Will Swanson is a 1st year PhD student at the University of Kansas. Will is interested in using pore-scale geophysics, such as nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and spectral induced polarization (SIP), to look at diagenetic conditions and to refine estimates of permeability and connectivity in carbonate pore systems. Will's decision to focus on numerical and pore-scale geophysical methods stems from a desire to specialize in something that could help prepare humanity to deal more effectively and compassionately with the hydrological effects of climate change. Having realized that characterizing complex aquifer systems and predicting transport through them is crucial for effective stewardship of groundwater resources, Will chose to specialize in NMR and SIP. Will particularly enjoys the highly multidisciplinary nature of this current research and appreciates the opportunity to combine these geophysical methods and a life-long passion for mathematics to find solutions to long-standing problems. As a master's student (Wichita State University, 2019), Will was twice awarded the Kansas Geological Foundation Scholarship and is currently seeking competitive funding through doctoral fellowships. Outside of research, Will is an active member in the community and volunteers at Food Not Bombs (an organization that serves free meals to the community) and Family Promise (an organization that collaborates with religious congregations to help homeless and low-income families to find stable housing and financial independence) in Lawrence, Kansas. While Will has only been able to attend the AGU Fall Meeting once in 2017, the experience was quite positive and helped develop their current research focus. Will particularly enjoyed that attendees demonstrated genuine interest in having conversations about mutual research interests while attending AGU. Although early in their academic career, Will believes academic research and teaching is likely the best fit after graduation. As a tip to fellow graduate students still taking coursework, Will suggests taking a rigorous class on error analysis or statistics.

For more information about their research please contact Will Swanson through email or on Twitter.

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.