

GARNET Year-In-Review 2020-2021

The Queen's University Geological Sciences & Geological Engineering GARNET (Geo-Alumni Resource NETwork) program was created to provide a means to facilitate connections between young alumni and current students and to provide a learning environment for career development. It reinforces the relationship that must exist between industry and academia to achieve a relevant academic program. A wonderful willingness by young alumni to support this program continued in 2020-2021. Our young alumni were keen to be able to provide career advice and guidance to current students.

In September, young Geo-alumni were contacted and invited to volunteer as a mentor for a current fourth-year student in the Department of Geological Sciences & Geological Engineering. Each prospective mentor provided background information relating to the area of interest they would be most comfortable speaking to a mentee about.

In September 2020, Geological Science class of 2021 students and Geological Engineering class of 2021 students were invited to participate in this program. Interested students completed a form outlining their first, second and third choice of career/research interest. After a review of the participation application, mentees were matched with a mentor that best suited their interest. In January 2021, the mentorship opportunity was expanded and offered to students in third year.

The mentor and mentee partnerships provided a wonderful learning experience for all participants. Mentees and mentors were invited to share their comments and/or suggestions on a year-end feedback form and some of these comments are reflected below:

General Program Comments

Mentor Program Comments

- ❖ *"The GARNET program is a terrific way for alumni to give back to Queens University. It provides industry professionals the opportunity to deliver guidance to geological engineering students and offer information that will benefit them at the start of their career. It also provides students an opportunity for networking with industry professionals that could lead to a future career. "*

- ❖ *“This a fantastic program and I would highly recommend all soon to be grads to participate. It is such a valuable resource to have a connection in a professional setting who can help answer questions and offer guidance for a person starting a career.”*
- ❖ *“The Garnet program is such a great initiative. Formalized mentorship in geosciences is something that is lacking. Giving students an opportunity to connect with alumni can develop friendships, expand career opportunities and potentially shape the future of our field of study.”*
- ❖ *“The GARNET mentorship program was my first experience acting as a mentor. We met biweekly on a 30 min to 1 hr video call after the workday for about 3 months. I enjoyed getting to know my mentee and sharing my experience with her. Her interests did not perfectly line up with mine, so I introduced her to some of my colleagues in different disciplines on our calls. Our meetings turned out to be a good networking opportunity for both my mentee and I as wouldn’t otherwise have made the time to talk to my colleagues about their work.”*

Mentee Program Comments

- ❖ *“This is an exceptional program to get to know an industry professional more personally, get career advice and/or understand what transition between undergrad and working in industry is like. It’s also really great if you need to improve your social and communication skills. I’d highly recommend this program if you want to build your network, get career and professional advice or just get to know some of the faces that have graduated from the department and are able to provide some guidance based on their experiences.”*
- ❖ *“The GARNET mentorship program was so valuable for me. My mentor provided me with assistance for job applications and creating a perfect resume /cover letter that helped me land multiple interviews and jobs offers. I am so grateful to have had the opportunity to chat with my mentor about all my questions for career life. He was so supportive, super friendly, and gave great advice. I am sure I will remain in contact with him throughout the years. This program has opened so many doors for me, and I strongly encourage everyone to take advantage! “*
- ❖ *“Thank you – this experience has been amazing”*
- ❖ *“Thank you for initiating this wonderful program, I really did find it so helpful and rewarding!”*
- ❖ *“ I have nothing but good things to say about the program. I’ve had a wonderful mentor and I’ve found our meetings really helpful.”*

GARNET Speaker Series

In addition to the mentorship opportunity for alumni within the GARNET program, the GARNET Speaker Series continued this year. Since, the 2020-2021 academic year was a virtual learning experience, these presentations were offered via Zoom. We were most pleased to welcome back the following alumni for presentations:



Shelby Yee, GEOE 2016, Co-Founder and CEO Rock Mass Technologies



Sierra Mercer, BSCE 2019, Ground Control EIT, Glencore Canada Corporation & Founder of Women Working Ahead podcasts



Dr. Jason Crowder and Chris Elvidge, Co-founders of Grounded Engineering Inc.



Kiyavash Parvar MSC 2016, Chief Geophysicist
Andrew Gagnon-Nandram BASC(GEOE), 2014, MASC 2016, Geophysicist and Field Manager
Mackenzie Evenden BSCH (SSP GEOLSCI) 2012, Vice President, Pioneer Exploration Consultants.

WORKSHOP

Featuring: Josh Zettel
Queen's Career Services

February 10, 2021
11:30 am
Meeting ID: 934 8100 6192
Password: Career

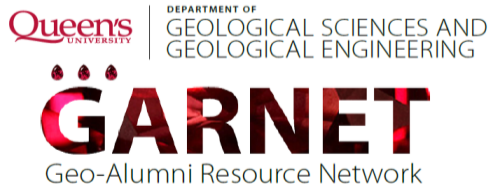
Is YOUR
Resume
Career-
Ready?



Joshua Zettel, Queen's Career Services
"Is your Resumé Career Ready"

The GARNET program welcomes volunteers who would be willing to either visit the department and give a presentation on their company and career path or give a webinar presentation.

GARNET – Career Showcase



Spring 2021 (virtual) Career Showcase

**March 31, 2021
11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

Registration for this event is required. Please reply to garnet@queensu.ca for the zoom details.

The inaugural GARNET Career Showcase was held on March 31, 2021.

This event was held over Zoom. Company breakout rooms (which act as miniature Zoom sessions within the larger one) were created, and students were able to visit a company room (similar to an in-person event) and ask the company representatives questions. Rather than a day-long event, it was only 90 minutes. With the positive feedback from students and company representatives, it was determined that a longer event should be scheduled to accommodate a greater number of participating companies. Discussions are underway for a Fall (Virtual) Career Showcase and another during the Winter term. If your company would be interested in participating, please contact the GARNET coordinator (Larke Zarichny at garnet@queensu.ca) for more information.

GARNET - Building Connections, Guiding Futures