

[Matthew McClellan](#) is currently a 5th year PhD student at Florida Atlantic University's (FAU) Department of Geosciences. Matt is part of Environmental Geophysics Lab at FAU, where his main research interest is the application of near surface geophysical methods (i.e. ground penetrating radar) to assess carbon stocks and quantify carbon cycling in the Northern Everglades. Recently, Matt has worked with The Nature Conservancy and various other governmental and academic institutions at the [Disney Wilderness Preserve](#) near Orlando, FL to estimate the carbon stocks of depressional wetlands found throughout the landscape. The large scope of this project has allowed Matt to utilize other geophysical methods like seismic and resistivity to further his understanding of the complexities associated with the site.



During his undergraduate at the State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNY Buffalo), Matt was particularly drawn to sub-disciplines like geochemistry and glaciology. For much of his undergraduate career, Matt thought he wanted to be a geochemist and it wasn't until he took an undergraduate class in geophysics that he knew where his true interests lay. After that class, Matt felt that he had become more focused and driven, now knowing he intended to pursue not only a career involving geophysics but an advanced degree as well.

Upon graduating from SUNY Buffalo, Matt was accepted into the PhD program at FAU on a Research Assistantship. During his first year at FAU, Matt was awarded the Provost Fellowship, a \$2,500 prize given to outstanding and highly achieving incoming masters or doctoral students. Since his appointment as a research assistant, Matt has also spent time as a teaching assistant for introductory Physical Geology courses and an instructor for Senior Field Camp.

Matt has attended the AGU Fall Meeting three times ([2014](#); [2015](#); [2016](#)) and the AGU Joint Assembly once ([2015](#)). When asked what has drawn him back year after year, he conveyed it was "because of the many opportunities to become exposed to new areas of research as well as the pervasive enthusiasm by members of the community for collaboration and brainstorming." He went on to say, "Since joining the community some 5 years ago, I have no doubts that I made the right decision. The research is challenging but rewarding, and the community is second to none." Watch out for Matt at the [2017](#) Fall Meeting, he's always happy to sit and talk about his research over a beer.

Matt is still considering his postgraduation plans, and is interested in opportunities ranging from industry to academia.

For more information or questions concerning near surface geophysical applications in wetland environments, please contact [Matthew McClellan](#).

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](#).