
6. Student Spotlight: Christine Downs, University of South Florida

Christine Downs is a fourth-year doctoral student at the University of South Florida focusing on electrical and radar methods for monitoring hydrogeological investigations. She has made a personal effort to combine multiple near-surface techniques throughout her studies to build a well-rounded foundation and increase her ability to work with research scientists from various backgrounds. One step toward this includes her latest work in west central Florida, which she presented as a poster at the 2015 AGU Fall Meeting titled “Investigating Hydrogeologic Controls on Sandhill Wetlands in Covered Karst with 2D Resistivity and Ground Penetrating Radar” (H21C-1395). Here she successfully imaged karst-driven landforms, such as sand-filled basins, using electrical resistivity and ground penetrating radar to better understand their hydrologic regime. This project appealed to several disciplines within AGU, allowing her the opportunity to converse with hydrogeologists, wetland scientists, and geophysicists alike. The near-surface geophysics community is constantly expanding, and Christine has found that her work supports investigations outside her usual network, reaffirming her motivation to incorporate different field applications into her research projects. Her work is supported by the Geological Society of America’s Southeast Section Student Research Grant and Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid.



Thinking about attending the AGU Fall Meeting for the first time in 2016? Christine recommends you plan your days conservatively to minimize the potential for becoming too overwhelmed. If you are feeling adventurous, plan to attend sessions that focus on research you know nothing about but still find fascinating. This year she stumbled upon an interesting oral session on volcanic lightning. Outside of the sessions, she likes to attend the focus group luncheon or early career and student workshops as they provide great networking opportunities in addition to other planned social events. Finally, ask questions. A large portion of AGU presentations are in poster format to help break down barriers between presenters and other attendees; be sure to take advantage of the research in front of you. Christine’s next project will be investigating mangrove forests (hypersaline conditions) using resistivity time series data sets (multiple surveys over 24-hour periods). If you are working in a similar research area and would like to discuss, feel free to contact [Christine Downs](#).