

MAZVITA CHIKOMO

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EDUCATION

Graduate	New Brunswick, NJ
Degree: Ph.D. Student in Earth and Planetary Science, Rutgers University, The State University of New Jersey	Aug 2022-May 2029
Honors and Awards: Dean's Diversity Graduate Student Fellow	
Undergraduate	Wooster, OH
Degree: B.A in Environmental Geoscience, The College of Wooster	Aug 2018-May 2022
Honors and Awards: Phi Beta Kappa, Association for Women Geoscientists Geoscience Inclusion, Diversity, Equality and Accessibility (IDEA) Scholarship, Karl Ver Steeg Prize (Major student with highest overall standing at the end of their junior year), Experiential Learning Student Award, Dean's List, Donald R. Coates Endowed Geology Scholarship, Theodore Williams Scholarship, Wooster International Scholarship, Baily Scholarship, and Women's Advisory Board Hardship Fund.	

GPA: 3.935

PUBLICATIONS AND APPEARANCES

- **Poster Presentation, Geological Society of America:** "Modeling Meets Mirror Lake: How Highly Urbanized Areas Influence Surface Water- Groundwater Interactions", GSA Connects 2021 Oct 2021
- **Co-author:** "Mirror Lake Monitoring: Water Level Observations and Groundwater-Surface Water Interactions", GSA Connects 2021 Oct 2021
- **Co-author:** "The Impact of a Team of Undergraduate TAs in a First-Year Seminar", eSource for College Transitions, Vol. 18 No. 3, July 2021 July 2021
- **Earth Science Junior Independent Study:** "The Effects of Climate Change on Groundwater Flow in The Spokane Valley Rathdrum Prairie Aquifer, Spokane County, Washington" Jan 2021-May 2021
 - A semester long research project devising a research plan and analyzing research methodologies.
- **Oral Presentation, American Geophysical Union :** "Growth Decrease Linked to Warming Minimum Temperatures at Coastal Mountain Hemlock Sites, Gulf of Alaska", Abstract, AGU Conference Fall Meeting 2020 Dec 2020
- **Co-author:** "Varying Tree Response to Pluvial Conditions by Natural and Exotic Species, Northeast Ohio, USA", Abstract, AGU Conference Fall Meeting 2020 Dec 2020

EARTH SCIENCE EXPERIENCES

Stem Zone Success Initiative: Stem Zone Intern and Stem Success Initiative Intern	Wooster, OH
	Aug 2019 - Present
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate growth in skills and learning for students as a teaching assistant.• Serve as a role model and peer mentor for students.• Act as a classroom advocate and encourage effective study habits.• Zone Intern for the courses: Environmental Geology, Geology of Natural Hazards, and Hydrology• Promoted to STEM Success Initiative Intern overseeing Stem Zone	May 2021
Applied Methods Research Experience Peer Mentor (Team based)	May 2021- July 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Served as a peer mentor in a 10-person team consisting of 2 advisors, 6 students and 2 peer mentors in an eight-week stormwater research program.• Facilitated effective group discussion and relationship building exercises to create an equitable and inclusive environment.• Led and created effective presentation making strategies that increased work efficiency by 30%.• Taught mapping software like ArcGIS Pro/Online and assisted in the creation of over 20 maps and graphics.• Oversaw and peer-reviewed the generation of over 50 pages worth of reports for 4 sites.	
APEX Fellowship: Ohio State University Groundwater Modeling Applied Research Program (Online)	May 2021- July 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Served as a land-use environmental consultant for OSU, Earth Sciences Department, based in Columbus, OH, collecting, analyzing lake data, and educating the public about aesthetic water management.• Conducted independent research in a 10- week applied research program with supervisor, Dr. Audrey Sawyer.• Analyzed Groundwater flow of Mirror Lake using ArcGIS to create and analyze Digital Elevation Models.• Synthesized research to create a report to be presented at Geological Society of America (GSA) Annual Meeting.• Designed groundwater modeling tutorial for future College of Wooster Earth Science students.	
Applied Methods Research Experience (Online, Team based)	May 2020- July 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Served as a Tree Ring Analysis research assistant for The College of Wooster Tree Ring Lab.• Collaborated with two other students in a virtual 8 week program.• Analyzed tree rings for trees in Columbia Bay, Alaska and Wooster, Ohio.• Prepared a research paper and poster.• Presented research at The College of Wooster El Symposium.• Carried out an oral presentation at the American Geophysical Union 2020 Fall Meeting.• AMRE Summer 2020 – Remote Learning and Tree Rings – Part 1. The Oaks at the Kinney Soccer Fields, Wooster, Ohio Wooster Geologists	
Earth Sciences Research Assistant	Jan 2020-March 2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Tree Ring research assistant for The College of Wooster Tree ring Lab.• Analyzed and cross dated tree ring chronologies using a microscope for tree cores.• Calibrated a master chronology from scanned tree cores using COFECHA.• Carried out a climate analysis using Climate Explorer to analyze tree ring correlations with climate.	

The Economist Open Future Essay Competition (Online)

Aug 2019

- Authored an essay that combined my knowledge and experiences in Ohio and in Zimbabwe to reflect issues associated with climate change and provided workable solutions.
- Essay featured on Economist website under developing economies [Open Future Essay Competition 2019 - A bevy of ideas to respond to climate change | Open Future | The Economist](#)

OTHER EXPERIENCE**Akron, OH****The Commons Akron Innovation Pilot Program: First Prize Winner**

Oct 2019

- Participated in a two-day intensive training on entrepreneurial mindset.
- Collaborated in a 4- person team with students from different institutions.
- Tasked to use the Internet of Things to improve the customer brand experience for The J.M. Smucker Company.
- Communicated remotely for 3 weeks exchanging market research and data.
- Awarded first prize for minimum viable product presented at the presentation competition.

CAMPUS LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE**Wooster, OH****Current Positions:**

- African Student Union, Co-President
- STEM Success Senior Intern
- Geology Club, Vice President
- Admissions Senior Intern
- Peer Mentor

Past Positions:

- Future Alumni Network Club Aug 2019 - May 2021
- Course Design Assistant July 2020- Aug 2020
- Student Government Association- At Large Senator Feb 2020 – May 2020

CAMPUS EMPLOYMENT**Wooster, OH**

- Ebert Building Monitor Aug 2019 - Dec 2020
- Course Design Assistant July 2020 - Aug 2020
- Learning Garden Research assistant July 2020 - Aug 2020
- English Department Research Assistant Dec 2019 - Jan 2020
- Alumni Center receptionist Dec 2019 - Jan 2020
- Peer Note Taker Aug 2019 - Dec 2019
- Campus Dining Aug 2018 - Jan 2019

SKILLS

- **Technical:** Highly Proficient knowledge of ArcGIS, Microsoft Office, Hydrological Analyses, Cross Sectional Analysis
- **Training and Workshops:** Ohio Stormwater Training, Ohio State University Groundwater Modeling Workshop, First aid Wilderness Training, and Laboratory Safety Training.
- **Communication:** Excellent written and verbal skills from presentations and facilitating discussions
- **Language:** Bilingual in English and Shona (native). French (basic).
- **Other Article:** [Celebrating #BlackInGeosciences Week: Finding My Voice | Wooster Geologists](#)