

Kyle Tharp

**B.Ed. in Biology/Earth Sciences,
1992**

M.S. in Geology in 1996

Kyle came to the University of Toledo to become a science teacher, but his first experience with the Department of Environmental Sciences (then the Department of Geology) was late in his sophomore year, when he took the introductory Geology course. As he continued to take courses within the department, Kyle realized that he enjoyed it so much that he contemplated changing his major to



Geology. However, he finished his Bachelors in Education just two courses shy of a B.S. in Geology. After a year of job searching, Kyle decided to return to UT to pursue a Master's degree in Geology. He became Dr. Martin-Hayden's first graduate student. His Master's thesis research focused on creating a "Wellhead Protection Plan for the Village of Whitehouse, Ohio." Aside from the scientific knowledge, he says, "developing the ability to write and conduct research are two of the most valuable skills I learned in the department."

Kyle currently works for the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR), in the Division of Oil and Gas Resources Management. He is responsible for investigating groundwater complaints, and collecting soil, water and gas samples for analysis in the laboratory. When he is not conducting investigations, he assists oil and gas well inspectors who monitor the drilling of new wells and the plugging of unproductive wells.

"My favorite experiences at UT were the field excursions, which included a circle tour of Lake Superior, southern Indiana for invertebrate paleontology, West Virginia for structural geology, and the Black Hills for graduate field camp. Getting in the field and seeing geology at every opportunity is the best way to learn it!"

Kyle's advice to current students is "to embrace the hands-on approach to your education. Assist other students with their field work whether it's for a senior thesis or graduate thesis. Take your education beyond the classroom! Go to the field at every opportunity! And pursue internships at ODNR! You may just find a career path you never expected."
