

# GRADUATE STUDENT SPOTLIGHT



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## TELL US ABOUT YOURSELF

*When I am not looking at rocks for my own research, I love hiking in the Catskills and the White Mountains of NH to look at other rocks! I have a pet bunny named Berry and a thriving house plant collection. I also love to ice skate and roller skate in my free time. Once I graduate from Wesleyan, I look forward to pursuing my Ph.D.!*

## IS THERE A "MIND BLOWING" CONCEPT IN YOUR FIELD OF RESEARCH THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE?

*We can glue a rock on a microscope slide and cut it down to 30 microns thick - thinner than a human hair! When we shine cross-polarized light through it under the microscope, each mineral refracts the light differently and can be beautiful rainbow colors. Google thin sections!*

## WHAT IS A FUN FACT THAT NOT MANY OF US KNOW ABOUT YOU?

*I play sax and was in the marching band at the University of Connecticut*

## WHAT SONG HAS BEEN STUCK IN YOUR HEAD LATELY?

*"Rock Lobster" by the B-52's*

## TELL US ABOUT YOUR CURRENT RESEARCH

*My current research involves mapping the collisional boundary between two of CT's accreted terranes – crustal blocks that collided with proto-North America and remained "stuck on" during the opening of the Atlantic Ocean. I am trying to understand as much as possible about how the igneous and metamorphic rocks in my study area formed, how their textures and mineral compositions changed under high temperature and strain, and how they were ultimately brought to be exposed at the surface today. One of my favorite aspects of my research is doing fieldwork, but I also love exploring different analytical techniques in the lab to help us further understand each rock's story.*