

Emmy B. Hughes

PhD | Georgia Institute of Technology

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Georgia Tech | School of Earth & Atmospheric Sciences | 311 Ferst Drive, Atlanta, GA 30332-0340

Education

2021 – 2025	Ph.D., Earth & Atmospheric Sciences, Georgia Institute of Technology Dissertation: <i>Martian Salts and Surface Materials as Paleoclimate Indicators through Orbital, In Situ, and Analogue Analyses</i> Advisors: Dr. James Wray; Dr. Frances Rivera-Hernández Graduate Certificate in Astrobiology Minor in Environmental Science
2016 – 2020	B.A., Earth and Environmental Sciences; English, Wesleyan University Thesis: <i>Experimental Evaporation and Spectral Analysis of Mars Analogue Brines</i> High Honors in Earth and Environmental Sciences Thesis Advisor: Dr. Martha Gilmore

Research Interests

Mineralogy and geochemistry, particularly that of salts, as related to planetary habitability and environmental reconstruction; analogue work in Mars rover-relevant environments; instrumentation development/calibration.

Academic/Research Positions

2025 – Present	Postdoctoral Scholar, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA
2024 – Present	Student Employee, Los Alamos National Laboratory, USA
2022 – 2025	Graduate Research Assistant, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA
2021 – 2022	Graduate Teaching Assistant, Georgia Institute of Technology, USA
2020 – 2021	Research Assistant, Louisiana State University, USA

NASA Mission Experience

2022 – Present	Student Collaborator, Mars Science Laboratory <i>Curiosity</i> rover <u>Activities:</u> Science Operations as ChemCam Downlink Lead (PDL); Planetary Data System (PDS) delivery of ChemCam data; co-leading Geochemistry Working Group (GWG)
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Grants and Funding (totaling \$297, 300)

2025	NASA SCOPE Planetary ReaCH Travel Grant (\$2,000)
2023	Co-I: Planetary Society STEP Grant for “Multiscale Characterization of Brine-Rich Planetary Analog Environments” (\$49,284)
2023	Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) Lim Award (\$15,000)
2023	Center for Promoting Inclusion and Equity in the Sciences Summer Research Experience Award (\$1500)
2022	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP) (\$216,000 over three years)
2022	Georgia Tech Astrobiology Fellowship (\$4000)
2022	Astrobiology Early Career Collaboration Award (\$4530)
2019	NASA Connecticut Space Grant for Student Research (\$5000)

Fellowships, Honors, & Awards

2023 – 2025	ARCS Foundation Atlanta Scholar
2023	Georgia Institute of Technology Graduate Certificate in Astrobiology

2023	Earth and Environmental Science Graduate Service Award
2023	Graduates of Earth and Atmospheric Science (GEAS) Symposium 2 nd Place Best Talk
2022 – 2025	NSF GRFP Fellow
2022 – 2023	Georgia Tech Astrobiology Fellowship
2020	High Honors Senior Thesis: “Experimental Evaporation and Spectral Analysis of Martian Analogue Brines.”
2020	Wesleyan University Peirce Price for Excellence in Chemistry, Biology, or Geology
2019	Wesleyan Earth and Environmental Science Department Mckenna Fellow
2020	Spring Dean’s List
2019	Fall and Spring Dean’s List
2017	Spring Dean’s List

Publications in Preparation

- 1) **Hughes, E.B.**, and 22 co-authors. Formation of Warm-Temperature Salts in Gale Crater, Mars. To be resubmitted to *Science Advances*.
- 2) Fleming, A., Buffo, J., Jacobs, J., **Hughes, E. B.**, Hunsaker, A. Using UAS Hyperspectral Imaging to Map Hydrated Salts in Martian Paleolake Analog Systems. To be resubmitted to *JGR – Planets*.

Publications in Press

- 1) **Hughes, E.B.**, Buffo, J., Rivera-Hernández, F., Wray, J., Fleming, A., Pontefract, A., Lynch, K. Seasonally Dependent Formation of Sulfates in the Basque Lakes, British Columbia, as Analogous to “Cold and Wet” and “Warm and Wet” Mars. Accepted to *Earth and Space Science*.

Publications in Review

- 2) McKeeby, B., **Hughes, E.B.**, Rutledge, A.M., Hearn, A.E., Peterson, T., Rivera-Hernández, F., Wray, J.J., Ramsey, M.S., Edwards, C.S. Periglacial Deposits in Acidalia Planitia Indicate Amazonian Ice-Related processes on Mars. In revision for *JGR – Planets*. September 2025.
- 3) Nisson, D., Melwani, M., **Hughes, E.B.**, Pearl, S. Nair, V.M., Pitawala, H.M.T.G.A., Maviarachchi, S.P.K., Vithanage, M., Sarbadhikari, A.B., Rivera-Hernández, F., Karunatilake, S.K. Habitability context for ancient Mars from the paleo-fluid conditions of Sri Lankan Antigorate-Serpentines. In revision for *JGR – Planets*. August 2025.
- 4) Boan, P., **Hughes, E.B.**, Vasquez, A. Broader Impacts; Spatial distributions of impact craters in relation to Martian geology. In revision for *Publications of the Astronomy Society of the Pacific*. September 2025.
- 5) Meusburger and 36 co-authors (including **E.B. Hughes**). Retrograde Sulfate Precipitation in the Martian Crust. In revision for *Science*. August 2025.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Peer-reviewed publications: 9 published, 5 in review, 1 in press, 1 in preparation
 Google Scholar h-index = 6; i10-index = 3; total citations: 155

- 1) Trussell, A., Bell, J., Farrand, W., **Hughes, E. B.** and 18 co-authors. Dark-Toned Halite-Enriched Veins Above the Marker Band Record a Drying Environment in Gale Crater. *JGR – Planets*. Journal of Geophysical Research: Planets, 130(10), e2025JE009244. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2025JE009244>

- 2) Das, D., Turner, S. M. R., Schwenzer, S. P. , Gasda, P. J. , Palandri, J. , Berlo, K., Leveill, R. J., Crossey, L., Tutolo, B. M., Clegg, S., **Hughes, E. B.**, Lanza, N. L., Gasnault, O. (2025). Simulating evaporative wet and dry cycles in Gale crater, Mars using thermochemical modeling techniques. *Meteoritics & Planetary Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/maps.14375>
- 3) Evans, S. D., Hughes, I. V., **Hughes, E. B.**, Dzaugis, P. W., Dzaugis, M. P., Gehling, J. G., ... & Droser, M. L. (2024). A new motile animal with implications for the evolution of axial polarity from the Ediacaran of South Australia. *Evolution & Development*, e12491.
- 4) **Hughes, E. B.**, Wray, J., Karunatillake, S., Fanson, G., Harrington, E., & Hood, D. R. (2024). Water-Limited Hydrothermalism and Volcanic Resurfacing of Eridania Basin, Mars. *Journal of Geophysical Research: Planets*, 129(7), e2024JE008461. <https://doi.org/10.1029/2024JE008461>
- 5) Surprenant, R. L., Gehling, J. G., **Hughes, E. B.**, & Droser, M. L. (2023). Biostratinomy of the enigmatic tubular organism *Aulozoon soliorum*, the Rawnsley Quartzite, South Australia. *Gondwana Research*.
- 6) **Hughes, E.B.**, Gilmore, M., Martin, P.E. and Eleazer, M. (2023). Visible to near-infrared reflectance and Raman spectra of evaporites from sulfate-chloride Mars analogue brines. *Icarus*, p.115597 <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.icarus.2023.115597>
- 7) Droser, M. L., Evans, S. D., Tarhan, L. G., Surprenant, R. L., Hughes, I. V., **Hughes, E. B.**, & Gehling, J. G. (2022). What Happens Between Depositional Events, Stays Between Depositional Events: The Significance of Organic Mat Surfaces in the Capture of Ediacara Communities and the Sedimentary Rocks That Preserve Them. *Frontiers in Earth Science*, 10(February), 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.3389/feart.2022.826353>
- 8) Droser, M., Evans, S., Dzaugis, P., **Hughes, E. B.**, Gehling, J., 2020, *Attenborites janeae*, A new enigmatic organism from the Ediacara Member (Rawnsley Quartzite), South Australia.”*Australian Journal of Earth Sciences*, 67, 915-921.
- 9) Droser, M.L., Gehling, J.G., Tarhan, L.G., Evans, S.D., Hall, C.M., Hughes, I.V., **Hughes, E.B.**, Dzaugis, M.E., Dzaugis, M.P., Dzaugis, P.W. and Rice, D., 2019. Piecing together the puzzle of the Ediacara Biota: excavation and reconstruction at the Ediacara National Heritage site Nilpena (South Australia). *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, 513, pp.132-145.

White Papers

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| 2021 | Skok, J. R., Karunatillake, S., Zacny, K., Hughes, E. B. , Blank, J., Gaskin, J., Williams, A., Cannon, K., Edmunson, J., Parente, M. (2021). “SPRING Mission: Exploring the past and enabling the future of Mars. Planetary Science and Astrobiology Decadal Survey 2023-2032.” white paper e-id. 360; Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society, Vol. 53, Issue 4, e-id. 360 |
| 2021 | Karunatillake, S., Bramson, A.; Zacny, K., Dundas, C., Ojha, L., Aharonson, O., Vos, E., Hood, D. R., Rogers, D., Levy, J., Doran, P., Mandt, K., Wilson, J., Hughes, E. B. [...] (2021). “GANGOTRI mission concept on the glacial key to the Amazonian climate of Mars.” Planetary Science and Astrobiology Decadal Survey 2023-2032 white paper e-id. 357; Bulletin of the American Astronomical Society, Vol. 53, Issue 4, e-id. 357 |

Conference Abstracts and Presentations (Primary Author)

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| 2025 | Hughes, E. B. , Buffo, J., Wray, J., & Rivera-Hernandez, F, the Step/EPSCOR field Team. (2025, March). “Climate-Dependent Salt Formation in Hypersaline Canadian Lakes as Analogues for Hesperian Mars.” Talk given at 2025 Lunar and Planetary Science Conference. |
| 2024 | Hughes, E. B. , Buffo, J., Wray, J., & Rivera-Hernandez, F. (2024, May). “Spectral Diversity of Sulfate Minerals in Canadian Lakes as Analogues for Early Mars.” In 2024 Astrobiology Science Conference. AGU. |
| 2024 | Hughes, E. B. , F. Rivera-Hernández, W. Rapin, J. R. Johnson, P. Gasda, D. Das, E. Sklute, O. Gasnault, N. Lanza, L. C. Kah, B. Tutolo, P.Y. Meslin, E. Dehouck, R. Y. Sheppard. “Hydrated |

- Na-Mg-Sulfate Suggests Warmer Concentrated Fluids Infiltrated the Sulfate Unite, Gale Crater, Mars” (2024). Talk presented at 55th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference.
- 2024 **Hughes, E. B.**, J. J. Wray, F. Rivera-Hernández, P. Dharmapriya, S. Karunatillake, G. Kodikara, A. Sarbadhikari, V. M. Nair, Y. Srivastava, A. Rani, and the 2023 Expedition Team. “Raman and VNIR Spectra of Sri Lanka Serpentine Zone Minerals With Relevance to Nili Fossae and Jezero Crater, Mars” (2024). Poster presented at 55th Lunar and Planetary Science Conference.
- 2023 **Hughes, E. B.**, J. J. Buffo, F. Rivera Hernández, K. L. Lynch, J. J. Wray. “Season Changes in VNIR Spectra of Salts from Canadian Hypersaline Lakes with Relevance to Mars” (2023). Talk presented at Ancient and Future Brines conference.
- 2022 **Hughes, E. B.**, J. Wray, S. Karunatillake. “Amorphous Silica Deposits Suggest Aeolian and Glacial Conditions in Eridania Basin, Mars” (2022). Poster presented at 53rd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference.
- 2021 **Hughes, E.B.**, M.S. Gilmore, M. Eleazer “VNIR and Raman Spectral Characterization of Martian Analogue Chloride and Sulfate Brines” (2021). Talk given for the 52nd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference.
- 2021 **Hughes, E.B.**, Karunatillake, S., Hood, D. R. “Global and Regional Martian Regolith Compositions Derived from GRS and TES Data” (2021). Poster presented for 52nd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference.
- 2020 **Hughes, E. B.**, Karunatillake, Suniti, Hood, Donald. “Global Magnesium Mapping for Mars: Insights from Methodology Driven Variability” (2020). Poster presented at the 2020 Geologic Society of America (GSA) Conference.
- 2020 **Hughes, E. B.**, Gilmore, Martha S., Martin, Peter E. “Experimental Evaporation and Spectral Analysis of Martian Analogue Brines” (2020). Poster presented at 2020 American Geophysical Union (AGU) Conference.
- 2020 **Hughes, E. B.**, Gilmore, Martha S. “Characterization of Martian Salts through Experimental Evaporation and Spectral Analysis of Analogue Brines” (2020). Abstract accepted to the 2020 Lunar and Planetary Science Conference (LPSC).
- 2019 **Hughes, E. B.**, Zimelman, James R. “Preliminary Observations of Transverse Aeolian Ridges in Digital Terrain Models” (2019). Poster presented at 2019 Lunar and Planetary Science Conference (LPSC).

Conference Abstracts and Presentations (Contributing Author)

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- 2025 Forni, O., Rapin, W., Sklute, E. C., Gasda, P., Loche, M., **Hughes, E. B.**, Schröder, S., Rammelkamp, K., Gasnault, O., Lanza, N. L. “Elemental Sulphur Deposit and its Related Enrichments as Viewed by ChemCam.” In *LPSC 2025* (Abstract #1476).
- 2025 Gasda, P. J., Sklute, E., **Hughes, E.**, Essinfeld, A., Rapin, W., Forni, O., Johnson, J., Farnad, W., Lanza, N., Gasnault, O. “Chemical and Textural Variations of Gediz Valles Channel Deposits, Gale Crater, Mars: Investigating Classification Based on Clustering of Visual Characteristics”. In *LPSC 2025* (Abstract #1603).
- 2025 Sklute, E., Johnson, J. R., Farrand, W. H., Gasda, P. J., **Hughes, E. B.**, Rapin, W., Forni, O., Lanza, N., Schroeder, S., Rammalkamp, K., Gasnault, O. “Deciphering Elemental Sulfur Signals from ChemCam Passive Spectroscopy on Mars using Laboratory Data and Radiative Transfer Modeling.” In *LPSC 2025* (Abstract #1609).
- 2025 Nellessen, M. A., Newsom, H. E., Scuderi, L., Nachon, M., Rivera-Hernández, F., **Hughes E.**, Gasda, P. J., Lanza, N. and 16 co-authors. “Identification of Ca-Sulfate Cemented Bedrock and Mixed Vein-Bedrock Features Using Statistical Analysis of ChemCam Shot-to-Shot Data.” In *LPSC 2025* (Abstract #2358).
- 2025 Parekh, R. A., **Hughes, E.**, Hoffman, M., Rani, A., Sorli, K., Lo, D. Y., and 11 co-authors., 2025. “Mission Concept LOOKING GLASS: Exploring Titan as Earth’s Dark Mirror.” In *LPSC 2025* (Abstract #2375).

- 2025 Buffo, C. E., **Hughes, E. B.**, Thompson, S., Junes, B. M., Rivera-Hernández, F., Orlando, T. M. “Reflectance Absorption of the 3 and 6 Micron Bands of Water Ice and Mineral Dust Mixtures.” In *LPSC 2025* (Abstract #2152).
- 2025 Trussell, A.R., Bell III, J. F., Farrand, W. H., Kah, L. C., **Hughes, E. B.**, O’Connell-Cooper, C.D., Thompson, L.M., Sheppard, R.Y. “Dark-Toned Halite Veins as a Record of a Drying Environment in Gale Crater.” In *LPSC 2025* (Abstract #1560).
- 2024 Nellesen, M.A., Newsom, H.E., Baker, A.M., Ganter, G., Jackson, R.S., Williams, J., Scuderi, L., Nachon, M., Hernandez, F.R., **Hughes, E.** and Gasda, P.J., 2024, July. “Utilization of ChemCam Shot-to-Shot Data to Identify and Distinguish Ca-Sulfate Cemented Bedrock from mixed Vein-Bedrock Features.” In *International Conference on Mars* (Abstract #3469).
- 2024 Gasnault, O., Schroeder, S., Cousin, A., Frydenvang, J., **Hughes, E.**, Dehouck, E., Rammelkamp, K., Johnson, J., Rapin, W., Lanza, N. and Wiens, R.C., 2024. “Exploring the sulfate-bearing unit: Recent ChemCam results at Gale crater, Mars” (No. EPSC2024-1095). Copernicus Meetings.
- 2024 Gasda, P.J., Comellas, J., Essunfeld, A., **Hughes, E.**, Rapin, W., Sklute, E., Frydenvang, J., Dehouck, E., Forni, O., Goetz, W. and Crossey, L., 2024. “Diagenetic Features Observed by ChemCam from Glen Torridon to Mirador and Beyond.” In *International Conference on Mars* (Abstract #3294).
- 2024 Forni, O., **Hughes, E.B.**, Rammelkamp, K., Rivera-Hernández, F., Rapin, W., Johnson, J.R., Gasda, P., Gasnault, O. and Lanza, N., 2024. “Late high temperature events interpreted from fluorine detections in Gale crater sulfate unit.” In *International Conference on Mars*.
- 2024 Nisson, D., Daswani, M.M., Perl, S.M., **Hughes, E.**, Dharmapriya, P. and Karunatillake, S., 2024, May. “Paleo-Fluid Conditions of Sri Lankan Serpentine Zones as an Analog for Noachian Habitability.” In *2024 Astrobiology Science Conference*. AGU.
- 2024 Buffo, J., **Hughes, E.**, Barklage, M., Brown, E.K., Pontefract, A., Spitzer, E., Nichols, F., Osburn, M.R., Plattner, T., Hunsaker, A. and Jacobs, J.M., 2024, May. “Multiscale Characterization of Brine-Rich Planetary Analog Environments.” In *2024 Astrobiology Science Conference*. AGU.
- 2024 Droser, M., Evans, S., Hughes, I., **Hughes, E.**, Dzaugis, P., Dzaugis, M., McCandless, H., Surprenant, R., Boan, P. and Irving, J., 2024, May. “Astrobiology in the Field: Forging Connections Between Paleontology and the Local Community in the South Australian outback.” In *2024 Astrobiology Science Conference*. AGU.
- 2024 Tullier, A., Karunatillake, S., Tan, X. and **Hughes, E.**, 2024. “Overlapping Crater and Fault Lithostratigraphy in Elysium Planitia Using HiRISE Imagery.” *LPSC 2024*, (Abstract #2680).
- 2024 Nair, V.M., Basu Sarbadhikari, A., Srivastava, Y., Dharmapriya, P.L., Malaviarachchi, S.P.K., Karunatillake, S., Rani, A., **Hughes, E.B.**, Wray, J.J., Nisson, D. and Melwani Daswani, M., 2024. “A Potential Intraplate Serpentinization Site of Sri Lanka as a Mars Analogue.” *LPSC 2024*, (Abstract #2005).
- 2024 Malaviarachchi, S.P.K., Dharmapriya, P., Chandrajith, R., Pitawala, H.M.T.G.A., Karunatillake, S., **Hughes, E.**, Vithanage, M., Edussuriya, T., Ambegoda, T., Anandakiththi, K. and Wray, J., 2024. “Overview of Sri Lanka's Rare Occurrence of Serpentinities Within Proterozoic High-Grade Metamorphic Basement Rocks as a Mars-Context Research Site.” *LPSC 2024* (Abstract #2324).
- 2024 Newsom, H.E., Gasda, P.J., Lanza, N.L., Scuderi, L.A., Dimitracopoulos, F.D., Gallegos, Z.E., Los, S.A., Gasnault, O.E., Tutolo, B.M., Fairén, A.G., Kite, E.S., and **Hughes, E.B.**, 2024. “Gale Crater Block Fields—Role of Dissolution and Other Processes.” *LPSC 2024* (Abstract #2156).
- 2024 Rammelkamp, K., Gasnault, O., Schröder, S., Lomashvili, A. and **Hughes, E.B.**, 2024. “Depth Trends in ChemCam LIBS Data in the Sulfate Bearing Unit.” *LPSC 2024*.
- 2024 Rammelkamp, K., Gasnault, O., Schröder, S., Lomashvili, A., **Hughes, E.B.**, Clave, E. and Egerland, C.H., 2024. “Optimization of tensor component analysis for depth trend investigation of ChemCam LIBS shot-to-shot data from Gale crater, Mars.” *Helmholtz AI Conference 2024*.

- 2024 Rammelkamp, K., Gasnault, O., Schröder, S., Dehouck, E., Forni, O., Le Deit, L., Cousin, A., Lasue, J., Lomashvili, A., **Hughes, E.B.** and Lanza, N., 2024. “Unsupervised data exploration of ChemCam LIBS data from Gale crater, Mars.” *EPSC 2024*.
- 2023 Burnett, C.J.A., **Hughes, E.B.**, Do, W.H. and Carr, C.E., 2023. “Preparation Methods for In Situ Salt-and Regolith-Derived Martian Concrete.” Talk presented at Ancient and Future Brines conference., (Abstract #2028).
- 2023 Jayakody, D.R., Ambegoda, T.D., Karunatillake, S. and **Hughes, E.B.**, 2023. “Optimized Field Sampling of Mars-Analog Serpentine Zones via Machine Learning.” *LPI Contributions* (Abstract #2242).
- 2023 Manogaran, R., Tubbs, J.S., Bates, A., **Hughes, E.B.**, Ruj, T. and Karunatillake, S., 2023. “Paleohydraulic Investigation of Martian Equatorial Inverted Channels in a Volatile-Enriched Geochemical Province.” *LPI Contributions*, (Abstract #2224).
- 2023 Wallentine, W.L., Lynch, K.L., Eggers, G.L., **Hughes, E.B.**, Wray, J.J. and Rivera-Hernández, F., 2023. “Investigation of Sodium Sulfate Spectra from the Great Salt Lake as a Model for Characterizing Aqueous Geochemistry and Climate History of Martian Paleolakes.” *LPI Contributions* (Abstract #2143).
- 2023 Boan, P., **Hughes, E.B.** and Vasquez, A.A., 2023. “Broader Impact: the Spatial Distribution of Martian Impact Craters.” In *Geological Society of America Abstracts* (Vol. 55, p. 393450).
- 2022 Boan, P.C. and **Hughes, E.B.**, 2022, March. “Spatial Distributions of Martian Impact Craters Moderated by Geologic Unit and Age.” In *53rd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference* (Abstract #2355).
- 2022 Tan, X., Karunatillake, S., Susko, D., **Hughes, E.**, Rani, A., Liu, X., Haviland, H., Moitra, P. and Sarbadhikari, A.B., 2022, December. “pMELTS modeling of Elysium regions as a function of oxygen fugacity.” In *Fall Meeting 2022*. AGU.
- 2022 Bates, A., Karunatillake, S., Lorenzo, J.M., Konsoer, K.M. and **Hughes, E.B.**, 2022, March. “Water-Limited Provenance of the Vastitas Borealis Formation Within Isidis Basin, Mars.” In *53rd Lunar and Planetary Science Conference* (Abstract #2452).
- 2022 Fanson, G., Wray, J., Rivera-Hernandez, F., **Hughes, E.B.** and M. Novak, A., 2022. “Further evidence for ancient explosive volcanism in Northern Arabia Terra, Mars.” In *Geological Society of America Abstracts* (380207).
- 2021 Boan, P., Evans, S., Hughes, I.V., **Hughes, E.B.**, Dzaugis, P.W. and Droser, M., 2021. “Spatial Point Pattern Analysis of Obamas Coronatus from Nilpena Ediacara National Park, South Australia.” In *Geological Society of America Abstracts* (368517).
- 2020 Irving, J., Droser, M. and **Hughes, E.**, 2020, December. “Bringing to life the Ediacara seas in the Australian Outback.” In *AGU Fall Meeting Abstracts* (SY048-11).

Invited Talks

- 2024 Los Alamos National Laboratory: “Hydrated Na-Mg-Sulfate Suggests Warmer Concentrated Fluids Infiltrated the Sulfate Unit, Gale Crater, Mars”
- 2023 University of Peradeniya: “Evidence Against Hydrothermalism in Eridania Basin, Mars.”
- 2021 LSU Astrophysics Lunch Seminar: “The Global Regolith Mineralogy of Mars in Geologic and Geochemical Context.”
- 2020 Wabash College: “Global Mineralogical Mapping for Mars.”
- 2020 University of Dhaka: “Global Mineralogical Mapping for Mars.”

Undergraduate Research & Internships

- Summer 2020 NASA SUPPR Intern, Louisiana State University

	<i>Duties:</i> Using Gamma Ray Spectroscopy data to derive and map global martian MgO concentrations; synthesizing Thermal Emission Spectrometer data with Gamma Ray Spectroscopy data to interpret global martian mineralogy; running the Planetary Reading Marathon journal club
2019 – 2020	Research Assistant , Wesleyan University <i>Duties:</i> Working with Professor of Geology Martha Gilmore to develop and study Martian analogue brines; designing and implementing technical work on a Mars analogue chamber; comparing resulting experimental data to data received from the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter (MRO)
Summer 2018	Planetary Science Intern , Smithsonian Air and Space Museum <i>Duties:</i> Analyzing over 500 images of Martian surface, identifying dominant and unique morphologies of Transverse Aeolian Ridges (TARs); organizing major outreach program “Mars Day” for thousands of museum visitors to learn about Mars

Workshops, Summer Schools and Training Courses Attended

2025	NASA SCOPE Planetary ReaCH Workshop
2024	Jet Propulsion Laboratory Planetary Science Summer School (PSSS) participant
2023 – 2024	NASA Mars Ideation Factory Participant

Teaching Assistant Positions

Spring 2022	EAS 2600: Earth Processes (Georgia Tech)
Fall 2021	EAS 1601: Habitable Planet (Georgia Tech)
Spring 2020	E&ES 115: Planetary Geology (Wesleyan University)
Spring 2019	MATH 132: Elementary Statistics (Wesleyan University)

Undergraduate Mentoring

Spring 2025 – Present	Grace Crum – Georgia Tech c/o 2027
Summer 2023	Sydney Peters – Cal State Fresno c/o 2024
Fall 2021 – Spring 2022	Grace Fanson – Georgia Tech c/o 2022 – now a PhD student at MIT

Professional Activities and Service

2024 – present	Reviewer for Planetary Science Journal, Icarus, Geophysical Research Letters
2024 – 2025	Executive secretary, NASA funding programs
2023	Co-organizer, Explorigins Colloquium
2023	Student Committee for Planetary Science Faculty Hiring Search

News Articles

December 10, 2024	“In a Very Close Galaxy: How Georgia Tech Researchers Use Earth Analogs to Understand Space” Research, Georgia Tech, https://research.gatech.edu/feature/very-close-galaxy
October 2, 2023	“Emmy Hughes Chosen for ARCS Scholar Award”, Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Education, Georgia Tech, https://grad.gatech.edu/news/emmy-hughes-chosen-arcs-scholar-award
2023	“Studying salty Earth lakes to learn about other worlds” The Planetary Society, https://www.planetary.org/sci-tech/studying-salty-earth-lakes

Volunteer and Outreach Experience

Spring 2024	Letters to a Pre-Scientist: Exchanging letters with a middle schooler from an underserved community about scientific exploration and education
March 2024	Atlanta Science Festival: Prepared material for students to learn about spectroscopy and remote sensing at Georgia Tech
March 2023	Atlanta Science Festival: Helped run a booth teaching K-12 students about Mars, astrobiology, and the scale of the universe
2021 – Present	Wikipedia Editor: Significantly expanded the Wikipedia page for Goldich Dissolution Series; Significantly expanded the “Habitability Requirements” section of the Terraforming Wikipedia page
2020	Sunrise Movement Worcester: Member of Political and Trainings Teams
Summer 2019	IN-Reach Coordinator: Mentored a local high school student in remote sensing for Mars in a program benefiting minority and low-income Connecticut high school students

Organizations

2024 – Present	Scientific Society for Astrobiology
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Software and Coding Skills (ranked 1 – 5; 1 = novice; 5 = expert)

ENVI⁵, MatLab⁴, Excel⁵, ArcMap⁴, ArcGIS Pro⁴, QGIS³, Rstudio¹, Command Line², JMARS²

Instrument Techniques (ranked 1 – 5; 1 = novice; 5 = expert)

Laser Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (LIBS)³, X-Ray Florescence Spectroscopy (XRF)⁵, Visible to Near Infrared Spectroscopy (VNIR)⁵, X-Ray Diffraction Spectroscopy (XRD)³, Raman Spectroscopy⁴, Scanning Electron Microscopy with Electron Dispersion Spectroscopy (SEM/EDS)²

Planetary Dataset Experience

Compact Reconnaissance Imaging Spectrometer for Mars (CRISM) data – processing and analysis in ENVI; ChemCam Laser Induced Breakdown Spectra (LIBS) and Remote-Micro Images (RMIs) – processing and analysis of spectra and major/minor oxides; MastCam images – analysis; Gamma Ray Spectroscopy (GRS) data – processing and analysis; Thermal Emission Spectroscopy (TES) – analysis; High Resolution Imaging System for Mars (HiRISE) – analysis in ArcGIS Pro; Context Camera (CTX) imagery – processing and analysis in ArcGIS Pro; Mars Orbital Laser Altimeter (MOLA) data – processing and analysis in ArcGIS Pro

Field Experience

Sri Lanka Serpentine Zones

- LIBS, XRF, VNIR field data from Sri Lanka serpentine zones across 5 field sites
- Geologic mapping and sample analyses

Cariboo Plateau, British Columbia

- Using VNIR, Raman and XRF spectral analysis on salts in hypersaline lakes in the Cariboo Plateau
- Aided in collection and preparation of brine samples for ion analysis and cell counts

Flinders Ranges, South Australia

- High familiarity with Ediacaran period type fossils from Rawnsley Quartzite member of the Wilpena Group, South Australia
- Experience in excavation of fossil beds, fossil identification, categorization, measurement, preservation, taphonomic analysis, relationship with trace fossils, energy regimes and ripple wavelength relationship, cross-section analysis

Marble Mountains, San Bernardino County, California

- Familiarity with the Marble Mountains paleozoic sedimentary geology
- Studied preservation, energy regimes, structural relationships between units, trilobite identification

Tapeats Sandstone Formation, Arizona

- Identified trace fossils (burrows) in Tapeats Sandstone

Kona and Hilo, Hawaii

- Managed a project on microplastics distribution based on particle size and shoreline distance across Hawaiian beaches

Gillette Castle State Park, Connecticut

- Categorized geologic relationships, stratigraphy and structural geology, geologic mapping
- Categorized metamorphic grade and regime