Michael S. Daniel Houston, TX | (480) 760-1040| mdaniel3@uh.edu | linkedin.com/in/michael-s-daniel

SUMMARY

A geoscientist and a problem solver committed to providing swift, geologically valid, solutions to geologic questions. Experienced in oil and gas exploration. Skilled at integrating field experience into an office-based environment. Adept at seismic interpretation, and structural analysis.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON Houston, TX
Doctor of Philosophy in Geology Expected Dec 2026
Cumulative GPA: 3.8/4.0; Thesis "Thermochronology and GPS analysis to address strain partitioning and lateral ramp migration in a growing thrust wedge, western Nepal"

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON Houston, TX
Master of Science in Geology Aug 2020 – Dec 2022
Cumulative GPA: 3.8/4.0; Thesis "Geometry, kinematics, and slip of the Talphi fault, western Nepal: Implications for strain partitioning during growth of a thrust wedge" (GSA Bulletin in-review, 2024)

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA Tucson, AZ
Bachelor of Science in Geoscience Aug 2016 – May 2020

WORK EXPERIENCE

MURPHY OIL CORPORATION Houston, TX
Exploration Geologist Intern May 2024 – Aug 2024
- Compiled field sizes of previous discoveries to better understand play potential and field distribution in Tano Basin, offshore Cote d'Iviore
- Mapped 1200+ syn-rift and pre-rift faults in the eastern Tano Basin using multiple 3D seismic surveys
- Classified faults based on orientation & length and related fault groups to events associated with the opening of mid-Atlantic
- Provided comprehensive and detailed maps of syn-rift and pre-rift faults characteristics to identify potential structural trapping mechanisms in adjacent fields

UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON Houston, TX
Teaching Assistant May 2021 – Present
- Taught ~20 students per semester in Igneous/Metamorphic Petrology and Structural Geology laboratories by preparing laboratory materials, teaching fundamental geology concepts (both in laboratory and field settings), answering students' questions, and grading laboratory/field exercises and tests in a timely manner
- Taught ~20 students per summer for the Yellowstone Bighorn Research Association (YBRA) Field camp for the summers of 2021, 2022, and 2023
- Created and instructed students through a new project incorporating remote sensing mapping by utilizing ASTER data to map bedrock lithologies and quaternary features in the Ruby-Humboldt Metamorphic Core Complex

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA Tucson, AZ
Laboratory Assistant Aug 2019 – Aug 2020
- Prepared and processed mineral samples for Raman Spectroscopy, X-Ray Powder Diffraction to be posted on to the Raman Research Used for Fun (RRUFF) academic research database
- Operated the NASA X-Ray Powder Diffractometer on mineral samples to be posted onto the Open Data Repository (ODR) scientific research database that is cross-referenced with data collected from the same machine aboard the Mars Curiosity Rover

UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP / AWARDS

American Association of Petroleum Geologists, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON Jan 2024 – Jun 2024
Imperial Barrel Award Team Captain, 1st Place – North America Section, 3rd Place – World Section
- Executed exploration strategy by organizing team meetings and conference calls with faculty & industry advisors
- Created a strong team presence through consistent motivation and engagement in all aspects of the project
- Facilitated conflict resolution processes to address and resolve disputes, improving overall team performance and morale

Upper Division Teaching Assistant Award, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON May 2024
Esting Award for Outstanding Field Work, UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON May 2023
Society of Earth Science Students, UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA Aug 2019 – May 2020
- Collaborated with officer team to arrange monthly meetings & field trips with experienced geologists, experts, and faculty mentors

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Technical Skills: Advanced in Kingdom, Petrel, ArcGIS Pro, MOVE, FaultKin, Stereonet Proficient in Python, and MATLab