


Megan Thompson-Munson

PhD Candidate at University of Colorado Boulder | (she/her)

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EDUCATION

University of Colorado

PhD in Atmospheric and Oceanic Sciences (ATOC) (GPA: 3.9/4.0)

Boulder, CO

May 2025 (expected)

- Research: Ice-atmospheric interactions and ice-sheet firn processes
- Advisor: Dr. Jennifer Kay (formerly Dr. Jan Lenaerts)

University of Wyoming

MS in Geology (GPA: 4.0/4.0)

Laramie, WY

May 2020

- Thesis: *Observations and Implications of Three-Dimensional Deformation in the Greenland Ice Sheet*
- Advisor: Dr. Neil Humphrey

University of Massachusetts

BS in Geology; BS in Environmental Science (GPA: 3.8/4.0)

Amherst, MA

May 2017

Commonwealth Honors College Scholar with Greatest Distinction, *cum laude*

- Thesis: *Understanding the Environments in which Early Humans Lived: Insights from Organic Geochemical Analyses of East African Rift Valley Paleolakes*
- Advisor: Dr. Isla Castañeda

FIELD AND LABORATORY EXPERIENCE

Niwot Ridge Snow Science Field Work

Field Assistant (2 days)

Nederland, CO

Jun, Sep 2021

- Set up a field station containing instruments for measuring snow height and snow water equivalent

Lake Agnes Rock Glacier Field Work

Field Assistant (1 day)

State Forest State Park, CO

Oct 2019

- Hiked equipment up to a rock glacier to collect seismic refraction data in the active region of the glacier

Southern Sierra Nevada Critical Zone Observatory Field Work

Field Assistant (14 days, 11 days)

Sierra Nevada, CA

Jul 2018, Jul 2019

- Collected seismic refraction data and assisted with soil and saprolite core recovery from a Geoprobe
- Surveyed vegetation while mentoring high school students in the Hands on the Land program

Greenland Ice Sheet Field Work

Field Team Member (32 days, 31 days)

Kangerlussuaq and Ilulissat, Greenland

May–Jun 2018, May–Jun 2019

- Established first two years of a new firn project in the Greenland Ice Sheet percolation zone
- Hot-water drilled 100-m boreholes, extracted 30-m firn cores, and traveled by ski and snowmobile

University of Massachusetts Biogeochemistry Laboratory

Undergraduate Research Technician

Amherst, MA

May 2015–May 2017

- Used geochemical analyses to quantify biomarker abundances in East African Rift Valley paleolake sediments

University of Massachusetts Soil Science Laboratory

Undergraduate Research Technician

Amherst, MA

Sep–Dec 2013

- Evaluated the role of biochar in sustainable agriculture by monitoring crop yield in fields and greenhouses

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- [2] **Thompson-Munson, M.E.**, Wever, N., Lenaerts, J.T.M., Stevens, C.M., and Medley, B. (In prep.). A comparison of observed and modeled Greenland firn properties.
- [1] Lam, A., Bauer, J.E., Fraass, S., Sheffield, S., Limbeck, M.R., Borden, R.M., **Thompson-Munson, M.E.**, Fraass, A.J., Hills, J.M., Muskelly, C.E., Hartshorn, K.R., and Bryant, R. (2019). Time Scavengers: An Educational Website to Communicate Climate Change and Evolutionary Theory to the Public through Blogs, Web Pages, and Social Media Platforms. *The Journal of STEM Outreach*, 2(1)

Theses

- [2] **Thompson-Munson, M.E.** (2020). Observations and implications of three-dimensional deformation in the Greenland Ice Sheet. Master's thesis, University of Wyoming.
- [1] **Thompson-Munson, M.E.** (2017). Understanding the Environments in which Early Humans Lived: Insights from Organic Geochemical Analyses of East African Rift Valley Paleolakes. Bachelor's thesis, University of Massachusetts.

Datasets and Tools

- [2] **Thompson-Munson, M.E.** SUMMEDup 2022: The SUMup Dataset Explorer. <https://github.com/MeganTM/SUMMEDup2022>.
- [1] **Thompson-Munson, M.E.**, Montgomery, L., Lenaerts, J.T.M., and Koenig, L. (2022). Surface Mass Balance and Snow Depth on Sea Ice Working Group (SUMup) snow density, accumulation on land ice, and snow depth on sea ice datasets 1952-2019. Arctic Data Center. doi:10.18739/A24Q7QR58.

Conference Abstracts

- [11] **Thompson-Munson, M.E.**, Wever, N., Lenaerts, J.T.M., Stevens, C.M., Medley, B., and Keenan, E. (2021). Simulated and Observed Firn Properties Across the Greenland Ice Sheet. AGU Fall Meeting.
- [10] **Thompson-Munson, M.E.**, Humphrey, N.F., Harper, J.T., and Meierbachtol, T.W. (2020). In-Situ Measurements of Three-Dimensional Deformation in the Greenland Ice Sheet. AGU Fall Meeting.
- [9] Dunmire, D.R., **Thompson-Munson, M.E.**, Lenaerts, J., Wever, N., Keenan, E., Banwell, A.F., and Datta, R. (2020) Improving Understanding of Future Antarctic Ice-Shelf Vulnerability to Atmospheric Warming. AGU Fall Meeting.
- [8] **Thompson-Munson, M.E.**, Humphrey, N.F., Harper, J.T., and Meierbachtol, T.W. (2019). Multi-day summer speed-up events in western Greenland's ablation zone driven by non-local ice sheet motion. AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- [7] **Thompson-Munson, M.E.** (2019). Evidence of cross-flow deformation in the Greenland Ice Sheet's ablation zone. Northwest Glaciologists Conference, Corvallis, OR.
- [6] Castañeda, I.S., **Thompson-Munson, M.E.**, Gilchrist, S., Lupien, R., Russell, J.M., Salacup, J., Feibel, C.S., and Cohen, A.S. (2018). Early Pleistocene temperature history of Paleolake Lorenyang, West Turkana Basin (Kenya). AGU Fall Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- [5] Lam, A.R., Bauer, J., Sheffield, S.L., Muskelly, C.E., **Thompson-Munson, M.E.**, Limbeck, M., Hils, J.M., Hartshorn, K.R., Fraass, A., Fraass, S., Borden, R. (2018). Time Scavengers: A Website to Disseminate Climate Change and Evolutionary Principles to Increase Public Literacy. AGU Fall Meeting, Washington, D.C.
- [4] **Thompson-Munson, M.E.** and Castañeda, I.S. (2017). Understanding the Environments in which early humans lived: Insights from organic geochemical analyses of East African Rift Valley paleolakes. Massachusetts Undergraduate Research Conference, Amherst, MA.
- [3] **Thompson-Munson, M.E.**, Castañeda, I.S., Lupien, R., and Russell, J.M. (2017). Evaluation the potential for isoprenoid and branched GDGT temperature reconstructions in West Turkana and Northern Awash Basin sediments. Hominin Sites and Paleolakes Drilling Project Annual Meeting, Tempe, AZ.
- [2] **Thompson-Munson, M.E.** and Castañeda, I.S. (2015). Late Pliocene and Early Pleistocene temperature reconstructions from paleolakes of the West Turkana and North Awash basins, East Africa. GSA Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
- [1] Castañeda, I.S., **Thompson-Munson, M.E.**, Lupien, R., Russell, J.M. (2015). Late Pliocene and Early Pleistocene temperature reconstructions from paleolakes of the West Turkana and North Awash Basins, East Africa. AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA.

TEACHING AND MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE

Teaching Positions

Lead Graduate Teacher Program ATOC Lead TA	University of Colorado May 2022–present
ATOC REU Python Bootcamp Lesson Developer and Instructor (17 students, 9 students)	University of Colorado Jun 2021, Jun 2022
ATOC 1070: Weather and Atmosphere Lab Teaching Assistant (64 students)	University of Colorado Aug–Dec 2020
GEOG 1010: Physical Geography Teaching Assistant (60 students, 45 students)	University of Wyoming Aug–Dec 2019, Jan–May 2020
GEOG 3600 Earth and Mineral Resources Teaching Assistant (31 students)	University of Wyoming Aug–Dec 2018

Research Mentorship

Beth Mason , BS Student in ATOC at University of Colorado	Jul 2021–Apr 2022
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Workshops Attended

The Universal Classroom: Designing Your Course for Diverse Learners , University of Colorado	9 May 2022
The Hidden Curriculum , University of Colorado	9 May 2022
Teaching About Our Changing Climate , GETSI	26 Jan 2021
Teaching in the Era of COVID-19 , University of Colorado	9 Sep 2020
Universal Design for Learning , University of Colorado	20 Aug 2020
Using Dialogue in the Classroom , University of Colorado	20 Aug 2020
How to Be an Anti-Racist in the Classroom , University of Colorado	19 Aug 2020

OUTREACH, SERVICE, AND OTHER EMPLOYMENT

Interviews and Articles

- [3] **Thompson-Munson, M.E.** 29 March 2021. *Icebergs*. AntarcticGlaciers.org.
<http://www.antarcticglaciers.org/glacier-processes/glacier-types/icebergs/>
- [2] Interviewed for the article: Amos-Landgraf, I. 12 March 2021. *How Does an Iceberg Really Float?* GlacierHub.
<https://blogs.ei.columbia.edu/2021/03/12/iceberg-really-float/>
- [1] Interviewed about icebergs for *Breakfast with Sammy J* on ABC Radio Melbourne. 2 March 2021.

Outreach

Eagle Crest Elementary School , Visiting Scientist	22, 27 Apr 2021
Colorado STEM Academy , Visiting Scientist	9 Apr 2021
Laramie Middle School , Visiting Scientist	5 Mar 2020
Time Scavengers Science Outreach Blog , Collaborator, Writer	2017–2019
University of Minnesota Paleoclimate Class , Virtual Presenter	Apr 2019
Girls Inc. Eureka! STEM Career Development , Activity Developer	Jun 2015

Service

International Firm Workshop , Developer, Organizer, Junior Coordinator	Jan–Jun 2022
University of Colorado Graduate Mentorship Program , Mentor	Aug 2021–May 2022
ATOC First-Year Graduate Student Mentorship Program , Mentor	Aug 2021–May 2022
Colorado State Science Fair , Judge	9 Apr 2021
ATOC Outreach Committee , Member, Lead	Aug 2020–present
ATOC Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee , Member	Aug 2020–May 2021
ATOC Forum Committee , Member	Aug 2020–May 2021
AGU Flash Freeze Competition , Judge	Dec 2010
ATOC Graduate Application Mentorship Program , Mentor, Developer	Aug–Dec 2020
Research Lunch Seminar Series , Lead and Co-Organizer	Jan 2018–Dec 2019
Wyoming State Science Fair , Judge	Mar 2018, Mar 2019
Virtual Climate Scientist Project , Ice Sheet Consultant	Dec 2018

Other Relevant Employment

Mount Rainier National Park , Geoscientists-in-the-Park Interpretative Ranger	May–Sep 2016
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TECHNICAL SKILLS

- **Programming Languages:** Python (excellent), Matlab (proficient), Java (proficient)
- **Systems:** MacOS, Windows, Unix/Linux, high-performace computing
- **Software:** Microsoft Office, Inkscape, \LaTeX , QGIS, ArcGIS, ENVI, JMP, Git/GitHub, Jupyter Lab/Notebook, Google Colab, Google Earth Engine
- **Field Skills:** Firm coring, hot-water drilling, ground-penetrating radar, seismic refraction, rock drilling, Trimble GPS surveying, snow sampling

AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Flash Freeze Cryosphere Innovation Award for Students , AGU, \$1000	2021
Best Graduate Student ESSS Poster , University of Colorado, \$50	2021
AntClimNow Dataset Development and Stewardship Grant , SCAR, \$2500	2021
EarthCube Learning Communities Fellow , EarthCube, \$1000	2021
Fall 2020 Lab Teaching Assistant Award , University of Colorado ATOC, \$250	2021
2020 Outstanding Master's Student , University of Wyoming Geology & Geophysics, \$100	2021
Women in Quaternary Science Award , Shlemon Center for Quaternary Studies, \$5,761	2019
Outstanding Student Award , Association for Women Geoscientists	2019
Anne Kirtland Selden Lowe Scholarship , University of Wyoming, \$1,500	2019
Page Jenkins Memorial Scholarship , University of Wyoming, \$2,200	2019
Geology & Geophysics Meritorious Graduate Research Grant , University of Wyoming, \$1,260	2018
Walter Harrison and Constance Chatterton Spears Fellowship , University of Wyoming, \$2,500	2018
Bozanic Student Support , University of Wyoming, \$1,000	2018
S H Knight Geology Scholarship , University of Wyoming, \$900	2018
Outstanding Geology Senior Award , University of Massachusetts	2017
Linda G. Lockwood Environmental Science Scholarship , University of Massachusetts	2017
Education Award , AmeriCorps, \$1,500	2016
New York Farmers Scholarship , University of Massachusetts, \$1,000	2016
Angelo Tagliacozzo Memorial Geological Scholarship , NEAIPG, \$2,000	2016
Ascension Farms Scholarship , University of Massachusetts, \$1,000, \$7,000	2014, 2016
Dean's Award , University of Massachusetts, \$2,000	2013–2016
John & Abigail Adams Tuition Waiver , University of Massachusetts	2013–2016

ORGANIZATIONS

American Geophysical Union , Student Member	2019–present
Association for Women Geoscientists , Student Member	2019
American Institute of Professional Geologists , Student Member	2017
Phi Kappa Phi , Student Member	2017
University of Massachusetts Geosciences Club , Vice President	2015–2017
Phi Sigma Pi , Student Member, Education Chair, Regional Delegate	2014–2017
Geological Society of America , Student Member	2014–2017