Alum Spotlight
Department of Environmental Sciences

Dr. Jennifer Sieracki: Ph.D. Biology (2014)

Dissertation: "Spatial Modeling as a Decision-making Tool for Invasive Species Management in the Great Lakes"

Dr. Jennifer Sieracki attended the University of Toledo for her doctorate in Ecology under the supervision of Dr. Jon Bossenbroek. She also holds a B.S. in Fisheries & Wildlife Conservation and an M.S. in Forestry from the University of Minnesota. Between her M.S. degree and her doctorate, Jennifer worked for the National Park Service and the U.S. Forest Service as a Data Specialist and Resource Information Specialist, respectively.

At UT, Jennifer was active in the Graduate Student Association and served as president of the Environmental Sciences GSA. She also authored two papers focusing on the spread of invasive species in the Great Lakes utilizing Geographic Information Systems. Both papers addressed the spread of invasive species introduced by vessels into the Great Lakes.

After graduating, Jennifer returned to the NPS to serve as an Invasive Plant Program Data Manager, where she was responsible for implementing and maintaining a new invasive data management system. She went on to become the Biological Resources Data Manager for her division of the NPS, where she not only manages nation-wide data systems and responds to data calls from higher levels of government, but is also involved in developing ways to consult Exotic Plant Management Teams on where to prioritize field work.

"Don't worry so much about strategically planning your career. It is more important that you remain open to opportunities that you otherwise wouldn't have considered."