

Thursday, February 23, 2022

AFTERNOON

Room D5

O6.09

**1:20 MISSISSIPPI CORE AND SAMPLE LIBRARY
RECORD DIGITIZATION**

Tranton Holder, Paul Parrish

Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Jackson, MS

As part of the nationwide push to bring historical records into digital format, the Mississippi Office of Geology is in the process of digitizing records associated with the State Core and Sample Library. The State Core and Sample library has been curated by the Mississippi Office of Geology in Jackson since 1960. The facility has 14,000 square feet of sample storage and houses over 7000 oil and gas wells and 200+ survey boreholes. This is a multifaceted project that will provide better location information, online geophysical logs and associated documents, and digital media of the cores and samples. The idea is that industry, academia, planning, government, and the public will have the full library at their fingertips for research, planning, teaching, and decision making.

O6.10

**1:40 STREAMLINING A COMMUNITY
COLLEGE PATHWAY FOR MISSISSIPPI
GEOLOGISTS: PROGRESS, POTENTIAL – AND
PERSISTENCE**

Renee Clary¹, Athena Owen Nagel¹, Eric Shows²

¹Geosciences, Mississippi State University, Mississippi State, MS, ²Jones College, Ellisville, MS

Since 2019, online introductory physical and historical geology lecture/laboratory courses have been available to all Mississippi community college students through the Mississippi Virtual Community College consortium. Funded through an NSF IUSE GEOPATHs program, the Geo-SPARCC courses begin each unit with Mississippi examples for student geographic relevance. Not only do the GLY courses fulfill a physical science requirement for students, but they also reintroduce geoscience content that most Mississippi students have not been exposed to since 8th grade. Since many geology majors accidentally learn about geoscience majors and career opportunities, an introduction to geological content at the community college level may help to recruit students to the discipline sooner.

An early challenge to the Geo-SPARCC project was that the GLY courses were not widely known beyond their host institution; enrolled students further noted that their advisors enrolled them or told them to take specific courses. Additionally, early GLY student enrollment did not reflect the demographics of the Mississippi community college population, and the pandemic resulted in the forced cancellation of field excursions for 4 semesters/2 years. As the Geo-SPARCC project concludes, progress has been made: 1) Through outreach, community college advisors have been made aware of the online geology course options; 2) GLY

student demographics now reflect the Mississippi community college population; and 3) Field excursion opportunities are again available for community college students. Persistence is needed by professional geologists and 4-year institutions to maintain awareness of geology course options at the community college level, and geoscience career opportunities for those who choose to pursue a geology or environmental science degree.

2:00

Keynote Address

**UNEARTHING THE SECRETS OF THE
UNDERWATER FOREST**

Dr. Carl “Andy” Reese

University of Southern Mississippi, Hattiesburg, MS

Thursday, February 23, 2023

EVENING

3:30 DODGEN LECTURE and AWARDS CEREMONY

Hall B

5:00 GENERAL POSTER SESSION

Hall C (immediately following Dodgen Event)

P6.01

**IMPLICATIONS OF PLANT COMMUNITIES BASED
ON PALYNOMORPHS FROM THREE EARLY
OLIGOCENE FOREST HILL FORMATION SITES,
MISSISSIPPI, U.S.A.**

*Nina Baghai-Riding¹, Carol Hotton², James Starnes³,
Jonathan Leard³, Brian Axsmith⁴*

¹Division of Math and Sciences, Delta State University, Cleveland, MS, ²National Institutes of Health, National Center For Biological Information, 45 Center Dr Msc 6510, Building 45, Rm 6an.18, Bethesda, MD, ³Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Geology, Jackson, MS, ⁴Biology Department, 5871 USA Drive North, Room 124, Mobile, AL

Oligocene floras of the Gulf Coast region of the southeastern United States remain poorly known. As part of a larger study of floras of the late Paleogene and Neogene of Mississippi, palynological samples were collected from the early Oligocene Forest Hill Formation by J. Starnes and J. Leard in Yazoo, Smith and Madison Counties. The Forest Hill Formation (Vicksburg Group) is a nearshore terrestrial unit consisting of laminated sands and dark carbonaceous clays with lignite beds. Four palynological samples were collected by Starnes and Leard in 2020-2021. One palynological sample each was collected from Smith and Madison Counties. Two additional samples were collected from Yazoo County, one from a shale and one from a lignite unit directly overlying it. The Yazoo County samples were collected at the most northern geographical location and represents an up-dip limit exposure of the formation along the axis of the Mississippi Embayment. The Smith County sample is associated with a freshwater riverbank setting that is adjacent to a storm surge zone along the eastern side of the Mississippi embayment. The