Kelsi Leverett is a PhD Candidate in Geological Engineering at Missouri University of Science and Technology (Missouri S&T). Kelsi has experience with a variety of geophysical methods but was particularly drawn to ground penetrating radar (GPR) because of its applications in precision agriculture. Before pursuing research in near-surface geophysics, Kelsi had set her sights on becoming a petroleum engineer and earned an M.S. Petroleum Engineering in 2017 from Missouri S&T. During her master's work, Kelsi discovered near-surface geophysics and quickly realized its potential applications to a plethora of real-world problems. Finding herself wanting to move away from petroleum engineering, Kelsi decided to pursue a PhD using GPR to investigate agricultural problems. Being from a small farming town in Georgia, using GPR to solve agricultural problems was a natural fit and she has never looked back. As a student, Kelsi is active in the community serving as a Girl Scouts Service Unit Leader/Troop Leader and an Outreach Coordinator for Graduate Women in Geoscience. Kelsi has received a number of accolades during her academic career like 2nd Place in AEG's Student Poster Competition and Outstanding Graduate Teaching Assistant (2018 and 2019; Missouri S&T). She has also received numerous scholarships such as the Nancy Schofield Annual Scholarship and the R. Tim Bradley Graduate Research Fellowship, further demonstrating her commitment to research and academic excellence. The 2019 Fall Meeting was Kelsi's first time attending AGU's Fall Meeting where she presented a poster titled "Assessing the Influence of Crop Type and Drainage Tile Spacing on Claypan Soil Moisture using Ground Penetrating Radar." While at the meeting, Kelsi was pleasantly surprised that despite the large attendance other researchers were so helpful and interested in her work. She received a lot of encouragement while at the meeting and was excited at the opportunity to share ideas with experts in the field. While clearly a motivated student in her own right, Kelsi is very grateful for the guidance that Dr. Katherine Grote has given her through her journey at Missouri S&T. Dr. Grote's hard work, dedication, and passion for the work they have done together has been inspiring and instrumental in making Kelsi who she is today. After graduation later this year, Kelsi plans to pursue a career in consulting and hopes to return to academia in the future as a professor or researcher.

For more information about his research please contact Kelsi Leverett.

Interested in being highlighted, or know a student who should be? Please email Matthew Sirianni for more information about the Student Spotlight. We are also seeking research highlights that showcase use of near-surface geophysics in other AGU sections and focus groups. If you are interested in writing a short, one-page highlight, please contact Kisa Mwakanyamale.