

# Alum Spotlight



## Department of Environmental Sciences

### Danielle Kurek: M.S. in Ecology (2010)

#### **Thesis: “Effects of prescribed burning on soil physical, biological, and chemical properties of the Oak Openings Region of Northwest Ohio”**

Danielle Kurek completed her Masters of Science in Ecology in 2010 under the guidance of Dr. Michael N. Weintraub. Her research project and thesis examined the physical, chemical, and biological impacts on soil after prescribed burns.

After completing her degree, Danielle moved to California to work as an environmental scientist on alternative energy construction projects with a focus on field compliance and environmental mitigation. She now lives in Texas and is managing a permitting and compliance program across a five-state territory focused on storm water, erosion and sediment control. While consulting, Danielle has continued her interest in soil science by designing low impact and compliant projects that reduce water pollution.



Today, Danielle is an active member of the board of the International Erosion Control Association (IECA) and presented at their 2018 conference. She also attended the 2018 Canadian IECA conference where she was invited to speak on low impact development. Danielle plans to present at both the U.S. and Canadian conferences in 2019, continues to contribute to various industry professional publications, and assists shaping the next chapter of her industry.

*“Luck is what happens when preparation meets opportunity. Along with big dreams, curiosity and affinity for adventure, my time at the University of Toledo prepared me to go out and take the world headfirst. ”*