

# GEOFORCE MONTHLY

Changing lives since 2005



David Splawn during field camp in Montana in 2018.

## ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: DAVID SPLAWN

David Splawn is a geoscience technician at ExxonMobil, a job he never considered before entering the GeoFORCE program. He was a GeoFORCE student from 2010 to 2014, before joining Texas A&M University as a geology major.

"GeoFORCE is single-handedly the reason why I chose to pursue a career in the geosciences. Being exposed to a hands-on education with exposure to some of the world's best geology while being taught by experts in academia and the O&G industry piqued my curiosity," Splawn said.

Coming from an economically disadvantaged background, Splawn was thrilled to receive a GeoFORCE graduate scholarship. He graduated with his B.S. in Geology in 2018. From there, he joined ExxonMobil in the New Opportunities Sub-Saharan African business unit. As a geoscience technician, Splawn supports projects focusing on basin genetics and its control on the formation of hydrocarbon systems. The ultimate goal of his work is to identify acreage in areas where the geology is the most favorable for an economic hydrocarbon discovery. Recently, he's been working on creating an accurate model of crustal domains around the Atlantic margin and updating the continental sediment fill map.

"There is very limited well control in the areas where I work," Splawn explained. "The majority of the data I analyze is uncalibrated seismic data. These areas have extremely complicated geology and one of my tasks is help refine seismic data as much as possible to minimize the uncertainty for interpreters."

Splawn enjoys working on some of the industry's most complex problems, a task made easier with his company's state-of-the-art technology and knowledgeable experts. ExxonMobil has also encouraged him to continue pursuing his own education. He's currently working on his Master's in geophysics at the University of Houston where he's researching phase changes of seismic data in petroleum reservoirs.

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/>.



David Splawn in front of the ExxonMobil Spring Campus.

## GEO-VISION

All GeoFORCE/STEMFORCE undergraduates and recent graduates are invited to apply to Geo-VISION, a remote research traineeship experience for STEM majors through the Jackson School of Geosciences taking place **June 3-July 31, 2020**.

Geo-VISION offers you the paid opportunity to gain valuable skills for the workforce, learn about conducting research, and become a sought-after graduate school applicant.

Apply by May 31st!

## INTERNSHIP & SCHOLARSHIP RESOURCES

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

Photo: David Splawn

## BROADER IMPACTS IN K-12: GEOFORCE CAREER CHATS

Being a geoscientist leads to highly-rewarding careers that focus on today's key issues such as energy, climate change, and natural hazards. So why is there a deficit in the amount of diverse individuals pursuing careers in the geosciences? Among many other factors, the exposure to professional role models makes it difficult for underrepresented populations to navigate this career path and see themselves in the geosciences. GeoFORCE wants to change this!

Professional mentors and alumni of GeoFORCE now have the opportunity to introduce their careers in STEM to current GeoFORCE participants, parents, and K-12 teachers throughout the U.S. with GeoFORCE Career Chat videos. We are looking for professionals who would like to share their story, including academic pathways and careers routes that led them to their current positions. We are especially interested in hearing from our friends in the oil & gas industry, but all STEM professionals' voices are welcome. We also hope to hear from alumni of the Jackson School and The University of Texas at Austin.

Some examples of discussion topics include:

- What excites you about your position at your company?
- Why do you do what you do?
- What general information about your career would you give high school students?
- What are the biggest misconceptions about your position, industry, and/or company?
- What are the greatest perks to your position, industry, and/or company?
- What academic advice would you give to a student who would like to pursue your STEM career?
- If you could go back, what would you change about your academic pathway to better lead you to or prepare you for your current position?

Each video should be no more than 5 minutes and submitted as a .mp4 file. You can film on your own or contact Dr. Leah Turner (leah.turner@jsg.utexas.edu) to schedule a recorded Zoom call.

Interested parties can [click here for more information and instructions!](#)

[@GeoFORCETexas](#)

[@geoforce\\_texas](#)

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