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TEXAS GEOSCIENCES

An Update From the Jackson School of Geosciences
at The University of Texas at Austin

**SPRING
2021**



A Note From Dean Mora

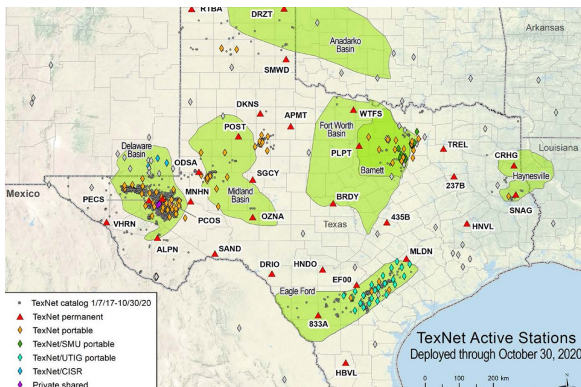
I am pleased to present the spring edition of Texas Geosciences. It's been another challenging semester for students, researchers and faculty. Already dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, people in Austin and other Texas communities faced "SnoVID," a massive winter storm that left many millions without power and water for days, and that raises red flags about our resilience to future extreme weather events. February's winter storm was an important reminder of how the geosciences remain vital for solving the challenges facing society. [READ MORE](#)

Adapting Geoscience Education to a Changing World



Years in the making, a new report spearheaded by former Jackson School Dean Sharon Mosher and the American Geosciences Institute lays a path for educating undergraduate geoscientists to tackle the big challenges that face our society. [READ MORE](#)

Research News



Texas Joins U.S. Quake Network

TexNet helps fill a major coverage hole in the nation's efforts to provide real-time information on seismic activity.

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Asteroid Dust Seals Deal

Scientists have identified asteroid dust in the Chicxulub crater, the final link between the asteroid impact and the extinction of all non-avian dinosaurs. [READ MORE](#)



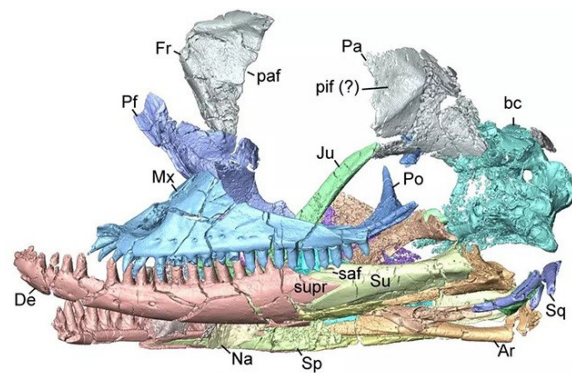
Not COVID Weather

The link between weather and COVID-19 is complicated, but researchers find that, hot or cold, weather alone has no significant effect on COVID-19 spread. [READ MORE](#)



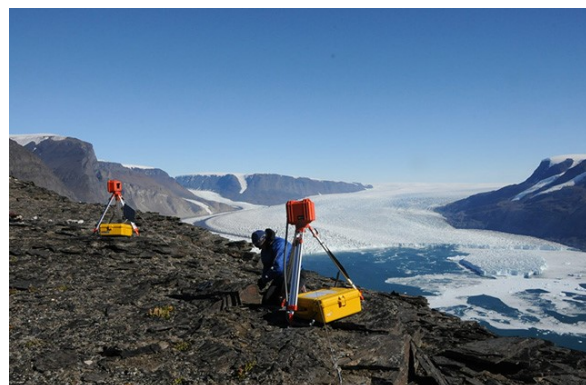
Big Data Census

Researchers leverage computer algorithms and high-resolution survey data to conduct the first-ever census of a ubiquitous desert shrub. [READ MORE](#)



Perplexing Extinct Species

Jackson School graduate student Simon Scarpetta discovers a new species of extinct lizard while perusing fossils at Yale's Peabody Museum of Natural History. [READ MORE](#)



Knickpoints Stall Glacial Thinning

Steep slopes in bedrock under Greenland's glaciers form stabilizing areas that researchers find prevent coastal thinning of the glacier from reaching further inland. [READ MORE](#)



Gulf of Mexico Super Basin

A new study describes what it means to be a super basin and why the Gulf of Mexico is likely to be productive for decades to come. [READ MORE](#)



Hunting Sand

Jackson School scientists are helping the state find the key resource for protecting the Texas coastline and the communities, industries and wildlife species that depend on it. [READ MORE](#)

Faculty and Researchers

Matheny Awarded CAREER Grant

Assistant Professor Ashley Matheny will use the prestigious NSF grant to create sensors that directly measure water content at different depths inside trees. [READ MORE](#)

Undergraduate Gold

A Jackson School student's analysis of gold-bearing samples takes first place from the Society of Economic Geologists. [READ MORE](#)

UT Professor Publishes Milestone Book on Geopressure

A new book about geopressure, the study of fluid pressure in geologic systems, marks a significant step in the science of subsurface geology. [READ MORE](#)



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