

GEOFORCE MONTHLY

Changing lives since 2005



Hector Garza with GeoFORCE 9th graders in summer 2015.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: HECTOR GARZA

In 2015, Hector Garza stood in front of a group of GeoFORCE 9th graders as a surprise guest speaker enthusing about the geologic processes at work at McKinney Falls State Park. Six years later, he's preparing to enthuse about those same processes as an Educational Coach for the virtual GeoFORCE Houston 9th grade academy.

Garza was part of GeoFORCE's Young Geoscientists program from 2008 to 2011. It was his senior trip to New Mexico that made him decide to study geology.

"I've never wanted to sit in an office all day," said Garza. "That trip, seeing all the locations, the sand dunes and the lava fields, and talking to the staff that year, hearing about their jobs, was what made me decide this is what I want to do."

Garza received his Bachelor of Science in Geology from The University of Texas at Austin Jackson School of Geosciences in 2016. While in college, he worked as a GeoFORCE counselor for three summers. He then got a job at Premier Oilfield Group managing a mineralogy laboratory where he was in charge of analyzing mineral samples for oil and gas companies.

After three years of running this mineralogy lab, Garza returned to the Jackson School to earn a Ph.D. in geosciences focusing on geochemistry and geochronology. He's working under Dr. Elizabeth Catlos, using these techniques to research the transition of life from water to land by looking at plant and arthropod fossils from sites in Scotland.

"There were larger questions I wanted to answer than what I was doing," Garza said, explaining why he chose the Jackson School. "I got the opportunity to come back to school with a project that was fit specifically for me. Most people, when they come to graduate school, try to be as specific as possible, but I wanted to stay broad and work on a project encompassing geochronology, geochemistry, and paleontology. From my experience in industry, you're more marketable the more experience you have. I looked at grad school in different places, but the Jackson School was the best fit."

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/>.



GeoFORCE Coordinator Jasmine Gulick at Horseshoe Bend in Page, Arizona.

PLANETARY GEOLOGY VIRTUAL PANELS

Hear from Lunar and Planetary Institute summer interns about their internship experiences. These free interactive panels are designed for high school and undergraduate students, educators, and families.

Read more and sign up here for the virtual panels on 6/18, 7/13, or 8/12!

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

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: #SUMMERFORCE

This summer, GeoFORCE debuted a brand new Instagram challenge we're calling SummerFORCE. The goal of this challenge is to review key geologic concepts and encourage our students, alumni, family and friends to get outside and explore the world around them.


The challenge will run for nine weeks. Each week, participants will be tasked with finding and photographing a different geologic concept. Week 1 was rivers and we encouraged participants to label any visible cut banks and point bars. Week 2 was sedimentary rocks, like sandstones and shales. The week 3 challenge to photograph and label the coast just began. So there's still time for you to head to the beach and post a photo with the tags #SummerFORCE #Week3 to compete!

Each week we'll choose one winner to highlight on our GeoFORCE Instagram account. The winner will also be mailed a small prize. At the end of the summer, every participant will be entered into a raffle, with one entry per post and extra entries for completing the bonuses for each challenge. The winner of the raffle will be mailed a prize basket and we'll repost all of their entries on our main Instagram feed.


If you need a refresher on the geologic concept or the bonus challenge, check out our Instagram story highlights for the week. Whether it's about rocks or water or volcanoes, we'll post some easy graphics to remind participants what's what.

So head on over to @geoforce_texas and join in on the fun for #SummerFORCE!



 winged_nikki
Moab, Utah



 claudia__27

