

GEOFORCE MONTHLY

Changing lives since 2005



GeoFORCE students pointed at the Grand Canyon in 2019.

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: GEOFORCE SUMMER ACADEMIES

As GeoFORCE returns to the field this summer, the team is excited for curriculum updates to each of the academies. All four grade levels have at least one new concept to learn and field stop to explore.

For the 9th grade academies to the Texas Gulf Coast, students will spend a day at Matagorda Bay. This stop provides a more natural beach environment to compare to field sites in Corpus Christi and Galveston island, allowing students to visualize how humans are able to change the landscape of the coast.

In the 10th grade academies, students will get the chance to compare the environment of the American Southwest to Mars through activities at the Lowell Observatory. Learning about the canyons of Mars was a highlight of the virtual 10th grade and we're excited to bring it to the in-person this summer.

On the 11th grade trips, students will get to participate in experiments at the Hatfield Marine Science Center in Newport, Oregon. This stop will replace the Oregon Coast Aquarium and provide a more active look into the marine life of the Oregon coast.

The 12th grade academy is the most updated. For the virtual 12th grade, Dr. Dana Thomas created a group project surrounding hypothetical exoplanets. The GeoFORCE team adapted this project to the in-person academy. Now students will explore stops at San Marcos Springs, Mansfield Dam, Shell headquarters in Houston, and various guest lectures on everything from glaciers to mineral resources.

Many of these curriculum updates were initially designed in 2019 for the summer 2020 academies. When GeoFORCE moved to virtual programming, some of the ideas were used to build the virtual academies. Now, we're able to return to the original intention of these updates. The team is excited to lead these new-and-improved academies this summer.

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/>.



Left to right: Jennifer Pena, Daniel Campos, and Eleanor Cote at the Jackson School of Geosciences graduation in May 2022.

WORK FOR THE MATH & SCIENCE INSTITUTE!

We are looking to hire up to four Peer Learning Assistants (PLAs) for the Math and Science Institute Friday, August 5th - Saturday, August 13th, 2022. PLAs will assist in instruction and also inform GeoFORCE alum about college life.

Apply now!

https://utexas.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_eRTghsGLSnTDwdE

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

ALUMNI HIGHLIGHTS: NEW COLLEGE GRADS

Of those who answered our graduation survey, there are 23 new college graduates who are alumni of the GeoFORCE Texas program. An amazing 22% of those graduates earned a degree in geoscience.

At The University of Texas at Austin this weekend, Eleanor Cote and Jennifer Pena got Bachelor degrees in geological science from the Jackson School of Geosciences. Daniel Campos and Nicole Gonzalez both earned Master's in geology. Campos will be working for GeoFORCE this summer while he plans his next step.

David Splawn, formerly a geoscience technician at ExxonMobil, just completed his Master of Science in geophysics from the University of Houston. He was joined at graduation by David Lei, who earned his Bachelor's in geology.

Allison Dungo received her Master of Science in computer science from Old Dominion University. She landed a full-time computer engineering job with the Air Force Department of Defense.

Two more engineers graduated with their Bachelor degrees: Leah Lewis in chemical engineering and Jonathan Gonzalez in mechanical engineering. Lewis was accepted into the Ph.D. program at the University of Houston while Gonzalez will be working as a mechanical electrical design engineer with E | B | E, Inc.

Cynthia Garcia received her Bachelor's degree in biochemistry from The University of Texas at Austin and will be heading on to Mortuary Science School in the fall.

Calvin Nguyen received his Bachelor's in cell and molecular biology from the University of St. Thomas in Houston and is staying on there to get a Master's.

Even outside of STEM, GeoFORCE alumni are finding success in their next ventures. Katrina Martinez earned her Master of Education and Nataly Sanchez a Master of Social Work.

Nadia Gonzales is taking her new Bachelor of Science in public relations to work full-time with the Walt Disney Company.

Derek Jackson got his Master of Science in criminal justice administration and will be a program investigator at the Texas Department of Public Safety.

The GeoFORCE team wishes all our new graduated alumni success as they transition into the next stages of their lives!