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My name is Rafael Almeida, and I am originally from Venezuela. I received my bachelors there at the Universidad de Los Andes in Geological Engineering, and then went to Texas A & M Univeristy for my master's degree. There I worked in paleostress analysis of cores from the SAFOD borehole in Parkfield, California. After that I went to Lamont for my PhD, where I worked with Nick Christie-Blick, Sidney Hemming, Mark Anders and Jim Cochran studying the Miocene tectonics of the Basin and Range in the Utah, Nevada, Arizona tri-state area. I finished my degree in December 2013. After that I spent 4 and half years as a Research Fellow at the Earth Observatory of Singapore working n Himalayan Neotectonics. Finally, I moved back to Latin America and became faculty at Yachay Tech University in Ecuador, in September 2018. I am married to fellow Lamonter Anna Foster (who graduated in 2014 working with Goran Ekstrom). While at Lamont I was in charge of beer hour for almost 4 years and was an avid participant in the various sports communities. I am now excited to be a part of this committee and help as I can!