



MARK WOJNA

A MESSAGE FROM THE 2023/2024 NOGS PRESIDENT

To all NOGS members, friends and colleagues, I wish all of you and your families a safe and Happy Holiday season. I have really enjoyed the first half of my role as President of NOGS. The landscape in South Louisiana is changing but remains very vibrant. This position has given me an opportunity to become aware of other geologically related opportunities here in South Louisiana outside of oil and gas. South Louisiana continues to be a dynamic geologic province both in the subsurface and surface. It's an exciting region to work as a geologist and it presents many opportunities for future work. Please join us at our December 6th lunch meeting in Metairie at Dab's Bistro, where Eric Smith, the Associate Director of Tulane University Energy Institute will give a talk on Prospects for Offshore Wind Energy in the Gulf of Mexico.

Dr. Mark Kulp, Chairman of the University of New Orleans Earth and Environmental Sciences Department, has graciously shared a detailed summary of the current activities of UNO's program in the current issue of the NOGS LOG. UNO has been an integral part of the local geological community for many years. Many current and former NOGS members, including several current NOGS Board members are UNO graduates.

As a graduate student at the University of Southern Mississippi, UNO's Dr. William Ward served on my thesis committee as an outside advisor. We plan on shining a spotlight on other local university earth science programs in future issues. They all play an integral part in South Louisiana geological research and educating future geologist to address Louisiana's geological employment needs. If you have employment opportunities or internship opportunities at your company, please consider our local universities as a valuable resource of well-educated, motivated geologists.

At our November NOGS luncheon meeting, the NOGS Memorial Foundation awarded \$30,000 in scholarships to twelve college students, four each from UNO, Tulane and LSU Earth Science/Geology programs. As this year comes to an end please consider a charitable donation to the NOGS Memorial Foundation to support local geological college students. The donation also gives you an opportunity to memorialize a geologist who may have been instrumental in your career or played an important role in your professional development. My donation this year is in the memory of Case Petersen. Case was the first geologist I trained under and worked with when I began my career in the oil and gas industry in 1985. After serving as a bomber in the Air Force during WWII, Case began his geological career exploring in the Gulf of Mexico Basin with British American (BA) and later with Gulf Oil.

Wishing all of you a joyful and prosperous New Year!

Mark Wojna