Claudiu Nistor

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Geosciences • 2026–present • University of Texas (UT) • Austin, TX
- Advised by Dr. Jaime D. Barnes

M.S. in Geosciences • 2023–2025 • University of Texas • Austin, TX
- *Mixed-Origin Serpentinites Record the Tectonic and Magmatic Evolution of the Dun Mountain Ophiolite Belt, New Zealand* (advised by Dr. Jaime D. Barnes)

B.S in Geology • 2017–2019 • University of Washington • Seattle, WA
- *magna cum laude*, Departmental Honors, 3.85 GPA

A.A in Liberal Studies • 2012–2014 • Saddleback College • Mission Viejo, CA
- *cum laude*, 3.59 GPA

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Ph.D. Dissertation and Graduate Research Assistant Work • 2025–current • Jackson School of Geosciences, UT Austin
- Preliminary work on using S isotopes of tephra-hosted minerals to gain insights on the hydrothermal systems of volcanoes in Costa Rica
- Preliminary work on using Ca and Sr isotopes to trace fluid sources in rodingites from New Zealand
- Major elements in relict grains by EPMA (~40 hours)
- Mineral ID via Raman Spectroscopy (~35 hours)

M.S. Thesis and Graduate Research Assistant Work • 2023–2025 • Jackson School of Geosciences, UT Austin
- Thesis: Major and trace elements, and O and H isotopes to determine the provenance of serpentinites from the Dun Mountain Ophiolite Belt, New Zealand.
- Hydrogen isotopes by TC/EA and IRMS and O isotopes by laser fluorination and IRMS (~70 hours)
- Trace elements in bulk rocks by ICP-MS (~20 hours)
- Major elements in relict grains by EPMA (~12 hours)
- Trace elements in relict grains by LA-ICP-MS (~6 hours)

Undergraduate Research Assistant • 2019 • Kinematics & Impacts Laboratory, Advanced Propulsion Laboratory, UW Earth and Space Sciences
- Assisted in the launch and recovery of multi-stage Earth analogue asteroid-sampling rockets
- Developed techniques to recover intact core samples from recovered rocket nose cones
- Fabricated petrographic thin sections of samples collected from rockets and impact sites
- Analyzed thin sections and hand samples to synthesize petrographic descriptions and document signs of petrological changes caused by the sampling process

Undergraduate Independent Research • 2019 • Undergraduate Honors Program, UW Earth and Space Sciences
- Compiled 29 years of daily Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) data from 7 SNOTEL sites within the Cedar River Municipal Watershed

- Used GIS software to calculate the total SWE volumes in of the Cedar River Municipal Watershed
- Calculated how much summertime water storage Chester Morse Lake would lose per decade at the current rate of local snowline rise

WORK EXPERIENCE

Polarized Light Microscopist • 2020–2023 • EMSL Analytical, Inc., Seattle, WA

- Detected and quantified asbestos minerals and other hazardous constituents in construction materials
- Calibrated polarized light microscopes, phase-contrast microscopes, and refractive index fluids
- Created and processed invoices, collect payment info from clients, and distributed reports
- Organized and maintained lab sample archives, project paperwork, and sample transfers
- Maintained professional relationships with clients to quickly process projects and requests
- Trained and managed two co-workers from 2022-23

Assistant Foreman • 2015–2016 • Dunn Lumber, Seattle, WA

- Helped customers pick out and load lumber into vehicles
- Restocked and organized inventory by hand and forklift
- Organized and fulfilled product transfers between different store branches
- Trained new employees on general work duties and forklift operation
- Managed three co-workers on weekends

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Assistant • Spring 2024, 2025, 2026 • *Gems and Gem Minerals (GEO 302Q), UT Austin*

- Taught two lab sections of 10 students to facet their own gemstones using faceting machines
- Led labs that focused on hands-on study of minerology and gemology
- Delivered a 50-minute lecture on garnets to the lecture section (2024)

Teaching Assistant • Fall 2023 • *Physical Geology (GEO 401), UT Austin*

- Led two lab sections of about 18 students on Earth's surface and internal properties and processes.
- Taught students how to identify and describe rock and mineral hand samples
- Delivered weekly 15-minute lectures that recapped lecture material
- Graded lab assignments and lab exams

Assistant Teaching Assistant • Winter 2019 • *Mineralogy & Petrology (ESS 212), UW, ESS*

- Assisted a class of 60 students with homework and concepts relating to mineralogy and petrology. In the lab portion of the class, I helped students learn to identify the various hand specimens of rocks and minerals presented throughout the class.

PUBLICATIONS

Nistor, C., Barnes J.D., Dragovic B., Gevedon M., Stockli S.F., Scott J.M., Palmer M.C. 2026. Mixed-origin serpentinites record the tectonic and magmatic evolution of the Dun Mountain Ophiolite Belt, Aotearoa New Zealand. Lithos 544–545, 12. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.lithos.2026.108775

Poulaki, E.M., Bickert, M., Vannucchi, P., Shuck, B.D., Akizawa, N., Pandey, A., Morishita, T., Sanfilippo, A., Cunningham, E.H., Barnes, J.D., Garber, J.M., **Nistor, C.**, Bernard, R., Tribuzio, R., Loocke, M., Abe, N., Stefano, A. Di, Filina, I.Y., Fu, Q., Gontharet, S.B.L., Kearns, L.E., Koorapati, R.K., Lei, C., Loreto, M.F., Magri, L., Menapace, W., Pavlovics, V.L., Pezard, P.A., Rodriguez-Pilco, M.A., Zhao, X., Pérez-Gussinyé, M., Garrido, C.J., Ranero, C.R., Estes, E.R., Malinverno, A., Zitellini, N., 2026. Granitic intrusions enhance strain localization and rapid mantle exhumation along an oceanic detachment fault. Science Advances 12. https://doi.org/10.1126/sciadv.aec6950

PRESENTATIONS

Spring 2026 – **Nistor, C.**, Barnes J.D., Dragovic B., Gevedon M.L., Stockli D.F., Stockli L.D., Hams. J., A Targeted Approach to Implementing Ca Isotopes to Trace Fluid Sources in Rodingites Using the Major Element Content of Mineral Separates. Poster presentation at the 15th Annual Jackson School of Geosciences Student Research Symposium

Spring 2025 – **Nistor, C.**, Barnes J.D., Dragovic B., Gevedon M.L., Stockli D.F., Mixed-Origin Serpentinites Record the Tectonic Evolution of the Dun Mountain Ophiolite Belt, New Zealand, Poster presentation at the 14th Annual Jackson School of Geosciences Student Research Symposium

Fall 2024 – **Nistor, C.**, Barnes J.D., Dragovic B., Gevedon M.L., Stockli S.F., Isotopic and Elemental Analysis of Serpentinites to Determine the Tectonic History of the Dun Mountain Ophiolite Belt, New Zealand, Poster presentation at GSA Connects 2024 in Anaheim, CA

Spring 2019 – **Nistor, C**., The Effect of Snowline Rise on Chester Morse Lake, Poster presentation at the 2019 Mary Gates Undergraduate Research Symposium

Abstracts

GSA Connects 2024 – **Nistor, C.**, Barnes J.D., Dragovic B., Gevedon M.L., Stockli S.F., Isotopic and Elemental Analysis of Serpentinites to Determine the Tectonic History of the Dun Mountain Ophiolite Belt, New Zealand, Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs. Vol. 56, No. 5, doi: 10.1130/abs/2024AM-403433

GSA Connects 2025 – Hite, C., Lara Rivas, J., Mims, D., Hams, J., Gevedon, M., **Nistor, C.**, Barnes, J.D., Stockli, L., Stockli, D., Dragovic, B., Goswami, N., and Satkoski, A. Isotopic Insights into Progressive Rodingitization in the Dun Mountain Ophiolite, Aotearoa New Zealand. Geological Society of America Abstracts with Programs. Vol. 57, No.6, doi:10.1130/abs/2025AM-10765

CERTIFICATIONS

2024 – CRP/AED, UTRec

2023 – FEMA Independent Study *(IS-120.c: An Introduction to Exercises, IS-230.e: Fundamentals of Emergency Management, IS-700.b: An Introduction to the National Incident Management System)*

2023 – FCC Amateur Extra Class License

2015 – Messier Observing Program (silver level), Astronomical League

AWARDS

2026 – Graduate Student Research Grant, Geological Society of America

2025 – Graduate School Summer Excellence Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin

2024 – R.L. Folk/E.F. McBride Petrography Contest, 1st place, Graduate division, Jackson School of Geosciences

2024 – Michael Bruce Duchin, Centennial Memorial Endowed Presidential Scholarship, Jackson School of Geosciences