Junyao Kang, Virginia Tech, for his project: *Reconstructing Redox Conditions of Tonian (ca. 1,000–720 Ma) Oceans*

Junyao Kang is a second year Ph.D. student from the Department of Geosciences, Virginia Tech. He works with Dr. Shuhai Xiao to investigate the paleoenvironment of the Neoproterozoic oceans, especially the Tonian seawater redox transition, to better understand the interaction between the biosphere and its environments during this critical interval of Earth history. With the funding from MGPV and GSA, he will conduct a geochemical investigation of Tonian carbonates and shales in the Baishan Area of North China to test the hypothesis that changes in shallow- and mid-depth oceanic redox conditions are correlated with eukaryotic diversification in the Tonian Period.

Before joining Virginia Tech, Junyao got his bachelor's degree in Geology with honors at Peking University in China. As an undergraduate, he investigated the selective dolomitization process of the Neoproterozoic Tonian stromatolites from the Huaibei Group in North China and its related paleoenvironment. After that, he served as a voluntary intern at The Nature Conservancy for half a year. Junyao is interested in the co-evolution of life and environment during Earth history. He also hopes his research about paleoenvironmental change could apply to the environmental problems that the Earth is facing in the Anthropocene, and help us to make long-term predictions, and to develop sustainable strategies to mitigate environmental threats.