



Department of Geological Sciences
UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO **BOULDER**



This week, we're celebrating our undergrads' excellent research and honors work, including six completed honors theses and 13 Undergraduate Research Awards from CU. Big congrats to everyone featured!

Thinking about doing an honors thesis in Fall 2025 or even Spring 2026! Now's the time to start planning. The deadline to register for a Fall 2025 defense with the Honors Council is **April 29 (Next Tuesday)**, and you'll need a faculty advisor and a quick meeting with **Professor Brian Hynek** (hynek@lasp.colorado.edu).

Let this be your sign to take the next step in your geology journey — and maybe see your name featured here next year!

Honors Deadlines & Details



Shelby Opp
magna cum laude

Awarded the NSF Graduate Fellowship

Thesis Title: The Relationship Between Magnetic Reconnection and Aurora Detections in the Ionosphere of Mars.

Advised by: Dr. David Brain



Misha Toor
summa cum laude

Thesis Title: Regional Variation in Nitrate Content of Rock Glacier Outflow.

Advised by: Dr. Suzanne Anderson



Ryan Flat
summa cum laude

Thesis Title: Insights into Microbialite Mineralization from Microbialite Clasts in Great Salt Lake.

Advised by: Dr. Lizzy Trower



Kaylyn Hughen
cum laude

Thesis Title: Hurricane Impacts on the Phosphorus Cycle.



Zuri Rose
cum laude

Thesis Title: Magmatic Storage Conditions of the Two Buttes

Advised by: Dr. Shaily Rahman



Sydney Ciechanowicz
magna cum laude

Thesis Title: The Effects of Temperature and pH on Microbial Biodiversity in Martian Analog, Laguna Fumarólica, Costa Rica.

Advised by: Dr. Brian Hynek

Lamprophyre.

Advised by: Dr. Aaron Bell



Sang Lapinee
summa cum laude

Thesis Title: Study of late postseismic viscoelastic properties below Southern California after the 2010 El-Mayor Cucapah earthquake.

Advised by: Dr. Kathryn Materna

2025-2026 GEOL UROP Awardees



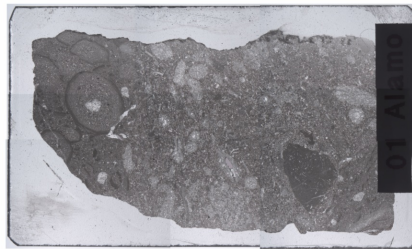
Congratulations to all the students who received **UROP** grants and assistantships for the 2025–2026 academic year! **UROP** offers funding and support for undergraduates in any major to explore research or creative projects, whether you're just getting curious or ready to launch your idea.

Amelia Gandhi
Emma Marble
Kalpana Murugan
Rylan Abel
Amelia Fonda
Lark Jones
Aspasia Vazquez
Ashley Askins

Spotlight on Undergraduate Research Mentorship From UROP

We're proud to share that the **CU Boulder UROP Office** recently highlighted the impactful research and mentorship between **Professor Carolyn Crow** and GEOL undergraduate researcher **Grant Peterson** (UROP 2024-2025 awardee). Grant's project, *"Investigating the Geological Evidence for the Alamo Event, a Hypothesized Late Devonian Asteroid Impact in Nevada,"* was supported through UROP. Dr. Carolyn Crow's mentorship played a key role in shaping the experience. Thank you to Carolyn and all the mentors who make high-impact learning possible for our undergraduates!

Project Summary: The Alamo breccia in Nevada is thought to have been formed by a meteorite impact, however, no crater has been found. A few studies have identified shocked quartz grains, which confirm an impact origin. This study builds upon these results to search for shock features in the mineral zircon. The zircon shock features are better indicators of maximum pressures and temperatures experienced by the breccia samples, which can be used to constrain the size of the impact crater and how the breccia was emplaced.



Important Upcoming Deadlines

Graduation Deadlines

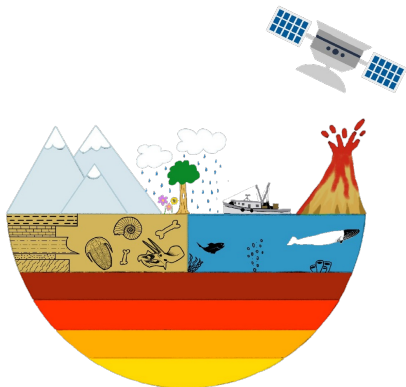
Please RSVP for the Geological Sciences recognition ceremony online using the Google Form linked below as soon as possible. If you do not RSVP by **April 25th**, we cannot guarantee that you will be included in our department recognition ceremony.

Thursday, May 1st is the deadline for undergraduate students to submit or cancel a Spring 2025 graduation application in Buff Portal (11:59 p.m.).



**GEOL Recognition Ceremony
RSVP**

Department Events



Earth Mysteries and Histories

"Earth Mysteries and Histories" is an Earth Science outreach event for visitors of all ages, from kids to retirees. The event has interactive and guided hands-on exploration stations. Visitors are invited to discover and learn about oceans, groundwater, fossils, earthquakes, volcanoes, climate change, and more!

Meet other students, faculty, and staff of the Department of Geological Sciences and Museum of Natural History to learn about Earth Science in a fun and hands-on way!

This event will take place in the gallery and café spaces at Level 1 of the JSCBB on **Saturday, April 26th**.

**More
Details**

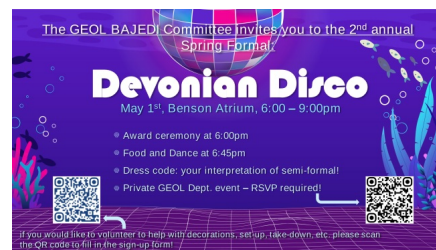
GEOL Spring Formal

The BAJEDI committee would like to cordially invite you all to the **Devonian Disco!!** Come celebrate with us on **Thursday, May 1st, 2025, from 6:00pm to 9:00pm, here in the Benson Atrium!!** Student awards will be given in room 180 (the auditorium) at 6:00pm, and dancing will commence at 6:45pm. Please RSVP before the dance, this is required as it is a private department event, you can do so [here](#), or scan the QR code on the attached invitation. You are welcome to wear whatever fits your interpretation of "semi-formal" (whatever fits your so-fish-ticated style!).

Bring your dance moves and join us for this fantastic fiesta!

If you would like to help with decorating/set up/clean-up for the event, be sure to fill out the volunteer form found [here](#) or in the attached invitation!

Please feel free to reach out to any of us on the BAJEDI committee with any questions that you may have!!



Colloquium and Happenings



Geological Sciences Colloquium Speaker

On **Wednesday, April 30th**, the department of Geological Sciences will have our **last colloquium of the semester!** Dr. Dave Whipp will be visiting from the University of Helsinki as a colloquium speaker. His topic will be, "Can it be all so simple? Challenges and considerations using thermochronology to understand lithospheric dynamics." As always, snacks and drinks will be available at 12:00 and the talk will begin at 12:20. Stop by Benson 380 to catch the last colloquium of the semester!

Opportunities



Field Trip to the Dotsero Crater

Join RMAG for a blast-into-the-past field trip—study the products of the most recent volcanic eruption in Colorado. Saturday May 17, 2025. There will be hiking, close examination of rare geologic processes, and discussion!

[Details](#)

CU Geological Sciences Front Desk Assistant



Dependable student needed for department front desk position to assist in providing reception duties such as answering phones, greeting visitors, triaging questions. Additional duties include (but are not limited to):

- distributing mail
- signing for packages
- copying, scanning, and filing documents
- posting flyers and maintaining bulletin boards
- updating the department's Google calendar
- publishing a weekly newsletter
- posting on the department's Instagram account
- supporting weekly departmental events
- taking on special projects

Good communication skills are a must. Previous customer service experience is preferred. Student is expected to commit to 10-20 hours per week. Preference will be given to students who can fill this

role throughout the entire academic year (May 2025 through May 2026).
The expected starting hourly pay for this position is \$16.00 per hour.

Apply below or on Handshake - application closes April 25th!

See more opportunities available to you in our Google folder!

Apply

View More Opportunities



AAPG Veterans Scholarship

The Deana and Paul Strunk Military Veterans Scholarship Program supports education and career opportunities for veterans, aids in the transition of veterans to educational and civilian technical professions, and promotes geoscience programs in higher education institutions.

The Foundation awards scholarships ranging from \$2,500 to \$5,000 to cover the cost of attending a four-year accredited college or university. Scholarships are available to both active U.S. military service members (including National Guard and Reserve) or veteran members separated from active military service who have been honorably discharged, and are entering or re-entering a post-secondary undergraduate program in a field of geoscience full time or part time. Eligibility also includes military dependents (spouses and children) for the following categories: deceased, disabled, active and veteran. **Deadline: April 30, 2025.**

See more opportunities available to you in our Google folder!

Apply

View More Opportunities

Dallas Geological Society Scholarship

The Dallas Geological Society (DGS) Scholarships are one-year awards of up to \$5,000 given to current undergraduate and graduate students pursuing a degree in Geological Sciences. Selection is based on academic achievement, financial need and school and extracurricular activities. Preference will be given to undergraduates who have completed 12 semester hours of advanced or core geology courses beyond the introductory level. **Deadline: May 1, 2025.**

See more opportunities available to you in our Google folder!

Apply

View More Opportunities



Matanuska Glacier Paid Summer Experience

Due to anticipated higher demand this summer, Matanuska is hiring 10 additional Science Interpretive Guides. Students of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Guides receive a monthly stipend, housing, meals, and hands-on training. Research Opportunities: Guide tourists by day, and pursue independent research on the glacier in free time. Past students have turned their work into thesis projects and national conference presentations. This summer, student guides are planning radar and dye tracer experiments. For Park approved projects, they may even support student researchers with helicopters to access remote glacier areas.

How to Apply

More details about the position and application requirements are available on their [recruitment](#) page. For any specific questions, feel free to contact blueice@mtaonline.net, or visit the online application below.

See more opportunities available to you in our Google folder!

Apply

**View More
Opportunities**

CIRES Center for Education, Engagement and Evaluation



Research Opportunity

Are you over 18, a CU Boulder undergraduate student, and interested in participating in a research study?

Participants will complete a data visualization learning experience, as well as two surveys about what you learn. This study is a single, **1 hour** session at Fiske Planetarium or at the CEEE building on campus. You will receive up to **\$20** in gift cards for participating. Participants must bring a laptop to the session.

Scan the QR code to see if you are eligible!



Ceeecolorado.edu
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ceee.colorado.edu

Contact us

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(303) 735-3702
irbadmin@colorado.edu



Center for Education,
Engagement and
Evaluation



University of Colorado
Boulder

Miss a Newsletter?

Check out past newsletters at [this link!](#)

Just So You Know...

The undergrad newsletter will be sent out each Thursday, so check back weekly for news, job and funding opportunities, and messages from your faculty. If you have something you would like to share in a future edition of the newsletter, please email geoloffice@colorado.edu.



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