

Michael Gordon Barnard, Louisiana State University, LA, for his project: *Elucidating an Environment of Tourmalinization for Paleoproterozoic Tourmalinites from the Tusas Mountains, New Mexico*.



Michael “Mike” Gordon Barnard is an American Geoscientist entering his second year of his Masters studies at the Louisiana State University. He is supervised by Dr. Barbara L. Dutrow and is a member of the Tourmaline research group.

Mike’s Master’s thesis is focused on a newly recognized tourmalinite locality from the Cerro Colorado Tusas Mountains. These ca. 1.69 Ga tourmalinites were originally described as fine-grained amphibolite’s and are hosted within an unusually altered staurolite-garnet-biotite schist. Understanding the formational conditions of the Cerro Colorado Tusas mountains tourmalinite will provide valuable

information on the chemical evolution of Proterozoic crust where outcrop is typically not preserved.

Mike is very thankful for the financial support provided by the Lincoln S and Sarah W. Hollister Graduate Student Research Award which will allow him to conduct field studies in the Cerro Colorado Tusas Mountains as well as to collect additional major, minor, and trace element data on tourmalinites with the EMPA.

Mike received his undergraduate degree in Geology from Norwich University in Northfield, Vermont in 2021 with minors in English and Philosophy. After graduation Mike worked as a wellsite geologist in west Texas and New Mexico with Impac Exploration Services and later in the Gulf of Mexico and North Atlantic with Halliburton. After graduation Mike would like to work as an economic geologist to identify new resources and evaluate known deposits of critical elements needed for the energy transition. Besides a love for tourmaline, Mike enjoys cooking, hiking, and fishing for the new lake record large-mouth bass.