

Alum Spotlight

Department of Environmental Sciences



Barbara E. Hanes: M.S. in Geology (2010)

Thesis: "Paleo-Storminess in the Southern Lake Michigan Basin, as Recorded by Eolian Sand Downwind of Dunes"

Barbara Hanes completed her M.S. in Geology at UT under the supervision of Dr. Tim Fisher. She also holds a B.S. in Geology and an Associate of Engineering Technology from Edinboro University (PA). At UT, Barbara worked as a teaching assistant and was awarded the LacCore Visiting Graduate Student Program Award.

Barbara's research focused on eolian sand records, particularly those downwind of coastal sand dunes. She researched these to document paleoclimatic fluctuations in the Lake Michigan basin. Her thesis indicated that peaks in eolian sand in lake sediments are related to climatic, sunspot, and lake-level fluctuations.



After graduating, Barbara worked as a Senior Geologic Technician at Moody and Associates Inc., where she managed the natural gas pre-drill water sampling program and groundwater supply development. She also conducted stray natural gas investigations and environmental remediation. Currently, Barbara works for the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection in the Bureau of Oil and Gas Management as a permitting geologist for oil and gas wells, aquifer test and water management plans. Barbara also volunteers as an educator at local PA state parks, and is an adjunct faculty member at Mercyhurst University in Erie (PA) teaching hydrogeology and GIS classes.

"Think of education as an adventure, not a chore, and may your adventure last a lifetime. Always take joy in the wonders around you, wherever you may be."