

Community Spotlight

Liz Aparicio, Jane Martinez, Dennis Lindelof, Emily Shiver, Jacob Aguilera, Lisa Elconin (Cal Poly Humboldt Undergrads)
and **Jacky Baughman, Melanie Michalak** (Profs)



Q: Tell us about yourself.

We are cohort of 6 undergraduate students and 2 professors from Cal Poly Humboldt that conducted tectonics and thermochronology research over the '22-'23 academic year! We are now grad students, geologists, or continuing our undergrad education.

Q: How are you connected to the AGeS program?

Our research and experience was funded by the first round of the DiG (Diversity in Geochronology) award program.

Q: Describe your research.

We used low temperature thermochronology to investigate the thermo-tectonic response of the Northern Klamath Mountains to the Eocene Siletzia Collision. Turns out the major collision episode did not lead to a large amount of exhumation in the Klamaths - we're thinking that the collision was accomodated by strike-slip faults along the Siletzia-Klamath boundary.

Q: What geochronologic techniques do you use?

We used apatite and zircon (U-Th)/He. CU Trail at the University of Colorado Boulder provided our analyses and we got an awesome virtual tour of the lab.

Q: What excites you about your research?

Learning new skills and software that can be applied to research, piecing together geologic puzzles, and having the opportunity to present our work to other scientists at the GSA Cordilleran meeting - we even won an award!

Q: What are your hobbies outside work?

We all do different things like rock climb, knit, play video games, and enjoy the beautiful places we live, work, and travel to!

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

Many of us were inspired by the natural environment around us and grew up wondering...how did those mountains get there. We like that geologists use a range of sciences (chemistry, physics, biology, computer science) to answer fundamental questions about Earth. And our science is really relevant.

