

GEOFORCE MONTHLY

Changing lives since 2005



Leslie Jordan at a Schlumberger externship experience

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: LESLIE JORDAN

Leslie Jordan is the newest GeoFORCE alumni to take a position with one of the same companies that funded her four summers as a GeoFORCE student.

"I remember the Grand Canyon trip, sophomore year, the most vividly," Jordan said. "I decided I wanted to be a geologist on that trip because I was amazed by the formation and I knew I could study stratigraphy forever!"

Jordan graduated from the GeoFORCE program in 2013 and went on to earn her B.S. in Environmental Science, with a focus on geology, from The University of Texas at Austin Jackson School of Geosciences in 2017. While an undergraduate student, Jordan had a summer internship with the US Geological Survey (USGS) and worked in a tephrochronology lab where she was introduced to biostratigraphy—a field that quickly became one of her passions.

Jordan continued to study stratigraphy while earning her Master's in Geoscience at Rutgers University in New Jersey. After graduating, she did an internship with ExxonMobil, working in the specialist stratigraphy group. Now, she's a petrophysicist at Schlumberger.

"My main duties entail working with the software Techlog, one of the oil and gas industry's standard software used to view and interpret borehole data," Jordan explained. "I work with clients to solve any issues they have with the software and I interpret data from the field. The focus on innovative technology [at Schlumberger] is amazing and I get to work on projects and with people from all over the world!"



Leslie Jordan during her 2013 GeoFORCE trip

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.

NOW TAKING SUMMER 2023 STAFF APPLICATIONS

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PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: GEOFORCE SUMMER ACADEMIES, AWARDS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

After two summers of virtual summer academies, GeoFORCE returned this summer to the in-person academies we all know and love. We welcomed total of 13 academies of 441 students from Houston, Southwest Texas, and now Austin. We were excited to take our 9th, 10th, and 11th grade cohorts to Texas, Utah, Nevada, Arizona, and the Pacific Northwest. Our 12th grade cohort centered in and around Central Texas and the campus of The University of Texas at Austin, giving our rising seniors a first-hand look at college life.

We had the honor to have JSG's own Dean Claudia Mora along with 17 other mentors attend our 2022 summer academies. As Dean Claudia Mora, who herself joined our 11th graders on their week-long academy in the Pacific Northwest, perfectly put it, "There was such tremendous energy and excitement in the field!"

In addition to our return to in-person GeoFORCE summers, we had our first inaugural symposium where our GeoFORCE 12th graders presented their research projects. We had 72 bright seniors from our program as well as two undergraduate alumni attend the symposium to present their findings.

At our second annual awards event, we were happy to have Isaak Ruiz, an alumni of both GeoFORCE and the Jackson School (graduate and undergraduate), as our keynote speaker. Our ceremony also highlighted the following awards:

- Mentors of the Year: Mark Martin and Chris Skirius
- Staff of the Year: John Hash and Jasmine Gulick
- Alumni Hall of Fame: Daniel Campos, Hector Garza, and Korbin Lawson

Our program also received the Special Commendation Award from the Society of Exploration Geophysicists in recognition of our service to the scientific community and contribution to promoting diversity in the field of geoscience

Finally, we are very pleased that both the Jackson School and the College of Natural Sciences were able to award scholarships for GeoFORCE students transitioning from high school to college. This valuable support encourages GeoFORCE alumni to come to UT and helps make their academic journey successful. Thank you for supporting GeoFORCE and making this possible.