

[Michael Kiflai](#) is a 5th year PhD Candidate in the Department of Earth and Environment at Florida International University (FIU). His dissertation focuses on the use of electrical resistivity and electromagnetic methods to characterize and image the Mangrove Lakes region of Everglades National Park as well as understand the effects of Hurricane Irma's storm surge on the freshwater lens of Big Pine Key, Florida. Before pursuing a graduate degree, Michael attended Eritrea Institute of Technology (EIT) where he received his bachelor's degree in Geology (2011). After his undergraduate study, Michael worked as a teaching and research assistant with the Geophysical Observatory group at EIT. During this time, he participated in a collaborative project concerning tectonic deformation, Nabro volcanic eruption, and seismic hazard assessments in the Danakil depression (East African Rift Valley), with researchers from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Bristol, and University of Cambridge. This project exposed him to the geophysics field and cemented his interest in pursuing higher education and further research in near surface geophysics at FIU under the direction of Dr. Dean Whitman. Since Michael has arrived at FIU, he has completed a master's degree (2018) and received numerous awards including the Outstanding Student Poster Award from the 2019 Department of Earth and Environment Graduate Student Symposium and the Dissertation Year Fellowship from FIU. Michael has also been active as a volunteer in the community where he has participated in a Career Day event at a local Elementary School as well as an Earth Day event at Miami Dade College. After graduating, Michael plans to work in the near surface geophysics industry as well as continue to teach geoscience courses.



For more information about his research please contact [Michael Kiflai](#).

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](#).