

Megan Thompson-Munson

PhD Candidate at the University of Colorado Boulder
Pronouns: she/her/hers

✉ metm9666@colorado.edu
🌐 megantm.github.io
🔄 github.com/MeganTM
🌐 linkedin.com/in/megantm

Education

University of Colorado

Boulder, CO

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

May 2024 (expected)

Certificate in Hydrologic Sciences

- Dissertation research: Ice sheet–climate interactions in Greenland's firn
- Advisors: Jennifer Kay and Bradley Markle (2022–present); Jan Lenaerts (2020–2022)

University of Wyoming

Laramie, WY

MS in Geology (GPA: 4.0/4.0)

May 2020

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

University of Massachusetts

Amherst, MA

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

May 2017

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

Publications and Presentations

In Preparation

- [2] **Thompson-Munson, M.**, Kay, J.E., and Markle, B.R. Greenland's firn responds more to warming than to cooling. Submitted to *The Cryosphere*.
- [1] The Firn Symposium Team. Firn on Ice Sheets. Accepted. *Nature Reviews Earth and Environment*.

Published

- [3] **Thompson-Munson, M.**, Wever, N., Stevens, C.M., Lenaerts, J.T.M., and Medley, B. (2023). An evaluation of a physics-based firn model and a semi-empirical firn model across the Greenland Ice Sheet (1980–2020). *The Cryosphere*. <https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-17-2185-2023>
- [2] Maclennan, M.L., Lenaerts, J.T.M., Shields, C.A., Hoffman, A.O., Wever, N., **Thompson-Munson, M.**, Winters, A.C., Pettit, E.C., Scambos, T.A., Wille, J.D. (2023). Climatology and Surface Impacts of Atmospheric Rivers on West Antarctica. *The Cryosphere*. <https://doi.org/10.5194/tc-17-865-2023>
- [1] Lam, A., Bauer, J.E., Fraass, S., Sheffield, S., Limbeck, M.R., Borden, R.M., **Thompson-Munson, M.**, 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*. <https://doi.org/10.15695/jstem/v2i1.05>

Theses

- [2] **Thompson-Munson, M.** (2020). Observations and implications of three-dimensional deformation in the Greenland Ice Sheet. Master's thesis, University of Wyoming.
- [1] **Thompson-Munson, M.** (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

- [3] **Thompson-Munson, M.**, Weaver, N., Stevens, C.M., Lenaerts, J.T.M., and Medley, B. (2023). Greenland Ice Sheet modeled firn properties from SNOWPACK and the Community Firn Model (1980–2020). Zenodo. <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.7671892>.
- [2] **Thompson-Munson, M.** SUMMEDup 2022: The SUMup Dataset Explorer. <https://github.com/MeganTM/SUMMEDup2022>.
- [1] **Thompson-Munson, M.**, 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 and Presentations

* indicates invited talk

- [18] **Thompson-Munson, M.**, Kay, J.E., Markle, B.R. (2023). The Nonlinear Effect of Temperature Governs the Asymmetric Response of Greenland Firn to Idealized Atmospheric Warming and Cooling. AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- [17] Medley, B., Sutterly, T.C., Dattler, M.E., Ryan, J., Siegfried, M., Stevens, C.M., **Thompson-Munson, M.** (2023). Dual-satellite constraint on ice-sheet surface mass balance and firn air content. AGU Fall Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- [16] **Thompson-Munson, M.**, 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.
- [15] ***Thompson-Munson, M.** (29 September 2023). The asymmetric response of Greenland firn to atmospheric warming and cooling. ice+climate seminar, Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH.
- [14] **Thompson-Munson, M.**, Kay, J., and Markle, B. (2023). Characterizing the influence of idealized atmospheric forcings on firn using the SNOWPACK firn model. EGU General Assembly, Vienna, Austria.
- [13] Dunmire, D.R., Weaver, N., Banwell, A.F., Lenaerts, J.T.M., **Thompson-Munson, M.** (2022). Future (2015-2100) Ice-Shelf Firn Air Depletion from a Statistical Firn Emulator. AGU Fall Meeting, Chicago, IL.
- [12] ***Thompson-Munson, M.** (5 October 2022). Greenland Data Management: The Firn Community's Perspective. Greenland Data Workshop, Boulder, CO.
- [11] **Thompson-Munson, M.**, Weaver, 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, online.
- [10] **Thompson-Munson, M.**, 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, online.
- [9] Dunmire, D.R., **Thompson-Munson, M.**, Lenaerts, J., Weaver, N., Keenan, E., Banwell, A.F., and Datta, R. (2020). Improving Understanding of Future Antarctic Ice-Shelf Vulnerability to Atmospheric Warming. AGU Fall Meeting, online.
- [8] **Thompson-Munson, M.**, 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.** (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.**, 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.**, Limbeck, M., Hills, 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.** 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.**, 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.** 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.**, 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.

Reviews Performed

The Cryosphere (2), Earth System Science Data (1), Journal of Climate (1), Journal of Glaciology (1)

Teaching and Mentorship Experience

Teaching Positions

ATOC REU Python Bootcamp Lesson Developer and Instructor	University of Colorado Boulder, CO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Jun 2023: Taught “Intro to Python” and “Arrays and Plotting” (12 students, in-person) – Jun 2022: Taught “Time Series with Pandas” and “Spatial Plots with Cartopy” (9 students, hybrid) – Jun 2021: Developed and taught “Time Series with Pandas” (17 students, online) 	
ATOC 1060: Our Changing Environment Teaching Assistant	University of Colorado Boulder, CO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Spring 2023 (Jan–May): Supported lecture and led two recitation sections (57 students, in-person) 	
Lead Graduate Teacher Program ATOC Lead TA	University of Colorado Boulder, CO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Spring 2023: Supported ATOC TAs and developed university-wide workshop – Fall 2022: Supported ATOC TAs and developed department teaching workshop 	
ATOC 1070: Weather and Atmosphere Lab Teaching Assistant / Instructor on Record	University of Colorado Boulder, CO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fall 2020 (Aug–Dec): Led two lab sections (64 students, online) 	
GEOG 1010: Physical Geography Teaching Assistant	University of Wyoming Laramie, WY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Spring 2020 (Jan–May): Supported lecture and led two lab sections (45 students, in-person and online) – Fall 2019 (Aug–Dec): Supported lecture and led two lab sections (60 students, in-person) 	
GEOG 3600 Earth and Mineral Resources Teaching Assistant	University of Wyoming Laramie, WY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Fall 2018 (Aug–Dec): Led two lab sections (31 students, in-person) 	

Research Mentorship

Ethan Glenn , CIRES Research Experience for Community College Students (RECCS)	May–July 2023
Beth Mason , BA student in ATOC at University of Colorado	Jul 2021–Apr 2022

Teaching Workshops Developed

Teaching in ATOC, University of Colorado	14 Feb 2023
Holistic Collaboration: How to Make Networking Less Awkward, University of Colorado	6 Feb 2023

Teaching Workshops Attended

Grading for Learning, University of Colorado	25 Aug 2023
Supporting Survivors, University of Colorado	25 Aug 2023
Antiracist Pedagogy as Praxis, University of Colorado	24 Aug 2023
Bringing the Self into the Classroom through Storytelling, University of Colorado	24 Aug 2023
The Universal Classroom: Designing Your Course for Diverse Learners, University of Colorado	23 Aug 2023
Disability and Accessibility: What You Need to Know as an Instructor, University of Colorado	23 Aug 2023
Equitable Grading, University of Colorado	14 Apr 2023
Inclusive Practices for Graduate Instructors, University of Colorado	20 Feb 2023
Best Pedagogical Practices for Promoting Mental Health, University of Colorado	17 Aug 2022
Intercultural Communication in the Classroom, University of Colorado	17 Aug 2022
Student Engagement in the Classroom, University of Colorado	9 May 2022
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

Service, Outreach, and Other Employment

Interviews and Articles

- [4] Interviewed for the story: *Three days in the field help grad students bridge observations and data* by Stephanie Maltarich. 09 June 2023. CIRES.
<https://cires.colorado.edu/news/three-days-field-help-grad-students-bridge-observations-and-data>
- [3] **Thompson-Munson, M.** 29 March 2021. *Icebergs*. AntarcticGlaciers.org.
<http://www.antarcticglaciers.org/glacier-processes/glacier-types/icebergs/>
- [2] Interviewed for the article: *How Does an Iceberg Really Float?* by Isabel Amos-Landgraf. 12 March 2021. 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.

Service

ATOC Forum Committee, Member	Aug 2020–May 2021, Aug 2023–present
International Firn 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–May 2021
ATOC Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion 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

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

Other Relevant Employment

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

Field and Laboratory Experience

CIRES Snow Science Project Lab Technician and Mentor	Boulder, CO Oct–Nov 2022
– Mentored three undergraduate students in building a wind-shielded observation tower for measuring snow accumulation as part of a CIRES-funded project with Dr. Mark Seefeldt	
Niwot Ridge Snow Science Field Work Field Assistant (2 days)	Nederland, CO Summer 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 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 Research Technician	Amherst, MA Sep–Dec 2013
– Evaluated the role of biochar in sustainable agriculture by monitoring crop yield in fields and greenhouses	

Technical Skills

- **Programming Languages:** Python (excellent), Matlab (proficient), JavaScript (proficient)
- **Systems:** MacOS, Windows, Unix/Linux, high-performance computing
- **Software:** Microsoft Office, Adobe, Inkscape, \LaTeX , QGIS, ArcGIS, ENVI, JMP, Git/GitHub, Jupyter Lab/Notebook, Google Colab, Google Earth Engine

- **Field Skills:** Firn coring, hot-water drilling, ground-penetrating radar, seismic refraction, rock drilling, Trimble GPS surveying, snow sampling, automatic weather station deployment

Awards, Fellowships, and Scholarships

CECA Travel Award , CIRES, \$750	2023
University Fellowship Award , ATOC, \$1200	2023
Graduate Student Research Award , CIRES, academic-year stipend	2023
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 Sciences, one-semester stipend	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

Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences , Graduate Student	2022–present
European Geosciences Union , Student Member	2022–present
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