

Alum Spotlight

Department of Environmental Sciences



Dr. Barry E. Muller: Ph.D. in Biology (2004); M.S. in Geology (1992); B.S. in Geology (1985)

Ph.D. Dissertation: “The effect of long term nonpoint source agricultural runoff on assimilative capacity of freshwater marshes – a paleoecological approach”

Dr. Barry Muller earned no less than three degrees from the University of Toledo. A B.S. in Geology ('85), an M.S. in Geology ('92), and a Ph.D. in Biology in 2004. In his doctoral research, supervised by Dr. Hans Gottgens, Barry used radioisotope dating techniques to develop a chronology of nutrient accumulation rates of sediment in Lake Erie marshes. Barry also taught introductory geology courses at UT and, as a field geologist, played key roles in the Fernald (Ohio) Superfund cleanup and in other remedial investigations and feasibility studies.

Bridging the gap between structural geology and environmental work, Barry worked as a field geologist in Antarctica, and as a radiological engineer at the Fermi 2 Power Plant, monitoring radioactivity in the environment. In 2015, this experience led him to start his own consulting firm, ERG Consult, reviewing ground water monitoring programs at nuclear power plants and completing decommissioning work of nuclear power plants for the Electric Power Research Institute. Barry holds a prestige faculty appointment in our Department of Environmental Sciences and teaches the HAZWOPR course.

Most recently, Barry returned to work as a Staff Nuclear Specialist for the Davis-Besse Nuclear Power Station, where he worked also as a graduate student from 1988–1992. Here he provides technical training in chemistry and draws on his diverse experiences both at University of Toledo and throughout his career.



“UT provided me with a quality education at a cost that allowed me to pay for school with what I could earn while working on my degrees. This combination gave me a background that allows me to earn a good living applying that knowledge and experience to ensure businesses and industry comply with environmental regulations.”