

[Yonesha \(Yannie\) Donaldson](#) is a 1<sup>st</sup> year Masters student in the Geology program at the University of Georgia, Athens (UGA) where she works under Dr. Adam Milewski. Her current research is focused on integrating remote sensing and geophysical techniques (i.e. electrical resistivity tomography and airborne Bouguer anomaly) to validate the presence of inland freshwater lenses in arid regions. Before attending UGA, Yannie attended Rutgers University-Newark where she graduated with a BS in Geoscience in May 2018.



Before deciding to pursue a geoscience degree, Yannie was a Biology/Pre-Med major. In her Caribbean household, Yannie says that her career choices were limited to either doctor, lawyer, or engineer since those jobs traditionally represent success. However, after two years on this path Yannie felt that it did not quite align with her passions or what she wanted to pursue as a “forever career.” Dr. Alexander Gates (Rutgers-Newark) first introduced Yannie to the possible careers in the geosciences, of which she found hydrogeology to be especially appealing. Yannie was not introduced to geophysics until her Junior year but took to it immediately and began to incorporate geophysical methods in her undergraduate research with Dr. Lee Slater. During two years of her undergraduate, Yannie worked as a research assistant collecting, analyzing, and presenting near-surface geophysical data on a multitude of projects ranging from determining depth to bedrock to monitoring chlorinated solvents and oil spills at Superfund sites. Yannie attributes a lot of her success and motivation to the unwavering support and expert guidance of her research family at Rutgers.

As a researcher, Yannie has been awarded numerous scholarships including the National Science Foundation’s Bridge to Doctorate Fellowship, the New Jersey Licensed Site Remediation Professionals Association Scholarship, and the Angelo Tagliacozzo Memorial Geological Scholarship from the American Institute of Professional Geologists. Yannie has also received numerous accolades including Best Presentation from the Association of Earth & Engineering Geologists (AEG), and Best Presentation from the Garden State Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation.

Outside of research, Yannie is an active member in the geophysical community. As an undergraduate she helped to establish the first AEG student chapter in New Jersey and served as Vice President. Recently, Yannie has taken on another volunteer role as one of the two Social Media Representatives for the AGU Near Surface Geophysics Section, so be sure to check out NSG’s [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

For more information about her research or to forward material for NSG's social media sites, please contact [Yannie Donaldson](#).

*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](#)*