



The GARNET program began in January 2020. This program was created to support the need for growth between young alumni and current students. The program provides a learning environment for career development and a way to reinforce the relationship between industry and academia.

Initially a few young alumni were contacted and invited to volunteer as mentors for a current student in the Department of Geological Sciences and Geological Engineering. Each prospective mentor was asked which area of interest they would be most comfortable speaking to a mentee about. The current fourth year students (GEOLSCI and GEOE) were invited to participate in this program. Each student completed a form outlining their first, second and third choice of their area of interest. After review of the participation applications, mentees were matched with a mentor that best suited their interest!

Young alumni had a tremendous willingness to support the GARNET program, and all were eager to be able to provide career advice to our current students. These alumni went above-and-beyond by reaching out to others in their year to see if they too would be willing to volunteer as mentors for the program. So many positive comments were made over the course of the term and some of these comments are reflected later in this newsletter.

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- 3 " I think this is a great program!"
 - 3 " As the result of my mentoring, I've gained the ability and confidence to give better advice."
 - 3 " GARNET provided a great opportunity to connect with current students and identify great potential talent for our company moving forward."
 - 3 "I wish GARNET existed when I was a student, as it provides a great opportunity to learn about industry in a less formal setting for students, it and provides great networking opportunities as well."

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- 3 "The mentor/mentee aspect is wonderful as it gives students a resource with boots on the ground in their chosen industry to answer questions."

My mentor has been extremely kind and helpful to me so far, she has been understanding of my situation in being a new graduate seeking advice on how to enter the industry. She's gone above and beyond my expectations, including multiple phone calls, editing my resume, looking for job postings that may interest me, and offering personal advice and encouragement. I am extremely grateful to Larke for setting me up with such a kind mentor and to Meghan for everything she's done and is continuing to do for me."

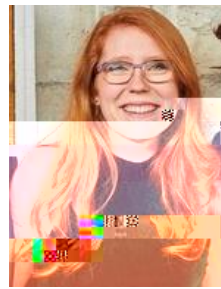
This program has helped me develop business and communication skills that I can use starting my summer experience and career in the industry, thanks to my mentor and the support I've been able to get "

The GARNET program was an awesome experience, connecting with a recent graduate provided me with an opportunity to learn what it is really like to transition from an undergraduate student to a working professional."

In the 2020 academic year we were most pleased to welcome back the following alumni for presentations:



Alex Wood, Environmental Engineering Consultant



Loralyn Blondin, Knight Piésold



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

A presentation from a representative from Career Services was given to prepare students for PDAC

Unfortunately, with the disruption to the academic year due to COVID-19, further speakers and presentations were cancelled. Planning is underway for the GARNET speaker series to resume in Fall.

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.

Mentor-Mentee Program

Plans for the 2020-2021 GARNET program now include expanding the mentor/mentee collaboration to include our third-year students. If any alumni are interested in becoming a mentor, please let Larke Zarichny know!

Garnet Speaker Series

Since the Fall term will be delivered virtually, we will be reaching out to invite alumni to become involved in the speaker series. This will include webinars and virtual zoom talks! Please don't hesitate to contact Larke if you would be interested in becoming part of this program.

Career Symposium/showcase/ -- January 2021.

The inaugural GARNET Career Showcase is in the planning stages for January 2021. It will be an opportunity to increase the awareness of our students to the broad variety of possible careers in their chosen field thus enabling them to make suitable career choices. As the GARNET program ramps back up in the fall we will be reaching out to our alumni for their input and participation in this event.