

GEOFORCE MONTHLY

Changing lives since 2005



The GeoFORCE BrightSTARS Group in front of the Golden Gate Bridge

GEOFORCE AT AGU 2023

The Annual AGU (American Geophysical Union) National Conference, one of the largest scientific conferences in the world, was held last week in San Francisco. AGU is an organization for Earth, atmospheric, ocean, hydrologic, space, and planetary scientists and enthusiasts which boasts over 25,000 attendees. Of those attendees this year, several GeoFORCE team members, students, and alumni presented posters and gave talks over the work that they have done.

Dr. Leah Turner gave a talk on the GeoFORCE Family idea, which would propose introducing families to the geosciences. Outreach coordinator Eleanor Cote also presented a short talk and poster over using a social framework in the 2023 virtual academy. Several of our GeoFORCE alumni also presented posters, including Enrique Morales (who was featured in the April 2021 monthly, linked [here!](#)), James Sun, and Jada Siverand (who was featured in the December 2020 monthly, linked [here!](#)).

Our 12th grade students arrived on Wednesday to present in the high school session of AGU called Bright STARS, which stands for "Bright Students Training as Research Scientists". While at the conference, the students had the chance to explore the cutting-edge research and fascinating presentations.

Paola Sarabia (Eagle Pass High School) stated, "My favorite part of the conference was the vibrant exchange of ideas and the sense of camaraderie among scientists from diverse backgrounds. AGU created a dynamic environment where intellectual curiosity flourished, fostering connections that extend beyond geographical boundaries. Engaging with experts and fellow researchers expanded my perspectives and ignited a renewed passion for the scientific community."

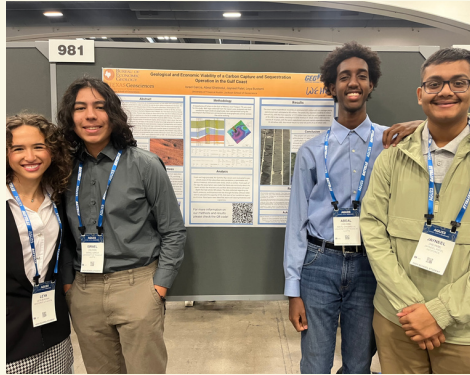
The research they presented was from the 12th grade research experience this past summer, where they worked alongside researchers and faculty from the Jackson School. The six groups had ranked top place at the GeoFORCE Symposium which took place at the end of the academy.

The Bright STARS session took place Thursday morning, and the students did an amazing job presenting! "I loved presenting at AGU, leaving people fascinated and making them aware of micro plastics was impactful. We got to meet so many people ranging from teachers, professors, college advisors, CEO's, even other students", said Claudia Hernandez (Eagle Pass High School).

12TH GRADE STUDENT'S EXPERIENCE

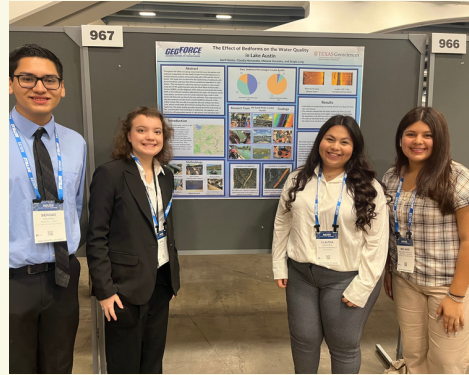
"Geological and Economic Variability of a Carbon Capture and Sequestration Operation in the Gulf Coast"

Led by Sue Hovorka
L-R: Leya Bustami, Israel Garcia, Abeal Ghebrelul, Jayneel Patel



"The Effect of Bedforms on the Water Quality in Lake Austin"

Led by Jamie Austin
L-R: Sergio Long, April Neeley, Claudia Hernandez, Melanie Gonzalez



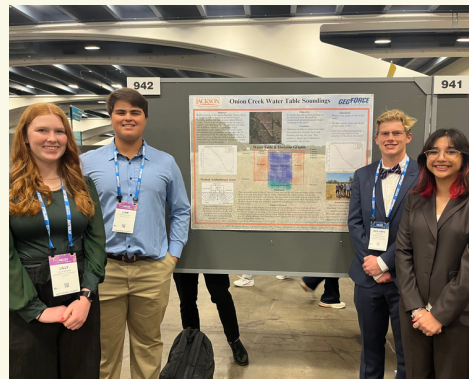
"Was Coats Land, Antarctica Once Part of West Texas?"

Led by Staci Loewy
L-R: Staci Loewy, Ana Deny, Alani Skinner, Ninette Fernandez, Mikayla Birney



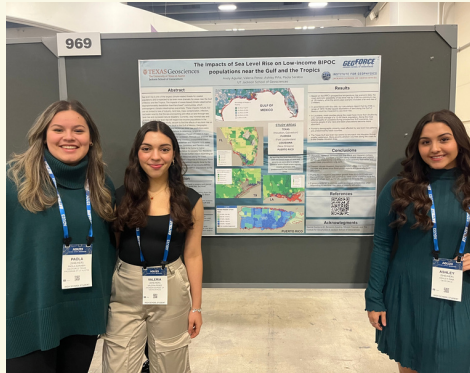
"Onion Creek Water Table Soundings"

Led by Dallas Sherman
L-R: Lilly Moore, Liam Sweeney, Benjamin Blume, Elizabeth Kvale



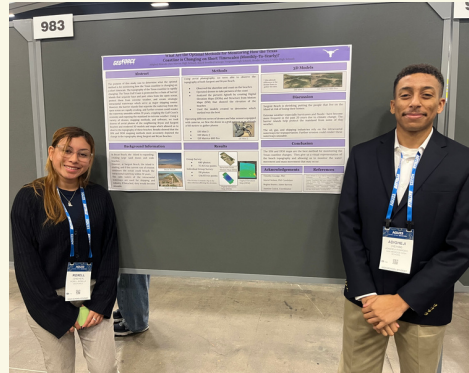
"The Impacts of Sea Level Rise on Low-Income BIPOC Populations Near the Gulf and the Tropics"

Led by Benjamin Kiesling
L-R: Paola Sarabia, Valeria Perez, Ashley Piña



"What are the Optimal Methods for Monitoring how the Texas Coastline is Changing on Short Timescales (Monthly-To-Yearly)?"

Led by Tim Goudge
L-R: Roxell Bonilla, Adigheji Ifowodo



Students enjoying dinner at House of Nanking

Roxell Bonilla (Carnegie Vanguard High School) stated, "I would love to present my poster again! It was an opportunity of a lifetime and my research could possibly help others in the future with their studies!"

Many of the students expressed that the experience heightened their interest in science.

"I am way more interested in science, I'm really looking forward to doing more research on water quality", said Sergio Long (CC Winn High School)

The 12th grade students also got to experience a bit of sightseeing around San Francisco, including places like Pier 39, Union Square, and the Golden Gate Bridge. Lilly Moore (Utopia ISD) stated, "My overall favorite part of the trip was getting to see the city of San Francisco. I enjoyed getting to experience driving up and down the hills, seeing the Golden Gate Bridge, and all of the normal things like houses that to me were so interesting because of how different they were from what I was used to."

AGU 2024 will take place in Washington D.C. We can't wait to see the projects our amazing 12th graders come up with this coming summer!

IMPORTANT DATES

Here are a list of dates to keep in mind for **January** and **February**:

JANUARY						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

FEBRUARY						
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29		

Future Students

Alumni

Current Students

Jan 23rd Virtual Resume Workshop

Feb 1st New Student Applications Close

Jan 31st GeoFORCE Longhorn Social Event

Feb 15th Summer Registration Opens

Feb 16th JSG Student Research Symposium

Feb 21st GeoFORCE Longhorn Social Event

**LOOKING FOR AN INTERNSHIP THIS SUMMER?
CLICK [HERE](#) TO CHECK OUT OUR JOB BOARD!**

GeoFORCE is a free youth education outreach program that targets underserved and low-income communities in Austin, Houston, and Southwest Texas. The Jackson School of Geosciences at the University of Texas created GeoFORCE to identify and develop the next generation of STEM leadership for discovery, research, and management of energy, minerals, water, the environment, and natural hazards for the benefit of society.