

GEOFORCE MONTHLY

Changing lives since 2005



Izaak Ruiz on Repsol field course in northern Spain

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT: IZAAK RUIZ

GeoFORCE Class of 2012 -> Exploration Geologist with Repsol

When Izaak Ruiz joined GeoFORCE, he had no idea the path it would take him on. From four summers of field experiences to being awarded a 4-year scholarship that allowed him to get his undergraduate degree in geology at The University of Texas at Austin's Jackson School of Geosciences, Ruiz was granted more opportunities than he ever thought he would receive growing up in Eagle Pass, Texas.

In August 2019, Ruiz received his master's degree from the Jackson School and began working at Repsol, a global energy company. As part of his training with Repsol, Ruiz was invited to live in Spain for 11 months while he takes weekly training courses that introduce him to various exploration and production sector topics, such as reservoir geology, well testing, and petrophysics. He went on two trips to northern Spain—one as part of a field geology course and another to visit a refinery. He also visited Repsol's operations in Canada. His experience will culminate in a large group project where he will explore the potential of an oil and gas prospect with his team.

The thing Ruiz finds most engaging is working with people from across the world, including Libya, Bolivia, Colombia, Norway, Brazil, Guyana, Peru, Malaysia, Indonesia, Spain, and all parts of the U.S. When Ruiz returns to the States, he will work full-time as an Exploration Geologist at Repsol's Houston Woodlands campus.

"I would not be where I am today without GeoFORCE, I truly mean that," Ruiz said. "Thank you GeoFORCE for this opportunity. I hope you continue to impact other students the same way you did with me."



From left to right: Anne Katula, Eleanor Jeansonne, Anyka Morquecho, & Hiruni Dissanayake at AGU Bright STaRS

UPCOMING EVENTS & OPPORTUNITIES

1/31

- GeoFORCE Summer 2020 New Student Application Deadline
- GeoFORCE Summer 2020 Returning Student Registration Deadline

2/15

- 9th Annual Jackson School Student Research Symposium
- Woods Hole Partnership Education Program (PEP), a summer experience for undergraduates, Application Deadline

2/21

- GeoFORCE 9th - 11th Grade Training Webinar for Instructors & Educational Coaches

2/22

- Introduce a Girl to Engineering and Girl Day STEM Festival at UT Austin

2/28 - 3/1

- GeoFORCE 12th Grade Training Weekend for Instructors, Educational Coaches, & ECITs

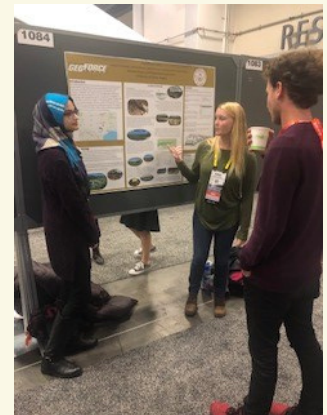
BROADER IMPACTS IN K-12: AGU BRIGHT STARS

Every year, the American Geophysical Union (AGU) invites select secondary school students to participate in the Bright Students Training as Research Scientists (Bright STaRS) program. Out of the 100 approximate students who presented their research results at AGU in December 2019, seven were from the STEMFORCE class of 2019. Isabel Johnson, Anne Katula, Leslie Rosario, Aleezeh Shahzad, Anyka Morquecho, Hiruni Dissanayake, and Eleanor Jeansonne all attended and presented on the group projects they created for their 12th grade STEMFORCE summer field academy.

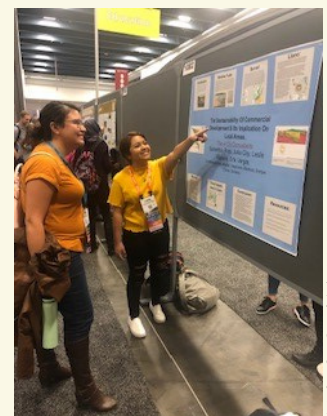
"The students were really excited to travel to San Francisco. They were a little nervous at first, but settled in and presented wonderfully," said GeoFORCE alumnus Daniel Campos. "I'm very proud of them all. I hope this experience empowers them to pursue their dreams, and to realize they have big opportunities if they continue to reach for their goals."

Campos, who also served as the STEMFORCE coordinator in the summer of 2019, is now a doctoral candidate at the Jackson School. He attended the AGU Bright STaRS event alongside the program director of GeoSTEM, Dr. Leah Turner.

"On behalf of the JSG STEMFORCE program, I would like to thank the AGU Bright STaRS program for providing such a great space and opportunity for young students to get involved," Dr. Turner said. "STEMFORCE students selected to participate were provided an incredible experience in presenting research and networking."



Aleezeh Shahzad (L) & Isabel Johnson (R) presenting to Jackson School PhD candidate Eric Goldfarb



Leslie Rosario presenting to NSF employee & GeoFORCE alumna Marissa Vara

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