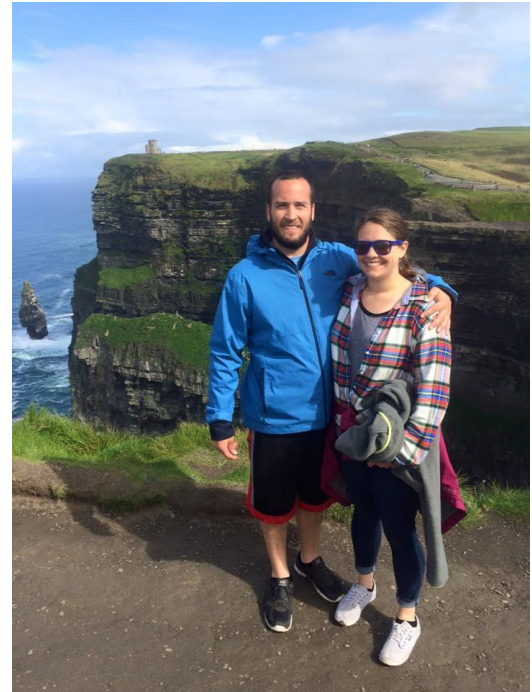


## Jennifer Horton

### M.S. in Geology, 2015

Jennifer Horton, a native of Columbus Ohio, started her post-secondary education at The College of Wooster in Wooster, Ohio. After completing her Bachelor's degree there, Jennifer wanted to continue her education with a graduate degree. She was impressed during her visit to the University of Toledo by the department's emphasis on both field and laboratory work. Her decision to attend UT was also influenced by Dr. Timothy Fisher's research topics that were both academic and practical. Jennifer decided that she would receive the necessary skills and experience at UT to work in the environmental field.

While attending UT, Jennifer decided that studying geology would offer dynamic, hands-on research subjects that would allow her to travel and work in the field. She began her research with Dr. Fisher with the goal of creating a deglacial chronology of the Sturgis Moraine in South-Central Michigan and Northeastern Indiana. Jennifer collected and analyzed lake sediment cores around the moraine along with radiocarbon and OSL dating techniques to gain a relative age of the glacial



events. Her project was conducted in partnership with the Indiana Geological Survey, which aided her thesis work as well as provided valuable experience working with a government agency.

It was from her experiences at the University of Toledo that Jennifer decided to work for the Minnesota Geological Survey. She now works as a Quaternary Geologist. The bulk of her job is creating surficial and subsurface maps of Quaternary deposits in Minnesota. Much like her Master's thesis, it requires long term field, laboratory and GIS work to complete. These maps are used by municipalities to assess and protect their groundwater resources. Jennifer enjoys her work with the survey, citing flexibility and working outdoors as her favorite parts of the job.

"My biggest piece of advice for current graduate students is to maintain a work-life balance, go on the department field trips (especially Dr. Becker's spring break trips!), and do something new, no matter how small, for your thesis every day."