

GEOFORCE MONTHLY

Changing lives since 2005



Korbin Lawson (R) and Abayomi Olufowoshe (L) on the Galveston Beach in summer 2018.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: KORBIN LAWSON

The GeoFORCE team is always thankful for the sponsors who come on the academy trips to mentor our students. In the case of GeoFORCE alumnus Korbin Lawson, the mentorship of Halliburton sponsor Abayomi Olufowoshe changed his life.

Despite going through four summers with the GeoFORCE program, Korbin Lawson originally entered Prairie View A&M University in 2017 as a business major. Then, in the summer of 2018, Lawson returned to the GeoFORCE program as a counselor. "After seeing the students and remembering when I was in their places, it rekindled the fire in my heart for geology," Lawson said. Olufowoshe was the industry sponsor on that 9th grade trip and throughout the experience, he and Lawson formed a mentorship relationship that continues to this day.

"Yomi is the one who finally convinced me to switch my major. When he drove me home from our Port A trip, we spoke about minorities in geology and life in general. That conversation stuck with me a lot and it's something I look back on whenever I'm having a hard time in school," Lawson said.

Unfortunately, Prairie View A&M University didn't offer a geology degree. With the encouragement of his new mentor, Lawson applied for a transfer to the University of Houston. Now he's a geology major, a member of their geological society organization, and soon-to-be bowling club participant. Lawson continues to seek out opportunities to explore the geosciences. This summer he applied for and was admitted to Geo-VISION, a research training experience. The virtual program will connect him with faculty and research scientists at the University of Texas's Jackson School of Geosciences.

Olufowoshe's mentorship didn't stop after the GeoFORCE trip in 2018. The next year, he invited Lawson to join him at a Halliburton Landmark conference and introduced Lawson to his own mentor. Lawson met dozens of people who gave him guidance and advice on school and his future career. "After that day I was sure I made the right decision about switching majors," Lawson told us. "Thanks to GeoFORCE, I've met people who I would never have met otherwise."

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/>.



Abayomi Olufowoshe (Middle Back) with 9th Grade GeoFORCE students in summer 2018.

GEOFORCE VIRTUAL ACADEMIES

This summer's virtual academies are off to a fantastic start with GeoFORCE Houston 9th Grade and Houston 10th Grade's academies taking place last week. See below for the remaining summer schedule:

GEAR UP 9: June 15 - 19
 GFSW 9 & 10: June 22 - 26
 GFH 11: July 13 - 17
 GFH 12: July 13 - 18
 GFSW 11: July 27 - 31
 GFSW 12: July 27 - August 1

INTERNSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

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

MENTOR SPOTLIGHT: ABAYOMI OLUFOWOSHE

In the summer of 2018, Abayomi Olufowoshe was an industry sponsor on the GeoFORCE Southwest 9th grade academy trip, with the group traveling from sites in Central Texas like McKinney Falls State Park to the Texas Coast.

"I've always been inspired by the curiosity of the GeoFORCE students and their willingness to seek out advice from mentors who have been in their shoes," Olufowoshe said. "Early on during my time as a mentor on the 9th grade academy trip, I stood in an auditorium full of 9th graders and tried to explain my career in the geosciences. Many of the students were passionate about computers and gaming but were completely unaware that geoscientists use some of the same technology as part of their day to day jobs, interpreting, modeling and planning where to drill in the subsurface."

During this trip, Olufowoshe was particularly thrilled to bond with GeoFORCE alumnus Korbin Lawson. "Mentoring Korbin has been a source of great joy and pride," he told us. "In 2019, I invited him to attend the annual Landmark Innovation Forum and Expo where he was able to really understand and witness the intersection of technology and the geosciences. His curiosity and willingness to seek advice continues to motivate me to remain engaged with the GeoFORCE program."

Olufowoshe received his B.S. in Geological Sciences from The University of Texas at Austin and has been an employee of Halliburton for seven years. He currently serves as a strategic account manager for North American sales, where he earned the title of "Rising Star" in 2019 for his management of key oil & gas companies. Previously, he worked as a product specialist in research & development, designing and implementing enhancements to Landmark's petrotechnical applications with a focus on geological interpretation tools.

This May 2020, Olufowoshe served as the alumni speaker at the Jackson School of Geosciences' commencement ceremony. His passion has already touched lives within the GeoFORCE program and we look forward to his continued mentorship for students at both the Jackson School and GeoFORCE.

GEOFORCE
 TEXAS
 JACKSON SCHOOL OF GEOSCIENCES

 @GeoFORCETexas
 @geoforce_texas

Questions or comments? Email us at
geoforce@jsg.utexas.edu