

# Alum Spotlight

## Department of Environmental Sciences



**Jeffery D. Grabarkiewicz: Master of Science (2012), Biology (Ecology)**

**Thesis: “Microhabitat Use and Community Structure of Unionid Mussels in Three Lake Erie Tributaries”**

Jeff Grabarkiewicz attended the University of Toledo and completed a M.S. degree in Biology/Ecology in 2012. He also holds a B.S. in Biochemistry from Eastern Michigan University. During his time at UT, Jeff published numerous research papers with Drs. Crail and Gottgens on mussel and fish communities in Lake Erie area and its tributaries.

After graduation, Jeff took a position as a Permit Coordinator for the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT), where he was involved in permitting the \$100 million reconstruction of I-75. He continues his work with MDOT as a Wildlife Ecologist, where he collaborates with organizations such as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to conserve federally and state listed wildlife.

Jeff is also the president and ecologist for Ecological Survey and Design, LLC. This independent consulting firm conducts GIS analyses, freshwater mussel surveys, relocations, and research. In addition, Jeff often makes time to teach grade school children about native fishes in the Chelsea (MI) area.



*“The education and training I received from the Department of Environmental Sciences has proven valuable to professional life. I owe a lot to my adviser, Dr. Gottgens, who placed my success high on his priority list. I also want to thank Dr. Crail for handing me a dipnet in Langenderfer Ditch about 12 years ago. That moment changed my life.”*