Samuel Oxhorn, University of Georgia, Athens, GA, for his project: Western Aleutian Volcanism; Differentiation of Holocene Kiska Magmas

Sam Oxhorn is a 2nd year master's student at the University of Georgia studying petrology and geochemistry with his advisor Dr. Mattia Pistone. His research focuses on the western portion of the Aleutian subduction zone wherein there is a distinct along strike compositional shift from tholeiitic to calc-alkaline magmas. He seeks to understand the origin and differentiation mechanisms necessary to explain this trend. He will use the fund from MGPV and GSA to analyze the bulk major and trace element chemistry of samples from two compositional end member volcanoes within the region; Gareloi and Kiska.

Sam grew up in Jupiter, Florida enjoying the outdoors while surfing and skateboarding. While attending Santa Fe Community College he took an intro geology class and knew it was what he wanted to do for a career. He transferred to the University of Florida to complete his bachelor’s degree while serving in the Florida National Guard as an Infantryman. His passion for petrology and geochemistry was kindled by Dr. Michael Perfit, who advised his undergraduate honors thesis pertaining to primitive tephra from Makushin and Pakushin volcanoes within the Aleutian arc. In his spare time, Sam enjoys fishing and hiking with his dogs. He would like to thank GSA and specifically the Lipman Fund and the MGPV Division for offering critical support for his thesis.