

Amber Taylor

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Research Interests

My primary research interests include igneous and metamorphic petrology, planetary science, and geochemistry. I am highly interested in studying meteorites, the terrestrial planets, and their moons.

Education

University of Nevada Las Vegas

August 2016 - May 2020

College of Sciences

- Major: Geology
- GPA: 3.85

Research Experience

Udry Research group, Las Vegas, Nevada

May 2019 - Present

Lab Assistant / Researcher

- Pursuing my undergraduate research thesis on the shergottite Northwest Africa (NWA) 12241
- Textural analyses of the shergottite NWA 12241 as well as other meteorites will be conducted using a petrographic microscope
- Shergottite NWA 12241 will be analyzed using classic petrology methods, including microprobe and Laser Ablation Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (LA ICP-MS) analyses to constrain its petrogenesis
- The texture, composition, and potential mantle source of NWA 12241 will be studied

Las Vegas Isotope Science Laboratory, Las Vegas, Nevada

January 2019 - June 2019

Lab Assistant / Researcher

- Assisted graduate students with their research on the petrology and geochemistry of shield volcanoes
- Created acids, including nitric acid and hydrofluoric acid, to treat rock samples
- Gained experience with the Inductively Coupled Plasma Mass Spectrometry (ICP-MS) instrument

Work Experience

Nevada Rock Deformation Lab, Las Vegas, Nevada

February 2018 – October 2018

Lab Assistant / Researcher

- Subjected rocks to high temperatures and stresses to induce metamorphism
- Created parts for experiments including thermocouples, talc sleeves, and salt sleeves
- Prepared and polished rock samples

- Assisted in setting up and conducting metamorphic experiments
- Recorded and analyzed results from experiments

Plato's Closet, Las Vegas, Nevada
Sales Associate

April 2017 - August 2017

- Helped customers find clothes, answered questions, and practiced good customer service skills
- Worked with other employees to complete tasks in an efficient and timely manner
- Managed the official Plato's Closet Instagram page for their Centennial store location
- Operated cash register, iPads, and various smartphones

Lied Library, Las Vegas, Nevada
Computer Desk Support

August 2016 – December 2016

- Assisted customers finding books both on the shelf and online.
- Helped students with research materials
- Provided technical support for computer issues and answered phones.

Field Trip Experience

Field Trip (GEOL 362) at Frenchman Mountain in Nevada April 2019

- Measured the stratigraphy of the Rainbow Gardens using meter sticks and geologic methods at Frenchman Mountain
- Designed a stratigraphic column to recreate the stratigraphy of the Rainbow Gardens

Field Trip (GEOL 327) at McCullough Pass in Nevada March 2019

- Observed igneous rocks of varying compositions in the field
- Collected fresh samples of igneous and metamorphic rocks
- Interpreted the geologic history of McCullough Pass

Field Trip (GEOL 102) at Frenchman Mountain in Nevada April 2018

- Studied and observed the Great Unconformity at Frenchman Mountain
- Searched for fossils of trilobites as well as other Paleozoic animals

Awards

Dean's Honors List Spring 2017 - Spring 2019

- Awarded to University of Nevada, Las Vegas students who maintain a 3.5 GPA or higher

Bernada French Scholarship 2018 - 2020

- Awarded to high-achieving undergraduate and graduate geoscience students

Natural Science Association Scholarship Fall 2019 - Spring 2020

- Given to outstanding students in the natural sciences and environmental studies

Ronald McDonald House Charities Scholarship 2016 - 2020

- Awarded to students with a 3.0 GPA or higher who are in need of financial assistance
UNLV Excellence Scholarship 2016 - 2020
- A renewable scholarship that is awarded to high-achieving high school seniors who are full-time students and maintain at least a 2.7 GPA throughout their college career
Top 10% Incentive Scholarship 2016 - 2020
- A renewable scholarship that is awarded to high school seniors who are in the top 10% of their graduating class
Douglas Orr Memorial Scholarship Fall 2018 - Spring 2019
- Awarded to high-achieving undergraduate students who are pursuing a degree in geoscience
Sciences General Scholarship Fall 2018 - Spring 2019
- Awarded to high-achieving undergraduate students who are pursuing a degree in the sciences

Activities and Affiliations

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- Society of Exploration Geophysicists Student Chapter Member** October 2018 - present
 - Participated in the organization's field trips
 - Gained real-world experience in the field of geology
 - Geosymposium at University of Nevada Las Vegas** April 2019
 - Volunteered as a judge at Geosymposium in April 2019
 - Judged scientific posters and provided feedback

Extracurricular Activities

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- Hearts Alive Village, Las Vegas, Nevada** May 2017 – December 2018
 - Worked with and cared for homeless cats

Skills

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- **Software:** Adobe Illustrator, Microsoft Word, PowerPoint, Office, Publisher, Excel, Pages, Numbers, Keynote, Sony Vegas Pro, Logic Pro X, GarageBand, and Final Cut Pro
 - Excellent physical condition, able to traverse all terrains, avid hiker, nature enthusiast