Brown University
Department of Earth, Environmental and Planetary Sciences
The Class of 2021
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- August Aalto  Sc.B. Geology/Chemistry
- Jean Allen  Sc.B. Geology/Physics/Math
- Claire Bekker  Sc.B. Geology/Biology
- Josephine Benson  A.B. Geological Sciences
- Grace Berg  Sc.B. Geology/Biology
- Elizabeth Clifton  A.B. Geology/Biology
- Eashan Das  Sc.B. Geology/Chemistry
- Wylie De Groff  A.B. Geology/Biology
- Daisy Frabell  A.B. Geology/Biology
- Sophie Kuhl  Sc.B. Geology/Chemistry
- Katie O’Leary  Sc.B. Geological Sciences
- Tamara Rudic  Sc.B. Geology/Biology
- Allison Saltz  Sc.B. Geology/Physics/Math
- Brandon Stubbs  A.B. Geology/Biology
- Isaiah Spencer  A.B. Geological Sciences
- Cameron Tripp  Sc.B. Geology/Biology
- Samantha Valentine  Sc.B. Geology Biology
- Anna Zuckerman  A.B. Geology/Physics/Math
- Leah Zuckerman  A.B. Geology/Physics/Math
August Aalto

Two Favorite Memories:

Spring Break FT (2019). It was a blast to visit Arizona, Utah, and Nevada with all the DEEPS students, as I had not previously visited any of those states. I particularly enjoyed climbing up SP Crater, the hike down into the Grand Canyon, and playing frisbee in the afternoons and evenings!

Stratigraphy and Sedimentation (2019) field trip to Pennsylvania. It was great fun paging through the field trip handout, and then inspecting the various stratigraphy layers for myself. The Carboniferous fossils in the abandoned coal mine were particularly memorable, as was the abandoned highway by the Centralia mine fire. Jim also got us a bunch of pizza!
Jean Allen

One of my favorite memories from DEEPS was going on the field trip to Block Island with the remote sensing class. We had used satellite imagery to guess at what was on the ground, and got to check our work by going to the places we had viewed from space. Sometimes we had gotten it right on the money, and sometimes we had been way off. It was really cool to see what worked and what didn't, and we had a blast trying to figure out what went wrong.

In day-to-day life, though, many of my fondest memories of the DEEPS are the moments in between classes in GeoChem: working on problem sets, making buttons for the SBFT fundraiser, or just talking with other students and hearing about all the cool things that people across the department were working on. Everyone was always so kind and encouraging and eager to share, and I learned a lot just by talking to people.
Claire Bekker

I really enjoyed all of the opportunities in DEEPS for class field trips (including this one at the Scituate Reservoir for Environmental Geochemistry!), lab work, and collaborative learning. The professors and students in DEEPS are all so passionate and kind and I’m glad I had the opportunity to learn with and from them. I’m so grateful for the time I’ve spent studying with other students, getting help during office hours from professors and TAs, and doing lab work and learning from the presentations in the Hastings Lab. Despite this last year of COVID, I appreciated the opportunities to continue with research and even having lab sessions over Zoom in Sed Strat.
Grace Berg

I couldn’t have asked for a better home at Brown than DEEPS. What an incredible environment to learn in! Everyone around me was just brimming with enthusiasm, curiosity, and love for Earth and all its complexities. I felt most connected with the department during our off-campus adventures; in particular, SFBT 2019 and the Sed Strat field trips—spending some very chilly nights out on the Colorado Plateau, winding our way through the Zion-Mt. Carmel tunnel, fossil hunting in a defunct coal mine, and, of course, stopping at countless roadcuts. I wish so badly that this past year and a half could’ve been different, but I’m so happy to have crossed paths with you all.
Elizabeth Clifton

My favorite memories of DEEPS were the field trips and the friends I made. I have really loved the community that DEEPS has and how supportive professors and students are of one another. I have always felt welcomed and included. Freshman year was a little lonely at times, but the department and the people I met in my geo classes made me feel more at home. Even as I have grown more and more toward the bio side of my major, I’m still really thankful for the experiences I’ve had and the knowledge I’ve gained in my geo classes. This picture is from the SBFT 2019 where I found a tree to climb (I know my leg looks twisty, I promise it was not injured). The Grand Canyon was truly incredible—I hope I can go back sometime.
Wylie De Groff

Some of my favorite memories in DEEPS have been just hanging and working on stuff in the geochem undergrad lounge and taking advantage of the lounge’s kettle; the field trips, especially for limnology and geochem, but really all of them; meeting and learning from ridiculously generous and kind grad students inside and outside the classroom; and also wandering the halls to gawk at the maps and mineral samples :)
Daisy Frabell

Proud to have returned to complete my degree after a decade on leave!
Sophie Kuhl

For the Geo 23 final during my freshman year, we had our exam and then had a barbeque out by the geo rocks. All the Geo 23 field trips were also so fun, especially going to the Target parking lot in Connecticut.

During the 2019 SBFT, we had to wait at a gas station on the side of the highway because one of the cars was getting towed, and we spent the time learning dance moves and trying to build a human pyramid. Later on that trip, we also got to see the sunrise at the Grand Canyon and when it was warm enough, we slept outside of our tents to see the stars.

Thank you everyone for an amazing four years! I will miss you all so much!
Katie O’Leary

It’s hard to pick a single memory, but I think one of my favorites must have been a “review session” for Geo 230. We grilled portobello mushrooms and talked about course content outside at the front of GeoChem on the lawn. First of all, Alberto made some killer portobello and goat cheese sliders, which I really didn’t see coming. Second, it made me realize how lucky I was to be in DEEPS. Being invited to professors’ houses, sharing time with them outside of a formal class, and having proof that they really do care about us is such a special thing. I’m so grateful for that! Students and professors care about each other, and everyone wants everyone else to succeed. DEEPS has made such an effort to grow and engage with its students in ways that my friends outside of the department have always been surprised with (and jealous of).
Tamara Rudic

Trying to figure out a concentration and find a department I felt at home in during my freshman year was a nerve wracking time, but I remember feeling so happy and so welcome when I ended up in DEEPS. I’m really grateful for those first few intro courses and the community within the department that helped me feel like I had made the right choice! Since then, some of my favorite memories have been the sed strat field trips - it was so nice to be able to travel to really great outdoor areas, see some cool geology, and hang out with the class around a campfire at night! I have also really appreciated being able to be a writing fellow for EEPS 0240 for two semesters. That class and its writing assignments were really impactful to me as a sophomore, and it’s been really meaningful to be able to connect with underclassmen over their science writing assignments as a fellow.
Allison Saltz

Ally in New Zealand!
Brandon Stubbs

It's very hard to pick a favorite memory from my time at DEEPS. The many field trips were definitely a highlight, as both learning and bonding opportunities outside of the classroom. During the spring break field trip my first year, I remember being mind-blown as I gained a new appreciation for the impressive landscape around me (such as the Santa Elena Canyon in the picture). I also remember thinking of GeoChem as a second home as I settled into college my first year. Despite all the craziness of starting college, I immediately felt like a part of the DEEPS community. And throughout all four years, my peers and professors in DEEPS have continued to be a family I could rely on. Dinners at professors' houses, study sessions late at night, and ice cream socials behind GeoChem will all stick with me long after graduation.
Isaiah Spencer

I am so glad that I ran into Jan my first year at Brown University. In my sophomore year of college I was not sure whether or not I wanted to continue engineering. It was a difficult time for me to decide on what concentration I wanted to choose instead of engineering, but I had remembered that I met Jan freshmen year and thought that I might be interested in geological sciences. That decision led me to take some of my favorite courses at Brown (Introduction to Mineralogy, Earth Processes, Introduction to GIS), meet students who enjoyed what they were learning, and go on field trips that helped me to be more a part of the DEEPS community. Some of my favorite memories at Brown in the DEEPS department included the time my Introduction to Geochemistry course ate grilled portobello sandwiches outside of the GeoChem building, and being a part of the DEEPS softball team. Thank you, DEEPS family, for allowing me to enjoy my education in this department and for the experiences I have had!
Cameron Tripp

Some of my favorite memories during my time at Brown have come out of the wonderfully wild field trips. Bonding experiences like the creation of these improvised latex-glove core sealers on an EEPS 0240 field trip help to bring everyone in the department together, creating a spirit of closeness and community that carries back to our time together in GeoChem. I am really grateful to be graduating with this phenomenal class of seniors, all of whom have made my time in classes and at Brown in general so much better!
Anna Zuckerman

Though I’ve taken more classes in the Physics Department, I still think of GeoChem as my academic home on campus. I have been so supported by both faculty and peers throughout my time in the department, and I will miss the sense of community and camaraderie which pervades GC 109. I am forever grateful to the professors who have taken an interest in my academic path and have offered their time and energy to provide advice and guidance. Some of my most memorable experiences in the department have come from field trips, both class trips and the departmental field trips. In particular, I will remember running into the ocean after a long, sweaty (though fascinating!) day in the field on the 2019 Fall Field Trip. I have also truly enjoyed my time developing and teaching elementary school curricula with DEEPS STEP, as this has allowed me to both discover my love of teaching and work with a group of collaborative, passionate, and inspiring people.
Leah Zuckerman

I am so glad that I wandered into GeoChem during ADOCH four years ago and wound up in Jan’s CAP group! I have spent four years going to DUG Movie Nights, babysitting Geo dogs, and sweating over large slabs of granite on Geo field trips. I will also always have such fond memories of the hours spent with Olga and the rest of the STEP crew brainstorming module outlines, planning curricula, writing lessons, and building Dixie cup anemometers in the basement of Geochem. I am going to miss my time in the DEEPS department, and I want to especially thank Jan, Karen, Colleen, and Olga for all of their support and advice over the past four years!
Photo Gallery
A campsite visitor during a Sed Strat field trip
Sed Strat Field Trip Upstate New York 2019
Prof. Jim Russell at Pout Pond
Working Together
Onward to the Future! Congratulations, Seniors!