

# GEOFORCE MONTHLY

Changing lives since 2005



Christian Victoria (left) with fellow GeoFORCE 10th grade students at the Grand Canyon in summer 2019.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: CHRISTIAN VICTORIA

Christian Victoria just completed the GeoFORCE Program in summer 2021. He is a senior at Westside High School in Houston, Texas. He plans to attend the University of Virginia, majoring in Computer Science. Victoria reached out to coordinator John Hash to discuss his current internship and the effect GeoFORCE had on his future.

Victoria is an intern at Burns & McDonnell, an engineering company that focuses on power, transmission lines, and substation design. His internship models electrical infrastructure across Texas. Victoria creates drawings on AutoCAD and compiles construction packages that provide information to construction workers out on the field.

One aspect of these construction packages includes boring map information that displays the layers of the earth encountered at these boring hole locations.

"I make the maps that come along with the boring logs. These hyper-accurate maps require topographical intuition that I was able to obtain through GeoFORCE," Victoria wrote. "Although I didn't believe I would be entering the geology field or any engineering that would be remotely close to geology or geography, it turns out that I was wrong in a good way."

Despite being a geology educational program, GeoFORCE combines all sides of STEM into the summer programming. 9th graders learn marine science and biology. 10th graders explore astronomy. 11th graders discuss aspects of meteorology and ecology. In the 12th grade, engineering and geoscience combine heavily as students are put into small groups to explore terraforming a hypothetical exoplanet.

"I am so thankful for not only the amazing trips I was able to take with GeoFORCE and the friends I was able to create bonds and connections with because of this program," Victoria wrote. "But also for learning about geology, geosciences, and engineering."

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/>.



Shell professional mentor Bill Magee (right) talking with GeoFORCE Southwest students in summer 2019.

## AGU BRIDGE PROGRAM

The AGU Bridge Program is part of the Inclusive Graduate Education Network to increase participation of students from historically marginalized communities in geoscience graduate programs. The AGU Bridge Program gives students an alternate pathway to apply to graduate school using a common application system.

Interested students apply by March 31!

## INTERNSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

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

**GEOFORCE**  
TEXAS  
JACKSON SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES

 @GeoFORCETexas

 @geoforce\_texas

Questions or comments? Email us at [geoforce@jsg.utexas.edu](mailto:geoforce@jsg.utexas.edu)

## CELEBRATING SHELL'S COMMITMENT

As GeoFORCE approaches its 18th summer, Shell Oil Company celebrates a massive giving milestone. With the receipt of another generous gift for summer 2022, Shell passed \$2 million in funding for the GeoFORCE summer academies.

Shell was one of our initial sponsors in 2005 and their generous donation increased over the years, leading to their current position as our highest-giving corporate sponsor. This \$2 million is more in direct programmatic expenses than any other GeoFORCE sponsoring company.

"Shell is proud to continue our commitment to GeoFORCE," said Bill Langin, Senior Vice President of Deep Water Exploration. "We hope that the program inspires the next generation of geoscientists to help provide the world with more and cleaner energy."

Every summer, Shell sends professional mentors to engage with the students and inspire them to future success. This summer, for the first time in program history, a GeoFORCE alumni will be a professional mentor of a sponsoring company. Caleb McBride was a GeoFORCE student from 2006-2009. He now works as a Technical Data Management Analyst at Shell.

"I benefited greatly from my involvement with GeoFORCE," McBride said. "I learned a lot about geology during my studies and in my time at Shell. When Shell reached out to me about the opportunity [to be a professional mentor], I was thrilled."

Additionally, Shell offers the [Shell Oil Company Technical Scholarship and Shell Incentive Fund Scholarship](#) to provide financial and career assistance to graduating high school seniors who have expressed an interest in the energy industry and demonstrated an aptitude in mathematics and science.

The GeoFORCE Program is enormously grateful to Shell's generosity and outreach.

"Thank you so much for all that you have done for us GeoFORCE kids," wrote Isabella De Luna, a student from rural Southwest Texas. "It really makes me happy to know there are good people in the world that want to see others succeed and put in their money, effort, and time to make sure that happens."

If you're interested in following in Shell's footsteps, [Kristen Tucek](#) is happy to meet with you about giving opportunities. Right now, new individual donors and corporate sponsor gifts will be matched dollar-for-dollar.