

GEOFORCE MONTHLY

Changing lives since 2005



Jessica Parker (center) with GeoFORCE students in Florida, summer 2015.

MENTOR SPOTLIGHT: JESSICA PARKER

As a Chevron university recruiter, Jessica Parker keeps an eye out for GeoFORCE alumni who apply to work at Chevron. Parker has a long-standing relationship with the GeoFORCE Program. In 2008, as an undergraduate student at The University of Texas at Austin Jackson School of Geosciences, Parker was a counselor for five summer academies. Years later, Parker returned to the GeoFORCE summer academies as a corporate mentor.

After graduating with her Bachelor of Science in Geological Sciences in 2009, Parker went on to earn her master's degree from Texas A&M University's College of Geosciences. From there, she began to work for Anadarko Petroleum as an operations geologist, and later for Chevron as a development geologist. Now, alongside university recruiting, Parker works with Chevron Technology Ventures where she scouts for new, externally developed technologies that can enhance the way Chevron produces and delivers affordable, reliable, and cleaner energy.

"In my role with Chevron Technology Ventures, I relish working with external innovation and learning about new technology developments that can help bring improvements to our industry," Parker said. "Through utilizing my experience working as an operations and development geologist, I'm able to help identify areas where different solutions can be useful."

Parker continues to join GeoFORCE during the summer to mentor new student cohorts. Her favorite students to work with are in the Houston cohort. When she first joined GeoFORCE as a counselor, GeoFORCE had just begun its relationship with Houston Independent School District and recruited its first Houston students.

"I enjoyed interacting with inner-city students, introducing them to new geologic concepts in the field," Parker said. "I returned to GeoFORCE with Chevron in summer 2015 with a 9th grade Houston Academy group. It was especially enjoyable to be back at John Pennekamp Coral State Park with a new group of GeoFORCE students continuing the program's curriculum. I was able to further connect with students who shared my experience of living in Houston."

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/>.



Victor Garcia taking strike and dip near Casper, Wyoming.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP

On To the Future Professional Skills Short Course for Students on 4/17!

This National Science Foundation sponsored short course will focus on building the professional skills of undergraduate and graduate students with a focus on résumé and CV development and networking.

Apply to join by March 31st!

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

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: VICTOR GARCIA

Victor Garcia was a GeoFORCE student from 2011 to 2014. In 2015, he graduated from Eagle Pass High School and went on to become a student at The University of Texas at Austin Jackson School of Geosciences.

"The Oregon trip from junior year was the trip that convinced me to study geology in college. I still remember the first time I ever felt pumice in my hand on Mt. Hood and how much I loved learning about igneous petrology on that trip," Garcia said. "Ultimately, it led to me working with Dr. Gardner, a volcanologist at UT Austin."

Garcia earned his Bachelor of Science from The University of Texas in 2019. During his time at UT, Garcia was part of the Alpha Phi Omega service fraternity and was active in the GeoFORCE alumni program.

"I was fortunate enough to be a counselor on a couple of trips during my time in university," Garcia said.

Garcia also spent a month doing fieldwork in Southern Alaska through the Keck Geology Consortium, completed lab analysis at the University of Arizona, and presented a poster on his research at the Geological Society of America's Cordilleran section meeting titled *Crystallization ages and Geochemistry of the Miners Bay and Cedar Bay Plutons, Prince William Sound, Alaska*.

Now at The Pennsylvania State University, Garcia plans to graduate with his Master of Science in Geosciences in August. In May, he will defend his thesis, *Rhyolitic Magma in the Shallow Plumbing System of Telica Volcano, Nicaragua: Evidence from the 2015 Eruption*.

"It primarily focuses on the igneous petrology side of volcanic eruptions where I am analyzing ash samples via electron probe microanalysis to better understand glass and crystal composition from previous eruptions," Garcia explained.

Last summer, Garcia interned with the Berry Corporation, an energy company in California. He said he loved the experience, but hopes to work in the geo-consulting industry after earning his master's degree. Garcia would eventually like to earn a Professional Geoscientist (P.G.) license to further a career in risk assessment and environmental remediation.