

Gabriela Ramirez, Missouri University of Science and Technology, Rolla, MO, for her project: *Platinum-Group Element Concentrations in Tropical Lake Sediments in the Exploration of Nickel Laterite Deposits*



Gabriela is second-year M.S. candidate in the Department of Geoscience, Geological and Petroleum Engineering at Missouri S&T, working under Dr. Marek Locmelis and Dr. Jonathan Obrist-Farner. She works within a collaborative research group that focuses on Lake Izabal, Guatemala. The main goal of her project is to develop an exploration tool that can be used for nickel laterite exploration in tropical lake regions around the world. With the help of the Lipman Research Award, she will be able to send more samples for geochemical analysis from within the area of exploration interest (northern region) of Lake Izabal to further see if platinum-group element concentrations can be used as a proxy for Ni-laterite exploration.

Gabriela is from the rural town of Bourbon, Missouri where she worked at the local cave giving tours for two summers before she decided to pursue her Bachelors in Geology and Geophysics from S&T. During her undergraduate field studies in the Western US, she visited a gold exploration site and from then on, knew she wanted to do research in economic geology and focus her thesis on a mining exploration project. Fast forward to now, her masters is almost completed and has worked with two mining companies.

In Gabriela's free time, she enjoys traveling, painting, running, and hiking. Special thank you to the Howard and Jean Lipman Foundation for furthering a project she is so passionate about.