

# Scott Wipperfurth

## AY 2018-19 All-S.T.A.R. Fellow

College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences

Department of Geology

5<sup>th</sup> year Graduate Student, RA



I have served as a TA and RA within the Geology program at UMD. The field and laboratory work I teach dovetail with my previous educational experiences and bring forth a fresh perspective: that of the teacher. Through teaching I have gained an appreciation for providing a strong foundation for which students can build upon, particularly with respect to the critical evaluation of a problem. Teaching in turn has bolstered my own educational experience as discursive teaching to beginner/intermediate students required of me a multifaceted understanding of concepts. Additionally, the close interaction with the undergraduate body through teaching has provided me with the opportunity to fill an educational gap with the creation of a field methods short-course to better prepare students for a 6-week field camp they will attend. This course would not have been facilitated without my teaching assistantship.

The insights gained from teaching have been emulated during my UMD research tenure. My RA-ship has enabled and provided yearly geology and physics educational experiences in multiple foreign countries through federally funded fellowships and conferences. These interdisciplinary studies have provided a multifaceted viewpoint of my research otherwise unattainable. Moreover, these experiences have furnished a domestic and international network of collaborators, resulting in four co-authored publications, another two manuscripts in the works, and a first authored manuscript in review with a high-impact journal. These educational experiences gained through teaching and research at UMD have provided the necessary skills and contacts to succeed as I approach the final year of my formal education.