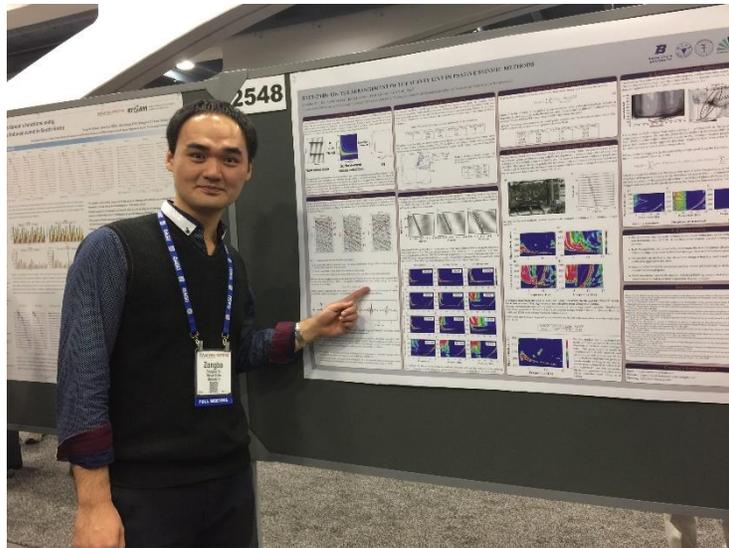


[Zongbo Xu](#) is a 2nd year PhD student in Boise State University's Department of Geosciences where he works under Dr. Dylan Mikesell in the [Environmental Seismology Laboratory](#). Zongbo's research is mainly focused on near-surface passive seismic methods in urban areas for underground structure investigations. During his time at China University of Geosciences – Wuhan (B.S.-2013; M.Sc.Eng.-2016), Zongbo studied many different near-surface methods, but



was particularly drawn to near-surface seismic methods. While having always been intrigued by physics, Zongbo credits his father and his master's advisor, Dr. Jianghai Xia, for encouraging him to pursue geology and introducing him to near-surface geophysics respectively. What really cemented his desire to pursue near-surface geophysics was a revelation he had during a conference that he once attended. At this conference, Zongbo listened to a presentation about the application of near-surface geophysical techniques for landslide hazard detection in western China. After realizing the potentially lifesaving benefits that geophysics could offer humanity, Zongbo was hooked!

During his time as a master's student, Zongbo authored/co-authored numerous publications, was a two-time recipient of the National Scholarship for Graduate Students from the Ministry of Education of China, and was awarded the Outstanding Master Thesis Award from China University of Geosciences. Zongbo's academic success has not faltered as a PhD student, having been awarded the Allen V. Cox Research Award from the Geological Society of America and Society of Exploration Geophysicists Anadarko Scholarship. Zongbo has also recently authored two publications [Xu et al. 2017](#) and [Xu and Mikesell \(2017\)](#).

Zongbo has attended AGU twice ([2016](#) & [2017](#)) and particularly enjoys the opportunity to get useful feedback on his own research as well as being exposed to new and exciting research from a variety of disciplines. Zongbo loves the “end of the year party” feel of AGU and appreciates the chance to meet up with old friends at “one of the best geophysical conferences.”

Being an avid researcher, Zongbo intends to pursue his research further after graduation as a professor. Using his knowledge and experiences, he plans to mentor the next generation of near-surface geophysicists and hopes to instill the same passion in them that he has for the subject.

For more information about near-surface applications of passive seismic methods, please contact [Zongbo Xu](#).

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 [Chi Zhang](#).