

GEOFORCE MONTHLY

Changing lives since 2005



Chevron representatives visiting with GeoFORCE alumni in Spring 2023

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: CORPORATE ENGAGEMENT

GeoFORCE Texas is committed to providing students with an incredible four-year high school experience and support through college, into their early career. This initiative relies heavily on the support of our sponsoring companies. As we approach the 20th summer of GeoFORCE this year, we ask sponsors to connect with us and find ways to remain invested in our alumni!

2023 was a groundbreaking year for corporate engagement and set the bar very high for aspiring companies. Chevron created a summer internship specifically for GeoFORCE students. This internship allows alumni of GeoFORCE to experience Chevron as a geotechnologist, gain invaluable mentorship from senior employees, and reflect on their own future career paths. Brandon Garcia, a GeoFORCE alumnus studying at The Jackson School of Geosciences, was the inaugural Chevron internship recipient in 2022. In summer 2023, Brandon was welcomed back by the Chevron team and joined by Priscilla Paez, who later that summer was offered a full-time position with the company. We are thrilled to share that Enrique Morales, a current Jackson School of Geosciences student, was selected as the summer 2024 intern.

Since 2020, SLB has organized and executed engaging workshops for GeoFORCE alumni to build their professional techniques as they enter the workforce. Topics range from networking and mentorship, to sharpening interview skills and building a professional brand. Navigating the professional sphere can be intimidating, which is why we would like to thank SLB BOLD for investing in the next generation of leadership by helping to develop our alumni!

Alumni now working at companies have been integral in cultivating a relationship between their employers and the GeoFORCE program. Roux Associates and ExxonMobil made an effort to organize events on campus to recruit alumni of GeoFORCE recently. In the last year, ExxonMobil hired two alumni of GeoFORCE: Katherine Garcia, recent graduate of the UT Austin's Energy and Earth Resources Master's program, and Nicole Gonzales who completed a Master's degree from the Jackson School of Geosciences.

Our GeoFORCE Longhorn group, which is an organization for the GeoFORCE alumni currently at UT, is hosting professional development events this semester and is looking for sponsors or representatives to come speak at these seminars. If you are interested in speaking to alumni or propose an idea for an opportunity, please reach out!



Apply to the AGU Bridge Program!

Interested in graduate school?

The AGU Bridge Program offers access to a free common graduate school application shared with 45+ graduate geoscience departments across the U.S. Students from historically marginalized groups are encouraged to apply.

[Submit an application](#) by 15 March 2024.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT: CAREER FAIR

It's the beginning of the semester, which means career fairs are coming up soon! Career fairs are terrific ways to find professional opportunities, connect with others and grow your network, and practice your communication skills. We spoke to Izaak Ruiz and Chris Lerch about navigating career fairs, improving your resumes and general advice for those looking for professional development opportunities.

Izaak Ruiz is a GeoFORCE alumnus who currently works and recruits for Repsol (Izaak was featured in the [January 2020 Monthly](#)) and Chris Lerch is a professional mentor who recruited for companies like BHP/Woodside.

What to prepare:

Before the career fair:

If you are thinking about attending a career fair, Ruiz recommends to do research on each company that you are thinking about approaching at the event.

- Present an updated, clean, summarized resume to physically share with recruiters.
- Make sure you can explain *everything* you have written on your resume
- Be confident and engaging

A resume should typically include:

- your name boldly stated
- your major
- your relevant experience/classwork/projects
- your skills

"Projects that you have done in the past may not directly relate to the internship or job opportunity but maybe a specific piece of what you worked on did."

-Ruiz

Pro-tip: You should adjust your resume for every job you apply to. Use buzzwords from the position description and qualifications to make your resume stand out.

Reach out to us at geoforce@jsg.utexas.edu for resume help!

Be open to engaging as many companies as you feel can, even if you aren't necessarily interested! It helps you practice your engagement skills, as well as meet possible future contacts. You might be surprised and find an opportunity you didn't expect!

Come up with a 30-second elevator pitch!

Lerch advises to highlight what you consider as important headlines from your resume, for example, past internships, past student research (including undergraduate research), past class projects you are passionate about, other work experience outside of industry roles, any community, volunteer, team-based efforts, etc.

When creating your resume:

Keep your resume between 1-2 pages. Highlight what you feel are your most "important headlines"

"Remember that they are looking at your resume for the first time, so lead them through those headlines that you are most passionate about."

-Lerch

Highlight not only projects but also interests.

Example: There is a data analytics position you want to apply for, but you have no experience with that job. However, in undergrad you worked on a paleontology project and enjoyed the data gathering. You can highlight your interest in data collection and how it may be relevant.

- Introduce yourself (Name, Major, Class Level)
- What are your skills, interests, and/or experiences?
- Why are you interested in talking to them?

see example on next page

Example: Nice to meet you, my name is Mica. I am a freshman studying General Geology at UT Austin and I currently work for GeoFORCE as a student intern! I am passionate about geoscience outreach and worked on a project where I created geoscience infographics which were posted around elementary schools. I am looking to hear about the internships your company has to offer!

“Even if you didn’t work on data or projects related to the industry you are interested in working in, it is important to highlight the skills you gained from these experiences, whether they were technical skills, professional skills, interpersonal skills or leadership skills.”

-Lerch

Some tips:

We, recruiters, look for how prepared, confident, and engaging a student is when having a conversation. Therefore, we are looking for things from the student that set them apart from their cohort. This includes intangible skills such as work ethic, communication, intellectual curiosity, self confidence, great listener, etc.

-Ruiz

Ask questions!

- Do you have advice for someone wanting to do ___?
- Are there any specific skills, classes or work experiences that can make me a better candidate for ___?
- What has been YOUR experience working at this company?

The typical dress code for a career fair is business casual. This doesn’t have to mean a suit and tie (of course, you can if you’d like!) Wear what makes you comfortable, but remember: looks are a first impression, so dress to impress and make sure to look professional!

“I always like to tell people that it is better to overdress than to underdress; first impressions are very important.”

-Ruiz

Be sure to follow up!

Take a business card or pamphlet if they are available. Ask the recruiter if you can contact them, and don’t wait to reach out!

Internship tips!

“There is always something for you out there, you just have to be proactive. If the career fairs are not working out for you, send cold emails to small businesses in the field you are looking to intern at. I am speaking from first-hand experience as I still remember sending at least 50 cold emails to small companies in the oil and gas industry”

-Ruiz

What to include in a cold email:

- Personalized introduction
- Expression of genuine interest
- Concise outline of your relevant skills and value
- Request for an opportunity
- Professional signoff
- Call to action

Remember that most recruiters you speak to were in the same situation as you are now, but in the past. They can identify with your desire to find a full-time role or internship, as well as your passion for things you are really interested in.

And most importantly: DON’T GIVE UP! We are rooting for you 😊



GeoFORCE alum and Repsol employee Izaak Ruiz speaking with alum Enrique Morales at the Fall 2023 JSG Career Fair

NEW STUDENT APPLICATIONS CLOSE ON JAN. 31!

CURRENT STUDENT REGISTRATION WILL OPEN FEB. 15!

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 31st GeoFORCE Resume Workshop (VIRTUAL)	Feb 1st New Student Applications Close
UT Career Fair Events	Feb 15th Summer Registration Opens
Feb 1st: Engineering Expo (10 am - 4 pm)	Feb 16th JSG Student Research Symposium
Feb 7th: Tech & Science Spring Career Fair (5 pm - 7:30 pm)	Feb 20th Roux Associates Pop-Up Career Fair
	Feb 21st GeoFORCE Longhorn Social Event

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

Make sure you don't miss out on any of the events going on next summer, internship opportunities, or school year events!

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