Nevada and the vastness of the Mojave Desert. She has seen the beauty this country has to offer, and hopes to help undo the damage humans have done to this planet. She is a member of Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society and the National Society of Leadership and Success.

Katelyn enjoys adventures in nature with her partner and friends, cycling, roller blading, listening to and playing music, reading, thunderstorms, learning about new discoveries, and making art. After graduation, she hopes to get a job in the field of Earth and Environmental Sciences as soon as possible so she can gain hands-on experience. She would also like to pursue graduate school in the future.



#### **Barrie Sullivan**

Barrie Sullivan is a senior at the University of New Orleans. She first became interested in geology when she when she was younger and traveled with her family across the U.S. to major geological sites such as the Grand Canyon, Great Sand Dunes, Petrified Forest, and Monument Valley. She also traveled often with her grandfather, a retired science teacher, to the beach, where she was fascinated by the geologic processes that formed the places where she has such fond memories. Her research has included studying fish in Bayou St. John and conducting sampling surveys across the state of Alabama. She is currently the president of SEES, Treasure of UNO's AAPG Chapter, and a member of the UNO Filmmakers Club.

Barrie enjoys crochet, cosplay, and reading. After graduation, she plans on enrolling in graduate school with the hope of earning a doctorate in Earth and Environmental Sciences.

#### **Donald Davidson**

Donald Davidson is a graduate student at the University of New Orleans. Growing up near Mount St. Helens in Seattle, he first became interested in geology at a young age and read many books about volcanoes. Since moving to New Orleans, he has been fascinated by the Mississippi River and it's powerful and destructive forces. His research interests include estuarine ecology and utilizing collaborative experiences to help maximize Louisiana's coastal wetland conservation and restoration plans. He is the current treasurer of UNO's Society of Earth and Environmental Sciences.

Donald's hobbies include music, hiking, birding, kayaking, and photography. After graduation, he plans on looking for positions that offer challenging, collaborative opportunities that will allow him to continue to learn and assist in the conservation of estuarine environments.



#### NEW ORLEANS GEOLOGICAL SOCIETY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION INC.

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