Simin Zhao, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA, for her project: Effects of mineral substrates on authigenic clay precipitation in reverse weathering process

Simin Zhao is a 3rd year PhD candidate in the School of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at Georgia Institute of Technology. Simin’s research with Dr. Yuanzhi Tang focus on authigenic clay mineral formation in marine sediments via the reverse weathering process. This process is critical in balancing the global Si budget and regulating marine alkalinity and CO₂ dynamics. The aim of her research is to better understand the inducing geochemical factors, reaction mechanisms, and characteristics of the authigenic clay products of the reverse weathering process.

Simin is from Changsha, a historical and vibrant city in southern China. She obtained her bachelor’s degree in Geology from Central South University, China. After that, she worked on a geomicrobiology project focusing on microbial-mediated Fe redox cycling of Fe clay minerals and completed her M.S. at Miami University, Oxford, OH. She is now extending her research interest to explore marine geochemical processes at Georgia Tech.

In her spare time, she enjoys travelling, reading, singing, cooking, and exploring new things. She is thankful to GSAs’ Lipman Research Award from the Howard and Jean Lipman Foundation and MGVP division for supporting her research.