

GEOFORCE MONTHLY

Changing lives since 2005



Daniel Campos (R) with STEMFORCE staff and students at Enchanted Rock in 2019.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DANIEL CAMPOS

Daniel Campos' journey with GeoFORCE did not end after his last summer in 2010. Starting in April 2014, as he studied to earn his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from The University of Texas at Austin, Campos worked as a student assistant for the GeoFORCE office. Alongside recruitment and organizational tasks, Campos worked as a coordinator, planning logistics and leading summer field academies.

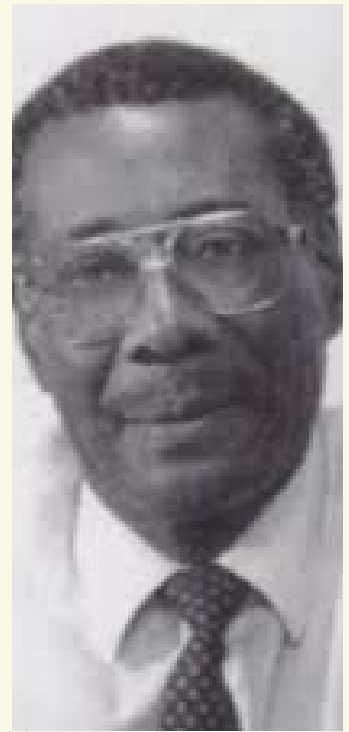
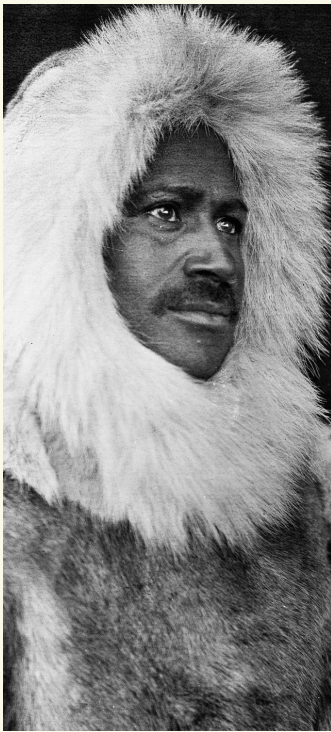
"I can emphatically say that packing for multiple 55-person trips leaving on the same weekend was as stressful and exciting as it sounds," Campos said. "Those are very fond memories now. As a coordinator, I learned how crucial it is to make decisions in the moment. The opportunity to serve as coordinator of GeoFORCE academies has so far been the ultimate achievement in my geology career, second only to my acceptance in the JSG graduate program."

Campos graduated with his chemistry degree in 2016. After a short break, he returned to the GeoFORCE program to work as an office assistant and coordinator through the end of the summer 2019. In fall 2018, he was accepted to graduate school at The University of Texas Jackson School of Geosciences. Under the mentorship of Dr. Elizabeth Catlos, Campos is studying the thermal evolution of the High Tatra Mountains in northern Slovakia.

After earning his master's, Campos plans to continue on to a Ph.D. program, though he hopes to work some in industry first. Eventually, he would like to teach at the collegiate level. He reflected on the experiences that led him on this path.

"My first GeoFORCE summer in 2007 stands out most in my memory. Visiting Harper's Ferry and seeing the convergence of the Potomac and Shenandoah rivers... was such an extraordinary experience to me at that age," Campos said. "The other most influential experience was studying abroad in summer 2012. I attended The Institut National des Sciences Appliquées de Toulouse in France. I took a course in international engineering standards. Leaving the country for the first time, after having grown up in a small town, gave me an appreciation for matters at the global scale, a skill crucial to geology."

GeoFORCE Texas is an outreach program through The University of Texas at Austin's Jackson School of Geosciences that introduces high school students from underserved communities to STEM and geoscience careers through summer field experiences, corporate mentoring, and college guidance. In 2015, our program was honored with the Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring—the highest such honor from the United States government. More information can be found on our website at <https://www.jsg.utexas.edu/geoforce/>.



From left to right: Matthew Henson, Dr. Marguerite Williams, Dr. Randolph Bromery, and Dr. Mack Gipson Jr.

GEOFORCE 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2020 annual report is now live. Contents include: a director's message detailing the current state of GeoSTEM and the GeoFORCE program, an overview of the 2020 summer academies, spotlights of standout alumni, and more.

You can read the annual report on our [website here](#).

INTERNSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

- Geoscience Research Programs & Internship Opportunities for Undergrads & Recent Grads
- Scholarships for Undergraduate & Graduate Students
- Scholarships for High School Students

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BLACK HISTORY IN THE GEOSCIENCES

In celebration of Black History Month, the GeoFORCE team would like to take a moment to celebrate four pioneers in the geosciences whose hard work opened the door for hundreds more black geoscientists.

Matthew Henson (1866 - 1955) was an explorer and field assistant to Robert Peary. Henson voyaged to the Arctic seven times from 1891 to 1914. He is said to be the first person in human history to step on the North Pole as part of Peary's 1909 expedition. In 1912, he published a memoir titled *A Negro Explorer at the North Pole* and, in 1937, was the first black person invited to join the Explorers Club, a professional society that promotes scientific exploration and field study.

Dr. Marguerite Williams (1895 - 1991) was the first black American to earn a doctorate degree in geology. She received her master's degree in geology at Columbia University in 1930, worked for a decade as a teacher and division chair at Miners Teacher College, then returned to school to receive her Ph.D. in 1942 at the Catholic University of America. The American Geophysical Union (AGU) annually gives a Marguerite T. Williams Award to a mid-career earth and planetary scientist with significant contributions to research and community building.

Dr. Randolph Bromery (1926 - 2013) was an Army Air Corps veteran who flew missions in Italy during World War II. In 1945, Bromery became the first black professional geologist within the United States Geological Survey (USGS) where he worked as an airborne exploration geophysicist. He earned his Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University in 1968 and became geology faculty at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1969. In 1971, he was made chancellor of the entire university and established multiple initiatives including the Committee for the Collegiate Education of Black and Other Minority Students. Bromery and his wife, Cecile, created the Bromery Fund within the Geological Society of America (GSA) to be awarded annually to a black or other minority geoscientist who made significant contribution to research or helped to open the field to other minorities.

Dr. Mack Gipson Jr. (1931 - 1995) was the first black man to earn a Ph.D. in geology, which he received from the University of Chicago in 1963. Throughout his career, he worked for companies and organizations such as the National Science Foundation (NSF), Exxon, ERCO Industries, and Phillips Petroleum. He founded the geology department at Virginia State University. In 1979, he became the founding advisor for the National Associate of Black Geologists and Geophysicists (NABGG).