Mackenzie Vecchio is a 2nd year PhD student in the Geosciences Department at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). Before coming to FAU, she attended Florida State University (FSU) where she double majored in Geology and Social Science (Graduated in 2017). During her time at FSU, Mackenzie worked on various botany surveying projects in wetlands but ultimately wanted to pursue something more in the geosciences. Until discovering her current adviser’s work, she was not familiar with near surface geophysics, but soon found it to be a powerful tool for environmental characterization.

Mackenzie’s research is currently focused on inferring the moisture content of tree trunks along elevation gradients using high frequency ground penetrating radar measurements. Much of this work is conducted in El Yunque National Forest, Puerto Rico which is part of the Luquillo Critical Zone Observatory. While she has not yet attended an AGU Fall Meeting, she has plans to attend and present her research during the 2019 Fall Meeting.

For more information about her research, please contact Mackenzie Vecchio.

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