

## **For Immediate Release**

January 24, 2011

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### **Northern Gulf Institute Leadership Changes Announced**

Starkville, MS – Two distinguished research professors from Mississippi State University have joined the leadership at the Northern Gulf Institute (NGI) according to Dr. David R. Shaw, MSU Vice President for Research and Economic Development. Robert J. Moorhead, Billie J. Ball Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computing Engineering, and Donald C. Jackson, Sharp Distinguished Professor of Fisheries, have recently been selected to serve as NGI Director and Deputy Director respectively. Dr. Moorhead is also director of the Geosystems Research Institute, the founding entity for NGI.

Dr. Moorhead has an extensive background in scientific visualization research having served as director of the Visualization, Analysis, and Imaging Laboratory and deputy director of the Computational GeoSpatial Technologies Center. He was the deputy director of the Geosystems Research Institute (GRI) at MSU prior to taking the lead at both GRI and NGI. His current research interests include computationally demanding visualization and analysis issues. He has almost a 100 journal and peer-reviewed publications.

Dr. Moorhead received his B.S.E.E. degree from Geneva College, Beaver Falls, PA, and his Ph.D. degree in electrical and computer engineering from North Carolina State University. Prior to his employment at MSU, he was a research staff member at the IBM T. J. Watson Research Center. He served 6 years as summer faculty at the Naval Oceanographic Office, Stennis Space Center, and was the Scientific Visualization Research Thrust Leader in the MSU National Science Foundation Engineering Research Center for Computational Field Simulation. He has worked extensively with both the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Naval Research Lab at Stennis Space Center in various research projects over the last 15 years.

Dr. Jackson comes to NGI from the Department of Wildlife, Fisheries and Aquaculture at MSU, most recently focusing in river and coastal zone fisheries research, management, and development – with his most recently published work more specifically in fisheries ecology and management following hurricanes. Dr. Jackson recently served as President of the American Fisheries Society. He has also served as President of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation. He is a past recipient of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation's Fisheries Conservationist of the Year Award, the American Fisheries Society Fisheries Management Section's Award of Excellence, and was elected a Fellow in the American Institute of Fisheries Research Biologists.

Dr. Jackson received his B.S. degree in zoology and his M.S. degree in zoology/limnology from the University of Arkansas and his Ph.D. in fisheries management from Auburn University. He has worked on international fisheries assignments in Southeast Asia, Africa, Latin America,

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the Caribbean, and Europe. In addition to his position with Mississippi State University, he is an Adjunct Professor with the Malaysian University of Science (Universiti Sains Malaysia - Penang). In this capacity he successfully helped Mississippi State University establish a long-term Memorandum of Agreement for collaborative work and faculty and student exchanges in natural resources.

“We look forward to the leadership and contributions both of these gentlemen will provide to the Northern Gulf Institute and the region’s environment and economy”, stated Shaw. “NGI’s research, service, and outreach are truly making a difference, and we will continue to provide accomplished leadership for the northern gulf region.”

Moorhead and Jackson are joining the NGI leadership team of Dr. Bill McAnally, Co-Director and Dr. John Harding, Chief Scientist. The previous director, Dr. Mike Carron, left NGI to accept a position with the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative.

The Northern Gulf Institute is a NOAA cooperative institute led by Mississippi State University. Other academic partners include the University of Southern Mississippi, Louisiana State University, Florida State University, and the Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

Construction of a new Mississippi State University Science and Technology Center at the John C. Stennis Space Center near Bay St. Louis, MS, will be completed in summer 2011. The 40,000 sq. ft. building will be home to the Northern Gulf Institute and other MSU offices.

The Northern Gulf Institute is also a member of the High Performance Computing Collaboratory at Mississippi State University.

For more information, please contact Dr. Robert Moorhead at [rjm@ngi.msstate.edu](mailto:rjm@ngi.msstate.edu). More information about the Northern Gulf Institute’s research program may be found at [www.NorthernGulfInstitute.org](http://www.NorthernGulfInstitute.org).

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