Community Spotlight

Jonathan (Jon) Anaya

(he/him/they/them)

jonathan.anaya@student.nmt.edu

Q: Tell us about yourself.

I am a second-year PhD student at New Mexico Tech. I am from Mexico where I got my master's degree in Sedimentary Geology. I aspire to a career in academia and research.

Q: How are you connected to the AGeS program?

I was granted with an AGeS3 grant in 2023 during my first year as a PhD student at New Mexico Tech.

Q: Describe your research (Beyond AGeS).

I am particularly interested in clastic rocks and how their composition reflects tectonic, climatic, and diagenetic processes. In the last years, my research has focused on understanding how and when the Mongolian Altay (de-)formed. I am also interested in studying intracontinental orogens in Central Asia, and the tectonism of the Pacific margin of the North America plate.

Q: What geochronologic techniqes do you use?

I will be using detrital zircon double dating (U-Pb and [U-Th]/He) to constrain the provenance and exhumation history of the Mesozoic strata in the Mongolian Altay. I will be working in Dr. Fosdick's Basin Analysis & Helium Thermochronology Lab at the University of Connecticut.

Q: What excites you about your research?

Clastic rocks (especially sandstones) provide a unique record to understand sedimentary and tectonic processes. I love integrating different techniques to constrain the provenance of detrital rocks, and I also enjoy doing field work!

Q: What are you hobbies outside work?

I usually work out and I enjoy outdoor activities. I recently started to practice rock climbing.

Q: What inspired you to get into the earth sciences?

I was born in Mexico City, where people are constantly experiencing earthquakes and volcanic activity. This aroused my interest to understand how the Earth works, and how by studying Earth materials we can understand ancient Earth processes.