

Dr. Hazel A. Barton is an Associate Professor of Biology and Geology & Environmental Science at the University of Akron. Her current research is geared toward understanding microbial processes, interactions and geochemistry in cave environments. Her funding from the US National Science Foundation (NSF) is geared toward understanding how bacteria adapt to the extreme isolation and nutrient limitation of cave environments, including nutrient cycling and microbe-mineral interactions. Other funding from the US Fish and Wildlife Service is geared toward understanding the natural history and ecology of *Geomyces destructans*, the causative agent of White-nose Syndrome, a devastating mycosis of bats within the northeastern US, while the National Park Service provides funding that is geared to understanding microbial adaptations in subterranean lakes deep within Wind Cave, South Dakota.

Barton's cave research has been featured in *Sports Illustrated*, *Forbes*, *National Geographic Explorer*, *Outside*, *Science News*, *The Scientist*, *Popular Mechanics*, *Wired*, *Geo* and *Smithsonian Magazine*, in the book *Extreme Scientists: Exploring Nature's Mysteries from Perilous Places*, on NPR and BBC Radio, on Animal Planet, the History Channel, the CBS Early Show, BBC TV and in the IMAX movie *Journey into Amazing Caves*. She is currently a Fellow of the National Speleological Society (NSS) and the recipient of an NSF CAREER Award.

Barton is also an avid caver, having explored caves on five continents, is a past director of the NSS, the Quintana Roo Speleological Survey, and an award winning cave cartographer.