

**Name:** David C. Kopaska-Merkel

**Tel:** 205 349-2852, **Fax:** 205 349 2861

**Address:** Geological survey of AL, P.O. Box 869999, Tuscaloosa AL 35486, USA

**Education:** Ph.D. 1983 paleontology and carbonate sedimentology

---

**Research areas:**

Over the years, my research has covered many different areas. I have studied the systematics, development, and paleobiology of Cambrian and Ordovician trilobites. I have also studied the sedimentology and diagenesis of platform carbonates ranging in age from Cambrian to Cretaceous. I have spent the most time on the Oxfordian Smackover Formation in AL. My research on this unit has focused on reservoir characteristics, depositional setting, diagenesis based on petrographic analysis of thin sections, and the nature and distribution of bioherms in the unit. I have also studied deposition and early diagenesis of Mississippian bioherms in North AL. My current research focuses on modern sedimentology of AL beaches, which are siliciclastic in composition. I also have a strong interest in science education. A recent injury has made concision valuable, so please don't interpret brevity as a sign of disinterest.

You can learn more and find images at <http://home.earthlink.net/~dragontea/geology.html>