

I was so honored to receive a Fall Research Award Grant that allowed me to travel to the American Geophysical Union 2023 Fall conference and present my research on shell heaps and clam shells as paleoclimate proxies. The conference itself was an enlightening experience, and I was able to attend many talks, both paleo-related and related to other geophysical interests. Presenting my research at the conference was a wonderful opportunity to share the importance of considering the ethics of excavating shell heaps and gather feedback from professors and peers who have completed research on similar topics. The presentation helped me to improve my public speaking skills and my ability to answer questions on the spot. At the conference, I was also able to attend talks such as Ignite, which was facilitated by NASA. This talk broadened the scope of my geophysical interests and allowed me to meet so many inspiring people. At the conference, Brielle and I were also able to meet up with several collaborators from the science communication portion of the summer, which allowed us to hear about the research they have completed since the summer. Attending the conference enabled me to make so many connections and learn so much about future research I would be interested in conducting. I am so grateful to have received the grant, as I gained so much from being able to present at AGU.